The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-CNS-REP-0033

North Humber to High Marnham

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document 5.8.15 Statement of Common Ground - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

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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 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust 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 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

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 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust 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 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) is a local wildlife conservation charity in Lincolnshire, with the aim of protecting, enhancing and restoring local biodiversity, and a land owner with property adjacent to the Project. National Grid is collaborating with LWT 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, LWT are not a statutory consultee.

3.1.2 As part of the project's Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) approach, additional habitats will be created. LWT 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 LWT 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. LWT did not submit a response to this Consultation. LWT 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. LWT 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 LWT.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and LWT

Date	Format	Topic	Description
30/05/2023	Letter	**Introduction to early stage of the proposal and consultation**	A letter providing an overview of the project. Notification that consultation will begin the following month and LWT is encouraged to provide feedback during the consultation period.
31/05/2023	Letter	**Access to land and newsletter**	A letter notifying LWT that site surveys will begin and National Grid may need access to LWT's land to complete these surveys in the near future. The correspondence also

Date	Format	Topic	Description
			included the project newsletter with updated information on the Project's progress.
31/05/2023	Email	**Non-statutory consultation invitation**	Written notification about the live consultation and encouraging LWT to submit feedback.
18/02/2025	Letter	**Statutory consultation invitation**	Letter inviting LWT to provide feedback during the statutory consultation
15/04/2025	Letter	**Feedback from LWT**	Feedback provided by LWT during the statutory engagement.
01/08/2025	Email	**Project update**	The Applicant invited LWT to a meeting to provide a project update on how the project is developing and how the projects has responded to the statutory feedback provided by LWT earlier in the year (via email).
07/08/2025	Letter	**Feedback from LWT**	LWT outlined in a letter their preference for a precautionary approach to be taken in regard to biodiversity. LWT endorse the concerns of Nottingham Wildlife Trust.
13/10/2025	Meeting	**Project meeting**	Meeting requested to be rescheduled by LWT until they have reviewed the Environmental Statements (via email).
27/05/2026	Meeting	**Project update**	The Applicant met Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust representatives and provided an update on the design of the project and BNG strategy.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to LWT 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 LWT, 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)	**LWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
LWT -01	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.	LWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025. LWT welcomes National Grids commitment to 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. LWT supports opportunities for on-site BNG and enhancement of impacted LWS sites.	27/05/2026	Agreed
LWT -02	Bird collision	**Application Document 6.9.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 9. Flight Activity Assessment** includes details of the Bird Flight Activity Assessment that was undertaken and includes vantage point survey data and observed species-specific flight behaviour which will allow National Grid to consider areas of the OHL 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 sensitive areas through avoidance or mitigation. Further information will be provided within **Application Document 5.2 Habitats Regulation Assessment Report** and shared with LWT once it is available.	LWT raised initial concerns on bird strikes in the statutory consultation in 2025. LWT advises using precautionary measures across the project to protect biodiversity, especially by installing bird diverters over all watercourses to reduce collision risks. LWT will provide further comment on the locations of any bird diverters once the Bird Flight Activity Assessment is available.	15/04/2025	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**LWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
LWT -03	Impacts on SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites	The Environmental Statement presents the assessment of potential impacts on SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites in accordance with the EIA Regulations. Through careful routeing and siting of the Project, direct impacts on designated sites have been avoided, and indirect effects (such as disturbance, habitat loss or hydrological change) have been minimised through embedded design and construction controls. Following the application of mitigation measures secured through **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** and other control documents the assessment concludes that no significant residual effects on SSSIs or Local Wildlife Sites are predicted. Further details will be shared with LWT when available.	LWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025. The PEIR currently lacks sufficient detail to determine site specific extents and significance. LWT will provide further comments on a site-by-site basis once detailed information is presented in the Environmental Statement.	15/04/2025	Under discussion
LWT -04	Sites of ecological importance	Cumulative effects will be presented in **Application Document 6.21 Environmental Statement Chapter 21 Inter-project Cumulative Effects** and will be shared with LWT once available.	LWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025. That cumulative impacts upon sites of ecological importance and the cohesion of the conservation site network should be considered following standard approaches for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.	15/04/2025	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**LWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
LWT-05	Sedge Hole Close	The Project currently identifies Sedge Hole Close as unaffected by the proposed works. However, there is potential for hedge trimming along the eastern boundary to facilitate overhead line (OHL) clearance should the Limits of Deviation be utilised. At present, no works are anticipated along the boundary. However, this cannot be confirmed until the detailed design has been completed. Any hedgerow removal will be minimised as far as practicable. Where hedgerow removal is required, reinstatement will be undertaken to achieve a similar or enhanced quality compared with the existing hedgerow. Sedge Hole Close is listed within the Project's Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC), which states that: *"Vegetation within Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) will be avoided as far as practicable. Where vegetation loss within these sites cannot be avoided, the works will be undertaken under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)."*	LWT commented that the revised site envelope now encompasses a minor extent of the eastern boundary of their Sedge Hole Close nature reserve, specified for cable laydown bounds. At present no detail is available to confirm if any tree cutting or hedge trimming works will be required. LWTs position is that no works should be undertaken to this boundary without prior agreement on works extent and reinstatement requirements,	26/08/2026	Agreed

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

……

Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of LWT:

……

Date:

……

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