

YG-DCO-078

Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Volume 8

Document 8.5.11 Statement of Common Ground Between National Grid Electricity Transmission plc and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

**Draft Version 1
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Yorkshire GREEN Project

Document control

Version History

Document	Version	Status	Description / Changes
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Statement of Common Ground	1	Draft	
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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement produced as part of the application process for a Development Consent Order (DCO) and is prepared jointly between the applicant and another party. It sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 1.1.2 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the Examination Phase of a DCO application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of, or during Examination, and then updated as necessary, or as requested during the Examination Phase.
- 1.1.3 This is a SoCG between National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail). The SoCG relates to the DCO application for the Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project (referred to as the Project or Yorkshire GREEN). It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance¹ published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared to identify matters agreed, matters not agreed and matters currently outstanding between National Grid and Network Rail in terms of technical and engineering matters. Political matters have not been set out in this document.
- 1.1.5 This version (V1 February 2023) of the SoCG represents the position between National Grid and Network Rail at Deadline 1 on 5 April 2023. The SoCG will evolve as the DCO application progresses to through the submission process and on to examination.

1.2 Description of the Project

Need for the Yorkshire GREEN Project

- 1.2.1 National Grid propose to upgrade and reinforce the electricity transmission system in Yorkshire. This reinforcement is needed to improve the transfer of clean energy across the country.
- 1.2.2 Electricity flows are set to double within the next ten years as a result of offshore wind developments, other sources of clean energy and expanding interconnection capacity (high-voltage cables that connect the electricity systems of neighbouring countries) in both Scotland and north-east England. Yorkshire GREEN would contribute towards strengthening the national electricity transmission network so that it can accommodate this growth in electricity flows. Reinforcement would ensure that the network is not

¹ Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418015/examinations_guidance_final_for_publication.pdf

overwhelmed, and that potential future pressures on the network are relieved in the north and north-east of England, whilst balancing supply and demand.

- 1.2.3 Without additional reinforcement, the existing transmission system would become overloaded. To stop these overloads from happening, National Grid Electricity System Operator would need to constrain power generation. Such action could result in significant costs to consumers.
- 1.2.4 As a result, it is necessary and economical to invest in network reinforcement in the long term, and critically to ensure that Yorkshire GREEN is designed, tested and installed in sufficient time to meet the 2027 earliest in service date. Reinforcement of the network would enable an increase in the transfer of clean energy, increasing network capacity and avoiding constraint costs.

Yorkshire GREEN Project Description

- 1.2.5 Yorkshire GREEN comprises both new infrastructure and works to existing transmission infrastructure and facilities. The Project is divided into six sections (see **Figure 1**), located within six local authority boundaries² :

- **Section A (Osbalwick Substation) (City of York Council):** Minor works would take place at the existing Osbalwick Substation comprising the installation of a new circuit breaker and isolator along with associated cabling, removal and replacement of one gantry and works to one existing pylon. All substation works would be within existing operational land.
- **Section B (North west of York Area) (Hambleton District Council, City of York Council, Harrogate District Council and North Yorkshire County Council):** Works would comprise:
 - reconductoring of 2.4km of the 400kV Norton to Osbalwick (2TW/YR) overhead line and replacement of one pylon on this overhead line;
 - the new 400kV YN overhead line (2.8km), north of the proposed Overton Substation;
 - the new Shipton North and South 400kV cable sealing end compounds (CSECs) and 230m of cabling to facilitate the connection of the new YN 400kV overhead line with the existing Norton to Osbalwick YR overhead line;
 - a new substation (Overton 400kV/275kV Substation) approximately 1km south of Shipton by Beningbrough;
 - two new sections of 275kV overhead line which would connect into Overton Substation from the south (the 2.1km XC overhead line to the south-west and the 1.5km SP overhead line to the south-east);
 - works to 5km of the existing XCP Poppleton to Monk Fryston overhead line between Moor Monkton in the west and Skelton in the east comprising a mixture of decommissioning, replacement and realignment. To the south and south-east of Moor Monkton the existing overhead line would be realigned up to 230m south from the current overhead line and the closest pylon to Moor Monkton (340m

² North Yorkshire County Council, Selby District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Hambleton District Council, City of York Council, and Leeds City Council.

south-east) would be permanently removed. A 2.35km section of this existing overhead line permanently removed between the East Coast Mainline (ECML) Railway and Woodhouse Farm to the north of Overton.

- **Section C (existing 275kV Poppleton to Monk Fryston (XC) overhead line north of Tadcaster (Section D)) (Harrogate District Council, Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council):** Works proposed to this existing 275kV overhead line include replacing existing overhead line conductors, replacement of pylon fittings, strengthening of steelwork and works to pylon foundations.
- **Section D (Tadcaster) (Selby District Council, Leeds City Council and North Yorkshire County Council):** Two new CSECs (Tadcaster East and West 275kV CSECs) and approximately 350m of cable would be installed approximately 3km south-west of Tadcaster and north-east of the A64/A659 junction where two existing overhead lines meet. One pylon on the existing 275kV Tadcaster Tee to Knaresborough (XD) overhead line would be replaced.
- **Section E (existing 275kV Poppleton to Monk Fryston (XC) overhead line south of Tadcaster (Section D)) (Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council):** Works proposed to this existing 275kV overhead line include replacing existing overhead line conductors, replacement of pylon fittings, strengthening of steelwork and works to pylon foundations. Work to the existing overhead line similar to those outlined for Section C would be undertaken; and
- **Section F (Monk Fryston Area) (Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council):** A new substation would be constructed to the east of the existing Monk Fryston Substation which is located approximately 2km south-west of the village of Monk Fryston and located off Rawfield Lane, south of the A63. A 1.45km section of the 275kV Poppleton to Monk Fryston (XC) overhead line to the west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation and south of Pollums House Farm would be realigned to connect to the proposed Monk Fryston Substation. East of the existing Monk Fryston Substation the existing 4YS 400kV Monk Fryston to Eggborough overhead line, which currently connects to the existing substation, would be reconfigured to connect to the proposed Monk Fryston Substation.

1.2.6 Temporary infrastructure would be required to facilitate the Project, including temporary overhead line diversions and temporary construction compounds.

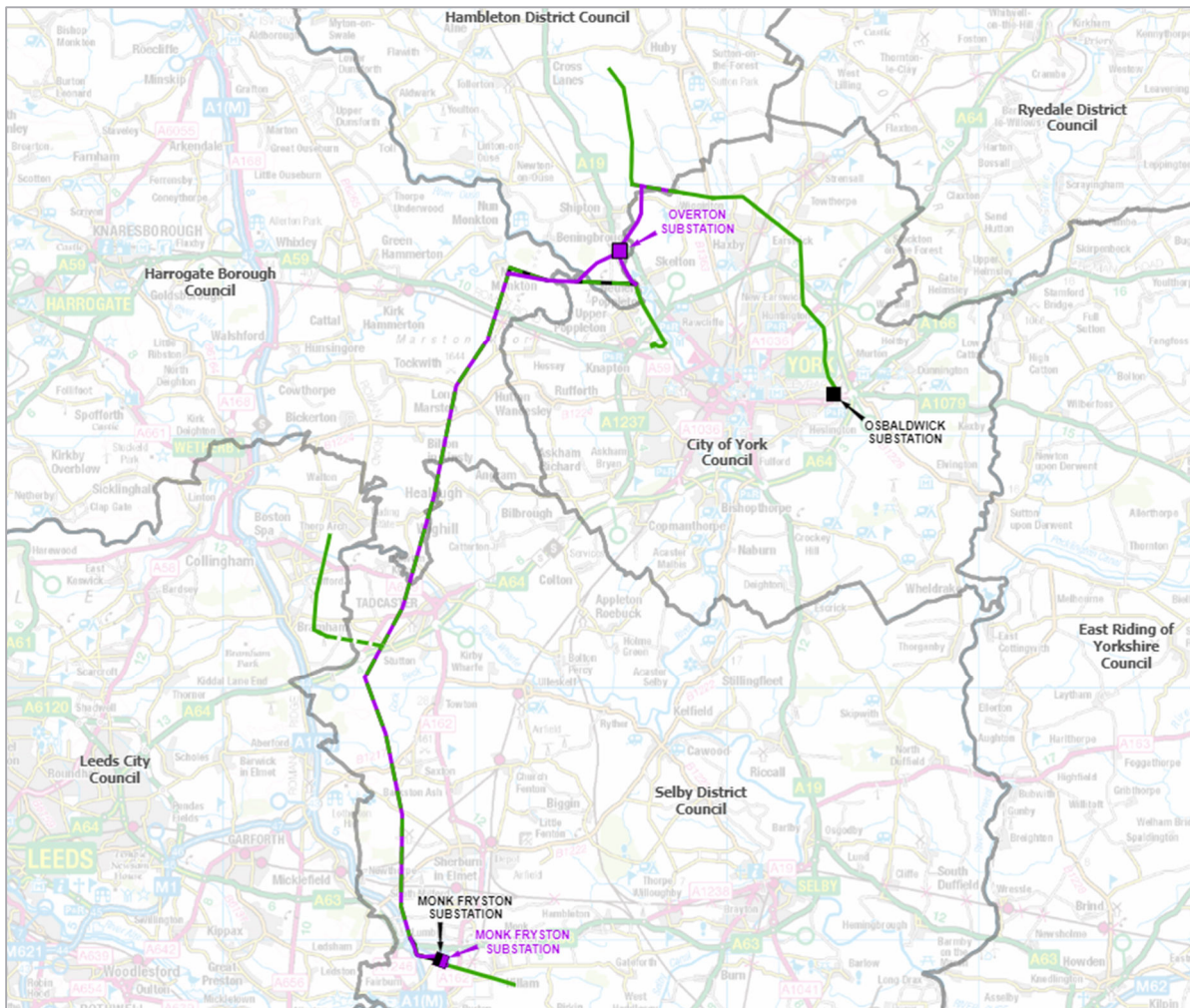


Figure 1– Location of the Yorkshire GREEN Project

1.3 This Statement of Common Ground

1.3.1 For the purpose of this SoCG, National Grid and Network Rail will jointly be referred to as the “Parties”.

1.3.2 Throughout the SoCG:

- Where a section begins ‘matters agreed’, this sets out matters that have been agreed between the Parties or where no issues have been raised by Network Rail, and therefore where there is no dispute;
- Where a section begins ‘matters not agreed’, this sets out matters that have been discussed and are not agreed between the Parties and where a dispute remains; and
- Where a section begins ‘matters outstanding’, this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Parties.

1.3.3 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Section 1:** Provides an introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose together with a broad description of the Project;

- **Section 2:** States the role of Network Rail in the DCO application process and details consultation undertaken between the Parties;
- **Section 3:** Sets out matters agreed between the Parties;
- **Section 4:** Sets out matters not agreed between the Parties;
- **Section 5:** Sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding between the Parties; and
- **Section 6:** Sets out the approvals and the signing off sheet between the Parties.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Role of Network Rail in the DCO process

- 2.1.1 Network Rail is the owner and operator of Great Britain’s railway infrastructure. Network Rail is a statutory undertaker in respect of its railway undertaking, with statutory and regulatory obligations in respect of it.
- 2.1.2 The Application includes provisions which would, if granted, authorise National Grid to carry out works in and in close proximity to operational railway land belonging to Network Rail and to use such land temporarily and to acquire permanent interests in such land.
- 2.1.3 The Proposed Development will include the installation of new 400kV overhead line, reconductoring of existing 275kV overhead line and the dismantling of a section of existing 275kV overhead line over rail infrastructure. This will also require the installation and removal of protective netting and scaffolding over rail infrastructure belonging to Network Rail at the following locations in connection with the following works:

Plot Numbers	Work	Works Description
B2-36, B2-37, B2-40, B3-28, B3-31, B3-39, B3-73	Work No.6	Works to reconfigure the XC overhead electric line, through reconductoring and installation of new sections of overhead electric lines, and dismantling of the XCP overhead electric line and sections of the XC overhead electric line shown on section B, sheets 2 to 5 of the works plan,
B2-55, B2-68	Work No.4	Works to construct and install a new substation at Overton, to facilitate connections to the YN, SP and XC overhead electric lines shown, on section B, sheet 2 of the works plan, comprising the construction and installation of Overton. Substation including six gantries for termination of the new overhead electric lines, four supergrid transformers, noise enclosures, switchgear, plant and equipment, operational and ancillary buildings and permanent landscaping works, the construction of gates and fencing, hardstanding and drainage for Overton Substation.
B3-29, B3-30, B3-32, B3-34, B3-35, B3-37	Work No.5	Works to construct and install the SP overhead electric line and dismantle the XCP overhead electric line shown on section B, sheets 2 and 3 of the works plan.
C1-02, C1-17	Work No.7	Works to upgrade, modify and reconductor the existing XC overhead

		electric line shown on section C, sheet 1 to section D, sheet 1 of the works plan comprising the reconductoring of the XC overhead electric line from XC430 to XC480, including modifications to existing pylons and foundations, replacement of conductors, fibre optic earthwires, fittings, and insulators.
E5-04, E5-15, E6-22, E6-36	Work No.9	Works to upgrade, modify and reconductor the XC overhead electric line shown on section D, sheet 1 to section E, sheet 7 of the works plan, comprising the reconductoring of the XC overhead electric line from XC482 to XC521, including modifications to existing pylons and foundations, replacement of conductors, fibre optic earthwire, fittings and insulators.

2.1.4 Formal track possessions would be required to facilitate the construction of the proposed 400kV overhead line, removal of the existing 275kV overhead line and reconductoring of the existing 275kV overhead line, and installation of crossing protection.

2.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

2.2.1 **Table 2.1** summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties prior to submission of the DCO application. This includes discussions relating to engineering works, protective provisions and additional technical engagement.

Table 2.1 – Pre-application discussions

Date	Discussion points
22 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail enclosing an initial enquiry questionnaire.
18 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from Network Rail's lawyers to National Grid's lawyers with a copy of standard protective provisions.
12 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid's lawyers to Network Rail's lawyers enquiring about byelaws.
15 December 2021 (via Teams Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was held to discuss the provisions of safety management to enable National Grid's works to be carried out in proximity of the operational railway. The following were also discussed at this meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Rail Guidance Notes to be considered; Confirmation of Asset Protection services; General construction information;

Date	Discussion points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed temporary/permanent works design submissions; Proposed RAMS submissions; Site specific possession and isolation information; and Network Rail's associated costs. Network Rail stated to National Grid that permanent installations crossing Network Rail property will require an easement/wayleave which must be in place prior to works commencing on site and temporary/permanent occupation of Network rail land will require a licence.
20 December 2021 (Letter from Network Rail to National Grid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarising meeting of 15 December 2021 and the points discussed. Requesting further information in respect of insurance and costs from National Grid.
11 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voicemail received by National Grid from Network Rail re the contact at Network Rail who would be progressing the documentation on behalf of Network Rail.
07 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail re DCO documentation.
23 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call from National Grid to Network Rail re appointment of individual for Network Rail.
4 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail proposing a call to discuss easement requirements.
11 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail re information required in order to progress negotiations with Network Rail.
17 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call from National Grid to Network Rail to discuss meeting dates and times.
18 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail confirming meeting date and time. Meeting invitation sent for 24 March 2022 at 3.30-4.30pm.
21 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail proposing a call to discuss easement requirements.
24 March 2022 (Teams Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion between Network Rail and National Grid re protective provisions and a SoCG. Discussion re completion of schedule of minimum information (SMI) documentation and wayleaves/easements.

Date	Discussion points
01 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail providing information to another contact at Network Rail.
29 April 2022 (Email from National Grid to Network Rail)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted SMI forms and application details for each of the five crossings of Network Rail's assets to Network Rail.
18 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail progressing negotiations.
28 June 2022 (Teams Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting held to discuss project and easement requirements.
18 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail requesting meeting to discuss preferred form of agreements.
23 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To arrange meeting with Network Rail on 24 August 2022 to discuss the progress of the SMI application forms and the easements for the five proposed crossings.
24 August 2022 (Teams Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting held to discuss SMI forms and easements. Preference for new easements on all crossings explained by National Grid.
24 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template Heads of Terms provided by Network Rail to National Grid for review ahead of arranging a further meeting.
25 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Rail issued SMI form certificates of business clearance and technical clearance for five crossings.
3 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail requesting meeting to discuss financial premiums for easements.
11 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail requesting meeting to discuss financial premiums for easements.
13 October 2022 (Teams Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting to discuss financial premiums to be incurred should new crossing easements be agreed. Comparables were discussed but no premium agreed.
10 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid to Network Rail requesting meeting to discuss form of crossing easements.
11 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from National Grid's lawyers to Network Rail's lawyers confirming the protective provisions to be placed on the face of the DCO.
14 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from Network Rail's lawyers to National Grid's lawyers confirming their preference for a different form of protective provisions.

Date	Discussion points
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2.3 Summary of post-submission discussions

2.3.1 **Table 2.2** will summarise the consultation and engagement that takes place between the Parties post submission of the DCO application.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

Date	Discussion points
29 November 2022	Email from Network Rail's lawyers to National Grid's lawyers confirming no byelaws applicable.
2 December 2022 (Teams Meeting)	Meeting to discuss strategy for agreeing form of crossing easements, in particular whether to use the Master Agreement, or new easements. Agreed that in the first instance this should be agreed in the Statement of Common Ground, and that should be used to steer negotiations.
26 January 2023	Email from National Grid's lawyers to Network Rail's lawyers with proposed updates to the protective provisions.
27 January 2023	Email from Network Rail's lawyers to National Grid's lawyers requesting relevant shapefiles.
2 February 2023	Email from National Grid's lawyers to Network Rail's lawyers supplying the requested shapefiles.
22 February 2023	Email from Network Rail's lawyers to National Grid's lawyers with comments on the proposed updated protective provisions.

3. Matters Agreed

- 3.1.1 This section sets out the matters that have been agreed between National Grid and Network Rail and **Table 3.1** details these matters.
- 3.1.2 Whilst each of the below matters are agreed in principle, the Parties are in ongoing discussions regarding the detailed wording required in each case.
- 3.1.3 The Parties will update the Examining Authority as soon a detailed terms have been agreed between them to address each of the outstanding matters.

Table 3.1 – Matters agreed in principle

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
3.1 Draft DCO, Document 3.1, Volume 3			
	Protective Provisions	The draft DCO should include specific provisions for the protection of Network Rail.	<i>24/06/2022</i>
	Basic Asset Protection Agreement	The parties should enter into a form of Basic Asset Protection Agreement to govern the construction, maintenance and where appropriate the removal of those parts of the proposed development which are located on operational railway land;	<i>08/04/2022</i>
	Notification	National Grid agree to provide Network Rail with possession details and timescales for when works are proposed. This will be done as soon as possible after the main works contract has been awarded and detailed design commenced.	<i>20/12/2021</i>

4. Matters Not Agreed

4.1.1 Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between National Grid and Network Rail. **Table 4.1** details these matters.

Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	Network Rail position	National Grid position

5. Matters outstanding

5.1.1 Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding between National Grid and Network Rail. In particular **Table 5.1** details these matters.

Table 5.1 – Matters outstanding

SoCG ID	Matter	Network Rail position	National Grid position
Easements			
	Terms	National Grid seeks new easements in respect of the permanent interests on Network Rail's land for the proposed development. The Parties are yet to agree the precise terms of the easements to be granted by Network Rail to National Grid or the consideration payable for the grant of those easements;	
Draft DCO			
	Protective Provisions	The Parties are yet to agree the precise form of the protective provisions to be included within the draft DCO	
	Compulsory Acquisition	<p>The Parties are yet to agree on the necessity for powers to be granted to National Grid for the compulsory acquisition of interests in land belonging to or in respect of which Network Rail enjoys an interest.</p> <p>Network Rail has previously sought to have a right to terminate any rights given to National Grid on 6 months notice. National Grid is content to agree interruptions to the national electricity transmission network where necessary because of emergency, or because of reasons of safety for the public or the operation of the railway. However National Grid believes it is in the public interest to have a reliable electricity network, and seeks rights suitable for that purpose.</p> <p>National Grid considers these powers to be essential until such time as a voluntary grant of the interests in question has been secured and remains of this view in light of the decision of the Secretary of State in respect of this matter in the context of the National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016 (Sl. 2016/49).</p>	

6. Approvals

Section does not need to be completed at this stage

Signed	TBC
On Behalf of	National Grid
Name	TBC
Position	
Date	TBC

Signed

On Behalf of	
Name	TBC
Position	
Date	TBC
