The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-CNS-REP-0029

North Humber to High Marnham

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document 5.8.12 Statement of Common Ground - Water Management Consortium (Isle of Axholme & North Nottinghamshire IDB and Trent Valley IDB)

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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 Water Management Consortium 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 Water Management Consortium.

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 Water Management Consortium 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 Water Management Consortium provides services to communities in relation to flooding, supporting local agriculture, and protecting the environment. It is made up from four internal drainage boards; Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board (hereafter referred to as the 'Isle of Axholme IDB'), Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, and Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board. For the purposes of the Planning Act 2008 and related planning processes, the Water Management Consortium is a Prescribed Consultee. The Parties note that the Project principally affects the district of the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board and the Trent Valley only.

3.1.2 A period of non-statutory consultation was held for eight weeks, between 1 June 2023 and 27 July 2023. The Water Management Consortium did submit a response to this Consultation.

3.1.3 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 Water Management Consortium submitted a response to this consultation on the 21 of March 2025.

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 Water Management Consortium.

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

Date	Format	Topic	Description
18/02/2025	Letter	**Statutory Consultation**	Letter sent to the WMC advising of the start of the statutory public consultation and inviting them to provide feedback.
21/03/2025	Email	**Response to Statutory Consultation**	Comments received from the WMC on the Statutory Consultation.
29/04/2025	Email	**Request for Information**	List of information requested from the WMC via email.
22/05/2025	Meeting	**Initial Engagement with the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire**	Initial engagement meeting regarding engineering constraints, consents, land interests within the project area and discharge rates and temporary

Date	Format	Topic	Description
		Water Level Management Board	construction dewatering requirements.
25/06/2025	Email	**Shapefiles**	Shapefiles received from the WMC.
21/08/2025	Email	**Drain Crossing Clearance Memo**	Drain crossing clearance memo issued to WMC.
22/08/2025	Meeting	**Stakeholder Meeting**	Stakeholder meeting held to review the memo issues, discuss clearances and plant and equipment used by IDB.
22/08/2025	Meeting	**Follow-up Stakeholder Meeting (Lands)**	Call to discuss the Land Interest Questionnaire and the IDB gave responses to the Land Interest Questionnaire and shared GIS Land Layers (via email, see below)
22/08/2025	Email	**Land Interest**	Responses to Land Interest Questionnaires and GIS land layers and receipt of Planning and Byelaw policy from the WMC.
15/06/2026	Meeting	**Surface water drainage**	Joint meeting with Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Board to discuss proposed drainage strategy and Water Framework Directive.
24/06/2026	Meeting	**DNOs (NPG/NGED) and IDB Interactions Meeting**	IDBs discussed drainage crossings, stand-off distances, HDD crossings, pole removals and consenting requirements, associated with the proposed third party DNO works.
24/09/2026	Meeting	**SoCG and Protective Provisions**	A meeting to review the Draft SoCG ahead of the DCO submission and discuss next steps in respect to Protective Provision negotiations.

4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to the WMC 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 the WMC, 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)	**Water Management Consortium Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
WMC-01	Isle of Axholme IDB & Trent Valley IDB	The Parties note that the Project principally affects the district of the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board and the Trent Valley. Following review of the Project, the other constituent Boards represented by the Water Management Consortium have confirmed that they do not have operational assets or interests requiring further consideration in relation to the Project.	The Water Management Consortium confirms that Isle of Axholme IDB and Trent Valley IDB are the only constituent Boards with a direct interest in the Project. The Consortium's other constituent Boards have no further interests or concerns.	24/09/2026	Agreed
WMC-02	Interface Summary	National Grid has identified the following interactions with the Water Management Consortium's managed watercourses (combined figures): • 4AF Oversail: **35** • 4ZQ Oversail: **0** • ZDA Oversail: **9** • Bridge and Culvert Crossings: **34** – Bewcarrs Drain – Paupers' Drain – Fledborough Beck – Doncaster Dyke – Crowle & Eastoft Boundary Drain North	National Grid to provide updated Shapefiles and Interaction Schedule.	24/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Water Management Consortium Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		– Marsh Ings Drain West – Soil Bank Drain – Eastoft Boundary Dyke North – Fockerby Boundary Drain – Soil Bank Drain – Carr Drain (Garthorpe) – Fretwell Drain – Everatt Drain – North Moor Drain – Parochial Drain – Ealand Carr Drain – Browns Drain – Ealand Carr Drain – Carr Drain (Garthorpe) – Ealand Drain – Pentlands Dyke – Cow Lane Drain – Fockerby Boundary Drain – Eastoft Moors Road Drain – Eastoft Moors Road Drain – Everatts West Drain – Littlecarr Drain – Soil Bank Drain – Amcotts Luddington Boundary Dyke – Far Pasture Dyke			

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Water Management Consortium Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		– Carr Ings Drain – Un-named Drain 50 – Old Sewer North – Adlingfleet Drain			
WMC-03	Ongoing Engagement and Information Sharing	The Parties agree to continue to engage throughout examination, detailed design and construction and will continue to share relevant technical information to aid ongoing design work.	The Water Management Consortium supports ongoing technical engagement and progression of SoCGs. National Grid to provide updated Shapefiles and Interaction Schedule.	24/09/2026	Agreed
WMC-04	Overhead Line Clearances (Vertical)	National Grid has designed the Project to achieve a minimum clearance of 8.3m across the Project, including above IDB-maintained drains and watercourses. National Grid considers this clearance, reflecting the applicable statutory requirements, is sufficient to ensure the continued operation and maintenance of drainage assets.	The Water Management Consortium has reviewed National Grid's proposed clearances and has discussed maintenance access requirements associated with their operations. The Water Management Consortium confirmed a policy preference for 10.5m clearance, derived from a 3.5 m machine height plus a 7m exclusion zone, although the key requirement is maintaining safe access for maintenance operations. National Grid has requested maintenance vehicle dimensions from the IDBs to support final clearance assessments.	24/09/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Water Management Consortium Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
WMC-05	National Grid Drain Crossing Clearance Memo	National Grid shared the Drain Crossing Clearance Memo, on 21 August 2025, which sets out National Grid's minimum design clearance to ground; for 400kV overhead lines, it is 7.6m under Policy NG TS 2.04. Due to Electrical Magnetic Field (EMF) requirements, the proposed 4AF and 4ZQ routes require 8.3 m clearance, while the ZDA route requires 7.6 m. The routes have been designed with an additional 0.3m factor of safety to take account of lidar tolerances. Increasing drain crossing clearances to 10.5 m would require taller pylons and associated design changes. National Grid considers the proposed clearances provide adequate clearance while meeting statutory and safety requirements.	The Water Management Consortium acknowledge receipt of the Memo. The Water Management Consortium confirmed a policy preference for 10.5m clearance, derived from a 3.5 m machine height plus a 7m exclusion zone, although the key requirement is maintaining safe access for maintenance operations. National Grid has requested maintenance vehicle dimensions from the IDBs to support final clearance assessments.	24/09/2026	Under discussion
WMC-06	Stand-off Distances and Consenting Thresholds (Horizontal Clearance)	National Grid notes the consenting requirements for any construction works within 9 m of IDB maintained drains or watercourses, under the relevant drainage legislation and byelaws. National Grid has advised the IDB that there are currently no instances where proposed pylon legs are located within	The Water Management Consortium has advised that works within 9m of IDB maintained drains or watercourses will require consultation and/or approval by the relevant Board, with detailed requirements to be confirmed through the detailed design and consenting process.	24/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Water Management Consortium Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		9 m of an IDB-maintained watercourse (noting this is subject to the Project's Limits of Deviation). However, National Grid acknowledges that there are locations where the 9 m stand-off may be encroached upon by other elements of the Project, particularly in relation to pylon foundations, undergrounding of utilities, culvert installations and haul road crossings. National Grid will continue to engage with the relevant IDBs regarding these interactions and will seek any necessary approvals through the appropriate consenting processes as detailed design progresses.			
WMC-07	Identification of Interactions with IDB Assets	National Grid has identified locations where the Project, including third-party underground utility diversion works, may interact with IDB assets and has shared these details in Shapefile format.	The Water Management Consortium acknowledge receipt of the information. National Grid to provide updated interaction plans and schedules.	24/09/2026	Agreed
WMC-08	Greenfield Run-off Rates	National Grid has adopted a greenfield run-off rate (the rate at which rainwater would naturally run off a site before any development takes place) of 1.4l/s/ha as a worst-case design	The Water Management Consortium supports use of a 1.4l/s/ha runoff rate across the IDB areas. National Grid will reflect the agreed rate within drainage and flood risk assessments.	24/09/2026	Agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Water Management Consortium Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
		assumption in the Environmental Statement.			
WMC-09	Surface Water Management and Construction Dewatering	National Grid confirm that surface water and temporary dewatering proposals will be developed through detailed design.	The Water Management Consortium supports further discussion on discharge arrangements and receiving watercourse capacity. National Grid will continue engagement and seek consents where required.	24/09/2026	Agreed
WMC-10	Protection of Watercourses During Construction	National Grid agree that construction activities should not adversely affect drainage functionality or water quality.	The Water Management Consortium requires National Grid to present measures to prevent pollution and siltation. National Grid will incorporate mitigation measures within construction management plans.	24/09/2026	Agreed
WMC-11	Drain Crossing Design	National Grid agree that crossings will be designed, at the detailed design stage, to minimise impacts on IDB-maintained assets, wherever possible.	The Water Management Consortium have requested a review of the crossing proposals. National Grid will provide detailed crossing designs as they become available.	24/09/2026	Agreed
WMC-12	Distribution Network Operators (DNO) Interactions with IDB Assets	The proposed DNO mitigation works, largely in the form of undergrounding of cables, will be developed in consultation with the relevant IDBs. The total number of DNO mitigation interactions within 9 m of an IDB maintained watercourse or drain are: **Isle of Axholme & North Nottinghamshire IDB** NPG diversions: 8	The Water Management Consortium have highlighted concerns around underground cable diversions running parallel to drains and all such proposals would need case-by-case assessment. The Water Management Consortium advised that underground diversions within 1m of a bank top are unlikely to be acceptable because of the risk of bank failure,	24/09/2026	Under discussion

ID	Matter	**Agreed Position** (working towards)	**Water Management Consortium Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	**Date** (last discussed / date agreed)	**Status**
		• NPG-17 (Soil Bank Drain) • NPG-20 (Carr Drain / West Carr Lane Drain) • NPG-21 (Far Pasture Dyke / Amcotts Luddington Boundary Dyke) • NPG-23 (Folly Drain) • NPG-24 (North Moor Drain / Motorway Drain M180) • NPG-29 (Lound Road Drain) • NPG-30 (Doncaster Dyke) • NPG-31 (America Drain) NGED diversions: 1 • NGED-01 (Cornley Drain South) BT telecom diversions: 2 • Soil Bank Drain Branch (AXD022001) • Ealand Carr Drain / Ealand Drain (AXD081700 / AXD081800) Total: 11 interfaces **Trent Valley IDB** NGED interaction: 1 • NGED-16 (Fledborough Beck / North Farm Drain) Total: 1 interface	For drain crossings, HDD was identified as a suitable solution, with cables typically installed at least 2m below hard bed level. Following undergrounding, the removal of the existing overhead line wood poles was generally welcomed as it reduces hazards, and leaving buried pole stumps in place was considered acceptable provided they remain below ground level. National Grid will share diversion route plans, crossing details and construction proposals. National Grid is preparing an interaction schedule where DNO assets are located within 9 m of an IDB managed drain or watercourse.		

ID	Matter	Agreed Position (working towards)	Water Management Consortium Position (including actions to be taken by National Grid)	Date (last discussed / date agreed)	Status
WMC-13	Protective Provisions	National Grid and the Water Management Consortium will continue discussions regarding the need for and content of Protective Provisions to address asset protection, approvals, notifications, liabilities, access requirements and construction controls (not exhaustive).	The Parties agree that the statutory byelaws relating to the functions and activities of the Internal Drainage Board can be disapplied by the Development Consent Order, provided that an appropriate suite of Protective Provisions is secured within the Order. The Parties consider that Protective Provisions would provide a bespoke, proportionate and streamlined mechanism for securing the necessary consents, approvals and protections required to safeguard the Board's interests and statutory functions throughout the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project.	24/09/2026	Under discussion
WMC-14	Land Interests and Access Rights	The Parties have exchanged Land Interest Questionnaire responses and GIS data identifying relevant land holdings and are continuing discussions regarding access and land interests where relevant. National Grid has identified land owned freehold by The Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board which requires an Overhead Line Easement.	The Water Management Consortium explained that it owns relatively little land outright, generally limited to land around drains and pumping stations, and that many watercourses themselves are not IDB-owned and are privately owned.	24/09/2026	Under discussion
WMC-15	IDB Capital Projects	National Grid requested details on any IDB related capital projects which may interface with the Project.	The IDB did not identify any major known conflicts with its planned capital works at that stage.	24/09/2026	Agreed

5. Matters Not Agreed

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to WMC 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 Water Management Consortium on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of Water Management Consortium:

……

Date:

……

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