nationalgrid

Woolavington 400kV Submission Summary

National Grid Electricity Transmission
Project Assessment

May 2026

T3 – Woolavington 400kV Project Assessment

Executive Summary

Background

Woolavington is a new SF_6 free 400/132kV substation at the Gravity Enterprise Zone in Somerset. The Track 3 Project Assessment, submitted under Special Licence Condition 3.18 (Load Re-Opener and Price Control Deliverable), seeks Ofgem's Project Assessment Decision for the investment.

The investment provides firm capacity for customer connections.

The project comprises a 400kV SF_6 free GIS substation, a shared 132kV SF_6 free GIS substation, Super Grid Transformers (SGTs), and Full Line Tension (FLT) gantries to integrate with the existing overhead line route.

Investment Drivers

Customer connections:

- To connect customers to the National Electricity Transmission System through the Woolavington connection node.

Future proofing:

- To serve as a long-term connection node for the region.

Options

Three options were shortlisted at Final Needs Case and reassessed through an updated Cost Benefit Analysis at Project Assessment; these are:

Option E-1: AIS on ZG Route
Option E-5: AIS Wrap Around
Option E-7: GIS – Preferred, subject of this Project Assessment

Option E-7 (preferred at Final Needs Case (FNC) and subject of the Project Assessment) delivers the highest Net Present Value and the fastest route to energisation. Scenario analysis confirms that if an alternative option had been progressed post FNC submission, this would have resulted in later energisation than currently planned and an inability to meet required programme timing.

Preferred Solution

The preferred solution is Option E-7: a new SF_6-free 400/132kV GIS substation at Woolavington, comprising.

Key benefits and cost efficiency of preferred solution:

- Faster delivery compared to other options.
- Highest consumer value, best NPV of all shortlisted options.
- Future-proofed.
- SF_6-free technology.
- Benchmarked efficiency, costs are comparable to similar projects of equivalent scope and complexity.