

YG-DCO-151

# Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

**Volume 8**

**Document 8.34.2 Applicant's Position Statement with North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council on Green Belt**

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## Version History

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Date	Version	Status	Description / Changes
06/09/2023	A	Final	First Issue

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 As discussed at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) [EV-005], the purpose of this document is to record National Grid's position and the Local Planning Authorities' (LPA) position on Green Belt matters.
- 1.1.2 The views of North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council whose areas of Green Belt are affected by the Project are contained within this Position Statement.
- 1.1.3 With regard to the Green Belt impacts of the Project on Leeds City Council, works are limited to reconductoring of existing overhead lines. SOCG ID 3.25.3 of the **Statement of Common Ground with Leeds City Council (Document 8.5.4(D))** confirms that Leeds City Council are content that the Project would not have greater effects on the Green Belt than the current infrastructure. As such, input from Leeds City Council into this Position Statement has not been sought as no matters of disagreement remain with Leeds City Council.
- 1.1.4 The document adopts a tabular structure. **Table 1.1** summarises the infrastructure proposed in the Green Belt of each authority, broken down by element such as substation, overhead line and cable sealing end compounds (CSECs).
- 1.1.5 **Table 1.2** summarises the position of National Grid, North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council with regard to the relevant matters relating to the Green Belt. National Grid's position is set out in the second column followed by a dedicated column for each LPA to record their position.
- 1.1.6 For the avoidance of doubt, the text in the LPA columns in **Table 1.2** has been inserted by each of the LPAs. It is not National Grid's interpretation, but the actual views of the LPAs.
- 1.1.7 It is hoped the document will assist the Examining Authority in understanding the position of each party on Green Belt matters.

1.1.8 **Table 1.1** below summarises the infrastructure proposed in the Green Belt of each LPA. **Appendix A** shows the order limits, the extent of the York Green Belt and the Leeds Green Belt, and the administrative boundaries of the LPAs.

Table 1.1 – Summary of Infrastructure proposed in the Green Belt split by local authority administrative area

Infrastructure	North Yorkshire Council	City of York Council	Leeds City Council
Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs)	<b>York Green Belt</b> Shipton North and Shipton South CSECs <sup>1</sup>		
	<b>Leeds Green Belt</b> Tadcaster East and West CSECs		
Substations	<b>York Green Belt</b> Overton Substation <sup>2</sup>	<b>Osbalwick Substation</b> The existing substation at Osbalwick is located on land that is outside of the general extent of the Green Belt.	
	<b>Leeds Green Belt</b> Monk Fryston Substation		
New Pylons	<b>York Green Belt &amp; Leeds Green Belt</b> XC and SP overhead lines	<b>York Green Belt</b> YN and SP overhead lines The majority of new pylons would be located within the general extent of the York Green Belt.	
New overhead Line	<b>York Green Belt &amp; Leeds Green Belt</b> XC and SP overhead lines	<b>York Green Belt</b> YN and SP overhead lines The sections of new overhead line connecting into the proposed Overton substation site would be located within the general extent of the York Green Belt.	
Works to existing pylons and overhead lines (including reconductoring)	<b>York Green Belt &amp; Leeds Green Belt</b> XC, XCP and YR overhead line	<b>York Green Belt</b> XCP, SP and YR line overhead line The sections of existing pylons and overhead lines situated to the North East and South of the proposed Overton substation would be located within the general extent of the York Green Belt	<b>Leeds Green Belt</b> XD overhead line

<sup>1</sup> The proposed CSECs at Shipton would be located within North Yorkshire Council (outside of the City of York Council administrative boundary) but would be regarded as being located within the general extent of the York Green Belt.

<sup>2</sup> The proposed substation at Overton is located within North Yorkshire Council (outside of the City of York administrative boundary) but would be regarded as being located within the general extent of the York Green Belt.

1.1.9 **Table 1.2** below summarises the position statement of National Grid, North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council with regard to the relevant matters relating to the Green Belt.

Table 1.2 – Green Belt Position Statement by LPA

Green Belt Matter	National Grid’s Position	North Yorkshire Council Position	City of York Council
<b>Exceptions set out in paragraph 149 and 150 of the NPPF</b>			
<p>Does the Project benefit from any of the exceptions set out in paragraphs 149 to 150 of the NPPF.</p>	<p>It is well established that inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances (VSC) (paragraph 147 of the NPPF). Paragraphs 149 and paragraph 150 of the NPPF set out a list of exceptions to this, with paragraph 150 stating:</p> <p><i>“Certain other forms of development are not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These include</i></p> <p><i>“a) mineral extraction;</i></p> <p><i>b) engineering operations;” ...</i></p> <p>In order for the Project to benefit from paragraph 150 of the NPPF, National Grid accepts that the relevant components of the Project will need to be capable of falling within paragraph (b) ‘<i>engineering operations</i>’.</p> <p>National Grid accepts that the new substations at Overton and Monk Fryston and the new CSECs at Shipton and Tadcaster would not preserve the openness of the Green Belt and that their development needs to be justified by VSC. National Grid has never sought to rely on the exceptions listed in paragraph 150 of the NPPF for the new substations or CSECs or sought to argue that their development in the Green Belt would not be inappropriate. Given there is agreement that the new substations and CSECs would not preserve openness and are inappropriate development in the Green Belt, National Grid considers that it is not necessary for any determination to be made as to whether the new substations and CSECs would benefit from the exceptions in paragraph 150 of the NPPF.</p> <p>In terms of overhead lines, in its report on the Hinkley Point C Connection Project, the Examining Authority accepted National Grid’s position that</p> <p>“the construction of an overhead line would be classified as an engineering operation” (para 7.5.13<sup>3</sup>).</p> <p>This was adopted by the Secretary of State in their decision (para 63<sup>4</sup>). Consistent with this position, National</p>	<p>Elements of the application proposal would constitute engineering operations, whilst others would be considered as structures. Paragraph 149 of the NPPF applies to structures/buildings. Paragraph 150 of the NPPF applies to engineering operations.</p> <p>The NPPF sets out at paragraph 149 that the construction of new buildings in the Green Belt is inappropriate unless it falls within the closed list of exceptions set out at paragraph 149 a) to g). Some elements of the scheme (e.g. the Pylons, overhead lines, any buildings, enclosures, boundary fencing or most operational equipment) are structures and do not fall within any of the categories in paragraph 149. Therefore, they are inappropriate development which is harmful by definition and Very Special Circumstances (VSC) will be needed to clearly outweigh the harm by definition and any other harm identified.</p> <p>Other elements of the scheme such as underground cabling, ground works, engineering works, temporary construction sites etc., are engineering operations to which the Examining Authority should have regard. Where within a Green Belt the NPPF at paragraph 150 sets out that certain other forms of development (which includes engineering operations) are not inappropriate where they;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) preserve the openness and</li> <li>2) do not conflict with the purposes of the including land in the Green Belt.</li> </ol> <p>Where they fail 1 or 2 above, they would be inappropriate development by definition and Very Special Circumstances would be required to clearly outweigh the harm by definition and any other harm resulting from the proposal.</p> <p>It is considered that most elements of the scheme whether it is a building or engineering operation will have an impact on the openness of the Green Belt and is therefore inappropriate.</p> <p>Overall, the Authority is of the opinion that the scheme would result in a number of ‘structures’ and operational equipment which would have a significant impact on the openness of the Green Belt due to the increased size of</p>	<p>As was set out in the LIR submitted by CYC. CYC consider that the proposals would benefit from the exception set out within Paragraph 150 b) of the NPPF and the proposals could be regarded as constituting engineering operations.</p> <p>The exceptions within Paragraph 150 (a)-f)) all require the additional tests of preserving openness and not conflicting with the purposes of including land within the Green Belt (NPPF Para 138).</p> <p>It is the position of CYC that the proposals would not, to varying degrees preserve the openness of the Green Belt and as such would not meet the exceptions set out within the Paragraph 150 of the NPPF.</p> <p>The applicant’s argument that the proposals do not harm openness is considered to overly simplify what is a more nuanced set of considerations and factors. Elements of the proposals may preserve openness, but others will not. Those elements which do not preserve the openness of the Green Belt should be assessed to establish whether Very Special Circumstances exist which would justify development which would otherwise be regarded as inappropriate within the Green Belt.</p>

<sup>3</sup> [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-004121-151019\\_EN020001\\_HPCC\\_ExA\\_Report\\_to\\_SoS\\_Main\\_Report.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-004121-151019_EN020001_HPCC_ExA_Report_to_SoS_Main_Report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-000001-160119%20FINAL%20DL.pdf>

Green Belt Matter	National Grid's Position	North Yorkshire Council Position	City of York Council
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Grid considers that the new overhead lines, including the pylons which support them, amount to an engineering operation and are not inappropriate development provided that they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within the Green Belt. The discussion on this second part of the text (the effect on the purposes of including land within the Green Belt) is considered below.

Regardless of National Grid's position on whether any part of the Project amounts to development which is or is not inappropriate, VSC have been demonstrated by National Grid for the entire Project (**Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement** with the need case for the Project further detailed in the **Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]**), including all components of the Project (both temporary and permanent) which are within the Green Belt. It is National Grid's position, that any determination of what is and is not inappropriate therefore becomes academic.

the substation at Monk Fryston; the introduction of a substation at Overton; the introduction of Cable Sealing End Compounds at Shipton and Tadcaster; the scale of the development; and the presence of additional pylons, overhead lines, operational equipment and infrastructure and across the projects location.

**Cable Sealing End Compounds**

What is the effect of the CSECs on the Green Belt?

Paragraph 138 of the NPPF states that the five purposes of the Green Belt are:

- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;*
- b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;*
- c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;*
- d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and*
- e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land'.*

The York Green Belt was formally created in 1980. Policy SP2: The York Green Belt in the City of York Draft Local Plan Incorporating the 4th Set of Changes (April 2005) makes clear that *"The primary purpose of the York Green Belt is to safeguard the setting and historic character of the City of York"*. National Grid considers that the Shipton North and South CSECs comply with the purposes of the Green Belt set out in paragraph 138 of the NPPF as they do not:

- a) lead to unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas. The CSECs are not located near to large built-up areas and do not lead to sprawl.
- b) lead to neighbouring towns merging as they are not located close to towns.

CSECs are considered to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt as they do not fall within any of the exceptions to inappropriate development set out in paragraphs 149 and 150 of the NPPF. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, as per paragraph 147 of the NPPF, and should not be approved unless in very special circumstances. Furthermore, the CSECs would introduce new structures and equipment where there is none existing at present and which would have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than exists at present.

The CSECs result in a slightly higher concentration of development in the areas where they are located. This is due to them acting as the transition point between sections of overhead line and underground cable. As with the other elements of the proposals the primary effects here are an impact upon openness by virtue of introducing development. It is also considered that a degree of encroachment would also occur.



c) lead to encroachment as they do not act as a precedent for other forms of development and are not an enabler or facilitator for other forms of development, because the CSECs would not draw development towards them, and 2) the CSECs would not divert other development away from more appropriate locations.

d) harm the setting and special character of historic towns (in this case the City of York) due to the separation between the historic City of York and the CSECs, which is approximately 5km

e) undermine the aim to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land, as the location of the CSECs is dictated by the location of existing infrastructure (as set out in the **Corridor and Preliminary Routing Siting Study, Document 7.8 Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study 2021, [APP-209]**), and therefore it would not be possible from an engineering perspective to locate them in an alternative location (such as derelict/ urban land), without significant additional infrastructure and associated environmental impacts.

In light of the above, National Grid considers the CSECs do not harm the purposes (set out in paragraph 138 of the NPPF, and Policy SP2 of the City of York Draft Local Plan Incorporating the 4th Set of Changes (April 2005)).

As set out on paragraph 4.8.1 of the Leeds Core Strategy (as amended by the Core Strategy Selective Review 2019) the *“Leeds Green Belt plays a key role in keeping land open and free from development and in making a clear distinction between town and country”*. National Grid considers that the Tadcaster Tee East and West CSECs comply with the purposes of the Green Belt set out in paragraph 138 of the NPPF as they do not:

a) lead to unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas. The CSECs are not located near to large built-up areas and do not lead to sprawl.

b) lead to neighbouring towns merging as they are not located close to towns.

c) lead to encroachment, as do not act as a precedent for other forms of development and are not an enabler or facilitator for other forms of development, because the CSECs would not draw development towards them, and 2) the CSECs would not divert other development away from more appropriate locations.

d) harm the setting and special character of historic towns as the CSECs are not located near to any historic towns.

e) undermine the aim to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land, as the location of the CSECs is dictated by the location of existing infrastructure (as set out in **the Corridor and**

**Preliminary Routing Siting Study, Document 7.8 Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study 2021, [APP-209]**), and therefore it would not be possible from an engineering perspective to locate them in an alternative location (such as derelict/ urban land), without significant additional infrastructure and associated environmental impacts.

Notwithstanding the effect on purposes, as set out above, National Grid acknowledge that the CSECs do harm the openness of the Green Belt as set out in **paragraph 7.3.93 of the Planning Statement (Document 7.1) [APP-202]** and in **Appendix L of Document 8.9.2 Applicant's Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) Appendices Final Issue A**. Therefore, it is agreed that the CSECs are inappropriate by virtue of impact on openness and that it is necessary to demonstrate VSC. This has been demonstrated in **Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement** and explained in the **Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]**.

### Substations

What is the effect of the substations on the Green Belt?

National Grid acknowledge that the substations would harm the openness of the Green Belt as set out in **paragraph 7.3.93 of the Planning Statement (Document 7.1) [APP-202]** and in **Appendix L of Document 8.9.2 Applicant's Response to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) Appendices Final Issue A**, and in **Item 8 in the Applicant's Response to Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH2) Hearing Action Points – Final Issue A June 2023 (REP4-026)**. Therefore, it is agreed that the substations are inappropriate by virtue of impact on openness, and it is not necessary to determine whether they benefit from the exceptions set out in paragraph 150 as set out above. National Grid also recognises that, in respect of this Project and in respect of the substation works at Overton and Monk Fryston, some aspects of built development will be provided. Therefore, development at those locations has to be treated as inappropriate in any event. It is accepted that it is necessary to demonstrate VSC and this has been demonstrated as described below.

Substations are considered to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt as they do not fall within any of the exceptions to inappropriate development set out in paragraphs 149 and 150 of the NPPF. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, as per paragraph 147 of the NPPF, and should not be approved unless in very special circumstances. Furthermore, the substations at Overton and Monk Fryston would introduce new structures and equipment where there is none existing at present and which would have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than exists at present and would result in encroachment into the Green Belt, contrary to one of the purposes of including land within the Green Belt (paragraph 138).

The proposed substation at Overton is one of the larger component parts of the proposed scheme. CYC consider that this element would harm openness by virtue of introducing a significant piece of infrastructure into the landscape at this location where currently no development exists. This aspect of the proposals would also lead to encroachment into the countryside.

### New Pylons

What is the effect of the new pylons on the Green Belt?

In its report on the Hinkley Point C Connection Project, the Examining Authority accepted National Grid's position that "the construction of an overhead line would be classified as an engineering operation" (para 7.5.13<sup>5</sup>).

New pylons are considered to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt as they do not fall within any of the exceptions to inappropriate development set out in paragraphs 149 and 150 of the NPPF.

Whilst new pylons allow for a view to be obtained through them by virtue of their lattice type design it is considered that there will inevitably be a degree of harm caused to the Green Belt, this will be due to

<sup>5</sup> [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-004121-151019\\_EN020001\\_HPCC\\_ExA\\_Report\\_to\\_SoS\\_Main\\_Report.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-004121-151019_EN020001_HPCC_ExA_Report_to_SoS_Main_Report.pdf)

**Green Belt Matter****National Grid's Position**

This was adopted by the Secretary of State in their decision (para 63<sup>6</sup>). Consistent with this position, National Grid considers that the new overhead lines, including the pylons which support them, amount to an engineering operation and are not inappropriate development provided that they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within the Green Belt.

It is National Grid's position that pylons do not harm the purposes (set out in paragraph 138 of the NPPF) of the Leeds and York Green Belt as the new pylons would not:

- a) lead to unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas. The pylons are not located near to large built-up areas and do not lead to sprawl.
- b) lead to neighbouring towns merging as they are not located close to towns.
- c) lead to encroachment, as do not act as a precedent for other forms of development and are not an enabler or facilitator for other forms of development, because the pylons would not draw development towards them, and 2) the pylons would not divert other development away from more appropriate locations.
- d) harm the setting and special character of historic towns as the pylons are not located near to any historic towns.
- e) undermine the aim to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land, as the location of the new pylons is dictated by the location of existing infrastructure (as set out in the **Corridor and Preliminary Routing Siting Study, Document 7.8 Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study 2021, APP-209**), and therefore it would not be possible from an engineering perspective to locate them in an alternative location (such as derelict/ urban land), without significant additional infrastructure and associated environmental impacts.

However, regardless of National Grid's position on whether any part of the Project amounts to development which is or is not inappropriate, VSC have been demonstrated by National Grid for the entire Project (**Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement** with the need case for the Project further detailed in the **Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]**), including all components of the Project (both temporary and permanent) which are within the Green Belt. It is National Grid's position, that any determination of what is and is not inappropriate therefore becomes academic.

**North Yorkshire Council Position**

Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, as per paragraph 147 of the NPPF, and should not be approved unless in very special circumstances. Furthermore, the new pylons would introduce new structures where there is none existing at present and which would have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than exists at present and would result in encroachment into the Green Belt, contrary to one of the purposes of including land within the Green Belt (paragraph 138).

**City of York Council**

factors such as their overall height and general mass. This will be particularly the case in locations where an entirely new overhead line route is being proposed.

<sup>6</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-000001-160119%20FINAL%20DL.pdf>

## New Overhead Lines

What is the effect of the new overhead line on the Green Belt?

In its report on the Hinkley Point C Connection Project, the Examining Authority accepted National Grid's position that *"the construction of an overhead line would be classified as an engineering operation"* (para 7.5.13<sup>7</sup>).

This was adopted by the Secretary of State in their decision (para 63<sup>8</sup>). Consistent with this position, National Grid considers that the new overhead lines amount to an engineering operation and are not inappropriate development provided that they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within the Green Belt.

It is National Grid's position that overhead lines do not harm the purposes (set out in paragraph 138 of the NPPF) of the Leeds and York Green Belt as the new pylons would not:

- a) lead to unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas. The pylons are not located near to large built-up areas and do not lead to sprawl.
- b) lead to neighbouring towns merging as they are not located close to towns.
- c) lead to encroachment as do not act as a precedent for other forms of development and are not an enabler or facilitator for other forms of development, because the pylons would not draw development towards them, and 2) the overhead lines would not divert other development away from more appropriate locations.
- d) harm the setting and special character of historic towns as the pylons are not located near to any historic towns.
- e) undermine the aim to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land, as the location of the new overhead lines is dictated by the location of existing infrastructure (as set out in the **Corridor and Preliminary Routing Siting Study, Document 7.8 Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study 2021, APP-209**), and therefore it would not be possible from an engineering perspective to locate them in an alternative location (such as derelict/ urban land), without significant additional infrastructure and associated environmental impacts.

Regardless of National Grid's position on whether any part of the Project amounts to development which is or is not inappropriate, VSC have been demonstrated by National Grid for the entire Project (**Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement** with the need case for the Project further

New overhead lines may fall within the definition of 'engineering operations in paragraph 150 of the NPPF, but due to the impact on the openness of the Green Belt (being wiring with views through at a high level), they are considered to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, as per paragraph 147 of the NPPF, and should not be approved unless in very special circumstances.

The provision of new overhead lines is not considered to unduly harm the overall openness of the Green Belt. Overhead lines can, due to their general scale, assimilate into the wider landscape. The aspect which likely draws most attention to their presence is the positioning of the pylons at either side of section of overhead line, rather than the overhead line itself.

<sup>7</sup> [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-004121-151019\\_EN020001\\_HPCC\\_ExA\\_Report\\_to\\_SoS\\_Main\\_Report.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-004121-151019_EN020001_HPCC_ExA_Report_to_SoS_Main_Report.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-000001-160119%20FINAL%20DL.pdf>



Green Belt Matter	National Grid's Position	North Yorkshire Council Position	City of York Council
	<p>detailed in the <b>Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]</b>, including all components of the Project (both temporary and permanent) which are within the Green Belt. It is National Grid's position, that any determination of what is and is not inappropriate therefore becomes academic.</p>		
<b>Works to existing pylons/overhead lines</b>			
<p>What is the effect of the works to existing pylons/overhead lines on the Green Belt?</p>	<p>National Grid consider that the works to existing pylons/overhead lines would not result in any material visual or spatial alterations to the existing pylons and overhead lines. As a result, the level of change would be immaterial and therefore the openness and purposes of the Green Belt would not be affected.</p> <p>As set out above, regardless of National Grid's position on whether any part of the Project amounts to development which is or is not inappropriate, VSC have been demonstrated by National Grid for the entire Project (<b>Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement</b> with the need case for the Project further detailed in the <b>Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]</b>), including all components of the Project (both temporary and permanent) which are within the Green Belt. It is National Grid's position, that any determination of what is and is not inappropriate therefore becomes academic.</p>	<p>Works to existing pylons/overhead lines would have an impact on the openness of the Green Belt, but this would be limited and would be considered to preserve the openness of the Green Belt. These elements are therefore considered not inappropriate in the Green Belt in accordance with paragraph 150 of the NPPF.</p>	<p>The overall effect of works to the existing pylons and sections of overhead line are unlikely to have a greater impact upon the Green Belt than they do already. It is anticipated that an element of temporary additional harm would arise during the construction and works phase as there would be activity occurring on and within the vicinity of the existing equipment.</p>
<b>Temporary Works</b>			
<p>What is the effect of the temporary working areas openness of the Green Belt?</p>	<p>The temporary works may harm openness during the construction phase though the development of temporary construction compound areas, and general construction activities, and therefore could be classed as inappropriate development. These works include, for example, site preparation works, site clearance (including for fencing, vegetation removal), scaffolding of crossings, works within temporary construction compounds comprising temporary laydown, assembly and storage areas, security fencing, construction related buildings, welfare facilities, construction and security lighting, and wheel cleaning facilities. However, once the Project is operational, the effects associated with temporary works would be very limited and would result in no harm to the openness of the Green Belt and as a result no permanent impact on the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Regardless of National Grid's position on whether any part of the Project amounts to development which is or is not inappropriate, VSC have been demonstrated by National Grid for the entire Project (<b>Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement</b> with the need case for the Project further detailed in the <b>Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]</b>), including all components of the Project (both temporary and permanent) which are</p>	<p>The temporary working areas would have an impact on the openness of the Green Belt and therefore would be inappropriate development in the Green Belt having regard to paragraph 150 of the NPPF. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, as per paragraph 147 of the NPPF, and should not be approved unless in very special circumstances. They would also result in encroachment into the Green Belt, contrary to one of the purposes of including land within the Green Belt (paragraph 138).</p>	<p>The temporary works are considered to harm the openness of the Green Belt and would result in encroachment into the countryside. Although it is acknowledged that these effects would be temporary and limited to the construction phase. These works would nonetheless introduce large areas of surfacing, access routes, bell mouths and complexes of temporary cabins/modular buildings etc. Additionally features such as exterior lighting will also draw further attention to them.</p>

within the Green Belt. It is National Grid's position, that any determination of what is and is not inappropriate therefore becomes academic.

### Consideration of "any other harm" under paragraph 148 of the NPPF

Does the Project result in any other harm to the Green Belt and if so what is the scale of that harm?

National Grid has considered "any other harm" (as required by paragraph 148 of the NPPF) in **paragraph 7.4.10-7.4.14, in the Planning Statement (Document 7.1) [APP-202]**. Those paragraphs acknowledge that construction activity, noise, traffic and light pollution would occur during the construction phase but with mitigation in place the effects would not be significant. During operation, the effects will be very limited or result in no harm.

For landscape character and visual effects, it is acknowledged that effects would occur during both the construction and operational phase. However, in terms of landscape character, the number of receptors affected has been minimised as far as possible. In terms of visual effects, these have been minimised by the use of planting and bunding.

Notwithstanding this, the urgent and compelling needs case set out in the Planning Statement (**Document 7.1) [APP-202]** provides the VSC that are considered to outweigh the limited significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity and the wider and limited harm identified during the construction phase.

Paragraph 147 of the NPPF sets out that inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. Paragraph 148 of the NPPF sets out that substantial weight should be given to any harm to the Green Belt. 'Very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm resulting from the proposal, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

As set out above, there is harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness. There is also 'other harm' by reason of the significant impact of the proposal overall on the openness of the Green Belt, and the conflict with one of the purposes of including land within the Green Belt – encroachment in to the countryside, which would be significant.

NYC have also identified 'other harm' arising from the construction phase (noise, traffic, pollution, landscape and visual) and from operation (landscape and visual).

CYC do not consider that the proposals, cumulatively, give rise to any notable 'other harms' to the Green Belt.

### Very special circumstances

What are the very special circumstances that support the development of the Project in the Green Belt?

National Grid consider the VSC for the Project clearly outweigh any harm to the Green Belt and any other harm as a result of the Project. The VSC for the Project are summarised in **Section 3.3 of the Planning Statement** and the need case for the Project further detailed in the **Updated Need Case Document (Document 7.4) [APP-205]**, which comprise the following:

- an **urgent need** to reinforce the network in the Yorkshire area by 2027 in order to enable connection of three contracted customers. This will support the production of energy from renewable sources, particularly in terms of being able to connect onshore and additional off-shore wind (an energy target of 50GW by 2030) to the transmission network. The Project will enable The Continental Link, The Atlantic Super Connection and Hornsea Offshore P4, in support of delivering this target;
- the need to ensure future connections of renewable generation can be connected **without incurring significant constraint costs**;

Paragraph 151 of the NPPF acknowledges that many elements of renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development and Very Special Circumstances need to be demonstrated to proceed. Such Very Special Circumstances can include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources. It is acknowledged that this project is intended to support the production of energy from renewable sources.

It would ultimately be incumbent upon the applicant to set out to the ExA what they consider to be their Very Special Circumstances which would outweigh the harm that would be caused to the Green Belt by virtue of the elements which would be regarded to constitute inappropriate development.

CYC note the time sensitive nature of the project in terms of a planned 'go live' date which has been outlined by the applicant. It is also acknowledged that this project forms part of a wider network of similar projects elsewhere in the UK which seek to enhance the resilience of the electricity distribution network and provide the necessary connectivity to bring electricity generated in the rapidly developing off-shore wind farms around the UK to the homes and businesses where it is required. This would assist with general energy security and resilience and could be regarded as constituting a Very Special Circumstance.

**Green Belt Matter****National Grid's Position**

- the requirement to meet **National Grid's transmission licence obligations**;
- a national **climate emergency** which has been declared by the UK Parliament that recognises the need for urgent action to reduce or halt climate change in order to prevent further environmental damage;
- the requirement to meet **Net Zero** which includes moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy for our power, and abandoning vehicles run on petrol and diesel, in favour of those powered by alternative sources including electricity; and
- the **national energy need** which recognises that electricity demand will at least double by 2050 as the UK shifts to clean energy to charge electric vehicles, heat homes and power industry and the need to reinforce the National Electricity Transmission System.

These factors are all considered to be the VSCs that would carry such significant weight to outweigh the limited harm to the Green Belt.

**North Yorkshire Council Position****City of York Council**

The proposals would assist with transitioning the power grid toward utilising a wider range of renewable sources/low carbon sources and to achieving net zero to deliver the aspirations of government in respect of addressing climate change and remove or reduce reliance upon electricity generated from fossil fuels. It is considered that there would clearly be a wide-ranging public benefit to this and this could constitute very special circumstances.

# Appendix A Belt

# Leeds Green Belt and York Green Belt

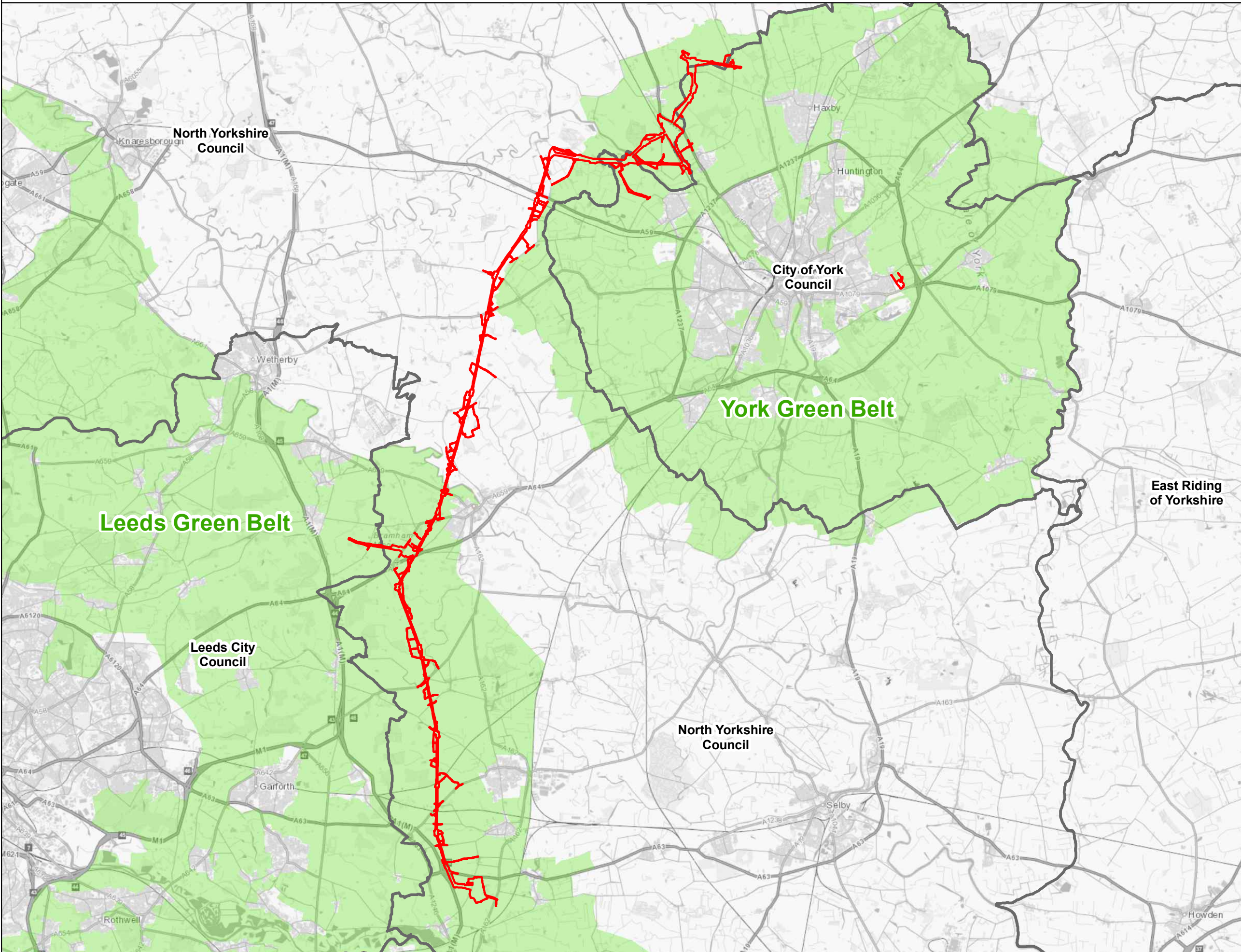




National Grid (Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement Project) Order  
 8.23.4 Applicant's Response to ISH2, CAH1 and ISH3 Hearing Action Points  
 8.23.4-1 Leeds Green Belt and York Green Belt

Legend

- Order Limits
- Local Authority Boundary
- Green Belt

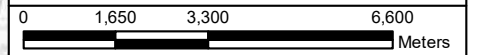


Notes

This drawing is scaled at paper size A3, therefore any prints taken at smaller sizes will affect accuracy of the measurement units and should not be scaled against.



Coordinate System: British National Grid  
 Sheet X Centroid Coordinate: 454,096.79 Sheet Y Centroid Coordinate: 444,448.24



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A	30 May 23		PATEP	DIMMR	CHADC
Issue	Date	Remarks	Drawn	Checked	Approved

Title  
**8.23.4 APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO ISH2, CAH1 AND ISH3 HEARING ACTION POINTS**  
**FIGURE 8.23.4-1**  
**LEEDS GREEN BELT AND YORK GREEN BELT**



Figure Number	FIGURE 8.23.4-1
Drawing Reference	806503-WOOD-0345
Scale	1:135,000
Sheet Size	A3
Sheet	SHEET 1 OF 1
Issue	A



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