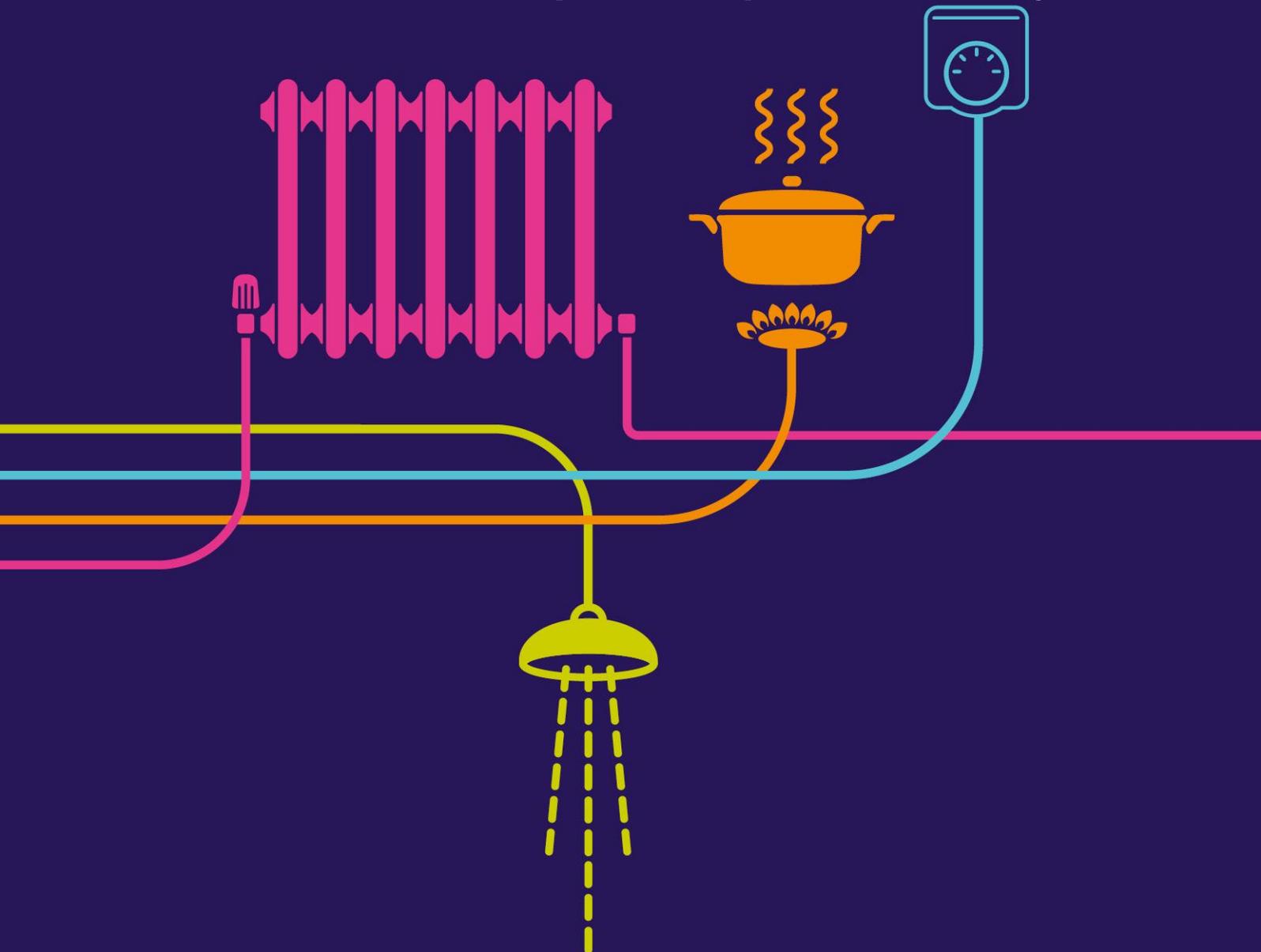


Signed Statement of Common Ground with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project





national**grid**

National Grid Gas

River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project

Statement of Common Ground - Lincolnshire Wildlife
Trust



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Revision Status

Approvals				
	Role	Printed Name	Signed Name	Date
Originated by	Senior Environmental Consultant (Hyder Consulting)	Kate Burrows		17/08/2015
Checked by	Technical Director (Hyder Consulting)	Nicky Hartley		17/08/2015
Approved by				

Revision History				
Date	Rev No.	Summary of Changes	Ref Section	Purpose of Issue
17/08/15	0	First Issue for comment to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust		
08/09/2015	1	Updated following comments from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust		
11/09/2015	2	Updated following further comments from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust		

Distribution	
To:	Elizabeth Biott (Conservation Officer)
cc:	

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Document

1.1.1 This document is a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between National Grid Gas (the Applicant) and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Project (the Scheme).

1.1.2 This SoCG sets out the main areas of agreement and disagreement regarding the application documents between National Grid Gas and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

1.2 Matters Addressed within this Document

1.2.1 Discussions and responses to consultation to date cover the following topics which form the basis of this SoCG:

- Ecology and Nature Conservation.

1.2.2 Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7) has been prepared through consultation with relevant representatives, including Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

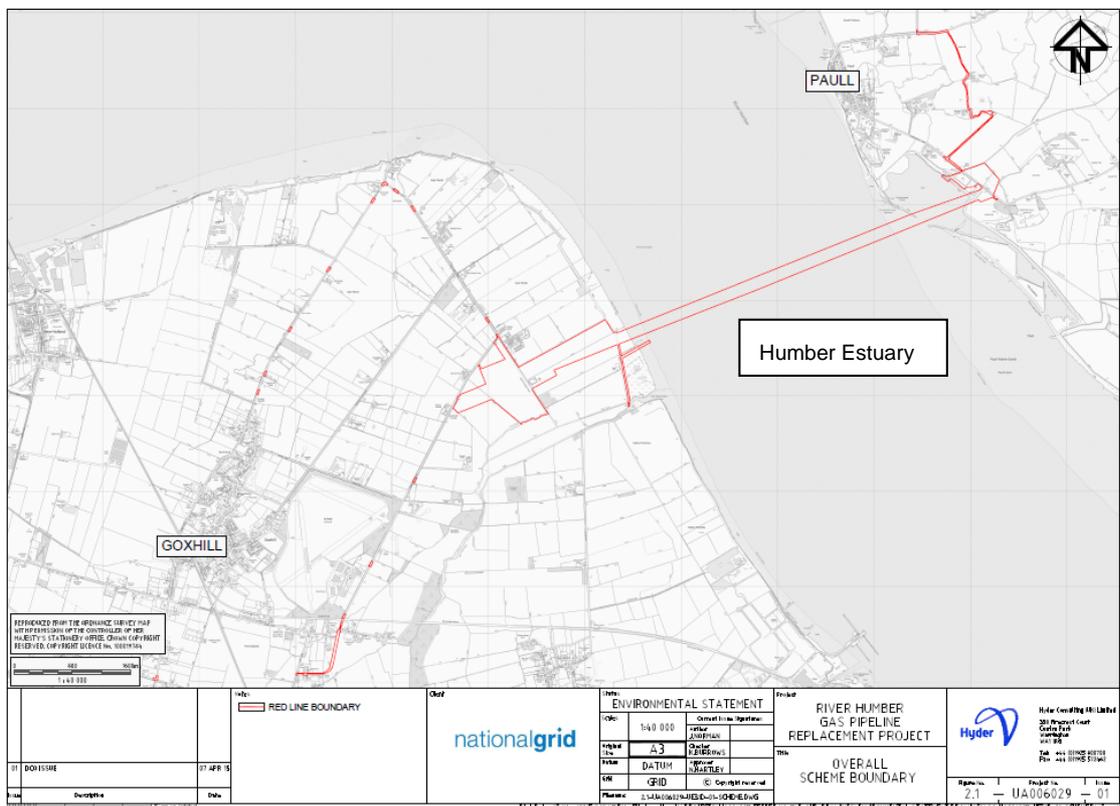
1.2.3 National Grid Gas has aimed to address all the points raised by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Where there has not been agreement, this SoCG sets out the outstanding issues and explains why there has been no current resolution.

1.2.4 This SoCG only addresses issues relating to the south bank of the Humber Estuary, as the north bank is not within the remit of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

2 Scheme Description

- 2.1.1 National Grid Gas is proposing to construct a replacement gas pipeline under the Humber Estuary to ensure the long term security of the Feeder 9 Gas Transmission Pipeline. The river bed cover over the existing No 09 Crossing is currently being eroded by the Humber Estuary. The Feeder 9 pipeline carries a high level of importance within the National Transmission System (NTS) as a strategic pipeline conveying significant volumes of natural gas away from the Easington Importation Terminal south towards the Hatton Compressor Facility.
- 2.1.2 The Scheme would comprise a new high pressure gas pipeline installed within a bored tunnel that would run beneath the Humber Estuary between the existing Above Ground Installation (AGI) at Goxhill on the south bank of the Humber Estuary within North Lincolnshire to the AGI at Paull on the north bank within East Riding of Yorkshire (refer to Figure 1).

Figure 1 Location of the Scheme



- 2.1.3 The total length of the pipeline route would be up to 6 kilometres (km) from the Goxhill AGI to the Paull AGI. The length of the tunnel would be approximately 5.03km based on the provisional drive and reception pit locations with the estuary crossing being 3km. Approximately 120m of new pipeline would be laid onshore at Goxhill from the Goxhill AGI to the start of the tunnelled section and approximately 400m would be laid onshore at Paull to connect the new pipeline into Paull AGI. The bored tunnel would have a minimum internal diameter of 3.65m and a maximum internal diameter of 4m. The pipeline would be laid at a depth of a minimum of 7m below the true bed of the Humber Estuary.

- 2.1.4 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is a voluntary charitable organisation which cares for Lincolnshire's wildlife and countryside. It is one of 47 similar Wildlife Trusts covering the UK which are affiliated to the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.
- 2.1.5 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is one of the oldest of these county trusts, having been founded in 1948. The Trust covers the whole of the historic county of Lincolnshire - from the Humber to the Wash.
- 2.1.6 Their mission is to safeguard wildlife in Lincolnshire and in the neighbouring sea and estuaries by:
- Protecting existing wild places as reservoirs of biodiversity and by restoring and creating wildlife habitats to contribute to healthy functioning ecosystems and an environment more resilient to climate change and other challenges;
 - Sharing this vision with others, particularly relevant decision makers;
 - Encouraging more people to enjoy Lincolnshire's natural environment and to understand the need to conserve it; and by
 - Encouraging research projects which lead to a better understanding of the complexities of the natural world.
- 2.1.7 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust were consulted between September and October 2014.

3 Matters of Agreement

3.1.1 Table 3-1 outlines the matters of agreement between National Grid Gas and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Table 3-1 Matters of Agreement Ecology and Nature Conservation

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
Methodology			
<p>A series of ecological surveys were undertaken between September 2013 and October 2014 including Phase 1 Habitat and protected species walkover surveys, badger bait marking surveys, reptile, water vole, bird surveys, aquatic invertebrates, and aquatic plant surveys. Details of survey methodologies and survey results are presented in Appendix 7.1: Technical Appendix and Appendix 7.2: Potentially Excepted Information. It is noted that appropriate habitat / species surveys using standard methods have been carried out. It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the methodologies adopted to undertake the surveys.</p> <p>The assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 2006). It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the methodology adopted to undertake the assessment presented in Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation.</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p> <p>Appendix 7.1: Technical Appendix and Appendix 7.2: Potentially Excepted Information (DCO Document Reference 6.7.1 and 6.7.2)</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
Baseline Information			
<p>Section 7.4 summarises the existing ecological resources identified during the desk study, consultations and field surveys. Full details of the field survey results and raw data are provided in Appendix 7.1: Technical Appendix and Appendix 7.2: Potentially Excepted Information. The baseline reported in the chapter and associated appendices clearly presents a summary of the existing ecological conditions.</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p> <p>Appendix 7.1: Technical Appendix</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
It is agreed that the baseline presented is appropriate.	and Appendix 7.2: Potentially Excepted Information (DCO Document Reference 6.7.1 and 6.7.2)		
Section 7.6 presents those ecological receptors for which a detailed assessment was not considered a requirement (i.e. they have been 'scoped out'), together with an explanation as to why they were scoped out from the detailed assessment. Receptors scoped out, along with the reason why they were scoped out, are outlined below.	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)		
<p>Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - the Scheme would not give rise to any direct impacts upon the qualifying features of the SAC during the construction phase. In addition, no significant adverse impacts associated with potential pollution pathways are envisaged as a result of the construction phase of the Scheme.</p> <p>It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of this receptor from the detailed assessment. Discussions are ongoing between Natural England and National Grid Gas regarding potential impacts on the SAC. It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust defers to Natural England on matters relating to the SAC.</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed that LWT defers to Natural England on matters relating to the Humber Estuary SAC.
<p>Non-statutory designated sites (including Dawson City Clay-pits Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and Goxhill LWS) - no significant direct or indirect adverse impacts on the habitats for which the sites have been designated are envisaged, although impacts relating to the bird assemblage associated with the sites are considered in the detailed assessment.</p> <p>Further to the above and the relevant representations received,</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>it should be noted that with regard to Deepdale Quarry Road Verges LWS, construction vehicles would not enter grassed verges as the carriageway width is sufficient to accommodate Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) vehicles in both directions. HGVs would be travelling at speed of no more than 40mph, which is lower than the national speed limit, and as this is on a bend, drivers would be notified within the Drivers Pack of the speed restriction (DCO Document Reference 7.2.1, paragraph 13.1.1). Abnormal loads would be traffic-managed which would remove risk to the LWS.</p> <p>It is agreed that scoping out LWSs from the detailed assessment is appropriate</p>			
<p>Terrestrial invertebrates - given the uniform composition and lack of floristic diversity of the agriculturally-improved habitats within the main works area, it is not envisaged that the Scheme would have any significant adverse impacts on the local terrestrial invertebrate assemblages.</p> <p>It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of this receptor from the detailed assessment.</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed
<p>Aquatic invertebrates - none of the waterbodies within the study area were considered suitable to support white-clawed crayfish. Desk study records confirmed the absence of this species from the study area.</p> <p>It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of aquatic invertebrates from the detailed assessment.</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>Protected species - given the results of surveys undertaken, and the lack of desk study records, great crested newts, reptiles, bats, dormice and otters were scoped out of the detailed assessment.</p> <p>It is agreed that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the survey methods carried out to determine the presence / absence, along with the scoping out, of the following protected species from the detailed assessment: great crested newts; reptiles; bats; dormice; and otters.</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed
<p>Brown hare - the study area is likely to support a small population of brown hare. Although the construction works would lead to the loss of habitat suitable for brown hare, given the temporary nature of the works, and the amount of other suitable habitat for this species within the wider area, it is considered unlikely that the Scheme would result in any significant adverse effects on the local brown hare population.</p> <p>It is agreed that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of this receptor from the detailed assessment.</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed
<p>Hedgehog – no incidental sightings were made of this species during any of the 2013/14 surveys, including the dusk and dawn bird surveys. Given that the majority of the construction works would take place in arable fields away from edge habitats, it is considered unlikely that the Scheme would result in any significant adverse effects on the local hedgehog population.</p> <p>It is agreed that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>comments to make on the scoping out of this receptor from the detailed assessment.</p>			
<p>Annex 1 bird species associated with the Special Protection Area (SPA) (including bittern, little tern, hen harrier, knot and avocet) – bittern and little tern were absent during the surveys, and there are few records of these species from other desk study sources for the study area surrounding the application site. No hen harrier were recorded during the 2013/14 survey period. As part of the Humber Estuary Low Tide Programme in 2011/12 (Calbrade, 2013) all records of hen harrier came from the Lincolnshire coast, more than 20km from the Scheme. Only three records of avocet and one record of knot were recorded during the 2013/14 survey period. It is considered unlikely that large numbers of avocet or knot would be present within the study area during the construction phase of the Scheme.</p> <p>It is agreed that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of these receptors from the detailed assessment.</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Schedule 1 bird species including peregrine falcon – although peregrine falcon may use the study area as a suitable foraging resource on an occasional basis; this species requires cliffs and ledges for breeding sites, therefore the habitats within and adjacent to the main works area are unlikely to provide suitable breeding locations. As such, significant adverse effects on peregrine falcons are not predicted as a result of the Scheme.</p> <p>It is agreed that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of these receptors from the detailed assessment.</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>Other notable bird species of nature conservation importance - a number of other notable bird species, including passerines and gulls of nature conservation importance (including a number of species listed on the Red List of the Birds of Conservation Concern and as priority species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006) have been recorded within the study. However, these were considered widespread species that are also associated with the habitats within the surrounding area. Significant adverse effects on such birds are not predicted and so other notable breeding and wintering birds are scoped out of the detailed assessment.</p> <p>It is agreed that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the scoping out of these receptors from the detailed assessment.</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
Environmental Design Measures			
<p>Environmental design measures are considered in Section 7.7 and the Initial CEMP. Environmental design measures include retaining existing hedgerows, providing fencing and bunding, undertaking some works outside the wintering bird period, etc. It is agreed that the measures set out in Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation and the Initial CEMP are appropriate.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing between Natural England and National Grid Gas regarding noise impacts on SPA birds and the mitigation required to ensure that the development would not lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber SPA. It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust defers to Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on matters relating to mitigation for SPA birds.</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p> <p>Table 5.1 and 5.3 of the Initial CEMP (DCO Document Reference 7.3)</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed that LWT defers to Natural England and RSPB on matters relating to mitigation for SPA birds.</p>

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>Badgers - a 30m buffer would be retained around the three setts adjacent to the main works area at Goxhill with the Scheme design potentially being able to accommodate the required distance for the fourth sett. Precautionary mitigation measures would be put in place to safeguard any badgers and their setts during the construction phase of the Scheme. If appropriate, licences would be obtained. The requirement for pre-construction badger surveys would be secured through suitable wording in the DCO.</p> <p>It is agreed that this approach is appropriate.</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed
<p>Water vole surveys were undertaken during May 2014. However, these proved to be inconclusive as the ditches were either dry, or contained too much vegetation to undertake extensive surveys. However, given that the management of the ditch network and surrounding agricultural land it was assumed that water voles are likely to be present within the study area.</p> <p>Pre-construction surveys for water voles within ditches that may be affected by the works would be undertaken prior to the start of the construction phase (these surveys would need to be undertaken in spring 2016 to allow time for a licence to be applied for, should one be required). The requirement for pre-construction water vole surveys would be secured through suitable wording in the DCO.</p> <p>In addition, National Grid Gas would monitor water voles prior to, and during de-watering. Suitable mitigation measures would be put in place should monitoring indicate that the de-watering is leading to adverse impacts on water voles. In addition to mitigation measures for the de-watering exercise, if pre-construction surveys indicate that water voles are present in the</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed that LWT defers to Natural England on matters relating to water vole mitigation.

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>drains to be crossed, mitigation would be put in place that ensures no adverse impacts on individual water voles or the water vole population in the area through fragmentation.</p> <p>National Grid Gas is carrying out additional pump testing to be better able to assess the potential impacts on the local water vole population from dewatering. The results of this assessment will then inform appropriate mitigation to be agreed with Natural England.</p> <p>It is agreed that this approach is suitable and that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust defers to Natural England on matters relating to water vole mitigation.</p>			
Enhancement			
<p>A number of enhancement measures are proposed for Field 26 (at Paull) (c. 2ha), which would provide an overall benefit to local biodiversity, in particular reptiles. The grassland habitat within this field was considered potentially suitable for reptiles (although none were recorded during the reptile surveys undertaken in 2014). During the reinstatement of the site, it is proposed to use low nutrient soil (or place subsoil over the topsoil) to ensure that species-rich grassland can develop. In addition, suitable habitat would be provided in this field suitable for basking, foraging and hibernating reptiles. Open grassland habitat would provide suitable basking opportunities for reptiles; gapping up of the hedgerows and allowing areas of scrub to develop would provide a varied habitat mosaic, to offer reptiles a variety of basking and refuge / hibernation opportunities. In addition, a number of artificial reptile hibernacula would also be constructed within the field. Over time the field would develop a complex structure of grasses and scrub, increasing its value as a resource for other ecological receptors, such as terrestrial</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p>		<p>Refer to Table 4-1 Matters Not Concluded</p>

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>invertebrates, birds and foraging mammals (such as badgers and bats). A barn owl box would also be installed at the edge of the field to provide additional nesting opportunities for the local barn owl population. Materials arising from the construction works would be used to make the barn owl box and to create reptile hibernacula at the site.</p> <p>Where appropriate and subject to landowner's agreement, existing hedgerows within the application site boundary at both Goxhill and Paull would be planted up as part of the reinstatement of the application site. This would comprise gapping up of existing hedgerows with native shrub species, preferably sourced locally. This would provide further habitat enhancements for a range of ecological receptors, including terrestrial invertebrates, bats, amphibians, birds and reptiles. Enhancement measures are proposed in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance. Further to the above, the purpose of the policy in EN-1 is to encourage opportunities to enhance biodiversity, where such opportunities arise as part of the proposed development. Opportunities for enhancement have been taken where possible. The area of permanent land-take above ground for the whole Scheme would be less than 1ha, the area of enhancement would be c.2ha.</p>			
Assessment Findings and Conclusions			
<p>With regards to effects on birds from the Humber Estuary, curlew forms part of the assemblage qualification for Humber Estuary SPA, and are therefore not a qualifying species in its</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Agreed that LWT defers to Natural England and RSPB on matters relating to mitigation</p>

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>own right. Although curlew have been recorded during the survey period, the peak count of 100 curlew represents 0.02% of the SPA assemblage population. Therefore, National Grid Gas does not support the notion that the fields within and adjacent to the construction area hold significant numbers. Although golden plover were recorded Work No.11) (Figure 7.6 of Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)) on five occasions throughout the survey period (i.e. between October 2013 and September 2014), it should also be noted that more than 1% of the SPA population was only recorded on one occasion throughout the winter period (November 1,000 birds). Similarly, more than 1% of the SPA population of black-tailed godwit were only recorded on three occasions throughout the survey period. These birds were recorded within Fields 1 and 4. Surveys undertaken as part of the South Humber Gateway Project found that the majority of sightings of black-tailed godwit were to the north of the Scheme around Goxhill Haven and Dawson City Clay-pits and the foreshore at Goxhill. Based on our survey results and desk study records, it is therefore considered likely that the fields within and adjacent to the construction site are used by golden plover and black-tailed godwit on an occasional basis throughout the winter, as part of a wider foraging and roosting area; however, it is not considered that significant numbers of birds are using these fields on a regular basis.</p> <p>Part of Work No.11 would be left as set aside for the duration of the construction period. This measure was put in place to mitigate for some of the loss of habitat under the footprint of the works. The field would be left as stubble for the duration of the construction works, and would provide an alternative roosting and/or foraging site for birds associated with the SPA. Given</p>	<p>Document Reference 6.7)</p>		<p>for SPA birds.</p>

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
<p>that this field is currently intensively managed, leaving this area as set-aside would enhance the feeding resource for the local over-wintering bird population.</p> <p>It is considered that the Scheme would not be significantly detrimental to the fulfilment of the conservation objectives for the SPA. Nor would the Scheme affect the ability of the populations of SPA species to survive at their current conservation status.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing between Natural England and National Grid Gas regarding noise impacts on SPA birds and the mitigation required to ensure that the development would not lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Special Protection Area (SPA). It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust defers to Natural England and RSPB on matters relating to mitigation for SPA birds.</p>			
<p>The majority of the mitigation measures have already been included in the environmental design (including the retention of the hedges around and within the site, bunding, close board fencing and the lighting design). The likely effects of the Scheme on each of the key ecological receptors (which include: qualifying bird species of the Humber Estuary SPA, Ramsar and SSSI; Schedule 1 species including barn owl; and water voles) have therefore been characterised based on these mitigation measures being in place. The likely effects of the Scheme have been assessed as 'Not Significant' at any geographic level.</p> <p>With the exception of effects on the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA birds and water voles, which are subject to ongoing discussions</p>	Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)	Agreed	Agreed

Matters of Agreement	DCO Document Reference	National Grid Gas in Agreement	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Agreement
with Natural England to ensure that mitigation measures are appropriate, it is agreed that the conclusions reached are appropriate.			
Other			
The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) provides an assessment of in-combination with other plans and schemes. It is agreed that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has no comments to make on the conclusions reached.	Habitats Regulations Assessment (DCO Document Reference 5.4)	Agreed	Agreed

4 Matters Not Concluded

4.1.1 This section covers matters raised and unresolved / un-concluded in respect of each identified DCO submission document / topic discussed. Where there has not been agreement, National Grid Gas and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have been in discussion to address any outstanding issues. This section, therefore sets out the outstanding issues and provides a summary of the discussions held and why there has been no resolution (refer to Table 4-1).

Table 4-1 Matters Not Concluded

Matters Not Concluded	DCO Document Reference	Action and Timescale for Resolution
<p>It is agreed that the enhancement measures will be of benefit to biodiversity. However, given the scale of the development, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust considers that more should be done to enhance biodiversity on the south bank of the Humber Estuary. For example, rather than restoring land to agriculture Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust suggests that alternative options should be considered such as the creation of species-rich grassland or wet grassland which could be of benefit to SPA birds as a roosting site at high tide. An alternative could be to grow crops on the restored land that would benefit SPA birds and implement agri-environment type options that would benefit farmland birds.</p> <p>National Grid Gas considers not only that the scale and nature of the predicted impacts do not warrant such action, but also that the desire of the landowner to farm his land as he wishes should be a key consideration. Furthermore, the proposed reinstatement of the land to its pre-construction state will ensure that the resource that was previously used on an occasional basis by SPA birds would continue to be available to these birds in the longer term, such that enhancement is not necessary (as both farmer and birds would be served by the proposed reinstatement).</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation (DCO Document Reference 6.7)</p>	<p>Agreed to disagree on additional enhancement. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust confirmed they will not be changing their view on the need for additional enhancements.</p>

5 Signed Statement of Common Ground

5.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared by Hyder Consulting on behalf of National Grid Gas and agreed by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Table 5-1 Signatures

Organisation	Name and Title	Signature	Date
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Paul Learoyd Chief Executive		22/09/2015
National Grid Gas	Carl Simms, Consents Officer		07/10/2015

Appendix A



Meeting Minutes

Subject Statement of Common Ground with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Reference
Client National Grid Gas
Meeting date 19.08.15
Time 10am – 11am
Location N/A
Present Liz Turley (LT) – Hyder
 Kate Burrows (KB) – Hyder
 Elizabeth Biott (EB) - Conservation Officer LWT

Item	Comments
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1.	General
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EB happy to defer to Natural England/ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on matters which are currently being discussed with these consultees, such as potential impacts on SPA species (in particular noise associated with the proposed construction works), and water voles.

3.	Enhancement
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LWT are happy with the enhancement measures proposed in the Environmental Statement. However, EB suggested that there could be more that NG could do on the south side of the river (as the majority of the enhancement (Field 26) was located on the northern side).

EB suggested that rather than restoring land to agriculture, National Grid Gas could explore alternative options. This could include the creation of species-rich grassland or wet grassland which could be of benefit to SPA birds as a roosting site at high tide. An alternative could be to grow crops on the restored land that would benefit SPA birds and implement agri-environment type options that would benefit farmland birds.

LT explained that these options could be considered; however, the land was set to be reinstated to its previous state following completion of the works. Therefore, the land which was previously available to birds before the works would continue to be available following completion of the construction phase. This would satisfy both the farmer (who could continue farming as previously) and the SPA species using the fields.