The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

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North Humber to High Marnham

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Programme Document has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) as a requirement under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus in respect of the North Humber to High Marnham Project.

1.2 Purpose and Structure

1.2.1 This Programme Document sets out the timetable and describes the activities proposed to ensure an effective pre-application process, including the level of pre-application service requested from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act 2008 as per the requirements for a Programme Document set out in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. It is expected that this document will be updated at key milestones throughout the pre-application process as the Project is further developed.

1.2.2 This Programme Document is structured as follows:

- Section 1: Introduction and purpose and structure of the document
- Section 2: Background to North Humber to High Marnham (‘the Project’)
- Section 3: PINS Pre-application Service
- Section 4: Expected Submission Timeframe
- Section 5: Timeframe of the pre-application process
- Section 6: Main issues for resolution
- Section 7: Engaging with statutory consultees and Local Planning Authorities
- Section 8: Pre-application risks and how these are tracked and managed
- Section 9: Approach to preparing Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI).

2. Background to the Project

2.1 Overview of the Project

2.1.1 The Project is in the east of England across the Humber, North Lincolnshire and East Midland regions. The proposed upgrade is required to increase the capability of the electricity transmission network between the north of England and the Midlands. It is needed to facilitate the connection of proposed new offshore wind that is planned in the area.

2.1.2 The Project is a proposal by NGET to reinforce the transmission network between the proposed new Birkhill Wood Substation, close to the existing Creyke Beck Substation in East Riding of Yorkshire, and the proposed new High Marnham Substation adjacent to the existing High Marham Substation in Nottinghamshire. This would be achieved by reinforcing the transmission network with a new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line over approximately 90 kilometres (km) within the following local authority areas:

- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- Bassetlaw District Council

2.1.3 The Project includes the following principal components:

- Approximately 90 km of new overhead line between the new Birkhill Wood and High Marnham 400 kV Substations.
- Replacement and re-alignment of a section of the existing 400 kV 4ZQ overhead line route between Brantingham and east of Broomfleet.
- Replacement and re-alignment of a section of the existing 400 kV ZDA overhead line route between Ealand and west of Keadby.
- The Project will include other required works, for example, temporary diversions of existing overhead line routes, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works. The Project will also include utility diversions and drainage works. There would also be land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment.

2.2 Planning Act 2008

2.2.1 The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined by the Planning Act and the Planning Act 2008 (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) (Electricity Lines) Order 2013, as it involves the installation of an electric line above ground of more than 2km, which will operate at 400kV in England.

2.2.2 As an NSIP, the Project requires the grant of development consent by the making of a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

2.2.3 For the purpose of section 115 of the Planning Act 2008, development consent may also be granted for associated development.

3. PINS Pre-application Service

3.1 Pre-application Service

3.1.1 The Project is subject to the 'Standard' level of pre-application service. It is considered the standard level of service will provide the Project with an appropriate and proportionate level of pre-application engagement with PINS, reflective of the scale and nature of the Project and NGET's level of experience as an applicant.

3.1.2 The Project is similar to others within the Great Grid Upgrade that are further developed in their programme, and as such, lessons learnt and expertise in producing documentation are available to enable the application to be of a standard acceptable for examination.

3.1.3 The standard level of service will provide the Project with Project update meetings, draft document review and risk review.

4. Expected Submission Timeframe

4.1.1 The anticipated DCO application submission is October 2026.

4.1.2 NGET will provide PINS with regular updates regarding the submission date as the project progresses.

5. Timeframe of the pre-application process

5.1.1 An anticipated timeline of the pre-application process is set out in Table 5.1 below. The pre application timeframe will be refined, and further detail added as required as the period of submission draws closer.

Table 5.1 – Anticipated application submission timeframe

Activity	Expected Timeframe (Status)
PINS inception meeting	16 May 2023 (Complete)
Non-statutory Consultation	01 June 2023 to 27 July 2023 (Complete)
EIA Scoping opinion	29 September 2023 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting (post scoping and non-statutory consultation meeting)	05 October 2023 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting (pre localised non-statutory consultation meeting)	10 June 2024 (Complete)
Localised Non-statutory Consultation	09 July 2024 to 06 August 2024 (Complete)
Consultation with host Local Authorities on Draft Statement of Community Consultation	13 November 2024 to 03 January 2025 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting (pre-section 42 consultation meeting)	21 January 2025 (Complete)
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) consultation published	18 February 2025 (Complete)
Statutory Consultation	18 February 2025 to 15 April 2025 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting (post-section 42 consultation/ post-Preliminary Environmental Information Report meeting)	21 May 2025 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting	12 November 2025 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting	11 February 2026 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting	April 2026 (Complete)
Further targeted consultations	Further targeted consultation periods with Persons with Interest in Land (PIL), running for 28 day periods between June 2025 and September 2026. (Complete)

Activity	Expected Timeframe (Status)
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Submission (AoCM)	14 July 2026 (Complete)
PINS review of draft DCO documentation	May – June 2026 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting (draft documents feedback meeting)	23 June 2026 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting	17 August 2026 (Complete)
PINS project update meeting (pre-submission meeting)	1 October 2026 (Complete)
DCO submission	16 October 2026 (Complete)

6. Main issues for resolution

6.1.1 The project is at a relatively mature stage of development, with NGET having completed Statutory Consultation in April 2025.

6.1.2 The table below sets out the general issues in line with the following National Policy Statements (NPS) which are considered likely to be relevant to projects of this nature together with a description of the current consideration of this issue for the proposed Project:

- **Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (NPS EN-1):** NPS EN-1 sets out the Government's overarching policy about the development of NSIPs in the energy sector. It emphasises the need for new energy projects to contribute to a secure, diverse, reliable and affordable energy supply;
- **National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (NPS EN-5):** NPS EN-5 is additional to NPS EN-1. Applicants and the Secretary of State should consider both NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-5 together.

6.1.3 As Statutory Consultation has now been completed, references to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) have been included as an aide to a better understanding of the issues and their context (it is noted that the PEIR is one but not the only document relevant to the Statutory Consultation and the issues being addressed). The PEIR presents a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the project, which was used to inform statutory consultation. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable members of the public, consultation bodies, and other stakeholders, to develop an informed view of the preliminary likely significant effects of the Project and comment on aspects of interest.

6.1.4 Further consideration will be given to these matters following review of feedback from communities and stakeholders in relation to the proposals following the Statutory Consultation.

6.1.5 An application for a DCO will be supported by documents explaining the consideration of issues arising from consultation and the application of the NPS's. An Environmental Statement will set out consideration of the Project's environmental effects.

Table 6.1 – List of issues for resolution

Issue	Description of Potential Issue
Air Quality	Chapter 15 of the PEIR considers the potential effects arising due to air quality and emissions. The preliminary assessment is set out in Section 15.7 of the Chapter including the effects of construction dust in relation to air quality receptors. The preliminary assessment concluded that the effect of construction dust is considered to be not significant in relation to air quality receptors. The effects from construction vehicle emissions is to be assessed once further data is available. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from statutory consultation is being considered.
Aviation and Defence	The Project is in proximity to a number of unlicensed aerodromes. These have been considered during the detailed routeing as set out in the Development Report 2025. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from consultation is being considered. The Project has also undertaken an assessment of interactions with MOD assets.
Alternatives & Good Design	Potential issues may include site and route selection and alternatives, including the application of the Holford Rules. Chapter 3 of the PEIR considers alternatives and Section 6 of the Design Development Report (2025) sets out the good design principles that have and will continue to guide the Project's design process.
Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	Chapter 8 of the PEIR considers the Project's potential effects on ecology and biodiversity. Chapter 8 also sets out the preliminary assessment of potential effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological importance. Table 8.22 of Chapter 8 sets out the preliminary assessment of effects on statutory and non-statutory designated sites. Chapter 12 considers the Projects potential effects on geology. The Project will continue to be progressed and refined, taking account of ecological sites and habitats, for example, including (but not limited to) Blacktoft Sands Nature Reserve and Humber Estuary Ramsar Site, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Area of Protection (SPA) and Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). Surveys are ongoing and survey data alongside consultation feedback will also be used to inform continued design development.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	The Project continues to progress the strategy for delivery and provision of at least 10% BNG.
Climate Change Adaption and Resilience	Chapter 19 of the PEIR sets out the Project's design responds to climate change adaptation and embeds resilience, with Section 19.7 setting out the potential effects the Project may cause.

Issue	Description of Potential Issue
Flood risk	The Project area includes some flood risk zones. Chapter 11 of the PEIR considers the Project's potential effects on the water environment including flood risk. The preliminary assessment identifies and assesses the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the Project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Chapter 19 of the PEIR considers the climate change impact the Project will have. This includes the assessment of GHG impact including construction and operation and considering opportunities to mitigate or offset emissions, as set out in PEIR Chapter 19, Section 19.7.
Health	Chapter 18 of the PEIR considers the Project's potential effects on the health and wellbeing, Section 18.7 sets out the Project's preliminary assessments potential effects.
Historic environment	Chapter 10 of the PEIR considers the Project's potential effects on the historic environment. The preliminary assessment considers impacts of the Project on the historic environment/assets above, at and below the surface of the ground. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from the consultation is being considered.
Inter-relationships with other infrastructure projects	NGET is aware of several projects along the proposed route and is engaging with other developers. Inter-relationships and cumulative impacts with these projects will be considered.
Land rights and land interests	NGET is and will continue to engage with affected parties to secure the necessary land rights to deliver the project.
Landscape and Visual	Chapter 6 (Landscape) and Chapter 7 (Visual) of the PEIR consider the Project's potential landscape and visual effects. Consideration of Project design and routeing has been carried out in accordance with the Holford and Horlock Rules and provision of appropriate landscape mitigation. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from the consultation is being considered.
Noise and vibration	Chapter 16 of the PEIR considers the potential effects of noise and vibration from the Project. The preliminary assessment considered potential mitigation measures to manage the preliminary likely significant effects, set out in detail in Section 16.7 of the Chapter. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from statutory consultation is being considered.

Issue	Description of Potential Issue
Land use including open space, green infrastructure, green belt	Chapter 13 of the PEIR (Agriculture and Soils) considers the Project's potential land use effects. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from statutory consultation is being considered.
Socio economic impacts	Chapter 17 of the PEIR sets out the Project's potential socio-economic effects. The preliminary assessment considered local and regional level socio-economic effects at construction, operation and maintenance, set out in Section 17.7 of the Chapter. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from statutory consultation is being considered.
Traffic and Transport	Chapter 14 of the PEIR sets out the potential traffic and transport effects of the Project. The preliminary assessment collates potential and residual effects, alongside managed mitigation, throughout the Project and its stages. This is set out in Section 14.7 of the Chapter. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from the consultation is being considered.
Water Quality and Resources	Potential effects on water quality are considered in Chapter 12 (Geology and Hydrogeology) and Chapter 11 (Water Environment) of the PEIR. Further assessments are being carried out and feedback from consultation will be considered.

7. Engaging with statutory consultees and Local Planning Authorities

7.1.1 NGET began early engagement with the host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in 2022. In 2023 NGET consulted each host LPA on a draft consultation strategy ahead of the Non-statutory Consultation. Engagement has continued throughout the early stages of the Project including Non-statutory Consultation and EIA Scoping in 2023. Engagement has continued further through statutory consultation (completed April 2025). NGET wrote to Statutory Consultees to inform them of the Statutory Consultation. Prior to the Statutory Consultation NGET also consulted with the LPAs on a Statement of Community Consultation which presents further information on engagement activities.

7.1.2 Feedback has been sought from the LPAs during the Non-statutory and Statutory Consultations.

7.1.3 NGET have entered into Planning Performance Agreements (PPA's) with the majority of host LPAs and are working towards signing PPA's with the remaining LPAs. NGET continue to engage with LPAs through regular project update meetings.

7.1.4 Statutory consultation was held between 18 February and 15 April 2025. Following review of feedback received from Statutory Consultation there has been a series of project update meetings with Local Planning Authorities.

7.1.5 In addition to engagement with the host authorities, NGET has and will continue to liaise with the statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) and other organisations such as National Highways, Network Rail, utility companies, the National Trust, RSPB (the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and local interest groups such as the Wildlife Trusts. Service Level Agreements (SLA) or similar are agreed or being agreed with key statutory bodies, such as the Environment Agency, Historic England and a SLA is in place with Natural England, to ensure these organisations have the adequate resource to engage with the project at key times. Further information on engagement activities will be shared as required in the Consultation Report once developed post the processing and analysis of the Statutory Consultation.

7.1.6 NGET continue to engage with PINS throughout the pre-application process. Table 8.1 sets out the anticipated timeframe for PINS engagement.

8. Pre-application risks and how these are tracked and managed

8.1.1 A summary of the pre-application risks at this stage of the project and how these are tracked and managed is provided below.

Table 8.1 – Pre-application risk tracking and management

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and managing risk
Limited resource within host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to engage with proposals in detail.	Limited resource and capacity of LPAs results in limited engagement on the proposals and inability for the LPAs to provide feedback throughout the pre-application stage of the project, including non-statutory and statutory consultations.	Early engagement with LPAs underway. NGET working with all host LPAs to seek to implement PPAs. Sharing of regular updates regarding project progress and programme.
Limited resource/capacity within stakeholder organisations to engage with proposals in detail.	Limited resource and capacity of some statutory consultees results in limited engagement on the proposals and inability for statutory consultees to provide feedback throughout the pre-application stage of the project, including non-statutory and statutory consultations.	Early stakeholder engagement. Sharing of regular updates regarding project progress and programme. Where applicable NGET are working with specific consultees to implement paid pre-application services.
Multiple DCOs and planning applications in close proximity to this Project placing stress on resources of Local Authorities	Numerous developments within proximity of the project demand additional resource from Local Authorities which could reduce their ability to adequately engage with the project.	Early engagement with LPAs underway. Sharing of regular updates regarding project progress and programme.

9. Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information

9.1.1 A Scoping Report was submitted in support of a request by NGET, under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, for a written Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by PINS on behalf of the SoS, to inform the EIA for the Project. Subsequently a Scoping Opinion was issued by PINS in September 2023.

9.1.2 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was published on the Project website as part of the Statutory Consultation materials in February 2025. All data, conclusions and assessments are by their nature preliminary and are based on the current early Project design as described within this PEI Report. Chapter 5 of the PEIR sets out the approach and methodology used to undertake the preliminary assessments which are presented in the topic chapters (Chapters 6 to 21) of the PEIR. The approach has been informed by the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion.

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com