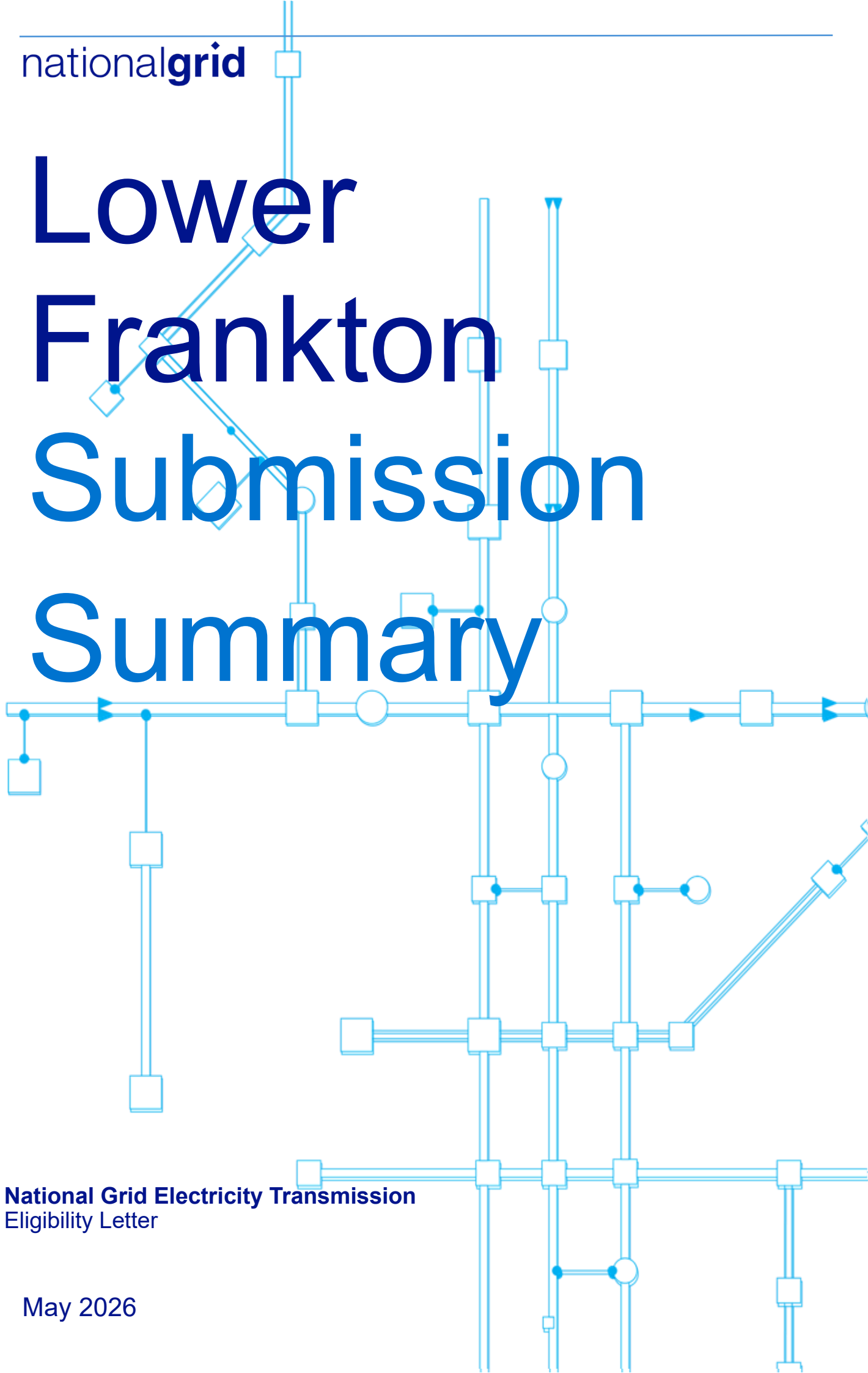


# Lower Frankton Submission Summary

National Grid Electricity Transmission  
Eligibility Letter

May 2026



# T3 - Lower Frankton 400kV AIS Substation

## Executive Summary

### Background

This investment proposes a new 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation at Lower Frankton, progressed through the Track 3 Eligibility Letter route under the Load Related Reopener.

Lower Frankton has evolved from a connection-led scheme for a 132kV IDNO substation connection into a wider regional strategic node. The current scope reflects contracted customer need, wider generation interest, potential interaction with strategic drivers, and future system-operability requirements.

This submission seeks approval, under the Load Related Reopener (Special Condition 3.18 of the RIIO-T3 licence), to confirm the eligibility of the identified drivers for the Lower Frankton 400kV substation as a Track 3 EL investment, and to secure Pre-Construction Funding (PCF) under Special Condition 3.15 of the RIIO-T3 licence to progress further development work.

### Investment Drivers

#### Customer connections

- Requirement to connect a 132kV IDNO substation and its associated connections (renewable generation).
- Ability to accommodate potential future direct generation connections

#### Strategic interactions

- Provide a strategic connection node for associated network reinforcement projects.

#### System operability

- Enable integration of systems designed to facilitate the management of increased power flows in the region.

Without this investment, NGET would not be able to meet its connection obligations or provide an investment which provides for future adaptability and network growth.

### Options

A structured optioneering process was undertaken, considering:

- Strategic options
  - Do nothing
  - Market-based and whole system solutions
  - Utilising existing assets
  - New build solutions

Options that did not enable connections, satisfy the majority drivers or meet licence obligations were discounted.

- Shortlisted options
  - Option E2: 18 bay, 400kV AIS substation
  - Option E3: 24 bay, 400kV AIS substation

### Preferred Solution

Subject to completion of a siting study reassessment, the provisionally preferred solution is Option E-3, a new 24-bay 400kV double busbar AIS substation at Lower Frankton which reflects “build it once” principles.

Option E-3 meets the current IDNO connection requirement while also providing capacity for future potential regional connections, facilitates strategic requirements and enables integration of systems designed to benefit the operability of the network whilst limiting the extent of disruption to local communities. Overall, the investment is intended to provide a compliant and enduring Lower Frankton connection platform, supporting contracted customer need, future regional connections and wider system flexibility.

A key component of this further work is the reassessment of the siting study, to confirm whether the current site remains the optimal location when considering the full range of drivers, constraints and stakeholder considerations. The outcome of this work will directly inform the identification of the preferred option, subject to siting reassessment.

A full Needs Case Assessment, identifying the preferred solution and seeking Ofgem’s approval to proceed, will follow once this additional work has been completed.