The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-CNS-REP-0035

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 Nottinghamshire 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 Nottinghamshire 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 Nottinghamshire 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 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) is a local wildlife conservation charity in Nottinghamshire, with the aim of protecting and enhancing local biodiversity. National Grid is collaborating with NWT 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 NWT are a non-statutory consultee.

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

3.1.5 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. NWT 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 NWT.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and NWT

Date	Format	Topic	Description
31/05/2023	Letter	**Introduction to early stage of the proposal and land access**	A letter introducing the project and informing NWT that site surveys will begin shortly, and National Grid may need access to NWT's land to complete these surveys in the near future.

Date	Format	Topic	Description
31/05/2023	Letter	**Non-statutory consultation invitation**	A letter with notification about the live consultation and encouraging NWT to submit feedback.
26/06/2023	Meeting	**Initial meeting**	Introduction to the project, whys its needed and the general study area. More details about the live consultation and how NWT can submit feedback.
02/12/2024	Meeting	**BNG approach**	A meeting to provide project updates and an overview of the Project's BNG strategy.
09/07/2024	Letter	**Localised non-statutory consultation invitation**	Letter inviting NWT to provide feedback during the localised non-statutory consultation.
16/07/2024	Letter	**Feedback received from NWT**	A letter outlining NWTs feedback on the following report: 'Supplementary Corridor and Routeing Report South Wheatley to High Marnham'.
18/02/2025	Letter	**Statutory consultation invitation**	Letter inviting NWT to provide feedback during the statutory consultation
14/03/2025	Letter	**Feedback received from NWT**	A letter outlining NWTs feedback from the statutory consultation on the PIER ecological assessments.
25/07/2025	Meeting	**Dormouse mitigation approach**	Meeting to discuss the dormouse investigations and mitigation approach.
16/09/2025	Meeting	**Project update**	Meeting to provide a project update and discuss how the project has been responding to the feedback received by NWT in March.
12/03/2026	Meeting	**Project update and BNG**	Meeting to provide project update and discuss BNG approach.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to NWT 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 NWT, 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)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
NWT-01	Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	High Marnham substation was removed from the draft order limits and was consented through a planning application approved by Bassetlaw District Council in June 2026. As a consequence, the draft order limits no longer include land within the Fledborough to Harby Dismantled Railway LWS, the Marnham Railway Yard LWS or Skegby Road Triangle LWS. No works associated with the Project will take place within the above named LWS.	Considering the statement that no works associated with the Project will take place within the named Local Wildlife Sites we are satisfied with that situation.	04/08/2026	Agreed
NWT-02	Impacts on Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	High Marnham substation was removed from the draft order limits and was consented through a planning application approved by Bassetlaw District Council in June 2026. As a consequence, the draft order limits no longer include land within the Fledborough to Harby Dismantled Railway LWS, the Marnham Railway Yard LWS or Skegby Road Triangle LWS. No works associated with the Project will take place within the above named LWS.	Considering the statement that no works associated with the Project will take place within the named Local Wildlife Sites we are satisfied with that situation.	04/08/2026	Agreed
NWT-03	Temporary Land for	Temporary land for construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices,	NWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025. Material for these areas should reflect local geology or be inert. Granular constructions can lead to	04/08/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
	Construction Activities	welfare, storage and access is required to deliver the project. An Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) will be submitted with the application which will set out controls for construction related issues such as dust. The CoCP can be found under Application Document **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice.** Construction compounds have been designed to provide drainage areas to control surface water run-off.	environmental impacts through water run-off and dust generation that can negatively impact adjacent habitats.		
NWT-04	Dormice	Hazel dormouse surveys were carried out in accordance with guidance set out in the Hazel Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bullion, Wolton, & White, 2025) and Hazel Dormouse Mitigation Handbook (Wells D. , 2025). 367 nest tubes were installed approximately 15 to 20 m apart within suitable habitat inside the survey area which comprised a total of 24 hedgerows or other areas of suitable habitat which intersected the Order Limits in the survey area between the 1 and 4 September 2025 and collected during the final survey visit on 17 to 20 November 2025. Nest tubes were inspected every month after deployment for three months as per **Error!**	NWT is not aware of dormouse survey results being shared with us.	04/08/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Reference source not found.. Tubes were checked using the methods outlined in the Hazel Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bullion, Wolton, & White, 2025) and the presence of individuals or signs of nesting hazel dormouse, along with evidence of other species was recorded. Survey results on dormice will be shared with NWT once available.			
NWT-05	Dormice	National Grid noted that there may be opportunities for wider landscape-scale conservation initiatives to link isolated blocks of woodland in the Treswell and Gamston area. Potential mitigation measures for the Project are currently being explored. Opportunities for planting may include habitat features that can be appropriately managed for dormice, such as scrub, woodland, or hedgerow planting in areas where there is known connectivity to dormouse habitat. The Project will aim to retain suitable habitat for dormice wherever possible, replace any habitat that is temporarily lost, and ensure that connectivity between habitat areas is preserved. Midland Hawthorne can be added to the species mix to support Dormouse habitat.	NWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025. The PIER states that suitable habitat for hazel dormice falls within the draft Order Limits, in proximity to Treswell Wood. There have been three dormouse reintroductions sites; Treswell Wood (2013), Eaton Wood (2014) and Gamston Wood (2015) which have all proven successful. NWT is not aware of dormouse survey results being shared with us.	04/08/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Works will be carried out under a Mitigation Licence, if impacts to dormouse are unavoidable.			
NWT-06	Treswell Wood SSSI and Headon Verges LWS	Final Project design and the mitigation package is still in development and will be finalised for consideration in the Environmental Statements.	NWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025, where they expressed concern about potential disturbance to protected species at Treswell Wood Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Headon Verges LWS from noise, vibration, visual intrusion and lighting during construction. NWT would like to review the finalised mitigation measures in the Environmental Statements to minimise or avoid impacts on these sites.	04/08/2026	Under discussion
NWT-07	Treswell Wood SSSI	Treswell Wood SSSI is located outside of the draft order Limits for the Project. As a consequence, no direct effects to the site are anticipated.	NWT notes that Treswell Wood SSSI is located outside of the draft Order Limits for the Project. As a consequence, no direct effects to the site are anticipated. Table 1.1 in the Ecological Chapter published during PEIR also highlights the potential for disturbance to protected or notable species/qualifying species from noise/vibration, visual and lighting at the same site. This is considered to be a significant effect at this preliminary stage. NWT request to review the	04/08/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	NWT's Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
			Environmental Statement on the final design and mitigation package.		
NWT-08	Vegetation clearance approach	Areas of woodland, hedgerows and trees will be retained and suitably buffered as far as practicable. Habitats temporarily impacted will be reinstated to their original (or improved) condition post-construction. For areas of woodland, reinstatement of trees may not be feasible, given the operational requirements of the proposed overhead line, however ground level vegetation could be reinstated. Further information on the Project's vegetation clearance approach will be shared with the Wildlife Trust once available.	NWT will confirm its position on this matter when further information on the Projects vegetation clearance approach is provided to us.	04/08/2026	Under discussion
NWT-09	Bats	A comprehensive programme of bat surveys including climbed tree surveys has been undertaken by the Project, with suitable mitigation proposed should any roosts be disturbed or trees be required to be removed removal by the Project. Details of this mitigation will be shared once available.	Bats are highly protected and should be carefully considered as part of the project wide mitigation. NWT will confirm its position on this matter when details of mitigation are provided to us.	04/08/2026	Under discussion
NWT-10	Environmental Management Plans	National Grid has developed a number of outline management plans which will be used to provide the necessary frameworks and principles which will be applied to the	NWT will confirm its position on this matter once we have reviewed the content of the management plans.	04/08/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		Project by the Main Works Contractor(s) to minimise, manage and mitigate the environmental impacts of construction works associated with the Project. These include the following management plans that will be shared with NWT once available. • Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice • Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments • Application Document 7.5 Outline Soil Management Plan • Application Document 7.7 Noise and Vibration Management Plan • Application Document Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan			
NWT-11	Monitoring	The Ecological Impact Assessment will be developed with NWT's feedback in consideration and shared with NWT once finalised.	NWT commented during the statutory consultation in 2025. The Ecological Impact Assessment should identify where monitoring is required for mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures. Monitoring should be secured through a planning condition or obligation built into legal agreements.	04/08/2026	Under discussion
NWT-12	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	National Grid will deliver at least 10% BNG with wider environmental and societal	In a meeting on the 4 April 2025, NWT outlined their support for National Grid's	04/08/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		benefits on its construction projects. Offsite BNG will be delivered through collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers. National Grid has been engaging in productive discussions with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust regarding the potential provision of suitable off-site BNG units for the Project. NWT is interested in becoming a BNG supplier for the project to deliver BNG at Treswell Wood and possible other locations and work in on-going on collaboration between National Grid and NWT	commitments to deliver at least 10% BNG and the general BNG approach. NWT will work with National Grid to identify areas where habitat enhancement and creation might be most beneficial. NWT request that BNG areas could be designed to include suitable habitat for dormice, which may require soil manipulation. NWT is supportive, where feasible, for the implementation of improved management of retained habitats, such as grasslands within the nearby LWS as part of the overall mitigation package.		
NWT-13	Peregrine falcons	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.	NWT is satisfied with that approach.	04/08/2026	Agreed
NWT-14	Bird strikes	Application Document **6.9.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 9.3 - Flight Activity Assessment**, includes details on 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	NWT are concerned about the impact of bird strikes on the proposed transmission lines. NWT request to see the final CRA and proposed mitigation in the Environmental Statements. There is already existing bird-strike risks along the River Idle Corridor.	04/08/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		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 NWT once it is available. Additional survey work for in regard to the presence of Wild Swans in the Misterton and Gringley Carrs area has been undertaken.	NWT noted that any potential bird strikes are most likely to involve wintering birds. While designated sites are already recognised for their ecological value, National Grid's surveys should help identify any additional areas of importance.		
NWT-15	Schedule 1 birds	Schedule 1 bird species are known to be present within and adjacent to the Draft Order Limits. Pre-works checks for nesting birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) will be carried out prior to site clearance or construction works within a 500m radius of mature trees and existing pylons, and a 200m radius from nest boxes, buildings and trees with potential to support nesting birds. The ECoW will apply pre-construction measures on a case-by-case basis, as required. Habitat checks for nesting barn owls, where required, will be carried out by	NWT are satisfied with the approach outlined in the PIER documents.	04/08/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		an ornithologist in possession of an appropriate class licence issued by Natural England.			
NWT-16	Turtle dove	In the event that vegetation, structures, walls or pylons with the potential to support breeding birds is required to be removed or disturbed during the breeding bird season, it is proposed that the habitats affected will first be checked for signs of nesting by the ECoW (or a suitably experienced taxon specialist). Works would also be supervised by an ECoW if definitive evidence to prove or disprove nesting cannot be determined. Appropriate protection measures will be implemented if any active nests are found. These measures may include establishing exclusion zones, defined on a case-by-case basis by an ECoW, with input from a taxon specialist where necessary. Exclusion zones would remain in place until monitoring by the ECoW confirms that chicks have fledged or that the nests are no longer active.	NWT have reviewed the proposed mitigation outlined in the PEIR and are satisfied with the approach outlined.	04/08/2026	Agreed
NWT-17	Priority Breeding Bird Species	A suitably experienced Environmental Manager will be appointed for the duration of the construction phase to mitigate impacts on Priority Breeding Bird Species. In addition, a qualified and experienced ECoW will be available during the construction phase to advise, supervise and report on the	NWT is supportive of this approach. It is essential that the Environmental Manager works closely with the ECoW to ensure a consistent and thorough approach to prevent damage and	04/08/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**NWT's Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		delivery of the mitigation methods and controls outlined in the CoCP. The ECoW will monitor that the works proceed in accordance with relevant environmental DCO requirements and adhere to the required good practice and mitigation measures. The EnvCoW will be supported as necessary by appropriate technical specialists.	disturbance to retained habitats and protected species.		
NWT-18	Pink-footed geese	The Project has undertaken detailed and comprehensive bird surveys for species including Pink-footed Geese between Hatfield Moor and the Misterton/Gringley Carrs area. A Bird Flight Activity Assessment is being developed as part of the Environmental Statement and can be found in Application Document **6.9.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 9.3 - Flight Activity Assessment** once it is available. The project is assessing mitigation methods to minimise visual and noise disturbance to key species. The Flight Activity Assessment and Environmental Statement will be shared with NWT once finalised.	Pink-footed geese can be highly sensitive to visual and noise disturbance. NWT request further consideration of this potential effect to be included in the Environmental Statement upon completion of all baseline studies. NWT note large volumes of flight activity have been recorded for this species and there is concern about the potential for this species to collide with permanent structures/barriers. In addition, it is stated that there is potential for habitat fragmentation because of the proposed overhead line creating a barrier to species dispersal. NWT agree that there remains an as-yet unquantified risk of habitat fragmentation affecting this species.	04/08/2026	Under Discussion

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

……

Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of NWT:

……

Date:

……

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