The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-CNS-REP-0032

North Humber to High Marnham

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document 5.8.14 Statement of Common Ground - Dogger Bank D - SSE Renewables and Equinor

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nationalgrid

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1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid / 'the Applicant') and Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited ('DBD') (being developed by SSE Renewables and Equinor) regarding the proposed North Humber to High Marnham Development Consent Order (DCO) application ('the Application').

1.1.2 Section 4 sets out the matters 'agreed' between the Parties, for which no further issues have been raised. It also identifies matters that remain 'under discussion', where agreement has not yet been reached and further negotiations are required to establish an agreed approach.

1.1.3 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- Section 1: An introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose
- Section 2: Gives a description of the project.
- Section 3: Summarises engagement between Parties to date
- Section 4: Summarises the key matters and captures the status of each issue / matter.
- Section 5: Sets out matters not agreed between the Parties.
- Section 6: Sets out the approvals and the signing off sheet between the Parties.

1.1.4 The aim of this SoCG is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. Any reference to 'the Parties' means National Grid and DBD.

1.1.5 This draft SoCG has been prepared at an early phase of the DCO process, ahead of submission. It is intended to be a live and working document which will be updated as the Project progresses through the DCO process and shared with DBD at key points for discussion. A final SoCG will be prepared ahead of the close of the DCO Examination. Unlike a final SoCG, this draft SoCG has not been formally agreed or signed by either party.

2. Project Description

2.1.1 The North Humber to High Marnham Project (the Project) is a new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission connection of approximately 90 kilometres (km) in overall length between two proposed new substations: the 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation and 400 kV High Marnham Substation.

2.1.2 The proposed new substations are subject to separate planning applications. For more information, see **Application Document 5.4 Consents and Licences Required Under Other Legislation.**

2.1.3 The Project comprises:

- Approximately 90 km of new overhead line (Route Code 4AF) between the proposed new 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation and 400 kV High Marnham Substation;
- Replacement and re-alignment of a section of the existing 400 kV overhead line (Route Code 4ZQ) between Brantingham and east of Broomfleet;
- Replacement and re-alignment of a section of the existing 400 kV overhead line (Route Code ZDA) between Ealand and west of Keadby;
- Line entry connections to a proposed new 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation;
- Line entry connections to a proposed new 400 kV High Marnham Substation; and
- The Project would include other required works, for example, temporary diversions for works on existing overhead line routes, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works. The Project would also include utility diversions and drainage works. There would also be land required for environmental mitigation, offsetting, compensation and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

2.1.4 A full description of the Project is provided in **Application Document 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Description of the Project**.

3. Record of Engagement

3.1 Role of the Consultee in the process

3.1.1 Dogger Bank D (DBD) is a proposed fourth phase of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm. The DBD Project would have a generating capacity of up to 1.5 GW, exporting renewable electricity from an offshore array located approximately 210 km off the Yorkshire coast in the North Sea. Electricity generated offshore would be transmitted to shore via offshore export cables, making landfall to the south-east of Skipsea in the East Riding of Yorkshire. DBD is being developed by a 50/50 joint venture between SSE Renewables and Equinor. The planning application for DBD is currently anticipated to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2027. The DBD project proposes to connect to the proposed Birkhill Wood 400kV substation.

3.1.2 DBD and the North Humber to High Marnham (NHHM) Project are closely linked. DBD proposes to connect to the proposed Birkhill Wood Substation and would utilise the reinforcement provided by the NHHM Project to facilitate the transmission of electricity from the DBD Project to the national transmission network.

3.1.3 The NHHM Project's proposed Order Limits overlap with DBD's proposed onshore cable route corridor in Section E (as presented as part of the Dogger Bank D Statutory Consultation).

3.1.4 Coordinated development and design are required to ensure that both projects can be delivered successfully.

3.1.5 Statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks from 18 February 2025 to 15 April 2025. That consultation provided an opportunity to see how the proposals had developed, how previous feedback had been considered and sought the views of the public and stakeholders on the updated proposals. DBD submitted a response to this consultation on 15 April 2025.

3.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

3.2.1 Table 3.1 provides an overview of the engagement that has taken place between National Grid and Dogger Bank D.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and Dogger Bank D

Date	Format	Topic	Description
22/10/2024	Letter	**DBD Consultation**	National Grid provided feedback as part of DBD's non-statutory consultation.
14/02/2025	Email	**Shape files**	DBD shared the project shapefile for the onshore part of their project area.

Date	Format	Topic	Description
17/02/2025	Email	**Statutory Consultation**	Email inviting DBD to submit feedback on NHHM project as part of the statutory consultation.
15/04/2025	Letter	**Statutory Consultation Response**	DBD provided a letter outlining their feedback in response to the statutory consultation.
06/05/2025	Meeting	**Project meeting**	SSE DBD meeting. Project update from both National Grid and DBD. Meeting about how the DBD cable route and construction programme interacts with overhead lines and substation works.
03/07/2025	Meeting	**Project Meeting**	Project updates from both National Grid and DBD teams on corridor route development.
04/08/2025	Letter	**Statutory Consultation Response on DBD project**	National Grid submitted feedback on DBD's statutory consultation.
10/08/2025	Meeting	**Project meeting**	Project updates from both National Grid and DBD teams on corridor route development.
16/12/2025	Meeting	**Project meeting**	Project updates from both National Grid and DBD teams on corridor route development.
13/02/2026	Meeting	**Project meeting**	Project updates from both National Grid and DBD teams on corridor route development. Engineering interactions agreed.
24/04/2026	Meeting	**Project Meeting**	Review of engineering interactions.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to DBD which have been agreed or are under discussion between the parties.

4.1.2 The red, amber, green status shows, at a glance, the level of agreement with DBD, as seen in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 – Agreement Status

Status	Description
Not Agreed	Indicates a final position, where it has not been possible to resolve the issue to the agreement of both parties and there remains a difference of opinion.
Under Discussion	Indicates where issues are the subject of active on-going discussion.
Agreed	Indicates where an issue has been agreed or resolved satisfactorily to the agreement of both parties.

Table 4.2 – Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

ID	**Matter**	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**Dogger Bank D's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
DBD-01	DBD cable corridor options	National Grid's preferred cable corridor for the DBD project to minimise interactions would be the northern cable corridor (Corridor E1). The southern DBD corridor proposed (E2) would pose notable challenges for the NHHM Project.	It has been agreed that DBD would discount cable corridor E2.	17/06/2026	Agreed
DBD-02	Shared used of access road to proposed Birkhill Wood 400kV Substation off A1079	A new permanent access road is being installed to facilitate access to the proposed 400kV Birkhill Wood Substation. This is being consented and delivered by National Grid, separate to the NHHM Project. The NHHM Project will require use of this access road for temporary construction of the project, expected to be required between 2028 and 2033, and then for operation and maintenance of the project and specifically the proposed 4AF overhead line. In relation to the NHHM project, the key position that we would like to agree is that the DBD project will not cause restrictions over the access road, which could lead to delays on the NHHM Project. Coordination is ongoing with DBD on this. Note that any requirements in relation to the access road from a Birkhill	Interactions between DBD and this access road are currently under review with the Birkhill Wood construction team. DBD are currently proposing to use trenchless installation techniques at crossing points of the Birkhill Wood access track wherever possible and are currently seeking clarification from Birkhill Wood of potential methodologies where trenchless techniques are not able to be employed to minimise disruption to users of this access track where open trenching / ducting may be required at a crossing location.	25/06/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Dogger Bank D's Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		Wood/Creyke Beck/Wanlass Beck substation perspective will require agreement separately and do not form part of this SoCG.			
DBD-03	Interaction with proposed Birkhill Wood 400kV Substation access road, which the NHHM requires use of for temporary construction of the NHHM project and operation and maintenance of the overhead line	National Grid support DBD's access road crossing approach for the proposed Birkhill Wood substation access road, which is likely to be delivered either by installing ducts as part of the permanent access road construction, or by using a trenchless crossing method that would terminate near to the BHW substation. In the unlikely event that closures are needed during the NHHM construction period, National Grid's preference would be to limit these to partial closures only, ensuring continued access for NHHM maintenance and construction activities.	DBD confirmed that the proposed Birkhill Wood substation access road crossing South of Poplar Farm is likely to be delivered either by installing ducts as part of the permanent access road construction, or by using a trenchless crossing method that would terminate near to the BHW substation. This approach was agreed in a meeting on the 13/02/2026. DBD also confirmed that they do not anticipate any impacts that would require full closures of the access roads at this location. Where crossings cannot be achieved with trenchless installation techniques, construction methodologies would be reviewed with users of the access road to ensure any disruption is minimised.	16/06/2026	Agreed
DBD-04	Sharing of data and design changes	Both projects team are to share design changes that could affect the NHHM Limits of Deviation or DBD Order Limits.	Agreed.	16/06/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Dogger Bank D's Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
DBD-05	Information sharing	Both parties will collaborate and share relevant information to manage engineering interactions.	Agreed.	16/06/2026	Agreed
DBD-06	Undergrounding in DBD Order Limits.	The NHHM Project design will include a diversion or undergrounding of a NPG 11kV OHL, which overlaps with the proposed DBD order limits.	In a meeting on the 13/02/2026, DBD agreed this is unlikely to be an issue and that they are likely to be able to avoid issues as there is space to route the DBD onshore cable to the north east of the proposed NPG 11kV works and that the DBD cable route would likely be a trenchless crossing at this location. However, both projects only have feasibility level design for the works in this area. Once available, DBD will share a detailed working methodology with NHHM team in regard to cable route connection NHHM to share all relevant design updates with DBD as they are produced.	25/06/2026	Under discussion
DBD-07	Cable routing to BHW substation	The DBD cable connection into BHW has the potential to interact with pylon 4AF3 and its foundations, so it will be important to coordinate this.	DBD will provide design information on the cable route design and construction methodologies once these are available.	25/06/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**Dogger Bank D's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		National Grid will be kept informed once further design information is available from SSE with regards to the DBD cable routing design within BHW substation			
DBD-08	Joint construction management interface planning	Environmental Impact Assessments and Construction Management Plans will be coordinated between both project teams to mitigate cumulative construction impacts and manage temporary works, access, and sequencing.	The potential overlap in construction timelines of both projects (2028–2033 period) may lead to cumulative environmental and construction impacts.	25/06/2026	Under discussion

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

This section details the matters relevant to DBD which have not been agreed between the parties.

[TABLE TO BE INSERTED AT EXAMINATION TO INCLUDE MATTERS NOT AGREED. THERE ARE NO MATTERS NOT AGREED AT THIS STAGE]

6. Confirmation of Agreement

The above SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Dogger Bank D on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

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Signed for and on behalf of Dogger Bank D:

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Date:

……

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