The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

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North Humber to High Marnham

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document 5.8.1 Statement of Common Ground - Environment Agency

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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 the Environment Agency 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 the Environment Agency.

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 the Environment Agency 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 The Environment Agency is a prescribed consultee for the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and is named as such in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The Environment Agency is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with the stated purpose 'to protect or enhance the environment, taken as a whole'.

3.1.2 A period of non-statutory consultation was held for eight weeks, between 1 June 2023 and 27 July 2023. The Environment Agency submitted a response to this Consultation. The Environment Agency also submitted a response to the Planning Inspectorate following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion in August 2023.

3.1.3 A localised non-statutory consultation was held for four weeks, between 9 July 2024 and 6 August 2024. That consultation introduced a potential alternative corridor for routeing and sought the views of the public and relevant stakeholders. The Environment Agency submitted a response to this consultation.

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 Environment Agency submitted 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 Environment Agency.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and the EA

Date	Format	Topic	Description
21/06/2022	Email	**Initial Contact**	Email from National Grid to the EA to make them aware of the scheme.
20/07/2022	Meeting	**Initial briefing**	Meeting held by National Grid to brief the EA on the project scope and objectives.
31/05/2023	Letter	**Non-Statutory Consultation**	Notification for the start of non-Statutory Consultation.
07/07/2023	Email	**Response to non-statutory consultation**	Email from the EA to National Grid with a preliminary response to the consultation.

Date	Format	Topic	Description
30/01/2024	Meeting	**Inception Meeting**	Meeting to inform the EA on the project and brief them on consultation feedback.
09/02/2024	Meeting	**Route Corridor**	Technical briefing meeting held by National Grid to update the EA on the route corridor backcheck.
09/07/2024	Meeting	**Project Proposal**	Meeting held by National Grid to brief the EA on the project proposal.
06/08/2024	Letter	**Consultation**	Letter to National Grid with the EA's response to the localised consultation.
18/12/2024	Meeting	**Project Proposal**	Meeting held by National Grid to update the EA on the progress of the project.
14/04/2025	Letter	**Response to Statutory Consultation**	National Grid received the EA's response to the statutory consultation.
11/06/2025	Meeting	**Hydrology**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss watercourse crossing and floodplain works with the EA.
07/08/2025	Meeting	**Hydrology**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss flood compensation and storage with the EA.
12/09/2025	Meeting	**Hydrology**	Meeting held by National Grid with the EA to discuss flood modelling.
19/09/2025	Meeting	**Hydrology**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss the Source Protection Zone (SPZ1) at Birkhill Wood.
07/10/2025	Meeting	**Hydrology**	Meeting held by National Grid with the EA to discuss flood impact modelling.
07/11/2025	Meeting	**Hydrology**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss works in a floodplain and Water Framework Directive (WFD).
09/03/2026	Meeting	**Project Update**	Meeting held by National Grid to update the EA on the progress of the project and to discuss the watercourse crossing schedule.
19/09/2025	Meeting	**Hydrogeology**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss proposed satellite construction compound in SPZ 1 at Birkhill Wood.

Date	Format	Topic	Description
23/04/2026	Meeting	**Contaminated Land**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss historical landfill site at Ellerker and project interactions.
08/06/2026	Meeting	**Hydrogeology**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss SPZ1 at Birkhill Wood and Distribution Network Operator diversions.
11/06/2026	Email	**Water Framework Directive (WFD)**	Feedback received from EA on draft WFD submission.
08/09/2026	Meeting	**Statement of Common Ground**	Meeting held by National Grid to discuss Statement of Common Ground topics.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to the EA which have been ‘agreed’ or are still ‘under discussion’ between the parties. Matters are arranged by topic (using broad headings, or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) chapter headings where appropriate) and each matter is given a unique reference number to aid identification.

4.1.2 The red, amber, green status shows, at a glance, the level of agreement with the EA, 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.

4.2 Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk

Table 4.2 – Matters Agreed or Under Discussion in Relation to Water Environment

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
4.2.1	Policy and Legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk assessment is presented in **Application Document 6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 Legislation and Policy Context** and **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** and is considered appropriate. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 Legislation and Policy Context** and **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.2	Study Area	The study area for Hydrology and Land Drainage was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and **Application Document 6.5.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.3	Data Sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within **Application Document**	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11**	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment.	**Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.2.4	Assessment methodologies	The outline methodology for assessing Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate. Technical notes for the following are still under consideration: • Works In, Over and Under Watercourses Further engagement between the Applicant and the Environment Agency has focussed on agreeing key design parameters and controls for works in/over and under watercourses, presented in **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** to avoid flood risk impacts, such that hydraulic modelling assessments are not necessary.	The Environment Agency agrees that there should be no detrimental impacts on flood risk on neighbouring land, stating that hydraulic modelling may be required to assess this.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion
4.2.5	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk are presented in **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment**. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
4.2.6	Sensitivity of receptors	The criteria for assigning the value/sensitivity of Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk receptors are shown set out in in **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment**. The criteria presented are considered appropriate for the assessment.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.7	Mitigation	Mitigation measures relevant to Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk effects, are set out in **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment**. Mitigations are considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.8	Additional mitigation - Fluvial	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment**. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. With regard to floodplain compensation storage, land for use to deliver this mitigation has been set aside within the Order Limits, local to the sites of losses, and provision is secured through a	The Environment Agency position is that any flood storage compensation should be level for level, volume for volume, localised and achieve net gain where possible. The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement	06/08/2024	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		commitment within **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments.** Detailed compensation schemes would be produced by the appointed Contractor for EA approval.			
4.2.9	Additional Mitigation - Tidal	The Applicant notes the Environment Agency position and welcomes that provision of floodplain compensation is not a requirement for development in tidally dominated floodplains.	The Environment Agency agree that compensation would not be required in tidally dominated areas. The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	07/08/2025	Under Discussion
4.2.10	Assessment findings	In relation to avoiding disturbance to natural riverbanks and reducing potential harm due to vibration, commitments within **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** provide for avoidance and mitigation of such impacts.	The EA agrees that the commitments secured are sufficient to avoid and mitigate any potential harm to natural riverbanks due to vibration. The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.	09/03/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.11	Outline CoCP (General)	**Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in **Application Document 6.11 Environmental StatementChapter 11 Water Environment** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice and Application Document 6.11Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Environment** in order to confirm their agreement.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Measures to control and manage INNS will be detailed within **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice.**			
4.2.12	Outline CoCP (Flood Defences)	National Grid notes that the CoCP will be managed by the main works contractor during construction, however further details have been included in **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** issued with the DCO application. This includes commitment W12 which secures that where construction works are undertaken in proximity to existing main river flood defences, the Main Works Contractor would maintain suitable buffers (8 m for fluvial defences, 16 m for tidal defences) to avoid risk to their integrity.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.13	General Approach	The WFD Assessment, in **Application Document 7.12 Water Framework Directive Assessment**, has been undertaken in a staged manner, with each stage report shared with the EA for review and comment, Stages 1 to 4 of the assessment have been approved to date. Groundwater bodies are included within the assessment.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.12 Water Framework Directive Assessment** in order to confirm their agreement.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion
4.2.14	Zone of Influence (ZoI)	National Grid and the EA have agreed the proposed ZoI and the scoped-in elements	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.12 Water**	07/08/2025	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		for each surface water and groundwater body within the ZoI. An evidence base for the ZoI established is reported in **Application Document 7.12 Water Framework Directive Assessment**.	**Framework Directive** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.2.15	Cumulative impacts of culverting, culvert design and passability for fish, invertebrates, water vole and otters	Comments received from the EA have been noted and incorporated into the WFD Assessment **Application Document 7.12 Water Framework Directive Assessment**. There are a range of measures included in **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments** to secure culvert designs that facilitate passability for fish, invertebrates, water vole and otters.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.12 Water Framework Directive Assessment and Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.16	FRA - General	The scope, methodology, assessment and conclusions drawn in the FRA are considered appropriate and proportionate and are reported in **Application Document 7.13 Flood Risk Assessment**.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.13 Flood Risk Assessment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.17	Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAP)	The approach to obtaining a FRAP for the Project is set out in **Application Document 5.4 Consents and Licences Required Under Other Legislation** and accords with the requirements of the Environment Agency. The Main Works Contractor will be responsible for applying for FRAPs and will begin pre application discussions with the	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 5.4 Consents and Licences Required Under Other Legislation** in order to confirm their agreement to the approach for securing a FRAP.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Environment Agency at an early stage of their appointment.			
4.2.18	FRA – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	The guidance and advice provided by the Environment Agency is noted and adequately included in **Application Document 7.13 Flood Risk Assessment** and **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice**. In addition, an Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy will be submitted as part of the application.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.13 Flood Risk Assessment** and **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.19	FRA – Groundwater Flood Risk	The guidance and advice provided by the EA is noted and is referred to in the submitted **Application Document 7.13 Flood Risk Assessment** and **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice.**	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.13 Flood Risk Assessment** and **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.20	FRA – design life	A description of dismantling is provided in **Application Document 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. Where dismantling of existing pylons is proposed as part of the Project, this has been assessed within **Application Documents 6.6 to 6.19** in the Environmental Statement. This assessment is considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency accepts that decommissioning has been scoped out for flood risk however expect an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan to be submitted as part of the ES.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.2.21	FRA – Flood Risk Modelling	The in-combination impact of Steeple Renewables and Keadby Next Generation on the Project has been considered in	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.20 Environmental Statement Chapter 20**	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Application Document 6.20 Environmental Statement Chapter 20 Intra Project Cumulative Effects and **Application Document 6.21 Environmental Statement Chapter 21 Inter Project Cumulative Effects.**	**Intra Project Cumulative Effects** and **Application Document 6.21 Environmental Statement Chapter 21 Inter Project Cumulative Effects** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.2.22	Culverts	Watercourse crossing are required during construction with a first preference to use existing bridges/culverts. Where this is not possible the second preference is to modify existing structures. Where the first and second preference is not practical it is agreed that culverts will be used. Crossings will only be temporary and only retained by exception.	The Environment Agency prefers clear span bridges to culverts, and will only grant culvert permits if there is no reasonably practical alternatives.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion

4.3 Ecology and Biodiversity

Table 4.3 – Matters Agreed or Under Discussion in Relation to Ecology and Biodiversity

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
4.3.1	Study Area	The study areas for Ecology and Ornithology were agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and **Application Document 6.5.A2 Environmental Statement Scoping Opinion** received from the Planning Inspectorate. The Ecology and	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Ornithology study areas set out in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and are considered suitable for the assessment.			
4.3.2	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessments presented within **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology**.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.3.3	Assessment methodology	The assessment methods for Ecology and Ornithology were agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and **Application Document 6.5.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** received from the Planning Inspectorate. The assessment methodologies are set out in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** and are considered sufficient and appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.3.4	Survey methodology	As set out in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** surveys are being conducted	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9**	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	EA's Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		for the relevant protected species and these are considered appropriate.	**Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.3.5	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Ornithology are presented in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology and Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** and are considered appropriate.	Ecological assessments are at risk of being out of date. Appropriate understanding of baseline conditions can be undermined. Riparian mammal pre-construction checks/surveys should be conducted prior to construction of each route section, to determine any changes in presence or distribution of otters and water voles. The European eel (Anguilla anguilla) was not included in the previous baseline data. European eel are present in most waterbodies where there is suitable habitat and hydrological connectivity to main watercourses. They should be included in the baseline and risks to them assessed in the EIA. The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion
4.3.6	Mitigation Measures	Mitigation measures relevant to effects on ecological and ornithological features, are outlined in section 8.8 of **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement**	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9**	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	EA's Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		Chapter 8 Ecology and in section 9.8 of **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** and these measures are considered appropriate.	**Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.3.7	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	National Grid will deliver at least 10% BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. Offsite BNG will be delivered through collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers.	EA request a landscaping or BNG plan to be included in the Environment Statement detailing how BNG will be delivered. EA recommend that National Grid include in-channel habitat enhancements measures. This could be achieved through increasing the in-channel habitat diversity, improving channel morphology and removing barriers. For potential BNG opportunities, EA recommend National Grid refers to both the mitigation measures within the Water Framework Directive and opportunities identified within the Local Nature Recovery Strategies.	14/04/2025	Under discussion.
4.3.8	Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	National Grid will consider including a Biosecurity Strategy and confirm with EA if one will be produced.	The proposals include control and management measures to limit the spread of INNS. However, there is no clear commitment to develop an INNS Management Plan or broader Biosecurity Strategy. A pathway-specific risk assessment should be undertaken to identify potential routes for the introduction and spread of INNS during	14/04/2025	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
			construction, operation, and decommissioning. In addition, a robust and detailed Biosecurity Plan should be prepared and incorporated within the Environmental Statement.		
4.3.9	Construction effects	The conclusions of the Ecology and Ornithology assessments are presented in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology and Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology.** The assessment of effects presented is considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.		Under Discussion
4.3.10	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The EIA assessment conclusions are presented in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology and Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology.** The assessment of effects presented is considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.3.11	Outline CoCP	**Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** and is appropriate	EA have requested a method statement outlining the cable corridor works to help them understand the linear extent of works at any given point and how the works will be phased / segmented. This will help them understand the potential cumulative impact of the project during the construction phase. The CoCP should	14/04/2025	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		for managing construction impacts from the Project.	also include methods and monitoring to ensure protection of flood assets from vibration and settlement during the construction phase. The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.3.12	Outline LEMP	**Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** including an Outline Landscape Maintenance and Management Plan includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** and is appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**, **Application Document 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology** and **Application Document 6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Ornithology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.3.13	Habitat Protection	The Outline CEMP will address temporary crossings of waterbodies, including mitigation. The CEMP will be shared with EA once available.	Where temporary crossings are constructed on waterbodies, and then removed, the condition of the habitat may be worse that it was before leading to a more long-term impact on aquatic species. The outline CEMP and Environmental Management Plan should include measures to ensure that the condition of waterbodies is improved for aquatic species post temporary crossings.	14/04/2025	Under Discussion

4.4 Geology and Hydrogeology

Table 4.4 – Matters Agreed or Under Discussion in Relation to Geology and Hydrogeology

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
4.4.1	Study Area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report, in **Application Document 6.5.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report** and Scoping Opinion, found in **Application Document 6.5.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**, received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.2	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report, in **Application Document 6.5.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report** and Scoping Opinion, found in **Application Document 6.5.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**, received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and **Application Document 6.5.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** received from the Planning Inspectorate The Environment Agency have requested (through statutory consultation) that all potable water abstractions (including private water supplies) are assigned at least a high sensitivity and that SPZ's are applied to all abstractions for domestic supply or food production.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.3	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology are presented in **Application**	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12**	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate and include identification and review of historical and active landfill sites within the Study Area. The Project interacts with only one historical landfill (inert), described and assessed in both **Application Document 6.12.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 12.2 Preliminary Contamination Risk Assessment** and **Application Document 6.12.A4 Environmental Statement Appendix 12.4 Preliminary Qualitative Groundwater Risk Assessment**.	**Geology and Hydrogeology** in order to confirm their agreement. The Environment Agency have commented (through statutory consultation) that active and historical landfill sites within and near to the site boundary have not been identified and that these should be reviewed.		
4.4.4	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology effects, are set out in **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	The Environment Agency are concerned about the potential harm that contaminated firewater may do the SPZ1 and Principal aquifer at High Marnham. Sufficient mitigation is required to protect these receptors. The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.5	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12**	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** and	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Geology and Hydrogeology and set out in **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice**. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	**Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.		
4.4.6	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology**. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.7	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology**. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.8	Outline CoCP	**Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**EA's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
4.4.9	Groundwater Risk Assessment	A Groundwater Risk Assessment has been undertaken and is provided in **Application Document 6.12.A4 Environmental Statement Appendix 12.4 Preliminary Qualitative Groundwater Risk Assessment**. The Assessment includes works proposed within groundwater SPZ 1, and assessments relating to proposed trenchless crossings, and for all groundwater abstractions identified within the Study Area.	The Environment Agency awaits **Application Document 6.12.A4 Environmental Statement Appendix 12.4 Preliminary Qualitative Groundwater Risk Assessment** in order to confirm their agreement.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.10	Decommissioning of existing infrastructure	A description of dismantling is provided in **Application Document 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. Where dismantling of existing pylons is proposed as part of the Project, this has been assessed within **Application Documents 6.6 to 6.19**. This is assessment is considered appropriate.	The Environment Agency are satisfied that the applicant proposes to follow best practice at the time of decommissioning. That said, the method of construction may limit the options available for decommissioning, meaning the preferred option might not be possible. It would therefore be beneficial for the applicant to consider and identify what options might be proposed at the time, in order to ensure the method of construction is suitable for this.	15/07/2026	Under Discussion
4.4.11	Dewatering	Dewatering is appropriately considered in **Application Document 6.12 Environmental Statement Chapter 12 Geology and Hydrogeology** and supporting **Application Document 6.12.A4 Environmental Statement Appendix 12.4 Preliminary Qualitative Groundwater Risk Assessment.**	The Environment Agency notes that dewatering for the main New Overhead Line is not proposed in any location. Shallow groundwater is likely to be present underlying some areas of the site. In some locations, temporary dewatering may be necessary, such as to facilitate installation of pylon	15/07/2026	Under Discussion

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			foundations. This has not been considered in the PEIR, but we feel that it should be. It is also noted that dewatering and associated risk assessments are acknowledged and discussed in several locations throughout the PEIR. We are satisfied with the plans that have been proposed, however the concerns detailed above do not appear to have been considered within these.		

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

This section details the matters relevant to the EA 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 the EA on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of the EA:

……

Date:

……

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