The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-LAN-REP-0002

# North Humber to High Marnham

## Volume 4: Compulsory Acquisition Information

**Document 4.2 Funding Statement**

**Final Issue A**

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nationalgrid

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

1.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) owns and maintains the national high voltage electricity transmission network throughout England and Wales.

1.1.2 The transmission network connects the power from where it is generated to the regional distribution network operators who then supply businesses and homes.

1.1.3 National Grid holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales, and its statutory duty is to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989.

1.1.4 National Grid has developed plans for the North Humber to High Marnham Project (the Project). The Project would support the UK government's net zero target through the connection of new low carbon energy generation and by reinforcing the transmission network.

1.1.5 The Project would establish a new 400 kilovolt (kV) transmission connection approximately 90 kilometres (km) in length between a new substation to be built in the vicinity of Birkhill Wood, located to the north of Hull near Creyke Beck in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and a new substation at High Marnham in Nottinghamshire.

1.1.6 The reinforcement is needed because the existing transmission network, even with current upgrading, will not have sufficient capacity for the new renewable energy (a substantial proportion of which would be generated by offshore wind) that is expected to connect to the network over the next 10 years and beyond. Completion of the Project, together with other new reinforcements across the country, will meet this future energy transmission demand across the UK.

1.1.7 The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and National Grid is seeking development consent under the Planning Act 2008. NSIPs require a type of planning permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). Instead of applying to the local authority for planning permission, the developer must apply to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate for a DCO.

1.1.8 National Grid has submitted an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate for the Project. The Examining Authority (consisting of one or more examining inspectors), after a period of public examination, will make its recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who in turn will decide on whether development consent should be granted.

1.1.9 The Project has been identified as being critical to delivering a network which supports the clean power pathways for 2030 delivery.

## 1.2 Purpose and Structure of this Document

1.2.1 This Funding Statement ('this Statement') relates to the Project and has been submitted as part of the application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate for the Project.

1.2.2 This Statement has been prepared pursuant to the requirement of Regulation 5(2)(h) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (HM Government, 2009), and in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 of Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2013), and paragraphs 9, 17 and 18 of Planning Act 2008: Guidance Related to Procedures for the Compulsory Acquisition of Land (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2013).

1.2.3 This Statement is required because the proposed DCO, if made, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land or interests in land. Regulation 5(2)(h) requires, in respect of such an order, a statement indicating how the order, including powers for compulsory acquisition of land, will be funded.

1.2.4 Paragraph 18 of the compulsory acquisition guidance (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2013) explains that a funding statement should be able to:

*'…demonstrate that adequate funding is likely to be available to enable the compulsory acquisition within the statutory period following the order being made, and that the resource implications of a possible acquisition resulting from a blight notice have been taken account of'.*

1.2.5 This statement explains:

- How the Project is generally expected to be funded; and
- How the acquisition of land and rights over land, which are necessary to build the Project, will be funded.

1.2.6 National Grid is committed to securing these acquisitions through voluntary agreements or compulsory acquisition, if necessary. The Statement concludes by assuring that all aspects of the Project will be fully funded within the relevant time period, ensuring the Project's progression without any financial shortfall.

1.2.7 This Statement should be read alongside National Grid's other application documents and, in particular, **Application Document 4.1 Statement of Reasons**, which justifies the powers of compulsory acquisition that are sought in the DCO, and explains how National Grid intends to use the land which it is proposed to acquire.

# 2. Background

## 2.1 The Role of National Grid

2.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the Applicant) sits within the wider National Grid Group; within the Group there are distinctly separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles. National Grid Group sits at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. The Project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc.

2.1.2 Note that in this Funding Statement, except when referring specifically to other National Grid Group entities below, the term 'National Grid' is used to refer to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc.

### National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid)

2.1.3 National Grid holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales, and its statutory duty is to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989.

2.1.4 National Grid, as the regulated provider of electricity transmission services in England and Wales, is regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem). Transmission services include maintaining reliable electricity supplies and offering to construct new transmission system assets for new connections to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

2.1.5 In accordance with Transmission Licence requirements, National Grid ensures that the transmission system in England and Wales meets the requirements in respect of transmission system security and quality of service at all times. As part of this requirement, National Grid must ensure that sufficient transmission system capability is provided to meet demand and generator customer requirements and wider transmission system needs that exist and/or are expected.

2.1.6 When planning changes to the transmission system, National Grid must be efficient, coordinated and economical and have regard to the desirability of preserving amenity, in line with the duties under s9 and s38 of the Electricity Act 1989.

2.1.7 National Grid owns and manages the national high voltage electricity transmission system throughout England and Wales. National Grid owns, builds and maintains the infrastructure, for example overhead lines, buried cables and substations, to allow power to move around the country. The key role of this transmission system is to connect the electricity generators' power stations with regional Distribution Network Operators who then supply businesses and homes. In return for the connection, users of the transmission network pay a tariff to National Grid.

2.1.8 This revenue is then used by National Grid to maintain, improve and invest in the transmission network. As there is a stable demand for the use of the transmission network in the UK, there is a reliable revenue stream for National Grid.

2.1.9 National Grid publishes its full accounts on an annual basis. The financial results set out in the Annual Report and Accounts 2025/2026 (National Grid plc, 2026) show that National Grid Group has underlying operating profits of £5,680 million (£5,357 million 2025) and National Grid has underlying operating profits of £1,573 million. National Grid Group has a regulatory asset and rate base value of £61,293millon (£60,150 million 2025) and National Grid has a regulatory asset value of £23,847 million.

## National Energy System Operator (NESO)

2.1.10 The National Energy System Operator (NESO) is the electricity system operator for Great Britain. NESO ensures electricity is always where it is needed, and the transmission network remains stable and secure in its operation.

2.1.11 As of 1 October 2024, NESO became a public body owned by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. It was formerly part of National Grid plc and called the Electricity System Operator (ESO).

2.1.12 NESO has been established to act as the independent organisation responsible for planning Great Britian's energy system, looking after and operating the electricity and gas networks while also offering expert advice to the sector's decision-makers.

# 3. The Need for the Project

## 3.1 The Need Case

3.1.1 With growing renewables integration into the National Electricity Transmission System, such as offshore wind and interconnectors[1], an anticipated tripling of wind generation connected across the Scottish networks by 2030 and the government's increased ambition to connect 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030, north–south power flows are set to increase.

3.1.2 The existing electricity transmission network in the Yorkshire and Humber region was initially developed in the 1960s and has historically been able to meet demand. It was designed to connect the in-land large coal fired power stations in the region, with changes occurring in the later part of the century in order to connect gas fired power stations and offshore wind.

3.1.3 However, due to the changes noted above in terms of delivering net zero emissions, the existing network in this area does not have the capability to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030, whilst operating to the standards it is required to.

3.1.4 The existing transmission infrastructure in this area requires reinforcement for the following main reasons:

- The existing transmission network was not designed to transport electricity from where it is increasingly being generated (largely offshore).
- The growth in offshore wind, interconnectors and onshore generation such as battery and solar means that more electricity will be generated in the years ahead than the current network is able to securely and reliably transport.
- In the UK, electricity demand is forecasted to at least double by 2050, increasing the amount of energy we need to transport to homes and businesses.
- Upgrading the existing network as it is today (such as through replacing cables to carry more power) will not be enough to carry the amount of future power whilst operating to required standards.
- The need to increase boundary transfer capability in order to reduce wider network generator constraint costs[2].

3.1.5 The Project would support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network between the North of England and the Midlands and facilitate the connection of planned renewable energy projects such as offshore wind generation and interconnectors and increase boundary transfer capability. The Project would help meet future energy requirements.

3.1.6 For further information please refer to the 'Needs Case' section contained within **Application Document 7.17 Strategic Options Report Including Needs Case**.

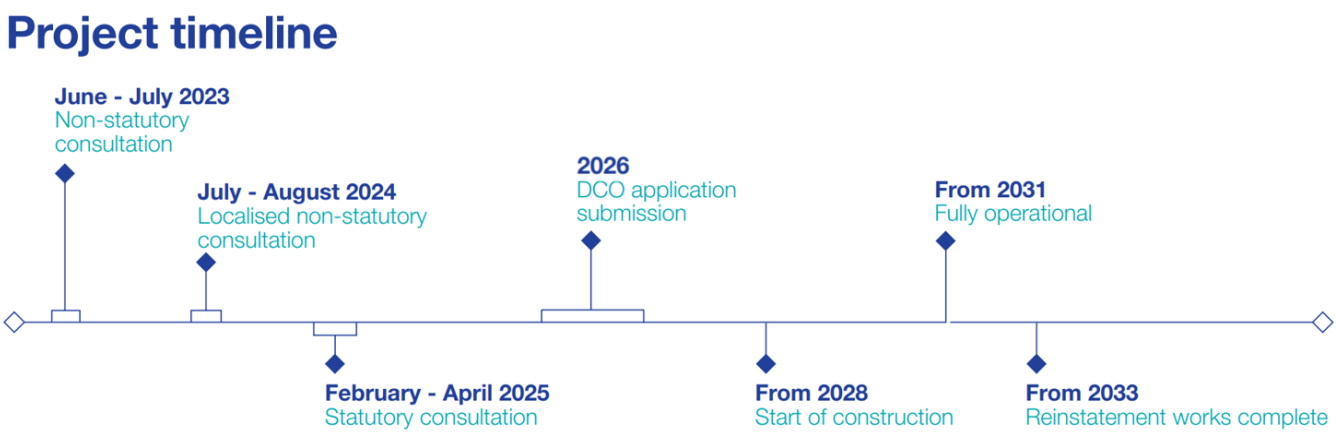
[1] Interconnectors are high voltage cables that are often used to connect the electricity systems of neighbouring countries.

[2] Constraint costs are incurred when the electricity network is unable to transfer the power from one region to another and generators need to be asked to reduce their output to maintain system stability.

# 4. Project Timeline

4.1.1 Non-statutory consultation took place between June and July 2023 to provide early information on the proposals and gather feedback. A further localised non-statutory consultation was undertaken between July and August 2024 which provided an opportunity to gather feedback on an additional option under consideration between South Wheatley and High Marnham. As required under the Planning Act 2008, a statutory consultation was held between February and April 2025, presenting the refined proposals and inviting further consultation feedback. Following changes to the Project after statutory consultation, targeted Person with Interest in Land (PIL) consultations were held between June 2025 and September 2026 to gather feedback on these changes which would impact some PILs. For further information on all consultations undertaken for the Project, please refer to **Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report**.

Image 4.1 – Project timeline



# 5. Project Description

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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**.

5.1.3 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).

5.1.4 A full description of the Project is provided in **Application Document 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Description of the Project.**

## 5.2 Substations Update

5.2.1 Following statutory consultation on the Project in 2025, a decision was taken to remove both the proposed 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation and 400 kV High Marnham Substation and associated works from the Project.

5.2.2 Separate planning applications for the 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation, and 400 kV High Marnham Substation were submitted by National Grid in July and November 2025 to the local planning authorities of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Bassetlaw District Council, respectively. The planning applications have subsequently been approved in 2026.

5.2.3 A full description of the design evolution of the Project is provided in **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report**.

# 6. Key Legislation and National Policy Context

## 6.1 Planning Act 2008

6.1.1 The Project is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under s14(1)(b) and s16 of the Planning Act 2008 (HM Government, 2008) and the Planning Act 2008 (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) (Electric Lines) Order 2013, as it that involves the installation of an electric line above ground of more than 2 km, which will operate at 400 kV in England.

6.1.2 Pursuant to the Planning Act 2008, an applicant is required to secure a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, maintain and operate the Project, and it may include a range of consents and powers.

6.1.3 Other development, such as underground cables, may be granted development consent as associated development within the meaning of s115 of the Planning Act 2008.

## 6.2 Electricity Act 1989

6.2.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) (HM Government, 1989); and under S9(2), this requires National Grid to '*to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission*'.

## 6.3 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

6.3.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (HM Government, 2017) govern the EIA process relevant to NSIPs. Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations lists those projects for which an EIA is required and includes, under paragraph 20, the construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.

6.3.2 As the Project includes the proposed installation of 400 kV electricity transmission infrastructure over a distance of approximately 90 km, the majority of which is overhead line, it therefore falls under Schedule 1 and requires an EIA.

## 6.4 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

6.4.1 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (HM Government, 2025) makes a number of changes to legislation relating to the DCO process, including key amendments to the Planning Act 2008 (HM Government, 2008) and wider legislative framework for electricity transmission.

6.4.2 Many of the provisions set out in the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 require the making of secondary legislation before they take effect. The Applicant has continued to monitor the publication of these and any subsequent amendments to existing regulations throughout the pre-application stage. **Application Document 5.5 Planning Statement** sets out the current position of the changing regulatory framework, and establishes the Applicant's position on amendments to regulations & legislation relating to the application.

## 6.5 National Planning Policy

### National Policy Statements

6.5.1 National Policy Statements (NPSs) are produced by the government through a parliamentary approval process, and they present the planning policy framework for all decision making for NSIPs. They also include the government's objectives for the development of NSIPs and are produced for different types of infrastructure development.

6.5.2 In deciding an application for development consent, s104 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero to determine the application in accordance with any relevant NPS. The following NPSs which came into force on 6 January 2026 are relevant to the Project:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2025);
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2025); and
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2025).

## 6.6 National Planning Policy Framework

6.6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, published in August 2026) sets out the government's national planning policies for England and how these should be applied in the development plan system and in the management of development. While the overall strategic aims of the NPPF and the NPSs are consistent, the NPPF is an important and relevant consideration in decisions on NSIPs, but only to the extent relevant to that project. In this regard, the NPPF does not contain policies specifically relating to NSIPs. The application for the Project was prepared in the context of the previous iteration of the NPPF, but has been reviewed in the light of the current iteration published in August 2026. The Project is consistent with that policy guidance.

## 6.7 Regional and Local Planning Policies

6.7.1 As set out above, the NPSs are the primary basis for decision making, but the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero must also have regard to any other matters which they think are both important and relevant to the decision and this could include regional and local planning policies.

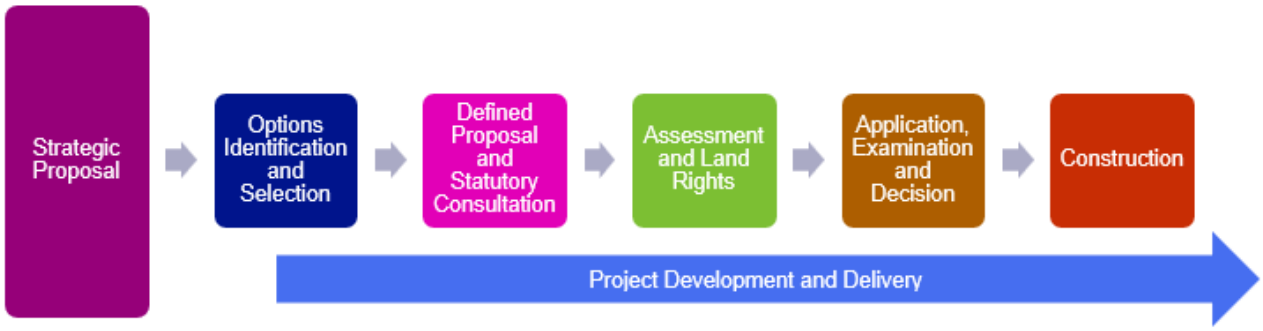
6.7.2 Current and emerging local and regional planning policy documents relevant to the Project which are likely to inform the local impact reports prepared by the local planning authorities, and which may be relevant and important in their own right, are detailed in **Application Document 5.5 Planning Statement**.

# 7. Project Development

## 7.1 Strategic Proposal to Assessment and Land Rights

7.1.1 The design of the Project has followed a structured project development process that has integrated technical and environmental assessment with consultation feedback and stakeholder engagement. Further detail can be found in Our Approach to Consenting (National Grid, 2022). The key stages of project development are set out in Image 7.1.

Image 7.1 – National Grid's approach to project development and delivery




7.1.2 Alternative options are considered and appraised throughout the evolution of the Project. The approach to options appraisal is a robust and transparent process that is used to compare options and to record the positive and negative effects they may have in meeting the identified need, across a wide range of criteria including environmental, socio-economic, technical, and cost factors. Feedback received through consultation also informs this process. The aim is to find a balanced outcome to meet the identified need while meeting National Grid's statutory duties.

7.1.3 **Application Document 5.10 Design Approach Document** outlines the Project's design options and process. Detail on the alternatives considered at each stage can be found in **Application Document 6.3 Environmental Statement Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered**.

# 8. Cost of Implementing the Project

8.1.1 National Grid has already committed significant funds in relation to securing resources for the Project to date.

8.1.2 The cost of implementing the Project is approximately £1,158 million, which shall be confirmed following tendering exercises with National Grid's supply chains which are due to complete in late 2026. This is inclusive of £69 million pre-construction costs.

8.1.3 The Project has pre-construction funding allowances secured in the RIIO-T2 baseline and verified by Ofgem via the eligibility assessment process in May 2022. Pre Construction Funding allowance enables the Project to undertake all pre-construction activities to secure development consent. The Project also received approval from Ofgem in February 2026 for Early Construction Funding. Early Construction Funding is a funding mechanism within the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework that allows Transmission Owners (TOs) to spend money on agreed construction activities before full planning consent is received to reduce delivery risk and supply-chain delays.

8.1.4 Once a planning decision is received, National Grid's ability to recover construction costs will be confirmed with specific cost allowances being established by a Project Assessment. Determination by Ofgem is expected in March 2028 (post-DCO application decision).

## 8.2 Revenue

8.2.1 Most of National Grid's revenue is set in accordance with its regulatory agreements.

8.2.2 This is referred to as its 'allowed revenue' and is calculated based on a number of factors. These include:

- Investment in network assets;
- Performance against incentives; and
- Return on equity and cost of debt.

8.2.3 National Grid's allowed revenue gives it a level of certainty over future revenues if it continues to meet safety and reliability targets, as well as the efficiency and innovation targets included in the 'Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs' (RIIO) regulatory framework (as defined in section 8.5 of this Statement).

## 8.3 Investment

8.3.1 National Grid invests efficiently in its networks to deliver strong, regulated asset growth over the long term. This allows it to continue generating revenue growth and growth in its regulated asset base. This in turn generates additional cash flows and allows National Grid to continue reinvesting in its networks and providing sustainable dividends to its ultimate shareholders.

8.3.2 This approach is critical to the sustainability of National Grid's business. By challenging its investment decisions, it continues to deliver reliable, cost-effective networks that benefit its customers. The way in which its investment is funded is also an important part of its business. The long-term, sustainable nature of its assets and its credit ratings help National Grid secure efficient funding from a variety of sources.

8.3.3 In May 2024, National Grid announced a new, five-year financial framework to fund the group's £60 billion investment plan out to March 2029. The investment programme is backed by a balanced, comprehensive financing plan, including a £7 billion fully underwritten Rights Issue, providing funding clarity out to March 2029.

## 8.4 Cash Flow

8.4.1 National Grid's ability to convert revenue to cash is an important factor in the ongoing reinvestment in its business. Securing low-cost funding, carefully managing its cash flows and efficient development of its networks are essential to maintaining strong sustainable returns. Cash generation is underpinned by agreeing appropriate regulatory arrangements. It is through this business model, with a mixture of revenue, investment, and cash flow, that it is able to fund major infrastructure projects, including the Project.

## 8.5 RIIO Mechanism

8.5.1 In 2013, Ofgem introduced a new regulatory framework called RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) that became effective on 1 April 2013. The first RIIO period (RIIO-T1) lasted eight years. The second RIIO period (RIIO-T2) began on 1 April 2021 and lasted five years. The third RIIO period (RIIO-T3) began on 1 April 2026 and will also last five years. It puts in place funding arrangements to allow National Grid to discharge its duties as transmission operator and owner.

8.5.2 The framework includes mechanisms to reimburse the capital costs of constructing new transmission equipment, and for associated costs including compulsory acquisitions and foreseeable incidental costs.

8.5.3 The Project is made up of one regulated investment:

- The Project is a confirmed ASTI project, verified via the eligibility assessment process, and has pre-construction funding allowances awarded in the RIIO-T2 baseline by Ofgem. The Project was given an allowance of £65.01m (18/19 price base) to develop the Project for Project Assessment submission and all pre-construction activities required to secure development consent. The Project has subsequently applied for Early Construction Funding, which was approved by Ofgem in February 2026 (Ofgem, 2026).

## 8.6 Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI)

8.6.1 The ASTI framework was implemented by Ofgem to facilitate the expedited delivery of projects (including the Project), which are required to meet the government's 2030 net zero ambitions.

8.6.2 The ASTI framework confirms National Grid as the delivery body for 17 ASTI projects and removes the option of competitive third-party delivery. The Project has been identified as needed by 2030 and is therefore an ASTI project. National Grid now has a Licence Obligation to deliver it.

8.6.3 The ASTI regulatory allowance arrangements require National Grid to submit a Project Assessment. Ofgem's decision on the Project Assessment sets the allowances that determine efficient spend to deliver the Project, which can be recovered over 45 years.

8.6.4 The Project Assessment for the Project is expected to be submitted to Ofgem in March 2027 with a decision expected to be received from Ofgem in March 2028 following confirmation of the development consent.

## 8.7 Cost of Delivering the Project

8.7.1 National Grid has already committed significant funds in relation to securing resources for the Project to date.

8.7.2 The estimated cost of implementing the Project is approximately £1,158 million (£868 million 18/19 price base).

8.7.3 All major investments carried out by companies within the National Grid Group require the approval of the board of National Grid Group, or another designated committee or board with the appropriate level of delegated authority. National Grid is satisfied that the funding required to meet the estimated implementation costs (in accordance with the appropriate cost base at the time) will be made available for the Project within the relevant time period to meet National Grid's Licence Obligation. Release of this funding will be subject to the appropriate internal governance and sanction approval process.

# 9. Land Acquisition

9.1.1 National Grid has published guidance, 'Guidance on Land Rights for New Electricity Transmission Assets' (National Grid, 2017), which sets out how it will seek to obtain, from the very outset of a project, by negotiation, permanent and temporary land rights for all new electricity transmission assets. National Grid seeks to reach early agreement with all landowners.

9.1.2 National Grid is currently seeking to secure the necessary acquisitions and land rights through voluntary agreement but will utilise the powers of compulsory acquisition included in **Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order**, if necessary. Negotiations with affected landowners will continue after the submission of the application for development consent.

9.1.3 National Grid has taken expert advice on the likely costs of implementing the Project, including the cost of construction and the funding of the acquisition of the interests in land described in the **Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference**.

9.1.4 An assessment of the required funding has taken into account the total cost of payments for acquiring both freehold land and rights over land. This total cost has included the estimated value of compensation payable in relation to disturbance, severance and injurious affection, third-party professional fees, blight and claims arising under both s10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (HM Government, 1965) and Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (HM Government, 1973). The overall assessment of the level of funding required to cover these heads of claim is estimated at £146 million. Included in this overall assessment are payments that are only triggered by taking access to the land or by the commencement of construction. The full cost of acquiring all the necessary land and rights before access and construction commences is estimated at £5.163 million, and is also included in the overall assessment.

9.1.5 Specialist property consultants who use national, regional and local data are employed to compile the land acquisition estimates. National Grid's in-house specialists crosscheck the data given to an individual project against data supplied to recent and current projects to ensure greater overall accuracy.

9.1.6 It is possible that some local factors may emerge after the initial estimates have been prepared. Experience across National Grid projects indicates that a ten percent contingency is sufficient to contain such costs. The figures quoted in this Statement contain such contingency.

9.1.7 The land acquisition costs and potential compensation claims for blight will be fully met, as and when they are required, under the provisions of the DCO. This would include any 'early payments' under the blight provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (HM Government, 1990).

9.1.8 The overall costs of the Project include securing the necessary resources for land-related activities in connection with the construction of the Project. These resources will be procured through a tender process that will commence in advance of a decision being made on the DCO by the Secretary of State.

# 10. Conclusions

10.1.1 The Project is required to fulfil National Grid's existing contractual obligations to deliver a safe, economical, efficient and reliable transmission network, which supports the UK government's legally binding net zero commitments, and it is identified in the Network Options Assessment.

10.1.2 For the reasons set out above, the Secretary of State can be satisfied that all aspects of the Project will be fully funded, and that there is no reason to believe that, should the DCO be made, the Project will not proceed due to an absence or shortfall in available funding.

10.1.3 The Secretary of State can be satisfied that funding will be available for the acquisition of any land and other interests required for the Project, for any compensation or blight claims brought by those interested in the land affected by the DCO, and for the costs of implementing the Project.

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