Notes on Completion: Please refer to the appropriate NIA Governance Document to assist in the completion of this form. The full completed submission should not exceed 6 pages in total.

NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

Date of Submission

Oct 2026

Project Reference Number

NIA3_NGET0009

Project Registration

Project Title

Working with landowners to reinstate differently

Project Reference Number

NIA3_NGET0009

Project Licensee(s)

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Project Start

November 2026

Project Duration

0 years and 10 months

Nominated Project Contact(s)

Muhammad Shaban
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Project Budget

£249,583.00

Summary

NGET's Strategic Infrastructure programme creates temporary land take during major construction works. Current reinstatement generally returns affected land to its original condition, but this can miss opportunities to deliver wider biodiversity, natural-capital, ecosystem-service and societal benefits. Internal studies identified a shortlist of potential interventions. This project will develop these into 4–5 practical intervention bundles and establish how enhanced reinstatement could be implemented consistently across future NGET SI projects. The project will assess implementation costs and ecosystem-service benefits, planning and legal requirements, landowner engagement, governance, delivery arrangements and potential consumer-value mechanisms. It will produce a technical note, pilot delivery framework and external resource pack to support future implementation and scaling.

Third Party Collaborators

Ardent, The Wildlife Trusts, Langham Estate

Nominated Contact Email Address(es)

box.NG.ETInnovation@nationalgrid.com

Problem Being Solved

NGET's current reinstatement approach generally focuses on returning land affected by construction to its original condition. Although this satisfies contractual requirements, it does not necessarily maximise the wider environmental and societal value that could be generated during reinstatement. Internal studies identified potential interventions capable of delivering biodiversity uplift, natural-capital enhancement and wider environmental benefits. However, internal studies were exploratory and did not establish the practical requirements for implementation.

Key unresolved issues include intervention costs, ecosystem-service benefits, landowner appetite, planning and legal constraints, land

access, governance, funding opportunities, long-term management, assurance and integration with NGET's existing delivery processes. Without a practical framework, enhanced reinstatement could create additional operational, legal, financial or commercial risks or fail to achieve sufficient landowner participation. This study therefore seeks to establish a repeatable and scalable approach that balances environmental benefits with operational requirements, consumer value, landowner interests and programme certainty.

Method(s)

The project will be delivered through 5 different work packages mentioned below:

Intervention Catalogue & Bundling (WP1): Refining options into 4–5 practical bundles suited for typical SI environments.
Cost & Ecosystem Service Assessment (WP2): Benchmarking enhanced reinstatement vs. baseline costs and applying Defra ENCA (Enabling a Natural Capital Approach) principles to calculate natural capital value.
Planning, Legal & Governance Review (WP3): Evaluating RIIO funding alignment, third-party land access contracts and BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) double-funding risks.
Stakeholder Engagement & Pilot Framework (WP4): Workshop testing with NGET internal teams, land agents (Ardent), Wildlife Trusts and key landholders (Langham Estate).
Reporting & Toolkit (WP5): Technical Note and External Resource Pack for field implementation.

Scope

The project will be delivered through 5 different work packages mentioned below:

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Planning, Legal & Governance Review (WP3): Evaluating RIIO funding alignment, third-party land access contracts and BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) double-funding risks.
Stakeholder Engagement & Pilot Framework (WP4): Workshop testing with NGET internal teams, land agents (Ardent), Wildlife Trusts and key landholders (Langham Estate).
Reporting & Toolkit (WP5): Technical Note and External Resource Pack for field implementation.

Objective(s)

A. Refine the intervention shortlist identified internally into a set of clearly defined and practical intervention bundles that can be applied consistently across NGET Strategic Infrastructure projects, taking account of implementation opportunities, constraints, landowner considerations and different project contexts.
B. Assess the indicative implementation costs and potential ecosystem service benefits associated with the proposed intervention bundles, enabling comparison with traditional reinstatement approaches and providing an evidence base to inform future NGET decision-making.
C. Identify and assess the planning, legal, regulatory, contractual, financial, tax, liability and governance requirements associated with enhanced reinstatement, including considerations relating to land access, voluntary agreements, Biodiversity Net Gain and wider environmental delivery mechanisms.
D. Engage with NGET teams, landowners, land agents, environmental organisations, potential delivery partners and relevant industry stakeholders to test and refine the proposed intervention bundles, understand landowner appetite and identify practical delivery opportunities, constraints and conditions for long-term implementation.
E. Develop a practical pilot delivery framework and associated resource pack defining stakeholder roles, responsibilities, decision points, implementation pathways and engagement resources required to support future delivery of enhanced reinstatement interventions.
F. Identify a proportionate and scalable approach for applying enhanced reinstatement across future NGET Strategic Infrastructure projects and provide recommendations for wider rollout, including key conditions, dependencies, risks and enabling actions.

Consumer Vulnerability Impact Assessment

The project does not specifically target vulnerable consumers and therefore no direct vulnerable consumer benefit should be claimed. Potential consumer benefits are indirect and arise through improved programme efficiency, reduced dispute and commercial risk, potential reductions in reinstatement costs and improved long-term decision making. Environmental and ecosystem service improvements may also provide wider societal value, although the extent of these benefits will depend on subsequent implementation of the intervention bundles. The study will specifically test the credibility of the proposed consumer value logic chain and identify the evidence needed to support it.

Success Criteria

The project will be successful if:
4-5 intervention bundles produced.
Minimum 3 landowner engagement activities completed.
Minimum 6 stakeholder workshops completed.
Delivery framework completed and approved.
Cost-benefit methodology established.
Consumer-value mechanism documented.
These outcomes directly reflect the proposed objectives and deliverables.

Project Partners and External Funding

AtkinsRéalis will deliver the majority of the work in collaboration with NGET. NGET will lead the planning, legal and governance work package, with AtkinsRéalis providing support as required. Potential organisations identified include Wildlife Trust, Ardent and Langham Estate. The project is proposed as a NIA innovation activity. No additional external funding source is identified.

Potential for New Learning

Learning will cover:
Landowner motivations and participation
Intervention suitability
Intervention costs
Ecosystem service benefits
Planning and legal constraints
Land access and voluntary agreements
Governance

Funding mechanisms
Stakeholder roles
Delivery pathways
Monitoring and assurance
Long-term stewardship
Consumer value mechanisms.

The learning will enable NGET to move from an exploratory concept (internal studies) towards a structured framework that can inform future SI projects.

Dissemination and adoption of learning: In addition to generating evidence, the project will include a structured dissemination approach to ensure that learning is accessible and capable of being adopted by National Grid, other Network Licensees, regulators and environmental stakeholders. Outputs will also be made publicly available through established NIA dissemination routes. To maximise impact across the sector, project findings will be disseminated through National Grid's innovation channels, NIA annual and completion reports, technical workshops, conference presentations and the ENA Smarter Networks Portal.

Scale of Project

The project is intended to develop a scalable approach that can be applied across future NGET Strategic Infrastructure (SI) projects throughout Great Britain. The work will assess a range of enhanced land reinstatement interventions and develop practical implementation, cost, governance and stakeholder-engagement approaches that can be replicated across different projects and locations. The initial work is a feasibility and development study rather than a live network-wide deployment.

Technology Readiness at Start

TRL3 Proof of Concept

Technology Readiness at End

TRL4 Bench Scale Research

Geographical Area

Great Britain, with initial application to National Grid Electricity Transmission Strategic Infrastructure projects. The project is a desktop feasibility/evidence study. There are no physical trials, laboratory testing, prototype manufacture or testing at a substation in scope.

Revenue Allowed for the RIIO Settlement

No funding allowed within the RIIO-3 settlement is currently expected to become surplus to requirements as a result of this project. The value is therefore assessed as £0.

Indicative Total NIA Project Expenditure

ndicative Total NIA Expenditure: £249,583 (90% NIA contribution = £224,625), comprising supplier delivery, NGET internal and indirect costs, and the approved contingency. Project expenditure will be managed by stage and reported at Work Package level.
Work Package 0 - Project Management: £16,723.99
Work package 1 – Intervention Catalogue and Bundles: £11,357.17
Work Package 2 – Cost and Ecosystem Service Assessment: £10,792.29
Work package 3 – Planning, Legal and Governance Review: £1,524.88
Work package 4 – Stakeholder Engagement and Delivery Framework: £29,998.68
Work package 5 – Reporting: £34,850.97
Workshop Expenses – £1,785.00
Subconsultants (Ardent and Wilflife Trust x2) – £42,550.00
Total Supplier Costs: £149,583 (Atkins)

Legal costs: £20,000
Langham Hall Estate: £5,000
Internal Costs: £25,000
Indirect Costs (Int & Ext): £33,000
Contingency funding requested: £17,000
Total Project Cost: (4+5+6+7) **£249,583**

The project has multiple partners and stakeholders involved hence the contingency is reserved in case a scope for a partner is enhanced at a later stage due to initial findings.

Project Eligibility Assessment Part 1

Requirement 1

Facilitate the energy system transition and/or benefit consumers in vulnerable situations

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

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

NGET's ability to deliver accelerated transmission infrastructure required for electrification and net zero depends on securing land access, maintaining stakeholder support and reducing consenting and delivery risks. Enhanced reinstatement may improve landowner acceptance of future infrastructure projects and therefore support delivery of the wider energy transition.

The project supports the energy system transition indirectly by improving the environmental and societal performance of the infrastructure required to deliver the UK's future electricity network. NGET's Strategic Infrastructure programme is supporting significant network development. The project seeks to ensure that temporary land impacts associated with this infrastructure can be managed in a way that generates wider environmental and societal benefits while maintaining operational requirements and consumer value. The project therefore supports the transition through improved infrastructure delivery practices rather than through a new electricity generation, flexibility or network-control technology. Its potential contribution includes biodiversity enhancement, natural capital improvement, ecosystem service benefits, improved stakeholder relationships and potentially reduced programme and commercial risks.

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

The project does not have a direct vulnerable-consumer intervention. Its potential consumer benefit is through improved efficiency and value in delivering transmission infrastructure. If enhanced reinstatement reduces disputes, improves programme certainty, avoids unnecessary costs and provides environmental benefits without creating additional consumer costs, this could contribute to wider consumer value. This innovation work will test this logic rather than assuming that the benefit has already been demonstrated.

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

n/a

Please provide a calculation and/or description of the expected benefits of the solution

The project is expected to provide NGET with a practical and evidence-based approach for delivering wider environmental, economic and stakeholder benefits through enhanced land reinstatement following Strategic Infrastructure (SI) projects.
The benefits will be assessed by comparing enhanced reinstatement intervention bundles with traditional like-for-like reinstatement. The assessment will consider indicative implementation costs, ecosystem service benefits, land-use and environmental outcomes, stakeholder considerations and the practical requirements for long-term management.

Expected benefits include:
Environmental benefits: Increased opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), natural capital and wider ecosystem services through interventions delivered alongside or instead of traditional reinstatement.
Economic benefits: Improved understanding of the costs and value of enhanced reinstatement, including opportunities to reduce or offset costs through existing environmental funding and land management schemes where applicable.
Stakeholder benefits: Improved engagement with landowners, land agents and environmental delivery partners by providing clearer intervention options, responsibilities and potential benefits.
Programme and delivery benefits: A repeatable delivery framework could improve consistency and reduce uncertainty when considering enhanced reinstatement across future NGET SI projects.
Risk reduction: The planning, legal, governance and financial review will identify barriers and requirements before wider

implementation, reducing the risk of unsuitable or non-compliant approaches being adopted.

Scalability: The intervention bundles, technical evidence and external resource pack are intended to provide a reusable approach that can be applied to future SI projects.

The benefits will be quantified where sufficient data is available using NGET reinstatement cost data, industry benchmarks and the existing internal studies natural capital/ecosystem service methodology. Where monetary valuation is not appropriate or sufficiently robust, benefits will be presented using qualitative and/or quantified environmental indicators. The project will therefore establish the evidence and methodology required for NGET to develop future project level business cases, rather than claiming a fixed financial benefit at this stage.

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

GB (15000-character limit
The proposed framework is specifically intended to be scalable across future NGET SI projects. Replication will depend on the type of infrastructure project, land use context, landowner circumstances, available interventions, planning and legal requirements and environmental opportunities. The development of standard intervention bundles, decision guidance, stakeholder resources and a pilot delivery framework is intended to make future implementation more repeatable rather than requiring each project to develop an entirely new approach. The proposal explicitly includes an objective to identify a scalable approach for implementation across future SI projects.

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

A final GB rollout cost cannot be established during the innovation project because implementation costs will depend on the intervention selected, land characteristics, project scale, stakeholder arrangements, environmental requirements and long-term management requirements. The project will establish indicative implementation costs for the intervention bundles and compare these with traditional reinstatement costs. This information will provide the basis for future project-level rollout estimates. Any national rollout should therefore be costed using the intervention bundle approach developed through this innovation project rather than applying a single cost assumption to all future projects.

Requirement 3 / 1

Involve Research, Development or Demonstration

Projects 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 Licensees system

☐ A specific novel commercial arrangement

Involve Research, Development or Demonstration - Please select all that apply

☐ 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

Network Licensees can use the learning to understand how enhanced reinstatement can be incorporated into major infrastructure delivery without creating disproportionate operational, legal, financial or commercial risk.
The outputs can inform:
Future construction and reinstatement strategies
Landowner engagement
Fand access and voluntary agreements
Biodiversity and environmental planning
Natural capital assessment
Procurement and delivery arrangements
Governance
Stakeholder management
Intervention selection
Cost-benefit assessment; and
Long term monitoring and stewardship.

The framework can also provide a basis for future pilots and wider implementation across SI programmes.

n/a

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. Networks must explicitly mention similar projects that they have considered and how these differ.

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

This project directly builds on internal study explanatory findings rather than unnecessarily duplicating it. Internal studies identified the high-level shortlist of feasible interventions and demonstrated the potential for wider environmental benefits. This project addresses the implementation questions that internal studies deliberately left unresolved. These include intervention costs, landowner engagement, delivery frameworks, governance, planning and legal constraints, funding mechanisms and practical integration into future SI project delivery. The work will therefore extend the evidence base rather than repeat the assessment.
A review of NIA, NIC and SIF projects identified no projects specifically focused on developing an enhanced reinstatement framework which integrates biodiversity enhancement, natural capital valuation, landowner incentives, governance arrangements and consumer value assessment for transmission infrastructure delivery.

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

Not applicable.

Additional Governance And Document Upload

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

The innovation lies in moving beyond traditional like for like reinstatement towards a structured approach that uses the reinstatement stage as an opportunity to deliver wider biodiversity, natural capital, ecosystem service and stakeholder benefits. Internal studies established that feasible interventions exist, but this work addresses the unresolved practical question of how these interventions can be consistently delivered within a major transmission infrastructure programme. The project brings together intervention bundling, cost and ecosystem service assessment, landowner engagement, planning and legal considerations, governance, delivery partnerships and a scalable pilot framework. The proposed approach therefore seeks to establish a repeatable operating model rather than treating enhanced reinstatement as an isolated environmental intervention.

Relevant Foreground IPR

Expected foreground IPR is likely to comprise the intervention catalogue, intervention bundle methodology, delivery framework,

decision making guidance, stakeholder engagement materials, assessment outputs and associated project documentation. The project does not primarily seek to develop patentable physical technology. The principal outputs are expected to be methodologies, frameworks, assessment approaches and practical guidance. Any third-party information or proprietary stakeholder information will remain subject to the relevant confidentiality and contractual restrictions.

Data Access Details

Data for this project and all other projects funded under the Network Innovation Allowance (NIA), Network Innovation Competition (NIC) or the new Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) can be found or requested in a number of ways:
A request for information via the Smarter Networks Portal at https://smarter.energynetworks.org, to contact select a project and click 'Contact Lead Network'. National Grid already publishes much of the data arising from our innovation projects here so you may wish to check this website before making an application.
Via our Innovation website at https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/innovation
Via our managed mailbox box.NG.ETInnovation@nationalgrid.com

Please identify why the Network Licensees will not fund the project as a part of it's business and usual activities

The project addresses an emerging approach to infrastructure reinstatement where the practical, financial, legal, environmental and stakeholder outcomes have not yet been sufficiently established. BAU reinstatement processes are designed primarily to satisfy existing operational, contractual and land reinstatement requirements. The proposed project goes beyond these requirements by investigating how reinstatement could deliver additional environmental and societal benefits while maintaining consumer value. The work therefore involves research and innovation risk, including uncertainty around landowner uptake, intervention costs, legal arrangements, ecosystem service value, governance and long-term management. NIA support enables NGET to investigate these uncertainties before deciding whether enhanced reinstatement should become part of future BAU delivery.

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

NIA support is required because the project involves uncertainty regarding whether enhanced reinstatement can be practically, legally, commercially and operationally implemented at scale. Key risks include landowner willingness to participate, long-term maintenance obligations, planning and legal requirements, land access, potential liability, environmental assurance, intervention costs and the ability to demonstrate consumer value. The project also needs to test whether the proposed logic chain between improved landowner propositions, reduced disputes, improved programme certainty and consumer value can be evidenced. This project therefore provides a controlled innovation stage between exploratory research and potential live implementation. Its outputs will establish the evidence, governance and delivery framework required to determine whether and how enhanced reinstatement should progress into future NGET projects.

This project has been approved by a senior member of staff

☑ Yes