

# Didcot Stores Asset Health: Executive Summary

# Background to the Site

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) owns, operates, and maintains the high voltage transmission network that transports energy from its generation points to consumers across the UK. Central to this operation is our national stores facility located at X, constructed in the 1990s. This facility is crucial for the storage of critical spare parts essential for network maintenance and emergency repairs. The site includes a X, X, and a X storage facility. Together, these buildings house strategic spares valued at approximately £X million and non-strategic spares valued at around £X million.

## **Drivers for Investment**

The primary driver for this project is to ensure compliance with current regulations and maintain the buildings at X in accordance with our Property Standards. The secondary driver is to ensure that these facilities are fit-for-purpose, providing a safe, secure, and efficient environment for the storage of strategic spares and catering to the needs of our workforce. Many assets at the site are nearing or have reached the end of their operational life, posing risks to regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and employee wellbeing.

#### **Investment Needs**

Investment in the X facility is imperative to:

- Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, including the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare)
  Regulations 1992 and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards
- Modernise the facility in line with our Property Standards, which include the WELL Building Standard principles to improve sustainability and employee wellbeing
- Replace end-of-life X assets, X, X, and other structural components to maintain a safe and secure storage environment
- Install sustainability enhancements such as X, X, and X to support our sustainability commitments

# **Options Considered**

Four options were assessed to address the identified needs:

- Baseline (Do Nothing): this option was rejected as it fails to meet any part of the needs case, posing significant risks to compliance, operational efficiency, and asset integrity
- Option 1: deliver asset replacement works and defer X and wellbeing, and sustainability works. This option partially meets the needs case but fails to improve employee wellbeing and sustainability, thereby limiting future cost savings and compliance with our commitments
- Option 2: deliver asset replacement, X and wellbeing works, deferring sustainability works. This option addresses compliance and employee wellbeing but does not meet sustainability goals, thus does not maximise value for money
- Option 3 (Preferred Option): deliver asset replacement, X and wellbeing, and sustainability works. This option fully meets the needs case, ensuring compliance, enhancing employee wellbeing, and supporting sustainability goals, thus providing the best value for money.

## **Preferred Solution**

The preferred solution (Option 3) involves a comprehensive programme of works that includes:

- Asset replacements to ensure compliance and operational efficiency
- Enhancements to X and welfare facilities to meet DDA standards and improve inclusivity and employee wellbeing
- Sustainability improvements such as X, X, and X to support our sustainability commitments and reduce future operational costs

This approach ensures that the X facility remains compliant, fit-for-purpose, and capable of supporting the storage needs for critical spares essential for network resilience.

#### **Timeline**

The investment is scheduled to be delivered over the RIIO-T3 period, with a phased approach to minimise disruption to ongoing operations. The key phases include:

- FYX: initial asset replacement and commencement of X and welfare improvements
- FYX: continued asset replacement and completion of X and welfare improvements
- FYX: implementation of sustainability enhancements and finalisation of remaining asset replacement works

### Conclusion

The X Stores Asset Health project is a critical investment to ensure that NGET's national stores facility remains compliant with regulatory standards, supports the safe and secure storage of strategic spares, and provides a modern, inclusive, and sustainable working environment for our employees. The preferred option (Option 3) delivers the necessary asset replacements, X and wellbeing improvements, and sustainability enhancements, ensuring value for money and alignment with our strategic commitments to network resilience and network decarbonisation.

This investment will enable us to continue supporting the current and future demands of asset storage needed for network growth, thus facilitating the decarbonisation of the UK's power system by 2030.