The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

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North Humber to High Marnham

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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 Yorkshire & Humber IDB 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 the 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 Yorkshire & Humber IDB.

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 and shared with Yorkshire & Humber IDB 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 officially 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 Yorkshire & Humber Drainage Board (Yorkshire & Humber IDB) is a public sector management group that represents 8 internal drainage boards across Yorkshire including Black Drain Drainage Board, Cowick & Snaith Internal Drainage Board, Danum Drainage Commissioners, Dempster Internal Drainage Board, Ouse and Humber Drainage Board, Rawcliffe Internal Drainage Board, Reedness & Swinefleet Internal Drainage Board and Vale of Pickering Drainage Board.

3.1.2 For the purposes of the Planning Act 2008 and related planning processes, Yorkshire & Humber IDB is a statutory stakeholder. Yorkshire & Humber IDB provide flood risk, water level and habitat management in Yorkshire and the Humber.

3.1.3 A period of non-statutory consultation was held for eight weeks, between 1 June 2023 and 27 July 2023. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB did not submit a response to this Consultation. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB also did not submit a response to the Planning Inspectorate following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion in August 2023.

3.1.4 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. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB did not submit a response to this consultation.

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 Yorkshire & Humber IDB.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and Yorkshire & Humber IDB (YHDB)

Date	Format	Topic	Description
31/05/2023	Email	**Non-Statutory Consultation June 2023**	Email invite to review the materials as part of public consultation.
18/02/2025	Letter	**Statutory Consultation**	Letter sent to YHDB advising of the start of the statutory public consultation and inviting them to provide feedback.
06/05/2025	Meeting	**Stakeholder Meeting**	Agreement to commence SoCG discussions; Protective Provisions first raised; drainage, access and crossing requirements discussed.

Date	Format	Topic	Description
06/05/2025	Email	**Meeting Minutes**	Meeting minutes circulated; YHDB confirmed acceptance of minutes.
07/05/2025	Email	**Drawings shared (Bridges, Culverts and Roads)**	Schedule of drains and drawings for road, bridges, and culverts issued for YHDB review and comment.
16/05/2025	Email	**Drawings shared (Bridges, Culverts and Roads)**	YHDB confirmed acceptance of design principles for the watercourse crossings.
22/05/2025	Email	**Grantor Concerns**	YHDB and landowner concerns regarding the access road that runs along Faxfleet Drain due to slips on the watercourse.
06/08/2025	Meeting	**Yorkshire & Humber IDB stakeholder meeting**	Review of engineering matters, clearances, maintenance requirements, SoCG process and Protective Provisions.
21/08/2025	Email	**Drain Crossing Clearance Memo**	Memo shared for information and discussion.
14/10/2025	Email	**Faxfleet Lane Haul Road Design**	Updates to Faxfleet Lane haul road communication via email.
15/10/2025	Email	**Faxfleet Lane Haul Road Design**	YHDB confirmed no concerns in relation to haul road proposal.
15/10/2025	Email	**Market Weighton Canal correspondence**	YHDB confirmed no concerns with revised proposals affecting the canal corridor.
May/June 2026	Emails	**Further discussions with EA and YHDB concerning Market Weighton Canal**	Clarification sought regarding navigation rights, maintenance responsibilities and temporary bridge proposals.
15/06/2026	Meeting	**Surface Water Drainage**	Joint meeting with Yorkshire & Humber IDB and Water Management Consortium Drainage Board on surface water drainage and water framework directive.
18/06/2026	Letter	**Heads of Terms**	Heads of Terms for Overhead Line Easement and associated option agreement issued by National Grid
24/06/2026	Meeting	**DNOs (NPG/NGED) and IDB Interactions Meeting**	IDBs discussed drainage crossings, stand-off distances, HDD crossings, pole removals and consenting requirements, associated with the proposed third party DNO works
23/09/2026	Meeting	**SoCG and Protective Provisions**	A meeting to review the Draft SoCG ahead of the DCO submission and discuss next steps in respect to Protective Provision negotiations.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to Yorkshire & Humber IDB 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 Yorkshire & Humber IDB, 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 in Relation to the Project

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
YH-01	Ongoing Engagement and Information Sharing	The Parties agree to continue to engage throughout examination, detailed design and construction and will continue to share relevant technical information to aid ongoing design work.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB Supports ongoing technical engagement and progression of SoCGs. National Grid to provide updated Shapefiles and Interaction Schedule.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-02	Interface Summary	National Grid has identified the following interactions with Yorkshire & Humber IDB's managed watercourses: • 4AF Oversail: **9** • 4ZQ Oversail: **3** • ZDA Oversail: **0** • Bridge and Culvert Crossings: **9** – Far Drain Lower – Broomfleet Beck x 2 – Ellecker Ings Drain – Crabley Beck – Upper x2 – Blacktoft Drain - Upper – Bellasize Middle Drain – Skelfleet Drain South - Upper	National Grid to provide updated Shapefiles and Interaction Schedule.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-03	Overhead Line Clearances (Vertical)	National Grid has designed the Project to achieve a minimum clearance of 8.3m across the Project, including above IDB-maintained drains and watercourses. See further information contained in the entry below.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB has reviewed National Grid's proposed clearances and has discussed maintenance access requirements associated with their operations.	23/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		National Grid considers this clearance, reflecting the applicable statutory requirements, is sufficient to ensure the continued operation and maintenance of drainage assets.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB confirm that crossing clearances are acceptable based on statutory and EMF requirements and has indicated no concerns with the proposed approach.		
YH-04	National Grid Drain Crossing Clearance Memo	National Grid shared the Drain Crossing Clearance Memo, on 21 August 2025, which sets out National Grid's minimum design clearance to ground; for 400kV overhead lines, it is 7.6m under Policy NG TS 2.04. Due to EMF requirements, the proposed 4AF and 4ZQ routes require 8.3 m clearance, while the ZDA route requires 7.6 m. The routes have been designed with an additional 0.3m factor of safety to take account of lidar tolerances. National Grid considers the proposed clearances to provide adequate clearance while meeting statutory and safety requirements.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB acknowledge receipt of the Memo. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB confirm that they do not operate their 40T long reach machines on the Market Weighton canal and that the 8.3m vertical clearance is acceptable in this respect as the Yorkshire & Humber IDB are satisfied that machinery can be operated within the clearances provided.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-05	Stand-off Distances and Consenting Thresholds (Horizontal Clearance)	National Grid notes the consenting requirements for any construction works within 9m of IDB maintained drains or watercourses, under the relevant drainage legislation and byelaws. National Grid has advised the IDB that there are currently no instances where	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB has advised that works within 9m of IDB maintained drains or watercourses may require consultation and/or approval, with detailed requirements to be confirmed through the detailed design and consenting process.	23/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		proposed pylon legs are located within 9m of an IDB-maintained watercourse (noting the limits of deviation). However, National Grid acknowledges that there are locations where the 9m stand-off may be encroached upon by other elements of the Project, particularly in relation to pylon foundations, undergrounding of utilities, culvert installations and haul road crossings. National Grid will continue to engage with the relevant IDBs regarding these interactions and will seek any necessary approvals through the appropriate consenting processes, as detailed design progresses.			
YH-06	Identification of Interactions with IDB Assets	National Grid has identified locations where the Project, including third-party underground utility diversion works, may interact with IDB assets and has shared these details in Shapefile format.	National Grid to Provide updated interaction plans and schedules.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-07	Greenfield Run-off Rates	National Grid has adopted a greenfield run-off rate of 1.4l/s/ha as a worst-case design assumption in the Environmental Statement, as requested by the IDB.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB supports use of a 1.4l/s/ha runoff rate across the IDB areas. National Grid will reflect the agreed rate within the Environmental Statement.	23/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
YH-08	Surface Water Management and Construction Dewatering	National Grid confirm that surface water and temporary dewatering proposals will be developed through detailed design.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB supports further discussion on discharge arrangements and receiving watercourse capacity. National Grid will continue engagement and seek consents where required.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-09	Protection of Watercourses During Construction	National Grid agree that construction activities should not adversely affect drainage functionality or water quality. The Parties agree that the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) would be a mechanism for securing environmental commitments relevant to the Board's interests.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB requires National Grid to present measures to prevent pollution and siltation. National Grid will incorporate mitigation measures within construction management plans.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-10	Drain Crossing Design	National Grid agree that crossings will be designed, at the detailed design stage, to minimise impacts on IDB maintained assets, wherever possible.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB have requested a review of the crossing proposals. National Grid will provide detailed crossing designs as they become available.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-11	Distribution Network Operators (DNO) Interactions with IDB Assets	DNO mitigation works, largely in the form of undergrounding of cables, will be developed in consultation with the relevant IDBs. The total number of DNO mitigation interactions within 9m of an IDB watercourse or drain are: • NPG diversions: 3 – NPG-10 (Ellerker Ings Drain)	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB have highlighted concerns around underground cable diversions running parallel to drains and all such proposals would need case-by-case assessment. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB advised that underground diversions within 1m of a	23/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		– NPG-11 (Crabley Beck Upper) – NPG-13 (Landing Lane Drain / Pighills Drain) • BT telecom diversions: 1 – Landing Lane Drain (AAA387) Total: 4 interfaces	bank top are unlikely to be acceptable because of the risk of bank failure, For drain crossings, HDD was identified as a suitable solution, with cables typically installed at least 1.5m below hard bed level. Following undergrounding, the removal of the existing overhead line wood poles was generally welcomed as it reduces hazards, and leaving buried pole stumps in place was considered acceptable provided they remain below ground level. National Grid will share diversion route plans, crossing details and construction proposals when available. National Grid is preparing an interaction schedule where DNO mitigation assets are located within 9m of an IDB managed drain or watercourse.		
YH-12	Protective Provisions	National Grid and the Yorkshire & Humber IDB will continue discussions regarding the need for and content of Protective Provisions to address asset protection, approvals, notifications, liabilities, access requirements and construction controls (not exhaustive).	The Parties agree that the statutory byelaws relating to the functions and activities of the Internal Drainage Board can be disapplied by the Development Consent Order, provided that an appropriate suite of Protective Provisions is secured within the Order. The Parties consider that Protective Provisions would provide a bespoke, proportionate and streamlined mechanism for securing the necessary consents, approvals and	23/09/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
			protections required to safeguard the Board's interests and statutory functions throughout the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.		
YH-13	Land Interests and Access Rights	National Grid have identified land owned freehold by the Yorkshire & Humber IDB. National Grid issued Heads of Terms for an Overhead Line Easement over this land on 16th June 2026.	Confirmation required from Yorkshire & Humber IDB around landownership of IDB watercourses and drains.	23/09/2026	Under discussion
YH-14	IDB Capital Projects	National Grid requested details on any IDB related capital projects which may interface with the Project.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB did not identify any major known conflicts with its planned capital works at that stage.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-15	Typical Maintenance Vehicles	National Grid requested details from The Yorkshire & Humber IDB in respect to their typical maintenance vehicles required to service their assets.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB confirm that machinery used includes a tracked long reach excavator. The watercourses in the area are flailed annually and routinely de-weeded with a weed basket. Occasionally the watercourses will be de-silted by an excavator. Arisings are spread on the land adjacent to the watercourse. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB confirm that they do not operate their 40T long reach machines on the Market Weighton canal and that the 8.3m vertical clearance is acceptable in this respect as the Yorkshire & Humber IDB are satisfied that machinery can be operated within the clearances provided.	23/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
YH-16	Diversions to Watercourses	No diversions to the Yorkshire & Humber IDB's maintained watercourses and drains are envisaged. However, should this be necessary, following detailed design, National Grid shall take into account the Yorkshire & Humber IDB stipulated requirements.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB will not object to diversions but requires any new cut to be engineered to current standards, regardless of current condition of the watercourse it replaces. Given the ground conditions any bends/corners in watercourses would have to cater for potential erosion issues. An agreement would have to be in place regarding future responsibilities for any repair or mitigation works to the watercourse if required in future. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB would be willing to provide an estimate for carrying out diversion works on behalf of National Grid if required.	23/09/2026	Agreed
YH-17	Market Weighton Canal	National Grid sought confirmation regarding the status of the Market Weighton Canal as a drainage channel, the maintenance of its operational drainage function, and the acceptability of temporary construction works, including the use of a self-launching bridge, which may temporarily restrict navigation during construction.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB confirmed that the canal was intended to be a canal but has never been used as such, and is instead, used as a surface water drainage channel for which the IDB do some maintenance work on for the Environment Agency. The IDB are not generally the Navigation Authority on watercourses. The IDB noted that the canal would be navigable by small boats and canoes. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB occasionally operate small weed cutting boats (small, shallow draft) south of the confluence with the River Foulness. The height is limited by the B1230 bridge at Newport and the M62	23/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Yorkshire & Humber IDB Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
			crossing so scaffold net clearance would need to be in accordance with these clearance heights. The Yorkshire & Humber IDB has subsequently indicated that it has no concerns regarding certain revised project proposals affecting the canal.		
YH-18	Faxfleet Lane Haul Road	Landowner concerns were raised regarding the access road adjacent to Faxfleet Drain, including road width, bank stability and the potential for slippage affecting the watercourse. Due to the presence of Water Voles along the drain the haul road has been moved further north to avoid impacts. The permanent access during operation and maintenance of the line would still use the existing track along the drain but only by light goods vehicles, or similar, and the frequency of maintenance, with no overhead line faults, is likely to be once/twice a year.	The Yorkshire & Humber IDB have no concerns regarding the proposals including amendments made following ecological constraints.	23/09/2026	Agreed

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to Yorkshire & Humber IDB which have not been agreed between the parties.

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

6. Confirmation of Agreement

The above SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Yorkshire & Humber IDB on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

……

Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of Yorkshire & Humber IDB:

……

Date:

……

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