The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-CNS-REP-0034

North Humber to High Marnham

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

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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 Wildlife Trust (YWT) 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 YWT.

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 YWT 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 Wildlife Trust (YWT) is a local wildlife conservation charity in Yorkshire, with the aim of protecting, enhancing and restoring local biodiversity. National Grid is collaborating with YWT both to mitigate potential impacts on local wildlife and to identify suitable areas for wildlife enhancements. They have been engaged throughout the project to advise on the location of important species and habitats so the project design can avoid these key habitats wherever possible, and ensure appropriate mitigation is provided where impacts cannot be avoided. For the purposes of the Planning Act 2008, YWT are not a statutory consultee.

3.1.2 As part of the project's Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) approach, additional habitats will be created. YWT will work with National Grid to identify opportunities to design these BNG sites in ways that enable a range of species to thrive. National Grid is exploring the opportunity to transfer BNG sites into YWT ownership to ensure the ongoing management and enhancement of the BNG sites into the future.

3.1.3 A period of non-statutory consultation was held for eight weeks, between 1 June 2023 and 27 July 2023. YWT submitted did not submit a response to this consultation. YWT 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. YWT did 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 YWT.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and YWT

Date	Format	Topic	Description
31/05/2023 letter	Letter	Non-statutory consultation invitation	Letter inviting YWT to provide feedback during the public consultation.
20/01/2025	Meeting	Project introduction and BNG approach	Meeting to introduce the project and share the BNG strategy.
18/02/2025	Letter	Statutory consultation invitation	Letter inviting YWT to provide feedback during the statutory consultation.

Date	Format	Topic	Description
16/04/2025	Letter	Feedback from YWT	Letter outlining YWT statutory consultation response and feedback on the project.
01/08/2025	Email	Meeting request	Email requesting a meeting to discuss how the project is responding to YWTs feedback.
11/09/2025	Meeting	Discussion of YWT feedback	Meeting to discuss feedback received from YWT during the statutory consultation.
18/03/2026	Meeting	Project update and BNG	Meeting to provide YWT with a project update and to discuss the BNG approach.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to YWT 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 YWT, 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)	**YWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
YWT-01	Lowland Peat	Agricultural Land Classification surveys have been undertaken to assess soil characteristics from which the presence of peat will be confirmed. In areas where these surveys identify that peat or organic-rich soils are present a further survey will be undertaken to record peat depth and stratigraphy. This survey information will be used to develop the mitigation measures as part of the outline Soil Management Plan (which will include reference to peat where applicable). The results of further survey work will be reported in **Application Document 6.13.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.2 Agricultural Land Classification Survey Report** and will be shared when available.	YWT await the Environment Statement before confirming their position on this matter.	11/09/2025	Under discussion
YWT-02	Grassland and pollinators	Detailed botanical surveys (including National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys, where appropriate) have been carried out by the Project. These surveys targeted affected locations within the Order Limits where the Phase 1 habitat survey identified habitat as being particularly species diverse and/or sensitive and/or a type restricted in the UK/region. This included areas of grassland. Details of the findings will be released when **Application**	YWT commented during the 2025 statutory consultation. Grasslands for Pollinators was a project based on the B-lines initiative mapping project (Buglife) and project sites may lie within the order limits. Any impacts on these grasslands must be identified and avoided, and if unavoidable then mitigated / compensated accordingly. Through BNG, there is the potential to further enhance grasslands for pollinators in the project area.	16/04/2025	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**YWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Document 6.8.A4 Environmental Statement Appendix 8.4 Botanical Report is available. The Project does not impact grassland identified as part of the Grasslands for Pollinators Project.			
YWT-03	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. National Grid will engage with YWT regarding the potential provision of off-site BNG units for the Project if appropriate.	YWT are supportive of National Grid's BNG approach and are willing to become a BNG supplier for the Project through YWT owned habitat banks. There is a potential option for National Grid to transfer land containing the BNG units to YWT. If this is not feasible, YWT are exploring third party management of sites with BNG units. However, this option would require further detailed discussions and the submission of more detailed proposals.	21/07/2026	Under discussion
YWT-04	Bird collision	A Bird Flight Activity Assessment is being undertaken and includes vantage point survey data and observed species-specific flight behaviour which will allow National Grid to consider areas of the overhead line route where bird diverters may be required. Robust surveys have been undertaken in key locations to understand existing bird activity which will seek to reduce impact on	YWT await the Bird Flight Activity Assessment before confirming their position on this matter.	21/07/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**YWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		sensitive areas through avoidance or mitigation. **Application Document 6.9.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 9.3 Flight Activity Assessment** will be shared with YWT once it is available.			

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

……

Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of YWT:

……

Date:

……

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