

YG-DCO-073(B)

Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Volume 8

Document 8.5.6(B) Statement of Common Ground Between National Grid Electricity Transmission and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Tracked)

~~Draft~~Final Version 23
January/July 2023

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020024

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)

Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.2	Description of the Project	5
1.3	This Statement of Common Ground	7
2.	Record of Engagement	9
2.1	Role of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in the DCO process	9
2.2	Summary of pre-application discussions	9
2.3	Summary of post-submission discussions	10
3.	Matters Agreed	13
4.	Matters Not Agreed	19
5.	Matters outstanding	22
6.	Approvals	23

Table 2.1 - Pre-application discussions	9
Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions	10
Table 3.1 – Matters agreed	13
Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed	19
Table 5.1 – Matters outstanding	22

Figure 1– Location of the Yorkshire GREEN Project	7
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Document control

Version History

Document	Version	Status	Description / Changes
Statement of Common Ground	1	Draft	For discussion with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Statement of Common Ground	2	Draft	Updates following meetings with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on 22 February 2023 and 27 March 2023
<u>Statement of Common Ground</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Final version for Examination</u>

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 SoCG is between National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (“National Grid”) and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust relating to the DCO application for the Yorkshire GREEN Project. 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 outstanding between National Grid and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
- 1.1.5 This final version (V32 MarchJuly 2023) of the SoCG represents the position between National Grid and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at the Deadline 5 stage of the Examination on 11 July 2023. This includes updates following meetings on 22 February 2023 and 27 March 2023 between representatives of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Applicant’s environmental consultant during which all matters outstanding were resolved and moved to matters agreed. There remains a single matter not agreed ~~at this stage (the fitting of bird diverters). The SOCG will evolve as the DCO application progresses through the examination. A further meeting was held between the Applicant’s environmental consultant ornithologist and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on 15 May 2023 in an effort to resolve this. National Grid set out a detailed explanation of its position in an e-mail to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on 19 May 2023 and the matter was further discussed at the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on 25 May 2023. Following which the matter remains as not agreed.~~

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

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 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

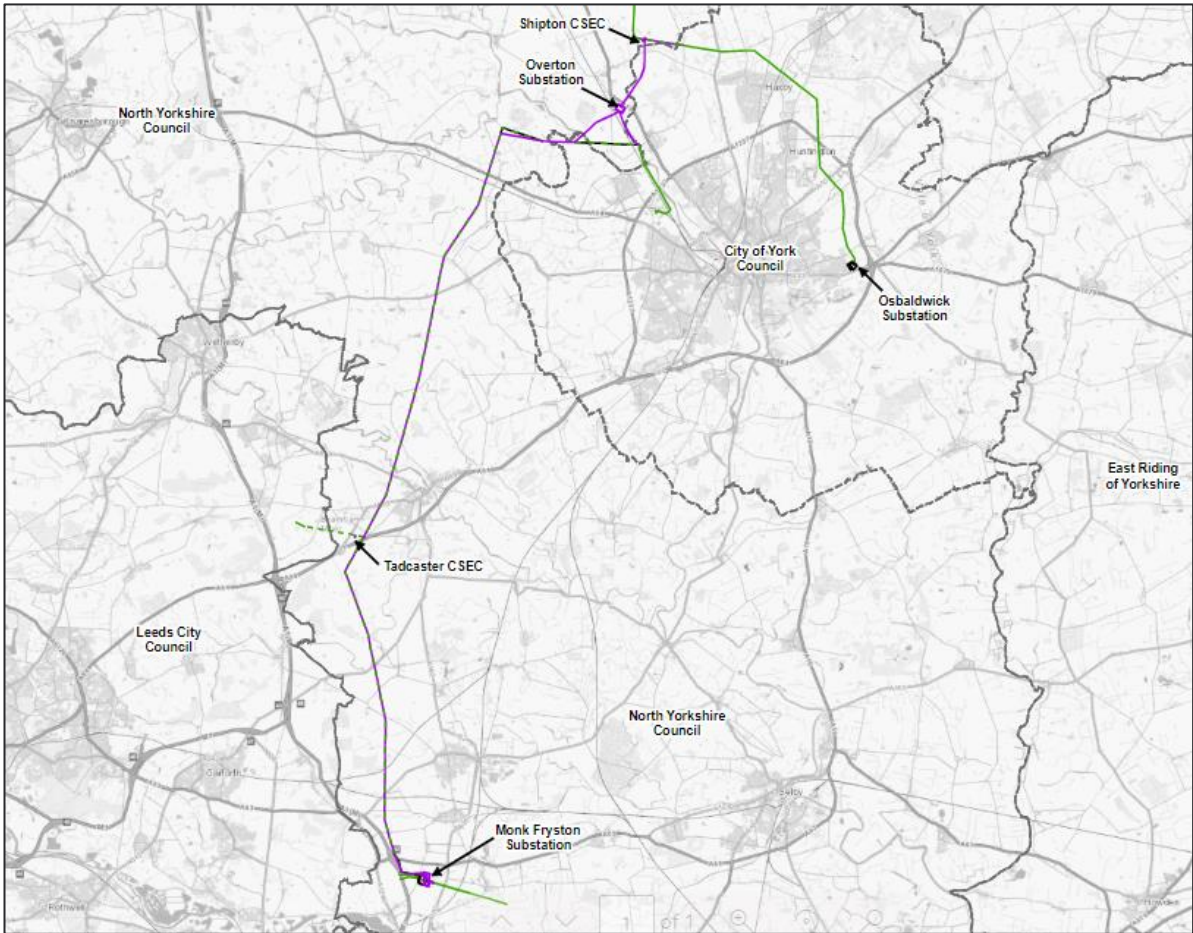
- 1.2.5 Yorkshire GREEN comprises both new infrastructure and works to existing transmission infrastructure and facilities. The Project is divided into six sections (see **Figure 1**), located within ~~six~~three Local Authority boundaries² :
- **Section A (Osbalwick Substation):** Minor works would 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):** 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;

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

- 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 Osbaldwick 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 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)):** 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):** 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)):** 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):** 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 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will jointly be referred to as the “Parties”. When referencing Yorkshire Wildlife Trust alone, they will be referred to as “the Consultee”.

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 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and therefore where there is no dispute;
- Where a section begins ‘matters not agreed’, this sets out matters that 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 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust 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 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in the DCO process

- 2.1.1 The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a charitable non-governmental organisation. Its focus is nature conservation, and it works to achieve a nature-rich Yorkshire with healthy and resilient ecosystems that support both Yorkshire's wildlife and its people.
- 2.1.2 The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is one of the largest of the 46 individual Wildlife Trusts in the country, with over 100 nature reserves and around 45,000 members.
- 2.1.3 In addition to managing nature reserves, much of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's impact is achieved by collaborating with and supporting other landowners and land managers to contribute to the recovery of nature across the county.
- 2.1.4 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a key stakeholder in the DCO process and has been involved in pre-submission discussion as a non-statutory consultee.
- 2.1.5 As part of the consultation process the Applicant carried out non statutory and statutory consultation. Further information on this consultation is set out in Section 4 and 5 of the **Consultation Report (Section 4 and 5, Volume 6, Document 6.1)** [APP-195].
- 2.1.6 On submission of the DCO, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust ~~will be~~ invited to participate in the examination of the Project as Interested Parties. During the examination process, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust may prepare written representations, and respond to written questions from the Examining Authority as well as participate in hearings.

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 EIA Scoping, s42 statutory consultation and additional technical engagement.

Table 2.1 - Pre-application discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion points
8 December 2021	Section 42 Response	Formal Yorkshire Wildlife Trust response to Section 42 consultation. Their full response can be read in the Consultation Report Volume 6, Document 6.1 and Appendix O5, Volume 6, Document 6.2 [APP-195].
11 January 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant responded to Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts Section 42 Statutory Consultation comments. The email addressed key points including scope of surveys, LWS, Irreplaceable Habitats, habitat losses, working methods and BNG.
21 March 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant offered Yorkshire Wildlife Trust the opportunity to meet to discuss the proposed works and extended Phase 1

Date	Topic	Discussion points
		survey baseline results to date. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust responded stating that they were not available on the dates proposed.
27 April 2022	Biodiversity	A meeting took place to provide Yorkshire Wildlife Trust with a project update and to discuss planned surveys, SINCs impacts, options for BNG and water course crossings.
13 May 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant emailed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to provide an update on National Grid's position with respect to bird diverters and to request any collision evidence.
13 May 2022	Biodiversity	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust provided further comments regarding bird diverters.
16 June 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant emailed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to issue draft meeting minutes and provide additional feedback on National Grid's position with respect to bird diverters and request additional information regarding Ryther Ings reserve with a view to possible BNG delivery.
24 June 2022	Biodiversity	The Wildlife Trust confirmed receipt of meeting minutes and confirmed presence of floodplain meadow at Ryther Ings.
15 September 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant emailed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to request confirmation of agreement regarding the need to produce a SoCG.
23 September 2022	Biodiversity	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust confirmed agreement that a SoCG should be produced, including confirmation of matters agreed, pending and not agreed to date.

2.3 Summary of post-submission discussions

2.3.1 **Table 2.2** summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties post submission of the DCO application.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion points
06 December 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant confirmed that Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a non-statutory consultee in planning terms and provided an update regarding progress with the draft SoCG.
08 December 2022	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant shared Shapefiles of the figures accompanying the Biodiversity chapter with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as previously requested.

Date	Topic	Discussion points
23 January 2023	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant confirmed matters agreed and discussed matters outstanding and matters not agreed with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
22 February 2023	Biodiversity	A meeting was held between the Applicant's environmental consultant and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to discuss remaining matters outstanding and the matter not agreed. All matters were agreed and the SoCG updated, except for three matters for which the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust technical leads were not available at the meeting: bird diverters, baseline and irreplaceable habitats. It was agreed that a further meeting would be arranged when the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust technical leads were available and that additional information would be supplied to National Grid by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust relating to bird diverters.
01 March 2023	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant issued the minutes from the meeting held on 22 February 2023.
03 March 2023	Biodiversity	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust confirmed agreement with the minutes from the meeting held on 22 February 2023 and provided an update that its technical leads were still unavailable to discuss remaining matters outstanding and the matter not agreed.
06 March 2023	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant emailed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to check availability for the follow up meeting and to request the additional information relating to bird diverters.
13 March 2023	Biodiversity	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust emailed the Applicant's environmental consultant to explain that key staff remained unavailable to comment further. Further commentary on the recommended use of bird diverters was provided.
20 March 2023	Biodiversity	The Applicant's environmental consultant emailed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to seek agreement with respect to the Requirements set out in the draft Development Consent Order and to check availability for the follow up meeting.
27 March 2023	Biodiversity	A meeting was held between the Applicant's environmental consultant and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to discuss remaining matters outstanding and the matter not agreed. All remaining matters were agreed and the SoCG updated, except for: bird diverters (this remains as 'not agreed'.
<u>15 May 2023</u>	<u>Biodiversity</u>	<u>A meeting was held between the Applicant's environmental consultant ornithologist and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to discuss the matter not agreed relating to bird diverters.</u>

Date	Topic	Discussion points
<u>19 May 2023</u>	<u>Biodiversity</u>	<u>The Applicant's environmental consultant emailed Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to provide a detailed explanation of National Grid's position with respect to the use of bird diverters.</u>

3. Matters Agreed

3.1.1 This section sets out the matters that have been agreed between National Grid and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In particular **Table 3.1** details these matters.

Table 3.1 – Matters agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
Volume 5 Environmental Statement			
3.1 Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080]			
<i>Assessment Scope and Methodology</i>			
3.1.1	Scope of Surveys	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is content with the proposed scope of surveys for the following (as discussed in the meeting 27 April 2022):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approach to biodiversity surveys where land is not accessible; - ornithological surveys; - extended Phase 1 habitat survey; - protected species surveys (otter and badger); - no requirement for great crested newt surveys due to employment of District Level Licensing; - no requirement for reptile, fish, tansy beetle or other invertebrate surveys. <p>(Table 8.4, ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080]).</p>	Discussed in meeting 27 April 2022 and confirmed agreement by e-mail 23 September 2022

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
3.1.2	Protected species survey approach (where revised since PEIR/meeting on 27 April 2022)	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust requested further information regarding change in survey scope (email 23 September 2022). Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has reviewed and confirmed agreement with the revised methodology including post-submission surveys (Table 8.4 ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080]).	22 February 2023
3.1.3	Assessment Methodology	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's agreement with the assessment methodology (ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080]) was confirmed during the meeting held on 22 February 2022 .	22 February 2023
<i>Baseline</i>			
3.1.4	Baseline	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's agreement that the Biodiversity baseline is appropriately described in ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080] was confirmed during the meeting held on 27 March 2022 .	27 March 2023
<i>Embedded Measures</i>			
3.1.5	Proposals for embedded mitigation and compensation measures – Outline Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy (BMS) and Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has reviewed and confirmed agreement with the embedded mitigation measures as detailed in Section 8.6 , ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080] and mitigation and reinstatement in the BMS, Document 5.3.3D [APP-097] . The potential for bird diverters requires further discussion with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust ornithology specialist who was not able to attend the meeting on 22 February 2023 (see Matters Not Agreed).	22 February 2023

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
3.1.6	Mitigation specific to night working	<p>In view of possible 24 hour working during the construction phase at some locations, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust cited the requirement for mitigation with respect to nocturnal wildlife (detailed in consultation response 8 December 2021 and email 23 September 2022).</p> <p>National Grid's environmental consultant confirmed that night working would only be by exception (as stated in paragraph 3.6.21 ES Chapter 3: Description of the Project, Document 5.2.3, [APP-075]) and that embedded measures include the development of a lighting design at detailed design stage once contractors are appointed (pending grant of DCO). This would be in line the joint guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2018) and would mitigate potential effects on bats and other nocturnal fauna (Section 8.6 ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080]). Yorkshire Wildlife Trust confirmed it is satisfied with the proposed approach.</p>	22 February 2023
3.1.7	Mitigation specific to loss of ponds	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has cited the mitigation hierarchy with respect to ponds with avoidance in the first instance followed by mitigation irrespective of the presence of protected species (detailed in consultation response 8 December 2021 and email 23 September 2022). Yorkshire Wildlife Trust confirmed agreement with the proposed approach to mitigation specific to pond loss.</p>	22 February 2023
<i>Assessment of Likely Significant Effects</i>			
3.1.8	SINCs	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has confirmed that the mitigation hierarchy should be applied with respect to</p>	22 February 2023

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
		<p>SINCs (discussed at meeting 27 April and detailed in email response 23 September 2022).</p> <p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has confirmed agreement that the ES assessment has appropriately scoped and assessed the potential for significant effects on SINCs within the Order Limits: Overton Borrowpits SINC, River Ouse candidate SINC, Field nr Healaugh Manor Farm deleted SINC, Disused Quarry, Newthorpe deleted SINC (Section 8.9, ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080]).</p>	
3.1.9	Irreplaceable habitat	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's agreement that that the ES assessment has appropriately scoped and assessed the potential for significant effects on irreplaceable habitats: ancient woodland and veteran trees (assessed as negligible effects) in 8.8.2, ES Chapter 8: Biodiversity, (Document 5.2.8) [APP-080] was confirmed during the meeting held on 27 March 2022.</p>	27 March 2023
Volume 3: Draft Development Consent Order			
3.2 Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-004]			
3.2.1	Draft Development Consent Order	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is still to confirm agreement with the Draft Development Consent Order Requirements as listed on Schedule 3 (Draft Development Consent Order, Document 3.1(CB), Volume 3) [REP3-004AS-011]). It is National Grid's view that the Requirements listed on Schedule 3 (Draft Development Consent Order (Document 3.1(CB), Volume 3) [REP3-004AS-011]) are appropriate to secure the delivery of the embedded environmental measures within the Project.</p>	27 March 2023

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
Volume 7: Other Documents			
3.3 Document 7.9 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-210]			
3.3.1	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	<p>In its consultation responses (14 April 2021 and 8 December 2021) and subsequent meeting (27 April 2022) and email correspondence (23 September 2022), Yorkshire Wildlife Trust welcomed the Project commitment to deliver 10% BNG. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust confirmed agreement with the approach to BNG within the Project (Document 7.9, Volume 7 [APP-210]), during the meeting held on 22 February 2023. In summary this comprises the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoiding loss of irreplaceable habitats - Adherence to the Mitigation hierarchy, especially to avoid and minimise habitat clearance (especially for priority habitats) - Achieving a minimum 10% increase in area-based units, in linear units and in river units in ways that meet the Biodiversity Metric V3.1 trading rules - For any off-site BNG delivery to be implemented and delivered in partnership with local conservation stakeholders where possible - For any off-site BNG delivery, National Grid will seek for gains to be within the same LPA as the associated loss - Where this is not possible due to limited availability of suitable sites, or more favourable outcomes for biodiversity would be achieved by delivering BNG at a site outside the relevant LPA, delivery of 10% BNG would apply across the extent of the project rather than being split between LPAs. National Grid will look to engage with the affected LPAs to identify 	22 February 2023

SoCG ID	Matter	Agreed position	Date of Agreement
		<p>opportunities to deliver meaningful BNG enhancements across the extent of the project.</p> <p>In terms of DCO submission, we have submitted an initial Biodiversity Net Gain report based on a number of precautionary assumptions, which provides a reasonable worst-case indication of the deficit in biodiversity units resulting from the Project (which is likely to overstate losses as a precaution) and the amount and type of on and off-site habitat creation required to achieve BNG.</p> <p>We will then undertake further BNG assessment at different stages through the project lifecycle updating the BNG report metric calculation with final baseline data and results of the Strategic Significance assessment. These updated reports will be produced post-consent at detailed design stage (including the BNG management and monitoring plan), and after construction (based on as-built information) to refine and finalise the assessment as further information becomes available.</p>	

4. Matters Not Agreed

4.1.1 Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between National Grid and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Table 4.1 details these matters.

Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed

SoCG Matter ID	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust position	National Grid position
Volume 5 Environmental Statement		
4.1 Chapter 8: Biodiversity [APP-080]		
<i>Embedded Measures</i>		
4.1.1 Bird diverters	<p>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust considers that bird diverters should be fitted as part of the Project within the River Ouse and River Wharfe corridors as a collision avoidance measure due to the presence of well-known migratory flyways for swans and pink-footed geese (Meeting on 27 April 2022 and subsequent email correspondence between Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Applicant’s environmental consultant). The appropriate technical leads were not available at the meeting held to discuss Matters <u>Outstanding</u>/Not Agreed on 22 February 2023 or 27 March 2023.</p> <p><u>During a subsequent meeting between National Grid’s environmental consultant ornithologist and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on 15 May 2023, and at the Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on 25 May 2023, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust raised concerns regarding</u></p>	<p>National Grid’s position based on consistency across all projects nationally is that fitting diverters is only carried out where historic evidence/collision risk modelling indicates a specific need. At the watercourse corridors referred to, existing overhead line crossings are in place (in the case of the River Ouse an existing crossing will be removed and replaced within ~380m). Currently there is no evidence to indicate that the DCO would need to include provision of bird diverters to prevent significant adverse effects (Email correspondence between Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Applicant’s environmental consultant 13 March 2023).</p> <p><u>National Grid’s environmental consultant ornithologist has held a meeting with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to discuss their concerns. In terms of effects on designated sites, the conclusion of no</u></p>

SoCG Matter ID	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust position	National Grid position
	<p><u>the potential for bird strikes at the River Ouse overhead line crossings to cause impacts on sites which hold international designations for whooper swan (The Ouse Washes SPA and Nene Washes SPA), and pink-footed goose (The Wash SPA and the North Norfolk Coast SPA). Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has stated that these species are known to stop off in the Lower Derwent Valley and the Lower Ouse in considerable although varying numbers during spring migration.</u></p> <p><u>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is less concerned with impacts arising at the River Wharfe (where the location of the existing overhead line crossing will not alter), but stated that there is still risk for impacts of bird strikes on local bird populations.</u></p>	<p><u>significant effects on designated sites has been confirmed by Natural England. In carrying out the assessment for the No Significant Effects Report (Document 6.4B) [AS-018], detailed discussions were held with Natural England at the scoping and screening stages. A 20km zone of influence was used, which is standard for a project of this type based on the maximum distance that relevant bird species will travel from roost/nest sites to foraging areas. Natural England agreed that the only sites which required consideration in the Habitats Regulations Assessment were the Lower Derwent Valley SPA/Ramsar. The sites to which Yorkshire Wildlife Trust refer are approximately 130-180km south east of the Project. While National Grid understands YWT's concerns about birds from those locations migrating and stopping in the Lower Derwent/Lower Ouse, the risk of the Project causing increased bird strike on migrating species has been scoped out, as confirmed by Natural England [REP2-080]. Geese and swans will generally fly above the height of the pylons, at heights of 150m+ above ground level during migration. Although flight activity may be influenced by changing weather conditions during their migration, with birds flying lower when visibility is poor, it is generally acknowledged that birds will begin their migrations in good weather conditions. Given the multiple potential migration routes which could be taken from sites 130-180km from the Project location, and the usual flight behaviour of birds during migration, it is extremely unlikely that significant numbers would migrate at low levels in</u></p>

SoCG Matter ID	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust position	National Grid position
		<p><u>bad weather along the River Ouse at the exact point of the overhead lines resulting in collisions and population effects at designated site level.</u></p> <p><u>Currently there is no evidence to indicate that the DCO would need to include provision of bird diverters to prevent significant adverse effects (Email correspondence between Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Applicant's environmental consultant 13 March 2023 and 19 May 2023).</u></p> <p><u>National Grid therefore consider that the conclusion of no significant effects in the No Significant Effects Report (Document 6.4 (B) [AS-018] stands.</u></p>

5. Matters outstanding

5.1.1 Section 5 sets out matters where agreement is currently outstanding between National Grid and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. **Table 5.1** details these matters.

Table 5.1 – Matters outstanding

SoCG ID	Matter	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust position	National Grid position
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Approvals

Signed	B.Kington
On Behalf of	National Grid
Name	Bethany Kington
Position	Consents officer
Date	27.3.23 11.07.23
Signed	C. Ellis
On Behalf of	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Name	Chloe Ellis
Position	Planning Advocate
Date	28/03/2023 <u>04/07/2023</u>

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