

SUMMARY OF PROJECT EVIDENCE

24 JULY 2026

**THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION (WEST BURTON TO RATCLIFFE-ON-SOAR REFURBISHMENT PROJECT)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2026**

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

LEANNE EVANS
PROJECT DIRECTOR
NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 1.1 My name is Leanne Evans, and I am a Project Director with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ("**NGET**"), specialising in project optioneering, development and project management of major infrastructure projects which includes substation, new overhead power line projects, overhead line replacement and cable replacement projects and refurbishment projects such as the West Burton to Ratcliffe-on-Soar Project (the "**Project**").
- 1.2 There is a compelling need for the Project. NGET has a statutory duty under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission. The existing transmission infrastructure in this area was not designed to accommodate the forecast scale and direction of power flows and, without reinforcement, would increasingly constrain the efficient operation of the national electricity system. The Project is necessary to assist the Government in meeting its legally binding targets to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the various other energy and electricity policy requirements as set out in my evidence.
- 1.3 The Project benefits include:
 - 1.3.1 Increased transmission capacity by uprating approximately 106 kilometres of existing 400kV circuits, allowing greater volumes of electricity to be transferred across the network to meet current and future energy demand.
 - 1.3.2 Reduced network constraints and consumer costs by relieving existing bottlenecks and improving the overall efficiency of the transmission system.
- 1.4 The Project will:
 - 1.4.1 Support Clean Power, Net Zero and energy system decarbonisation objectives by facilitating the connection and operation of renewable energy generation and energy storage projects.
 - 1.4.2 Enable contracted customer connections, including renewable generation, battery energy storage systems and significant demand connections in the High Marnham and Stoke Bardolph areas.
 - 1.4.3 Support wider strategic transmission investment, including the delivery of other Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment schemes such as the Chesterfield to High Marnham project.
 - 1.4.4 Improve reliability and asset resilience through the replacement and refurbishment of ageing infrastructure, reducing operational risk and extending asset life.
- 1.5 These benefits depend on NGET securing the necessary land and rights for the Project's construction and operation.
- 1.6 My evidence discusses the alternatives to the Project that were considered. The options appraisal concluded that Option 1, reconductoring the existing overhead lines with the largest feasible conductor type, should be selected as it meets the technical need, supports future renewable generation, avoids unnecessary new infrastructure and is the most efficient and cost-effective solution for consumers.
- 1.7 NGET is negotiating to acquire the necessary land and rights for the Project, but to ensure timely delivery, it began the compulsory purchase order process alongside these negotiations.
- 1.8 NGET is part of the National Grid group of companies with an excellent track record in delivering infrastructure projects, including refurbishment projects such as the Penwortham to Daines refurbishment project and the West Yorkshire overhead line reconductoring project. Given NGET's strong credit rating, the requisite funding will be available to meet the implementation and land acquisition/compulsory purchase compensation costs associated with the Project as and when required. The Project is funded through National Grid's regulated investment framework under Ofgem's RIIO-ET3 Load Related Re-opener framework.

- 1.9 NGET holds an Electricity Transmission Licence granted by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority and has the powers under section 10 and Schedule 3 of the Electricity Act 1989 to make the Order. NGET has made applications for GEMA consent where required in respect of land belonging to other licence holders.
- 1.10 Contracts have been awarded for design and construction activities for all elements of the Project. Subject to acquiring the necessary land interests, NGET will be in a position to proceed with the delivery of the Project to meet the Project delivery date of Q4 2028.
- 1.11 NGET has responded to each objector individually in writing and remains committed to reaching an agreed position with each objector.
- 1.12 NGET has given consideration to human rights and equalities matters. NGET does not consider that the Project will give rise to any impacts or differential impacts on persons who share a relevant protected characteristic as defined in the Equality Act, and this position is being continually monitored by NGET. The Order is being promoted in the public interest. NGET considers that the Order will strike the right balance between the public interest in the implementation of the Project and those private rights that will be affected by the Order.
- 1.13 As set out in the evidence of Mr Harper (**NGET/DH/1**), NGET has engaged considerably and continues to negotiate voluntary agreements for the acquisition of the land and rights needed. If the Order is confirmed, relevant parties will be compensated in accordance with the Compensation Code as applicable.
- 1.14 Accordingly, I consider that the criteria in the CPO Guidance are satisfied and that there is a compelling case in the public interest for the confirmation of the Order so that the land and rights can be obtained to ensure this important Project goes ahead.

2. **DECLARATION**

I confirm that the opinions expressed in this proof of evidence are my true and professional opinions. I confirm that I have understood and complied with my duty to the Inquiry as an Expert Witness and have provided my evidence impartially and objectively. I confirm that I have no conflicts of interest.

Signed

Leanne Evans

24.07.2026