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# NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

## Date of Submission

Jan 2026

## Project Reference Number

NGED\_NIA\_086

## Project Registration

### Project Title

GECCO - Geoprint for Energy Club Connections and Operations

### Project Reference Number

NGED\_NIA\_086

### Project Licensee(s)

National Grid Electricity Distribution

### Project Start

February 2026

### Project Duration

1 year and 4 months

### Nominated Project Contact(s)

Rois Smith

### Project Budget

£609,472.00

## Summary

Geoprint for Energy Club Connections and Operations (GECCO) will explore a new type of flexible connection providing a fairer, smarter way for community energy groups to connect. It will develop and test a “Geoprint” approach to identify optimal points for linking local generation and demand collectively reducing connection costs and supporting community energy operations. The project aims to unlock long-term benefits for communities by enabling local balancing, lower bills, and creating a scalable, regulatorily viable connection framework for community-led energy models.

## Third Party Collaborators

Regen

TNEI Services Ltd

Energy Local CIC

Hook Norton Carbon Ltd

## Problem Being Solved

Community energy is seen as a key part of a just net zero transition by key stakeholders including GB Energy, however, it has not reached its full potential because...

1. Community energy groups struggle to connect. They use their limited time and money only to find that a connection is not economically viable due to network constraints.
2. Community energy groups struggle to find long-term financial mechanisms to support their projects. There is an opportunity for more of the economic value from generation projects to be retained locally if modification P441 to the Elexon and Balancing and Settlement Code progresses (enables local energy trading at a complex site).

## Method(s)

The project will seek to develop and test a connection for a ‘Geoprint’ of demand and generation and in doing so will provide new insights into NGED modelling practices as well as how community energy is treated within NGED.

This is achieved by;

- the selection of three community energy groups,
- investigating how a Geoprint connection offer could be applied at these locations,
- considering the regulatory implications and challenges which could be associated with a Geoprint connection available exclusively to community energy groups.
- After a stage gate, the project then considers the practical implications of the Geoprint connection, for example, how it would change the standard connection journey,
- the last investigation within the project considers placing the Geoprint in the context of scenarios including DFES.
- Lastly, the learnings from the project will be disseminated as well as considering the next steps.

### **WP1 – Landscape and Data**

Two community energy case studies will be selected in addition to project partner Hook Norton giving three case studies in total. During WP1, these community groups will be interviewed to understand their development ambitions. This will be used to inform the design of the Geoprint at each location.

Success criteria:

- Initial hypothesis of the cost benefits to a customer and to the grid for a customer connecting a Geoprint.
- Two community energy groups identified and case study analysis completed of them and Hook Norton.
- NGED modelling assumptions and data required for project identified.

### **WP2A – Geoprint Design and Technical Assessment**

At the three case study sites, TNEI will run technical feasibility assessments to develop the connection options which could be given to these community energy groups based on the ambitions identified in WP1.

Success criteria:

- Create the methodology for the Geoprint connection.
- Determine the technical feasibility of the Geoprint Connection.
- Identify improvements for NGED modelling assumptions and opportunities to apply monitoring.
- Determine for each case study, the associated costs of developing their ambition using standard connections or the Geoprint connection.

### **WP2B – Regulatory and Commercial**

This work package will look at the regulatory implications for the Geoprint connection in the context of local energy markets and assess the potential commercial arrangements.

Success criteria:

- Interviews with wider industry to obtain full regulatory landscape across Elexon, DNO's, suppliers, government etc.
- Understand detailed connection policies and implications for new types of connection.
- Develop proposals for regulatory amendments and drive momentum in discussions of change.
- Define commercial models for applying Energy Clubs and accelerating adoption of local energy markets.

### **Stage Gate**

Current progress reflected on and decision made on best next steps and whether to progress to WP3.

Success criteria:

- Justification and clear rationale for decision on Stage Gate.

### **WP3 - Geoprint Connections and Customer Journey Mapping**

At this stage the focus moves to what the Geoprint connection would look like in NGED processes and barriers to BAU including the

processes and training required for planners as well as the experience for customers and community energy groups.

#### Success criteria:

- Develop and document a repeatable methodology for technical and commercial assessment of future Geoprint sites
- Map changes from a standard connection to a Geoprint connection for both NGED staff and customers.

### **WP4 – Next Steps, Planning and Dissemination**

Geoprint tested in the context of long-term energy planning and a roadmap developed as to how NGED can take forward the technical learning points from the project into normal practice.

#### Success criteria:

- Understand how the Geoprint can contribute under different scenarios for specific timeframes, considering distributed flexibility, local balancing, and community energy growth. This will take into consideration other planning scenarios including RESP and DFES.
- Develop a future roadmap on the development of the Geoprint connection
- Project findings, lessons learnt in a cohesive report.
- Dissemination webinar

### **Scope**

GECCO is an NGED innovation project exploring a fairer, smarter way for community energy groups to connect to the network. It will develop and test a “Geoprint” approach to identify optimal points for linking local generation and demand collectively, reducing connection costs and supporting community energy operations. The project aims to unlock long-term benefits for communities by enabling local balancing, lower bills, and creating a scalable, regulatorily viable connection framework for community-led energy models.

This will be achieved by the following approach:

### **WP1 – Landscape and Data**

Two community energy case studies will be selected in addition to project partner Hook Norton giving three case studies in total. During WP1, these community groups will be interviewed to understand their development ambitions. This will be used to inform the design of the Geoprint at each location.

### **WP2A – Geoprint Design and Technical Assessment**

At the three case study sites, TNEI will run technical feasibility assessments to develop the connection options which could be given to these community energy groups based on the ambitions identified in WP1.

### **WP3 - Geoprint Connections and Customer Journey Mapping**

At this stage the focus moves to what the Geoprint connection would look like in NGED processes and barriers to BAU including the processes and training required for planners as well as the experience for customers and community energy groups.

### **WP4 – Next Steps, Planning and Dissemination**

Geoprint tested in the context of long-term energy planning and a roadmap developed as to how NGED can take forward the technical learning points from the project into normal practice.

By addressing the first issue of community energy groups struggling to connect, we will achieve the following...

Network:

- By appreciating that the Energy Club is balancing its generation and demand, we may be able to change the parameters of what an acceptable point of connection is i.e., we can model less conservatively.
- Integrating generation or demand connections into the Energy Local Club Geoprint can reduce need for reinforcement and make connections quicker for community energy groups.
- The learnings from the Geoprint connection will also be taken and applied to further innovation as to how connecting smart local energy systems may support accelerated connections for other customers e.g., industrial clusters.

Community energy benefits:

- Finding the most efficient point of connection means the best possible cost for community energy groups – cost is one of the reasons community energy projects fail.
- Finding the best point of connection by knowing that generation and demand are being matched within the Geoprint radius means that we build a 2km cable rather than 10km – cheaper for the community energy group.

By addressing the second issue of community energy groups struggling with long-term financing, we will achieve the following...

Network:

- Having multiple Energy Local Clubs connected to the network could open new opportunities for flexibility.
- Co-locating generation and demand is best practice in terms of creating an efficient electricity network – the further we have to transport electricity the more losses occur – we have a licence condition to reduce losses. Energy Local Clubs are based on systems of local matching.

Community energy benefits:

- By using generation locally, the cost of energy can be reduced for customers and this can be targeted towards those in fuel poverty.
- Being able to use local energy is the holy grail of community energy – communities want to know that as far as possible they are using the electricity generated by their wind turbine, solar farm etc.

## Objective(s)

- Develop the Geoprint connection methodology.
- Test the Geoprint connection methodology at three case study community energy groups.
- Assess the viability of Geoprint connections for community energy groups from a regulatory and commercial perspective.
- Collect evidence to support regulatory changes (License Conditions 4, 19 and 13 which prevent DNOs from targeting support to community energy groups; Balancing and Settlement Code P441 which prevents settlement at the local level).
- Increase understanding of treatment of losses within local energy markets.
- Increase understanding of HV feeder level voltage management through monitoring and changes to modelling assumptions.
- Improve understanding of how LV monitoring can further help community and local energy projects.
- Evaluate application of the Geoprint connection for different types of customers.

## Consumer Vulnerability Impact Assessment (R110-2 Projects Only)

The ambitions of community energy groups are often closely tied to supporting vulnerable consumers. Community energy often arises from communities seeing a need in their area that is unmet. Community energy projects often focus on education, retrofit and helping consumers understand their energy bills and how they can be reduced. Projects may also focus on providing specific support to those in fuel poverty, providing community funds and offering services that wouldn't be viable outside the scope of community energy.

Project GECCO aims to further the growth of community energy[1] by providing a connection model specifically targeted at community energy groups who wish to form an energy club where they will have a mixture of generation and demand. In the energy club, members agree a 'match tariff' that they get paid when their electricity demand aligns to local electricity generation. A supplier makes up for any mismatch.

Energy Local Clubs have reported up to 30% demand savings for their members. By connecting more generation within the Energy Local Club, it is possible to increase 'matching' and therefore these savings could increase further over time. For example, initial analysis on Energy Local North Oxfordshire's development plans showed a potential for up to 55% demand savings.

## Success Criteria

### WP1 – Landscape and Data

- Initial hypothesis of the cost benefits to a customer and to the grid for a customer connecting a Geoprint.
- Two community energy groups identified and case study analysis completed of them and Hook Norton.
- NGED modelling assumptions and data required for project identified.

### WP2A – Geoprint Design and Technical Assessment

- Create the methodology for the Geoprint connection.
- Determine the technical feasibility of the Geoprint Connection.
- Identify improvements for NGED modelling assumptions and opportunities to apply monitoring.

- Determine for each case study, the associated costs of developing their ambition using standard connections or the Geoprint connection.

## **WP2B – Regulatory and Commercial**

- Interviews with wider industry to obtain full regulatory landscape across Elexon, DNO's, suppliers, government etc.
- Understand detailed connection policies and implications for new types of connection.
- Develop proposals for regulatory amendments and drive momentum in discussions of change.
- Define commercial models for applying Energy Clubs and accelerating adoption of local energy markets.

## **Stage Gate**

- Justification and clear rationale for decision on Stage Gate.

## **WP3 - Geoprint Connections and Customer Journey Mapping**

- Develop and document a repeatable methodology for technical and commercial assessment of future Geoprint sites
- Map changes from a standard connection to a Geoprint connection for both NGED staff and customers.

## **WP4 – Next Steps, Planning and Dissemination**

- Understand how the Geoprint can contribute under different scenarios for specific timeframes, considering distributed flexibility, local balancing, and community energy growth.
- Develop a future roadmap on the development of the Geoprint connection
- Project findings, lessons learnt in a cohesive report.
- Dissemination webinar

## **Project Partners and External Funding**

### **National Grid as the lead partner will**

- Coordinate the project and ensure delivery is to the objectives specified in this outline.
- Provide relevant data and information regarding current practices.
- Facilitate access to relevant internal stakeholders.
- Support the transition from innovation to a BAU process.
- Manage adhoc requests

### **TNEI will**

- Lead the technical vision and guide what is and isn't possible.
- Create the technical design and processes associated with the Geoprint connection to create a replicable methodology which could be used by NGED planners.
- Lead the development of the Geoprint connection from innovation to a BAU process.
- Support other project partners in providing additional knowledge and guidance relating to technical and regulatory/commercial.

### **Regen will**

- Input into strategic vision as to how the Geoprint connection may be used and the impact that it can have in the community energy space.
- Bring their expertise and relationships within the local energy and community energy spaces.
- Manage relationships with key partners like Hook Norton and Energy Local through formal contracts.
- Lead the regulatory and commercial review and outline the recommendations which will enable the Geoprint connection to be viable.
- Lead workshops/interviews and lead the compilation of work packages across partners.

### **Energy Local will**

- Act as the principal framework for which we explore how the Geoprint connection could operate.
- Provide data, expertise and contacts.
- Feed into both technical and regulatory pieces based on the experience of Energy Local in setting up and operating Energy Local Clubs.

### **Hook Norton will**

- Act as the principal community energy and Energy Local Club case study for developing the Geoprint connection methodology.
- Provide data, thought leadership and guidance on the operation of its Energy Local Club and the operation of complex sites.

## Potential for New Learning

During the course of the project, we will answer the following questions:

- Is the Geoprint connection technically feasible and what is required in terms of back-up protection for network assets if the expected balance of demand and generation does not occur?
- What are the regulatory and commercial implications for a Geoprint connection?
- What regulatory and landscape changes are required to support community energy more widely?
- Would this connection type support community energy groups in their development and support a wider proliferation of local energy markets?
- Are there improvements that can be made to our HV modelling and by changing our planning assumptions can we unlock greater capacity?
- How can we optimise our use of LV monitoring and use data and monitoring to support community energy groups and local energy markets?
- What are the implications for increasing the number of complex sites connecting to the network?
- What are the opportunities for connecting smart local energy systems outside of community energy groups?

The following learning dissemination is scheduled into the project's activities:

WP2A – internal dissemination to collect feedback from planners, DSO and Connection Policy teams

WP2B – external dissemination to collect feedback from community energy groups and partners

WP4 – project dissemination webinar to cover findings, learnings and next steps from across the project

NGED also hosts four community events every year across each of our license areas and GECCO is likely to be presented at least one of these depending on the locations of the community energy groups that are selected as case studies.

## Scale of Project

The project includes analysis of three sites within the NGED licence areas to investigate, in detail, the process of providing a Geoprint connection. Community energy group connections are a small proportion of new connections and therefore the three test sites are considered sufficient and proportionate to understand the implications of the new connection type.

By 2030, we estimate that the Geoprint connection methodology could achieve an annual NGED flexibility vs reinforcement benefit of £800,000. Likewise for the local economy we estimate an annual NGED benefit of £8.3 million which comes from the additional money the generator gets and the discount that Energy Club members get from matching local generation and demand. Even with the cost of implementing this into the business, our estimates show a potential £9 million annual benefit from combined flexibility and local economy value. If the Geoprint connection methodology were to be applied nationally, these numbers could be extrapolated to show the significant value across DNOs.

## Technology Readiness at Start

TRL2 Invention and Research

## Technology Readiness at End

TRL5 Pilot Scale

## Geographical Area

The project will take place across NGED license areas. During WP1, project partners will develop selection criteria for choosing two further case study sites in addition to pre-selected case study site and project partner Hook Norton. The ambition will be to select community energy groups which may be at different stages of their development as well as those which have different settings and network topographies. Hook Norton is in NGED's West Midlands region and due to historical differences, at least one of the community energy groups selected is likely to be in either the South Wales or South West where planning practices may be slightly different.

## Revenue Allowed for the RIIO Settlement

NA

## Indicative Total NIA Project Expenditure

### Total Project Cost

£ 609,472

### NGED DNO Contribution

£60,947

### Funding from NIA

£548,524

## Project Eligibility Assessment Part 1

There are slightly differing requirements for RIIO-1 and RIIO-2 NIA projects. This is noted in each case, with the requirement numbers listed for both where they differ (shown as RIIO-2 / RIIO-1).

### Requirement 1

Facilitate the energy system transition and/or benefit consumers in vulnerable situations (Please complete sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 for RIIO-2 projects only)

Please answer **at least one** of the following:

#### How the Project has the potential to facilitate the energy system transition:

Under the Local Power Plan, the creation of GB Energy and the ambition for 8GW of generation to be locally owned by 2030, community energy has grown in stature. Community energy, where the local community are happy, involved and benefitted, can offer support for the energy system transition through:

1. Educating and raising public support
2. Alleviating fuel poverty
3. Creating community funds
4. Developing local energy markets
5. Offering unique solutions to net zero.

NGED wants to support the growth of community energy but recognises that for community energy groups getting connected and being able to show a long-term financial model are both key barriers to a mass increase in community energy.

By targeting support at a new type of connection, this project supports the growth of community and local energy but also promotes energy being generated and used locally, taking pressure off the grid and making for a more efficient network.

This feeds into a bigger vision for the DSO in which the network is able to draw upon pools of consumer flexibility, for example in the form of energy clubs.

#### How the Project has potential to benefit consumer in vulnerable situations:

The ambitions of community energy groups are often closely tied to supporting vulnerable consumers. Community energy often arises from communities seeing a need in their area that is unmet. Community energy projects often focus on education, retrofit and helping consumers understand their energy bills and how they can be reduced. Projects may also focus on providing specific support to those in fuel poverty, providing community funds and offering services that wouldn't be viable outside the scope of community energy.

Project GECCO aims to further the growth of community energy<sup>[1]</sup> by providing a connection model specifically targeted at community energy groups who wish to form an energy club where they will have a mixture of generation and demand. In the energy club, members agree a 'match tariff' that they get paid when their electricity demand aligns to local electricity generation. A supplier makes up for any mismatch.

Within NGED's license area, those within an energy club could achieve up to a 55% average annual saving on their household electricity bill (based on North Oxfordshire Energy Local Club).

### Requirement 2 / 2b

Has the potential to deliver net benefits to consumers

Project must have the potential to deliver a Solution that delivers a net benefit to consumers of the Gas Transporter and/or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution licensee, as the context requires. This could include delivering a Solution at a lower cost than the most efficient Method currently in use on the GB Gas Transportation System, the Gas Transporter's and/or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution licensee's network, or wider benefits, such as social or environmental.

#### Please provide an estimate of the saving if the Problem is solved (RIIO-1 projects only)

N/A - RIIO2 project

## **Please provide a calculation of the expected benefits the Solution**

By 2030, within NGED license areas, we expect that community orientated local energy markets like the framework developed by Energy Local could provide up to £800,000 per annum in flexibility benefit along with £8.3 million per annum in local economy benefit. This doesn't account for additional benefits that we'd expect from reduced losses.

### **CALCULATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

#### **FLEXIBILITY BENEFITS**

The flexibility benefits to NGED have been calculated based on the information and assumptions below:

- NGED's Multi Asset Demand Execute (MADE) project found that the value of distributed flexibility across the distribution networks by 2030 could be worth £650 million per annum in annualised reinforcement cost. In NGED's license areas this number was estimated to be between £122 and £157 million each year.
- There are currently 106 community energy groups within NGED's license areas.
- Hook Norton plan to grow their energy club Energy Local North Oxfordshire to approximately 1000 households and businesses by 2030.
- There are approximately 8 million households/businesses in NGED license areas.

Estimated number of households/businesses operating as a part of a local energy model by 2030

$$= 106 * 1000$$

$$= 106,000$$

Percentage of households/businesses operating as part of a local energy model by 2030

$$= 106,000 / 8,000,000$$

$$= 1.3\%$$

Potential value to NGED of distributed flexibility from houses/businesses operating as part of a local energy model per annum by 2030 in NGED license areas

$$= £122,000,000 - £157,000,000 * 0.013$$

$$= £1.6 \text{ million} - £2 \text{ million}$$

Value to NGED of distributed flexibility from houses/businesses operating as part of a local energy model per annum by 2030 in NGED license areas which recognises that the local energy market will already be incentivised to match demand and generation through the Energy Club price signal and that therefore flex benefit may be limited.

Using Hook Norton's modelling where in the 2030 scenario, they are matching up to 60% of their demand with the local generation, we can assume that the maximum flexibility available is 40%.

$$= £1.6 \text{ million} - £2 \text{ million} * 0.4$$

$$= £640,000 - £800,000 \text{ grid flexibility benefit per annum in NGED license areas}$$

#### **LOCAL ECONOMY BENEFITS**

The benefits to the local area have been calculated based on the information and assumptions below:

By 2026, Hook Norton is forecasting 44% generation-demand matching with £43,270 saved for customers through lower bills and £35,030 in additional revenue for local generators. Combined this brings the direct local value of the Club to £78,300.

There are currently 106 community energy groups within NGED's license areas.

Value to local economy of distributed flexibility from houses/businesses operating as part of a local energy model per annum by 2030 in NGED license areas

$$= £78,300 * 106$$

= £8.3 million local economy benefit per annum in NGED license areas

## **Please provide an estimate of how replicable the Method is across GB**

By 2030, across the UK, we expect that community orientated local energy markets like the framework developed by Energy Local could provide up to £2 million per annum in flexibility benefit along with £48 million per annum in local economy benefit.

### **CALCULATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

#### **FLEXIBILITY BENEFITS**

The flexibility benefits to NGED have been calculated based on the information and assumptions below:

- NGED's Multi Asset Demand Execute (MADE) project found that the value of distributed flexibility across the distribution networks by 2030 could be worth £650 million per annum in annualised reinforcement cost.
- There are currently 614 community energy organisations in the UK (according to the Community Energy England 2025 Report)
- Hook Norton plan to grow their energy club Energy Local North Oxfordshire to approximately 1000 households and businesses by 2030.
- The UK population will surpass 70 million people in 2026 according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Following the same logic as above,

Estimated number of households/businesses operating as a part of a local energy model by 2030

$$= 614 * 1000$$

$$= 614,000$$

Percentage of households/businesses operating as part of a local energy model by 2030

$$= 614,000 / 70,000,000$$

$$= 0.8\%$$

Potential value to NGED of distributed flexibility from houses/businesses operating as part of a local energy model per annum by 2030 in NGED license areas

$$= £650,000,000 * 0.008$$

$$= £5.2 \text{ million}$$

Value to NGED of distributed flexibility from houses/businesses operating as part of a local energy model per annum by 2030 in NGED license areas which recognises that the local energy market will already be incentivised to match demand and generation through the Energy Club price signal and that therefore flex benefit may be limited.

Using Hook Norton's modelling where in the 2030 scenario, they are matching up to 60% of their demand with the local generation, we can assume that the maximum flexibility available is 40%.

$$= £5.2 \text{ million} * 0.4$$

$$= £2 \text{ million grid flexibility benefit per annum across the UK}$$

#### **LOCAL ECONOMY BENEFITS**

The benefits to the local area have been calculated based on the information and assumptions below:

By 2026, Hook Norton is forecasting 44% generation-demand matching with £43,270 saved for customers through lower bills and £35,030 in additional revenue for local generators. Combined this brings the direct local value of the Club to £78,300.

There are currently 614 community energy organisations in the UK (according to the Community Energy England 2025 Report).

Value to local economy of distributed flexibility from houses/businesses operating as part of a local energy model per annum by 2030 in NGED license areas

= £78,300 \* 614

= £48 million local economy benefit per annum across the UK

### **Please provide an outline of the costs of rolling out the Method across GB.**

The annual cost of rolling out the Geopoint connection by 2030 in NGED License Areas was estimated to be £223,264, a cost primarily connected to salaries. The cost of rollout across the UK would therefore vary by DNO and be dependent on the individual DNO approach and structure.

### **Requirement 3 / 1**

Involve Research, Development or Demonstration

A RIIO-1 NIA Project must have the potential to have a Direct Impact on a Network Licensee's network or the operations of the System Operator and involve the Research, Development, or Demonstration of at least one of the following (please tick which applies):

- A specific piece of new (i.e. unproven in GB, or where a method has been trialled outside GB the Network Licensee must justify repeating it as part of a project) equipment (including control and communications system software).
- A specific novel arrangement or application of existing licensee equipment (including control and/or communications systems and/or software)
- A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the Network Licensee's system
- A specific novel commercial arrangement

RIIO-2 Projects

- A specific piece of new equipment (including monitoring, control and communications systems and software)
- A specific piece of new technology (including analysis and modelling systems or software), in relation to which the Method is unproven
- A new methodology (including the identification of specific new procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyse information)
- A specific novel arrangement or application of existing gas transportation, electricity transmission or electricity distribution equipment, technology or methodology
- A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the GB Gas Transportation System, electricity transmission or electricity distribution
- A specific novel commercial arrangement

### **Specific Requirements 4 / 2a**

#### **Please explain how the learning that will be generated could be used by the relevant Network Licensees**

The learning generated in this project will be relevant to all DNOs as it focuses on designing a new type of flexible connection to support community energy groups and will require regulatory and policy changes if it is to achieve its full potential.

#### **Or, please describe what specific challenge identified in the Network Licensee's innovation strategy that is being addressed by the project (RIIO-1 only)**

N/A - RIIO2 project

#### **Is the default IPR position being applied?**

- Yes

### **Project Eligibility Assessment Part 2**

#### **Not lead to unnecessary duplication**

A Project must not lead to unnecessary duplication of any other Project, including but not limited to IFI, LCNF, NIA, NIC or SIF projects already registered, being carried out or completed.

**Please demonstrate below that no unnecessary duplication will occur as a result of the Project.**

As part of the project's development, we have assessed previous NIA and SIF projects to ensure that there is no duplication across previous projects. Whilst previous projects have shown the potential value that local energy can bring to flexibility, there hasn't been a project that looks at how a flexible connection targeted at community energy groups could accelerate the number of community energy projects on the network.

### **If applicable, justify why you are undertaking a Project similar to those being carried out by any other Network Licensees.**

NA

## **Additional Governance And Document Upload**

### **Please identify why the project is innovative and has not been tried before**

This is a novel combination of:

- A new connection approach (Geoprint) that maps optimal points for collective connection
- Regulatory exploration to enable differentiated treatment for community energy
- A customer-centric approach for a connection process tailored to smart local energy systems

This goes beyond business-as-usual connection processes or current regulatory frameworks

### **Relevant Foreground IPR**

All deliverable reports and products produced during the project delivery. This includes the D1.1 Landscape Report, D1.2 Data Bank, D2A.1 Geoprint Technical Feasibility, D2A.2 Power System Model, DA2.3 BAU-Geoprint comparison report, D2B.1 Regulatory and Commercial report, D3.1 Geoprint Connection Journey, D3.2 Rollout Programme, D3.3 Customer Guide and Comms Plan, D4.1 Final report.

### **Data Access Details**

Data will be made available where it does not impact GDPR and where it isn't sensitive for the network.

### **Please identify why the Network Licensees will not fund the project as apart of it's business and usual activities**

Whilst the Geoprint connection would change our internal processes if successful in transitioning to business as usual, this project is external facing working with suppliers, governing stakeholders and community energy groups. There is uncertainty about whether it is possible to offer a connection service specifically to community energy groups and whether the Geoprint connection is a feasible offering by the networks. It would therefore be deemed of too high a risk to invest in as part of business as usual as it requires significant exploratory work including policy change before it could be offered as standard.

### **Please identify why the project can only be undertaken with the support of the NIA, including reference to the specific risks(e.g. commercial, technical, operational or regulatory) associated with the project**

The NIA represents the best choice for funding as GECCO is creating a flexible connection product that we want to be able to implement into our business and that we as NGED therefore need to have significant influence in creating. However, it also requires that we engage with a broad range of external stakeholders – NIA offers the best balance between flexibility to create a product that will work for DNOs whilst also engaging externally to drive regulatory and policy change and to support greater penetration of community energy projects.

### **This project has been approved by a senior member of staff**

Yes