ENGINEERING EVIDENCE

24 JULY 2026

THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (WEST BURTON TO RATCLIFFE-ON-SOAR REFURBISHMENT PROJECT)

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2026

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

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SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEER (OHL ENGINEERING)

LSTC GROUP

1. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1.1 This is an Engineering Statement prepared by William Kirby of LSTC Group. LSTC joined the West Burton to Ratcliffe on Soar Refurbishment Project (the **"Project"**) in April 2026 to support National Grid in securing the National Grid Electricity Transmission (West Burton to Ratcliffe on Soar Refurbishment Project) Compulsory Purchase Order 2026 (the **"Order"**), providing Engineering advice in relation to the use of the land within the Order (**"Order Land"**) for the Project works and through partaking in discussions with objectors with a view to resolving outstanding issues.

1.2 I am a Senior Design Engineer within the Overhead Line (**"OHL"**) Engineering team at LSTC Group. I joined LSTC Group in January 2021 and have worked on a variety of transmission and distribution projects covering new and existing assets.

1.3 Prior to my current employment at LSTC Group, I obtained a BEng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from the Newcastle University. I initially joined Royal IHC as graduate mechanical engineer, where I gained experience designing offshore pipelaying vessels. I then joined LSTC Group as a graduate OHL engineer and have been promoted twice to my current position of a Senior OHL Design Engineer as of August 2026.

1.4 My specific responsibilities within the Engineering team at LSTC Group involve:

- 1.4.1 Route Design: Undertaking permanent and temporary route optioneering studies to identify the most suitable engineering solutions. Optimisation of alignments using PLS-CADD software.
- 1.4.2 Structural Validation: Assessing steelwork and foundation utilisation to ensure structural integrity and compliance with design requirements.
- 1.4.3 Clearance Assessments and Reporting: Producing clearance reports and verifying compliance with statutory and project-specific requirements.
- 1.4.4 Standards Compliance: Ensuring designs adhere to relevant industry standards, regulations, and client specifications.
- 1.4.5 Alignment Development and Change Control: Providing technical input for route alignment development and supporting the management of design changes through formal change-control processes.
- 1.4.6 Stakeholder Engagement: Working alongside clients and key stakeholders to justify design and land take.
- 1.4.7 Feasibility Studies: Preparing technical feasibility reports.
- 1.4.8 Schedule Production: Developing and maintaining pylon schedules, stringing schedules, and material quantity schedules to support project delivery.

1.5 Projects that I have been involved in are diverse and have given me a wide range of experience (including nationally significant infrastructure projects) across England:

- 1.5.1 Norwich to Tilbury National Grid DCO Front-End Engineering Design (**"FEED"**) – 159km new 400kV connections
- 1.5.2 Grimsby to Walpole National Grid DCO FEED – 145km new 400kV connections
- 1.5.3 Yorkshire GREEN National Grid DCO FEED – 7km new 275kV/400kV & 32km uprating
- 1.5.4 Hogwood Garden Village SSE -– 132kV underground cable section
- 1.5.5 DD79 SSE 132kV Solar Farm point of connection

2. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

2.1 The structure of this statement of evidence is set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

2.2 In broad terms this statement will briefly explain the engineering scope of the Project and focus on the engineering matters raised by objectors.

2.3 This statement of evidence is structured as follows:

2.3.1 Section 3 provides a description of the Project;

2.3.2 Section 4 summarises consideration of remaining objections relevant to my engineering expertise; and

2.3.3 Section 5 sets out the conclusions.

2.4 References in my evidence to the core documents are made by the abbreviation, for example, **"**(**CD, CXX**)**"**. The evidence of other witnesses is referred to by the name of the author.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST BURTON TO RACTLIFFE-ON-SOAR REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

3.1 The Project is as described in the Statement of Evidence of Ms Evans (**NGET/LE/1**).

3.2 Across the sections of the Project a variety of works are proposed as follows:

3.2.1 Where **reconductoring works** are being undertaken, this may include: replacement of all conductors, fittings, insulators and associated pylon furniture; and replacement of existing earthwires, downleads and down droppers.

3.2.2 Where **pylon works** are being undertaken, this may include: steelwork refurbishment and replacement; further refurbishment works including the repair or replacement of the anti-climbing devices and other accessories such as property plates; muffs (concrete caps) and foundation refurbishment; and protection and control settings to be changed where necessary.

3.2.3 Where **maintenance works** are being undertaken, this encompasses asset health inspections including pylon and crossing protection access. Examples of the type of maintenance that would be required to be undertaken include the repairing of existing cables/overhead lines and accessories such as earth tape/property plates.

3.2.4 Where **cable works** are being undertaken, this may include: the construction, laying, placing, retention, operation, protection, maintenance, surveying, testing, repair, replacement, alteration, commissioning, removal and decommissioning of the underground electric cables and associated infrastructure. Extension and replacement of existing cable sealing end compound fencing; new Cable Sealing End terminations and new Gantries; and installation of new switchgear in the form of new Earth switches, surge arrestors and post insulators.

3.2.5 Where **enabling works** are being undertaken, this may include: construction compounds, access, vegetation clearance, utility mitigation and crossing protection equipment, where required for to enable the scope of the site-specific works.

3.3 In terms of the requirement for the Order Land in order to undertake the above works, this is underpinned by engineering input from NGET. NGET has considerable experience in undertaking works of this nature, and that experience has informed the extent of the Order Land. No objector has taken issue with the overall engineering approach to the proposed works and overall land take (in limited instances where issues related to land take at specific properties are raised, this is dealt with in the Statement of Evidence of Mr Harper (**NGET/DH/1**)). The general approach to the Order Land required for the above types of works is set out below.

3.4 The general approach to Order Land required for OHL works is:

3.4.1 **OHL swathe** either side of the conductor centreline, to provide a work area to enable in-line construction and maintenance of conductors with sufficient work area and access for conductors to be lowered to the ground if required. The swathe allowed for within the Order Land is typically 50m to allow for a sufficient access and rights to cover conductors under blown out swung conditions, under a variety of factors including span length and pylon type.

3.4.2 **Pylon work areas,** to allow for all works on the tower and cross-arms to be carried out, as well as space for vehicles, access, plant, equipment, welfare and demarcation of safe zones. These typically involve trackway over all or part of the area, depending on the specific works taking place at a given location. The work areas are typically a 50x50m around the pylon centre and generally sit within the OHL conductor swathe.

3.4.3 **Stringing areas** are typically bow-tie shaped areas to allow stringing of new conductor for each circuit at appropriate angle pylons locations, shown in Figure 1. These areas are designed to allow for the planned and future reconductoring works. At typically two-times pylon height, these increased work areas provide sufficient space for positioning machinery and equipment behind the structures to achieve a safe pulling angle so as to not impose a strong downward force on the crossarms, as illustrated in Figure 2 below. This follows the requirements as set out in TGN (E) 275.

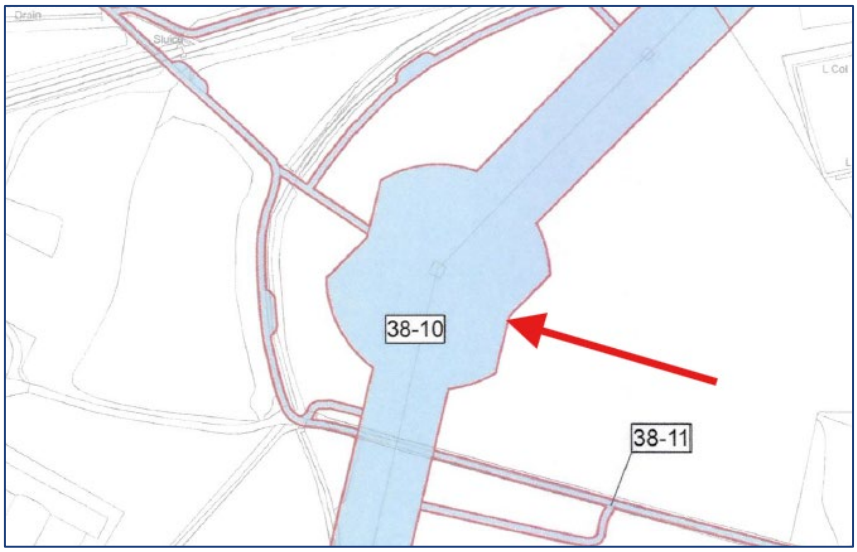

Figure 1 - Example of stringing area allowance in Order Land[1]

Figure 2 - Machinery associated with conductor pulling at stringing areas

3.5 The general approach to the Order Land for underground cable (**"UGC"**) work is:

3.5.1 **UGC Swathe** for the purposes of, or incidental to, the construction, laying, placing, retention, use, operation, protection, maintenance, surveying, testing, repair, renewal, replacement, alteration, commissioning, removal and decommissioning of the underground electric cables and associated

[1] Source- Map referred to in the NGET (West Burton to Ratcliffe on Soar Refurbishment Project) Order 2026, sheet 38

infrastructure. There are UGC swathes allowed for within the Order Land at West Burton substation and Cottam substation.

3.6 The general approach to the Order Land for access is:

3.6.1 **Public highway connection,** typically up to the highway boundary**,** including some sections of public highway where upgrade works are required.

3.6.2 **Access swathes** provide appropriate access to each pylon structure, UGC section and crossing protection work areas. They typically comprise of interlocking panels subject to local ground conditions and requirements. This swathe is typically 5m, allowing for 3m of trackway panel, plus 1m either side for flexibility and obstacle passing safety. A 5m access swathe is suitable for the types of vehicles required for construction and future maintenance.

3.6.3 **Access routes** have been devised using aerial imagery and observations from site visits. Prior to works commencing on site, detailed planning will take place which will include site visits to each pylon/ work location and landowner discussions.

3.6.4 **Passing places** have been allowed for at a width of 10m to ensure safe transit of vehicles along the access routes without potential need for backing up long distances and/or onto the public highway and causing obstruction.

3.7 The general approach to the Order Land for construction compounds is:

3.7.1 **Temporary construction compound sites** to act as the key focal points for deliveries, materials storage, fuel storage, office space, meeting facilities and welfare facilities the Project delivery teams, depending on the nature of the works undertaken. Two compounds have been allowed for within the Order Land.

3.7.2 Main site compounds would typically be 100 m x 100 m and consist of site offices, welfare facilities, parking and laydown areas. Satellite site compounds would typically be 50 m x 50 m and serve as specific working areas to provide local welfare facilities for staff and points for delivery of materials.

3.8 The general approach to the Order Land for crossing protection is:

3.8.1 **Scaffold areas** that may be utilised where the overhead line crosses a road, railway line, utility or navigable watercourse, to protect the crossing during reconductoring or conductor maintenance work. Scaffolding would be placed on either side of the crossed feature with netting between the two structures. Each scaffold would be designed for the individual crossing that it would protect. typically 20 m deep to allow for construction of the scaffolding, stay wires and fencing, offset and parallel to the crossing at a width to protect both circuits, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 - Example of scaffold crossing protection

3.8.2 Temporary road closures would be required to facilitate the erection and dismantling of the scaffold netting across the public highway. Alternative crossing protection methods such as Catenary Support Systems (**"CSS"**) may be undertaken within the Order Land.

3.9 The general approach to the Order Land to provide mitigation or protection for OHL assets is:

3.9.1 **Distribution Network Operator ("DNO") UGC swathe** to allow for the removal of an existing asset and modification works of the remaining assets to enable the cable connection. Only one instance is included within the Order Land specifically at ZDF054 due to the nature of the crossing, proximity to the OHL, electrical clearance and lack of scaffolding area.

3.9.2 All other existing DNO assets located beneath the OHL are expected to be undergrounded by the DNO operator, National Grid Electricity Distribution plc (**"NGED"**), through any necessary consents required for these works and NGED is seeking voluntary agreements to undertake the works and to maintain the asset once it has been diverted. NGED have been contracted under an engineering, procurement and construction (**"EPC"**) arrangement to deliver undergrounding works for their OHL network at intersecting points across the Project. As part of the EPC arrangement, NGET has agreed that NGED will deliver these works to enable NGET to carry out the OHL Works forming part of the Project.

(A) In the event that the proposed undergrounding by NGED is unable to take place (for example due to land rights issues), there is optionality within the Order Land to allow erection of scaffolding or use of CSS to protect the asset during the works.

(B) In the case of ZDF054, if a voluntary agreement cannot be reached between NGED and the landowner for these works and given that no alternative mechanical solution is feasible at this location, NGET has included the freehold land required for these works within the Order limits, to avoid any impediment to the delivery of the Project. As NGET cannot acquire land rights on behalf of another statutory undertaker such as NGED, NGET is seeking freehold acquisition of this area. This approach enables NGET to subsequently transfer the necessary rights to NGED once the freehold land has been acquired.

3.9.3 In the case of ZD027 to ZD031, and the potential ground deployed diversion of Vodafone fibre optic cables at this location, the Order includes rights to divert utilities to avoid any impediment to the delivery of the Project.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REMAINING OBJECTIONS

4.1 At the time of writing this Statement of Evidence, the following objections, that have relevance to the subject matter of this Statement, were not yet resolved. A number of these objectors have an interest in land in connection with existing, proposed or consented development. Where this applies, Table 1 below, identifies the relevant development, and denotes its planning status. These objections are then addressed further below. This Statement does not record the discussions with Objectors as to the interface between projects in detail, as much of the detailed design information shared with NGET as part of these discussions has been provided on a confidential basis.

Table 1: Remaining Objections

Objector ID	Objector	Linked development
OBJ11 (formerly OBJ3 as in the Statement of Case, CD C08,)	Chloe Francesca Gill	Not directly related although linked to Great North Road Solar DCO
OBJ13 (formerly OBJ4 as in the Statement of Case)	Cottam Solar Project Limited	Cottam Solar DCO (consented)
OBJ23 (formerly OBJ6 as in the Statement of Case)	EDF Power Solutions on behalf of Gate Burton Energy Park Limited	Gate Burton Energy Park DCO (consented)
OBJ19 (formerly OBJ7 as in the Statement of Case)	Elements Geen Trent Limited	Great North Road Solar DCO (proposed, not consented)
OBJ9 (formerly OBJ17 as in the Statement of Case)	Renewable Energy Systems Ltd	Steeples Renewable Project DCO (proposed, not consented)
OBJ18	RWE Generation Ltd	S36- Staythorpe Power Station (existing, with proposed retrofit)
OBJ20	Tillbridge Solar Limited	Tillbridge Solar DCO (consented)
OBJ22 (formerly OBJ21 as in the Statement of Case)	Tribus Clean Energy Limited	Trent BESS II (consented - Planning Application)
OBJ14 (formerly OBJ22 as in the Statement of Case)	West Burton Solar Project Limited	West Burton Solar Project DCO (consented)

OBJ11 (formerly OBJ3 as in the Statement of Case) – Chloe Francesca Gill

4.2 The Objector is concerned that the Order could have a serious adverse effect upon the use of the land for the Great North Road Solar Park (**"GNR Solar Park"**).

4.2.1 NGET's position is that the Project is compatible with the GNR Solar Park and NGET is in discussions with the promoters of the GNR Solar Park (Elements Green) in relation to the precise extent of the overlap between the two red line boundaries, the works to be undertaken including approximate programming, with a view to ensuring that any interface is appropriately managed and the projects can co-exist.

4.2.2 Details of the interface between the Project and the GNR Solar Park are outlined in NGET's response to OBJ19 (formerly OBJ7 as in the Statement of Case).

OBJ13 (formerly OBJ4 as in the Statement of Case) – Cottam Solar Project Limited, Cottam Solar DCO

4.3 The Objector is concerned about the potential impact of the Order upon the consented Cottam Solar Project. The Order land overlaps with the Cottam Solar Project red line boundary between the spans of towers ZDA222 and ZDA225, and ZDA226 and ZDA228A. Cottam Solar Project interacts with the following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, UGC swathe, pylon stringing positions & access.

4.3.1 NGET has engaged with the Objector in relation to the overlap of the Order land and Cottam Solar Project's order limits and to discuss the works to be undertaken by both parties in those areas, including the likely timing of such works. NGET is working with the Objector to agree appropriate measures to ensure that the interface between the Order and the Cottam Solar DCO is appropriately managed (including any potentially overlapping onsite works) to allow co-existence, and that any impact upon the Cottam Solar Project is minimised. NGET consider the interactions to be limited, as the NGET works relate to existing assets which have been factored into the design of the Cottam Solar Project, with NGET's asset protection requirements secured via protective provisions within the Cottam Solar DCO.

4.3.2 NGET considers that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation can be agreed through a side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

OBJ23 (formerly OBJ6 as in the Statement of Case) – EDF Power Solutions, Gate Burton Energy Park DCO

4.4 The Objector is concerned regarding the potential impact of the Order on the Gate Burton Energy Park. The Order land overlaps in certain areas with the order limits of the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO. Gate Burton Energy Park interacts with following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, UGC swathe, pylon stringing positions & access.

4.4.1 NGET is engaging with the Objector as to the extent of the overlap between the Order land and the Gate Burton Energy Park's order limits and to discuss the works to be undertaken by both parties in those areas, including likely timing of works in these areas. NGET is working with the Objector with a view to agreeing appropriate measures to ensure that the interface between the Order and the DCO is appropriately managed to allow co-existence (including in relation to the timing of onsite works) and that any impact upon the Gate Burton Energy Park is minimised. NGET anticipates these interactions being limited, as the works relate to existing assets which should have been accounted for in the design of the Gate Burton Energy Park, with NGET's asset protection requirements secured via protective provisions within the DCO.

4.4.2 NGET considers that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation are currently being negotiated.

OBJ19 (formerly OBJ7 as in the Statement of Case) – Elements Green Trent Limited, Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park DCO

4.5 The Objector is concerned about the potential conflict between the Project and the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (as above, **"GNR Solar Park"**). The Order land overlaps in certain areas with the proposed order limits of the GNR Solar Park. The GNR Solar Park interacts with following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, UGC swathe, pylon stringing positions, crossing protection areas & access.

4.5.1 NGET's position is that the Project is compatible with the GNR Solar Park and NGET is engaging with the Objector in relation to the overlap and to discuss the works to be undertaken by both parties, including the likely timing of such works in the area of overlap, with a view to ensuring that any interface is appropriately managed and the projects can co-exist. This includes discussions as to how the parties will cooperate where temporary interactions may arise based on the timings of onsite works for both projects.

4.5.2 NGET's position is that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation can be agreed through a side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

OBJ9 (formerly OBJ17 as in the Statement of Case) – Renewable Energy Systems Ltd, Steeple Renewable Project DCO

4.6 The Objector holds concerns regarding the potential implications of the Order for the Steeples Renewable Project, specifically: (a) a potential reduction in the area available for solar panel development; and (b) adverse impacts from construction traffic, compounds or access tracks within or near the proposed Steeple Renewable Project order limits. Steeple Renewable Project interacts with following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, pylon stringing positions, UGC swathe & access.

4.6.1 NGET is engaging with the Objector in relation to the area of overlap in order to ensure that the interface between the Order and the Steeple Renewables Project is appropriately managed and any impact upon the Steeple Renewables Project is minimised. NGET anticipates these interactions being limited as the works relate to existing assets and is engaging with the Objector to agree appropriate measures to ensure that the interface between the Order and the proposed Steeple Renewable Project DCO is appropriately managed to allow co-existence (including in relation to the timing of onsite works).

4.6.2 NGET's position is that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation can be agreed through a side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

OBJ18 – RWE Generation Ltd, Staythorpe Power Station (existing power station, proposed retrofit)

4.7 The Objector is concerned regarding the potential impact of the Order upon operation and maintenance of Staythorpe Power Station, and in particular the Objector's interest in plot 26-32. The Objector is concerned about the continued ability to access its apparatus at Staythorpe substation. The Objector also raises the potential for multiple interactions at Staythorpe substation arising from the GNR Solar Park.

4.7.1 NGET does not consider that the Project will give rise to serious detriment to the carrying on of the Objector's undertaking. NGET is committed to ensuring that the Objector's access to its apparatus at Staythorpe substation is maintained at all times and is engaging with the Objector to discuss an arrangement which is appropriate to address its concerns.

4.7.2 As recorded above, NGET is working with the relevant Objectors to ensure that the interface between the Order and any other consented schemes in the vicinity of Staythorpe substation, including the GNR Solar, is appropriately managed.

4.7.3 NGET's position is that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation can be agreed through a side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

OBJ20 – Tillbridge Solar Limited, Tillbridge Solar Project DCO

4.8 The Objector is concerned regarding the potential impact of the Order upon the Tillbridge Solar Project. The Order land overlaps, in certain areas, with the order limits of the Tillbridge Solar Project DCO, generally in the area of sheets 5 and 6 of the Order plans, between the spans of towers ZDA222 and ZDA225, and ZDA226 and ZDA228A. Tillbridge Solar DCO interacts with following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, UGC swathe, pylon stringing positions & access.

4.8.1 NGET has engaged with the Objector in relation to the extent of the overlap between the Order land and the DCO order limits and to discuss the works to be undertaken in those areas by both parties (including the potential timing of such works). NGET is working with the Objector to agree appropriate measures to ensure that the interface between the Order and the Tillbridge Solar Project is appropriately managed to allow co-existence and that any impact upon the Tillbridge Solar Project is minimised (this includes cooperation between the parties where temporary interactions may arise based on the timings of the projects). NGET considers these interactions to be limited, as the works relate to existing assets which should have been accounted for in the design of the Tillbridge Solar Project, with NGET's asset protection requirements secured via protective provisions within the DCO.

4.8.2 NGET's position is that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation can be agreed through a side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

OBJ22 (formerly OBJ21 as in the Statement of Case) – Tribus Clean Energy Limited – Trent BESS II

4.9 The Objector raised concerns that the rights sought under the Order are potentially incompatible with the Trent BESS II development, specifically, concerns relate to the safe construction and operation of a BESS facility, and in respect of plot 6-4 and the need to ensure continued safe access to the Torksey Ferry Road Site, as well as concerns that the breadth of the access rights sought could render the Flood Compensation Area Site inaccessible during the construction phase of the flood compensation scheme. Trent BESS II interacts with following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, pylon stringing positions & access.

4.9.1 NGET is engaging with the Objector (Trent BESS II) in relation to the extent of the overlap between the Order land and the Trent BESS II proposals and to discuss the works to be undertaken in that location by both parties (including the potential timing of works and any potential interaction in this respect). NGET is working with the Objector with a view to agreeing appropriate measures to ensure that the interface between the Project and the Objector's proposals is appropriately managed to allow co-existence and that any impact upon the proposals is minimised (this includes cooperation between the parties where temporary interactions may arise based on the timings works for the projects). NGET anticipates these interactions being limited, as the works relate to existing assets which have largely been accounted for in the design of the Trent BESS II scheme.

4.9.2 NGET are of the position both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction will be agreed through a cooperation side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

4.9.3 One aspect of the objection received from the Objector was confidential and is therefore not dealt with in this Statement of Evidence. It is understood that if the objection is not resolved, the Objector will have to disclose the objection in full to

the Inquiry, given the public nature of the process. NGET will comment further on it if that eventuality arises.

OBJ14 (formerly OBJ22 as in the Statement of Case) – West Burton Solar Project Limited, West Burton Solar Project DCO

4.10 The Objector is concerned regarding the potential impact of the Order upon the West Burton Solar Project DCO. The Order land overlaps, in certain areas, with the order limits of the DCO, in the areas shown on sheet 1 of the Order maps, north of tower ZDA211, up to and including Cottam substation and North Road. West Burton Solar Project interacts with the following aspects of the Project; OHL swathe, pylon work area, UGC swathe, pylon stringing positions & access.

4.10.1 NGET is engaging with the Objector in relation to the extent of the overlap between the Order land and the DCO order limits and to discuss the works to be undertaken in those areas by both parties, including likely timing of those works. NGET is working with the Objector with a view to agreeing appropriate measures to ensure that the interface between the Order and the DCO is appropriately managed to allow co-existence and that any impact upon the West Burton Solar Project is minimised (this includes cooperation where temporary interactions may arise due to the timing of works). NGET anticipates these interactions being limited, as the works relate to existing assets which should have been accounted for in the design of the West Burton Solar Project, with NGET's asset protection requirements secured via protective provisions within the DCO.

4.10.2 NGET’s position is that both projects can be compatible and matters of interaction and cooperation can be agreed through a side agreement, which the parties are currently negotiating.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The engineering scope of the Project encompasses reconductoring works, pylon works, maintenance works, cable works and enabling works across the Project sections. The extent of the Order Land is underpinned by NGET's considerable engineering experience in undertaking works of this nature, and the general approach to the Order Land required for each category of works (including OHL swathe, pylon work areas, stringing areas, underground cable swathe, access, construction compounds, crossing protection and asset mitigation) is appropriate and proportionate to enable the safe and efficient delivery of the Project works and future maintenance.

5.2 No objector has taken issue with the overall engineering approach to the proposed works and overall land take. In respect of those objections that raise concerns regarding the interface between the Order and existing, consented or proposed developments, NGET's position is that the Project is compatible with each of those developments. NGET is engaging with the relevant objectors to agree appropriate measures, including through side agreements which are currently being negotiated, to ensure that the interfaces are appropriately managed to allow co-existence and that any impact upon those developments is minimised. The interactions are anticipated to be limited, as the Project works relate to existing assets which have been, or should have been, accounted for in the design of those developments.

5.3 In my professional opinion, the Order Land is required for the purposes of the Project and the engineering approach adopted is appropriate and justified.

6. DECLARATION

This statement of evidence has been prepared and provided for this inquiry. I confirm that the opinions expressed are true and professional opinions.

William Kirby

24.07.2026