nationalgrid

ETRE Submission Summary

National Grid Electricity Transmission
Combined Eligibility Letter & Needs Case

May 2026

T3 – ETRE: Upgrade from Eggborough - Thorpe Marsh 400kV single circuit (ETRE)

Executive Summary

Background

ETRE received a “Proceed – Critical” signal as part of NESO’s 2024 “Beyond 2030” technical report[1] as an upgrade to the existing circuits between Eggborough and Thorpe Marsh to allow for more capacity. NESO has confirmed ETRE as a Clean Power 2030 (CP2030)[2] option. As a result, NGET is pursuing funding via the Load Re-opener and submitting this Track 2 Eligibility Letter.

Investment Drivers

Key drivers for ETRE are:

- Increase network capacity.
- NESO/NOA driver: identified through the NOA process and designated CP2030.

Options

A structured optioneering process was undertaken, considering:

- Strategic long list options included: do nothing; power flow control; hotwiring; hybrid reconductor overhead line (OHL) & replace underground cable; and a new OHL.
- Following a strategic option assessment, only Option 4 (Hybrid: reconductor OHL & replace underground cable) was shortlisted as it is the only option that meets the need case as described as part of the NOA process.

Preferred Solution:

The preferred option is Option 4.1 – hybrid: reconductor OHL & replace underground cable

Scope and outputs:

- reconductor the OHL line and replace the existing underground cable at Eggborough (with associated cable sealing end modifications).

This option achieves system need as described in the NESO assessments and documentation.

[1] Beyond 2030 - Technical Report

[2] Clean Power 2030 - Annex 2: Networks, connections and network access analysis