

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0054

# Norwich to Tilbury

## Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.3 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Essex County Council (ECC) (incl LLFA and Highways)

Final Issue A

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**nationalgrid**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (referred to as National Grid within this document) and Essex County Council (ECC). It identifies areas of the Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the Application) where matters are agreed, under discussion or not agreed between the parties.
- 1.1.2 This SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the Application which are relevant to ECC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to ECC's statutory remit. The following bullet points present the topics included in this SoCG (they are also presented in Section 3):
- Project development, description and design
  - Ecology and Biodiversity
  - Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - Historic Environment
  - Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk
  - Landscape and Visual
  - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
  - Traffic and Transport
  - Public Rights of Way (PRoW)
  - Cumulative Effects
  - Development Consent Order
  - Other Matters

**Note:** This draft SoCG has been prepared at an early phase of the DCO process, ahead of submission. It is intended to be a live and working document which will be updated as the Project progresses and shared with Essex County Council at key points for discussion. A final SoCG will be prepared ahead of the close of the DCO Examination. Unlike a final SoCG, this draft SoCG has not been officially signed by either party.

## 1.2 Project Description

- 1.2.1 The Project is a proposal by National Grid to upgrade the electricity transmission system in East Anglia between Norwich and Tilbury, comprising:
- A new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission connection of approximately 180 km overall length from Norwich Main Substation to Tilbury Substation via

Bramford Substation, a new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation and a new Tilbury North Substation, including:

- Approximately 159 km of new overhead line supported on approximately 509 pylons, either standard steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) or low height steel lattice pylons (approximately 40 m in height) and some of which would be gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds or existing or proposed substations
- Approximately 21 km of 400 kV underground cabling, some of which would be located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB1))
- Up to seven new CSE compounds (with permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables
- Modification works to connect into the existing Norwich Main Substation and a substation extension at the existing Bramford Substation
- A new 400 kV substation on the Tendring Peninsula, referred to as the EACN Substation (with a new permanent access). This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation
- A new 400 kV substation to the south of Orsett Golf Course in Essex, referred to as the Tilbury North Substation (with a new permanent access). This is proposed to be a Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation
- Modifications to the existing National Grid Electricity Transmission overhead lines to facilitate the connection of the existing network into the new Tilbury North Substation to provide connection to the Tilbury Substation.
- Ancillary and/or temporary works associated with the construction of the Project.

1.2.2 In addition, third party utilities diversions and/or modifications would be required to facilitate the construction of the Project. There would also be land required for environmental mitigation and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

1.2.3 As well as the permanent infrastructure, land would also be required temporarily for construction activities including, for example, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and temporary construction access.

1.2.4 The Project would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable health and safety legislation. The Project will need to comply with design safety standards including the Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS), which sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). This informs a suite of National Grid policies and processes, which contain details on design standards required to be met when designing, constructing and operating assets such as those proposed for the Project.

## 1.3 Format and Structure of this Document

1.3.1 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** provides a summary of the key engagement undertaken to date with ECC

- **Section 3** summarises the key matters and captures the status of each issue / matter
- **Section 4** includes the sign off sheet



## 2. Record of Key Engagement

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 National Grid has engaged with ECC on the Project throughout the pre-application process. This has included:
- Non-statutory consultation in Spring 2022 and Summer 2023
  - Statutory consultation in Spring 2024
  - Targeted Consultations in Spring 2025
  - Regular meetings with lead officers about the Project as a whole
  - Regular ‘Thematic Group’ meetings bringing together host authorities to discuss specific topics
  - One to one / small group technical meetings on specific detailed matters
  - Sharing of papers and documentation at key stages
- 2.1.2 Further details on National Grid’s engagement with stakeholders is provided in the Consultation Report and the Environmental Statement.

### 2.2 Summary of Key Engagement

- 2.2.1 Table 2.1 provides an overview of the key engagement that has taken place between National Grid and ECC.

**Table 2.1 Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Essex County Council**

Date	Format	Topic/Description
<b>General</b>		
April 2022 – Ongoing	Meeting	Monthly informal catch-up calls.
September 2022	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
October 2022	Site visit	T-pylon site visit with case officers.
November 2022	Meeting	Briefings on issued response to questions from OffSET with all host authorities.
November 2022	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
January 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
February 2023	Meeting	Pre-consultation session with all host authorities.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
March 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
May 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
June 2023	Meeting	Non-statutory consultation preferred alignment briefing to all host authorities.
July 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
July 2023	Meeting	Dunton Hills Garden Village discussion.
September 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
November 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
December 2023	Meeting	Dunton Hills Garden Village discussion.
December 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to all host authorities for comment.
January 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
February 2024	Meeting	Statutory consultation preferred alignment briefing to all host authorities.
February 2024	Meeting	East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) access proposals meeting.
March 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
March 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the SoCC to all host authorities for statutory consultation.
May 2024	Meeting	ECC Minerals Plan discussion.
May 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
May 2024	Meeting	EACN discussion.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to all host authorities for comment.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and Outline CoCP.
November 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss approach to targeted consultations
January 2025	Meeting	Meeting to provide project and design update
January 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop



Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from the second iteration of the oCoCP and oLEMP
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the second iteration of the draft Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)
March 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the second iteration of the Outline Code of Construction Practice (oCOCP) and Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)
March 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued an updated iteration of the draft Outline Code of Construction Practice oCoCP
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a new appendix to the draft Outline Code of Construction Practice (oCoCP) - Appendix H, Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Long List of Other Developments
May 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss targeted consultation feedback
May 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss duty to further the purposes of the National Landscape
May 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
June 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss access arrangements around Dunton Hills Garden Village
<b>Ecology and Biodiversity</b>		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and Arboriculture Assessment Methodology for review ahead of the Thematic Group meeting.
July 2022	Meeting	Ecology and Biodiversity Thematic Group meeting - National Grid presented on the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and Arboriculture Assessment Methodology

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		and sought feedback from ECC and other authorities.
September 2023	Meeting	National Grid discussed the potential off-site scheme/initiatives for BNG.
January 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the BNG initiative.
March 2024	Meeting	Biodiversity Thematic Group to discuss the methodology and scope of ecology surveys outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2024	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note to all host authorities outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Thematic Group call.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline LEMP and CoCP.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments received on the draft Biodiversity Net Gain Report
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the second iteration of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a technical note to all host authorities outlining the protected species proposed mitigation measures for agreement/comment
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA)
April 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on second iteration of

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the updated Proposed Protected Species Mitigation document
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued an updated iteration of the draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared a new appendix to the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) – Appendix D, Outline Landscape Proposals
<b>Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology</b>		
August 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a draft Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment Methodology to all host authorities.
September 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a draft Geology and Hydrogeology Assessment Methodology to the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA).
<b>Health and Wellbeing (including Air Quality and Noise and Vibration)</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Health and Wellbeing Assessment Methodology to all host authorities.
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Noise and Vibration assessment for review and comment.
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Air Quality assessment for review and comment.
July 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note to Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) to agree the approach to the operational noise impact assessment of the proposed EACN Substation.
September 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a Health and Wellbeing technical note on the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including guidance, study area, scope, and assessment methodology.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss and agree the proposed assessment scope and methodology for the Health and Wellbeing chapter of the ES.
October 2024	Technical note	National Grid issued a refreshed Health and Wellbeing technical note on the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including guidance, study area, scope, and assessment methodology.
<b>Historic Environment</b>		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a document detailing the scope and methodology for the Historic Environment assessment and baseline to all host authorities and Historic England.
July 2022	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group to discuss the proposed approach for the EIA assessment.
September 2022	Meeting	National Grid presented an updated approach to defining study areas, scoping of walkover and scoping of historic buildings to consider in the assessment, in response to feedback received.
January 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the plans showing the proposed viewpoint locations for landscape and heritage ahead of the Thematic Group meeting in February 2023 to all host authorities.
February 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting with all host authorities to discuss landscape and heritage viewpoints.
June 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note to Historic England and host authorities (including Essex County Council) to agree methodology for the selection of viewpoints for the Historic Environment assessment.
September 2023	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group meeting to discuss the proposed heritage viewpoint methodology with all host authorities and Historic England.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
November 2023	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group meeting to discuss the proposed locations of heritage viewpoints with host authorities and Historic England. Feedback was received from stakeholders regarding proposed viewpoints and additional viewpoints were proposed.
November 2023	Meeting	Meeting with archaeological advisors to discuss the approach to geophysical survey and trial trenching.
November 2023	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group meeting to discuss proposed locations of heritage viewpoints with all host authorities and Historic England. Viewpoint locations shared in PDF and shapefile.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated viewpoints (including ZTV) for feedback from all host authorities, Natural England and Historic England.
March 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for review and comment.
March 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the updated Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Geophysical Surveys with the Archaeology Working Group Members.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Thematic Group call.
May 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the WSI for Monitoring GI works under archaeological supervision with Archaeology Working Group Members for review and approval.
June 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the overarching WSI for the Archaeological Trial Trenching with the Archaeology Working Group Members for review and approval.
June 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Site Specific WSI for the EACN (Site 001) with the Archaeology Working Group Members (including Essex County Council) for information.
June 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
August 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
September 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
October 2024	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group Meeting.
October 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Setting survey locations with stakeholders
November 2024	Meeting	Technical focus meeting to discuss the ongoing archaeology work on site.
December 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
December 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid re-issued the overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Trial Trenching
January 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued Historic Environment (HE) Viewpoints information
February 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
February 2025	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group Meeting regarding Historic Environment Viewpoints
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a draft Historic Baseline Report including Annex C and Annex D for agreement/comment
February 2025	Email Correspondence	Meeting to discuss draft Heritage Baseline Report
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued updated Historic Environment Viewpoints information
March 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
April 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Draft Outline Mitigation Strategy and draft Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for post-consent stage of the project
April 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
May 2025	Meeting	Technical focus meeting to discuss ongoing archaeology work on site



Date	Format	Topic/Description
<b>Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk</b>		
June 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid circulated the draft Hydrology and Land Drainage Assessment Methodology for review and discussion ahead of the Hydrology and Land Drainage Thematic Group.
July 2022	Meeting	National Grid presented the EIA approach at the Hydrology and Land Drainage Thematic Group to the Environment Agency and all host authorities.
May 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note for comment, which set out the approach to preparing the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).
March 2024	Technical Note	National Grid issued the Flood Risk Assessment Screening Report for comment.
September 2024	Technical Note	National Grid issued the Works In, Over and Under Watercourses Technical Note and the Surface Water Management Principles Technical Note.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on the principles for surface water drainage design for above ground infrastructure and watercourse crossing designs for the Project.
October 2024	Meeting	Hydrology and Land Drainage Thematic Group Meeting
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Draft FRA for agreement/comment
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments raised from the draft FRA
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued Draft FRA for agreement/comment
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>		
July 2022	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting. National Grid shared the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		(LVIA) Methodology and Arboricultural Assessment Methodology for review.
January 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued plans showing proposed viewpoint locations for review and comment to all host authorities.
February 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting to discuss proposed viewpoint locations in Essex. National Grid sought agreement on the viewpoint locations to include in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the ES. ECC provided feedback on the viewpoints at the meeting and in subsequent correspondence.
April 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2023	Meeting	National Grid presented and discussed the responses to the feedback on the viewpoint locations received from the February meeting. Stakeholders provided feedback on updated and additional viewpoint locations at the meeting and in subsequent correspondence.
May 2023 – March 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared information, responded to further feedback on viewpoint locations received from the May 2023 meeting, and reviewed subsequent feedback received up to March 2024 with the aim to agree viewpoint locations for the PEIR and ES (based on the information available at this date).
August 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued wirelines and photomontages and proposed the approach to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping for comment.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated landscape viewpoints (and the ZTV) and sought feedback from all host authorities.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Thematic Group call.
May 2024	Meeting	EACN (Statutory Consultation) Thematic Group Meeting.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Draft Landscape and Visual Methodology, Proposed LVIA Viewpoints (excel spreadsheet) and Proposed LVIA Viewpoints (map) ahead of the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape Thematic Group Meeting to find agreement on the LVIA methodology and the format/presentation of photomontages and/or wirelines which will form part of the DCO application.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the shapefiles for the landscape viewpoints and order limits with ECC and other stakeholders following the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the draft Outline LEMP and Sample Mitigation Drawings ahead of the draft Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP discussion.
September 2024	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting – LVIA Viewpoints within Essex North
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a focus meeting to discuss the National Landscape.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Draft mitigation drawings with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the National landscape setting study with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared updated viewpoint information data following from the landscape thematic workshops
December 2024	Meeting	Meeting to agree photography locations and photomontages for the ES
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology
<b>Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism</b>		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the assessment methodology to stakeholders for review ahead of the Thematic Group Meeting in July 2022.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
July 2022	Meeting	National Grid held a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Thematic Group Meeting to seek feedback on the proposed approach to the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment prior to formal submission of the Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. This meeting was attended by several stakeholders, including ECC.
June 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a Technical Note setting out the study area and methodology for assessing businesses where visual impacts are a potential operational consideration, and Public Right of Way (PRoW) during construction and operation.
August 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Thematic Group Meeting to discuss the study area and methodology for assessing businesses.
April 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared an updated technical note with all host authorities to demonstrate how their feedback had been considered in developing the PEIR.
September 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical note on the ES Chapter.
September 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism technical note with stakeholders.
November 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a follow up meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical note on the ES Chapter.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the third Technical Note for Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism.
<b>Traffic and Transport</b>		
June 2022	Technical Note	National Grid issued a Technical Note setting out the proposed Traffic and Transport assessment methodology.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
July 2022	Meeting	National Grid held the Local Highway Authority Thematic Group Meeting to discuss the proposed EIA methodology for the Traffic and Transport assessment.
September 2022	Meeting	National Grid held a Local Highway Authority Thematic Group Meeting
December 2022	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group to discuss the assessment of routes for construction traffic.
June 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss the EACN Substation access arrangements with ECC and National Highways.
August 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group to discuss the highways assessment and methodology, survey requirements, road safety audit requirements and trip regeneration methodology.
August 2023	Meeting	Meeting discussing link sensitivity, traffic counts, Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs), and data and underlying assumptions behind traffic and workforce calculations.
September 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional Meeting.
November 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group meeting with the Local Highways Authorities (including ECC).
November 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a PRow Thematic Group Meeting.
January 2024	Meeting	National Grid discussed the Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) at the Transport Working Group.
March 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional Meeting to discuss project updates and reviews of work to date, the transport assessment in the PEIR and primary access routes.
April 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Meeting to discuss updates to the transport assessment, multi-modal

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		transport considerations and AIL routing with the local highways authorities.
June 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional Meeting to discuss statutory consultation, sensitive junctions, AIL routing, updates on the multi-modal report and road safety audit process, speed surveys, and visibility splays, mitigation and traffic management.
June 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss EACN and interaction with North Falls and Five Estuaries wind farm projects, and the proposed Norwich to Tilbury EACN permanent access between Bentley Road and Ardleigh road that would be required.
July 2024	Email Correspondence	Proposed Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Routes issued for comment.
July 2024	Email Correspondence	ECC 2024 statutory consultation response received.
August 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group LHA engagement meeting with ECC. Highway mitigation on PARS from 2024 statutory consultation were presented.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Meeting with ECC and National Highways to discuss AIL routes. Overview of AIL vehicles provided.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional Meeting. All affected LHAs were in attendance. Highways Mitigation Design, schedules of works and proposed structure of CWTP were discussed. Confirmation given that ProW surveys and crossover bellmouth RSAs had been scheduled in.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional Meeting. All affected LHAs were in attendance. Topics discussed included AILs, highway mitigation design, transport planning and multi-modal report.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional Meeting. General



Date	Format	Topic/Description
		structure and content of TA was presented and an overview provided of the initial capacity assessment methodology.
December 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a LHA Engagement Meeting to discuss potential changes following S42 statutory consultation, visibility splays and traffic management methodology, access for existing utilities and AILs.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Meeting. Presented work in progress draft of Transport Assessment. Ran through methodology of junction sifting process, junction assessment methodology and cumulative assessment.
February 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a Transport Working Group Regional. Presented examples of the likely environmental mitigation measures for junctions and Primary Access Routes predominately where WCH Amenity raised.
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Mitigation and Junction RAG Strategy.
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Draft Transport Assessment and Figures.
March 2025	Meeting	Meeting to run through TA report and comments provided by ECC on their initial review.
March 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a Highway Mitigation Workshop with National Highways to discuss the A12 and A120 junctions in Essex.
April 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss the AIL process and report with ECC, Essex and Suffolk police.
April 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a Traffic and Transport Working Group Meeting. Section 42 targeted consultations closed. Latest updates given relating to engagement on AILS, PROWS and highways modelling.
June 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a Regional Stakeholder Meeting with ECC. The proposed Statement of Common Ground and

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		principals for Traffic Regulation Orders were discussed.
June 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a workshop to discuss the methodology utilised to produce the construction trip generation with ECC.

## 3. Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion

### 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This chapter details the matters relevant to ECC which have been agreed, not agreed or are under discussion between the parties. Matters are arranged by topic (using broad headings, or EIA chapter headings where appropriate) and each matter is given a unique reference number to aid identification.
- 3.1.2 The red, amber, green status shows the level of agreement with ECC. Descriptions of the different levels are summarised in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 Agreement status for matters presented in Section 3**

Status	Description
Not Agreed	Indicates a final position, where it has not been possible to resolve the issue to the agreement of both parties and there remains a difference of opinion.
Under Discussion	Indicates where issues are the subject of active on-going discussion.
Agreed	Indicates where an issue has been agreed or resolved satisfactorily to the agreement of both parties.

- 3.1.3 Engagement will continue as the Project develops and progresses through the various stages of the DCO process.
- 3.1.4 Sections that remain highlighted in yellow within these tables show points where both parties will seek to discuss and where possible agree a position in due course. The parties have been unable to do so at this stage because the relevant information is still being authored ahead of submission of the DCO application. These points will be the subject of ongoing discussion with stakeholders once the Environmental Statement and other relevant documentation is published.
- 3.1.5 Table 3.3 to 3.14 provides the matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion in relation to the various topics.

## 3.2 Project development, description and design

Table 3.2 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to project development, description and design matters

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>Strategic options/needs case</b>				
3.2.1	Needs case	<p>Norwich to Tilbury is being proposed because the existing network in East Anglia doesn't have sufficient capacity to manage the expected (and in some cases, contracted) increase in offshore wind farms (and interconnectors) needing to connect to the grid as part of the Government's target of reaching net zero by 2050. The project sits alongside other work to reinforce and upgrade the existing network in East Anglia.</p> <p>Norwich to Tilbury is listed as a key project in Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report.</p>	<p>ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025):</p> <p>ECC's preferred strategic option remains that of securing an integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not include overhead lines (OHL's) and pylons along its entire length. This it is considered, would deliver the best outcome in the interests of safeguarding the amenities of communities and the environment, as set out in the County Councils response to the targeted consultation dated 15.04.2025</p> <p>ECC acknowledges the focus around delivering clean power and within this context, considers that a further review of the contracted electricity generation is needed ahead of final submission of the DCO to assess whether the contracted position and the readiness of projects to connect as planned, is robust and thereby, confirm the need and timescale for the planned Norwich to Tilbury Project, as this could as outlined in the Hiorns report, change the viability of alternate technologies to deliver the necessary capacity</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.2.2	Project timing	<p>Timing for the project is driven by the needs case – when offshore wind farms are contracted to connect to the UK network – the first of which are contracted to connect in 2030. National Grid is legally obliged (under our Transmission Owner Licence) to provide capacity at the dates formally agreed in contracts with energy generators (or customers) by NESO. Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report shows that the constraint costs associated with a delay to the project timing as being between £2.7 and £2.8 billion.</p>	<p>ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025):</p> <p>ECC acknowledges NG's contractual obligations but as set out in the County Councils response to the targeted consultation dated 15.04.2025, considers that a further review of the contracted electricity generation is needed ahead of final submission of the DCO to assess whether the contracted position and the readiness of projects to connect as planned, is robust and thereby reaffirm the need and timescale for the planned Norwich to Tilbury Project as this could change the viability of alternate solutions to deliver the necessary capacity</p>	Under discussion
3.2.3	Onshore route	<p>An onshore route allows for greater energy capacity and connectivity to feed into the grid. In assessing offshore options to deliver the same capacity as an onshore overhead line, we would need to build three subsea cables and associated infrastructure, which would add significant cost and not meet the needs case for Norwich to Tilbury.</p> <p><a href="#">Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents</a> published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including offshore alternatives.</p>	<p>ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025):</p> <p>ECC's preferred strategic option remains that of securing an integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not include overhead lines (OHL's) and pylons along its entire length. This it is considered, would deliver the best outcome in the interests of safeguarding the amenities of communities and the environment.</p> <p>Pending the completion of a further backcheck review which robustly assesses the planned contracted energy connections to confirm the projects are on schedule taking account of the ESO reforms to the connection process for contracted generation, it is considered that credible</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or High Voltage Direct Current undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure in Essex should continue to be fully explored. If these alternative approaches can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, this is preferable and would be very much welcomed and supported by the Council and the local communities it represents.	
3.2.4	Predominantly overhead line route	<p>Norwich to Tilbury has been designed in line with policy statement EN-5 (which covers the development of new energy infrastructure) which concludes that in most cases, the government expects that overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid.</p> <p><a href="#">Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents</a> published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including underground alternatives.</p> <p>The work undertaken shows that undergrounding, including using HVDC cables, would be significantly more expensive and have environmental impacts and present engineering challenges. Due to the higher price</p>	<p>ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025):</p> <p>ECC's preferred strategic option remains that of securing an integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not include overhead lines (OHL's) and pylons along its entire length. This it is considered, would deliver the best outcome in the interests of safeguarding the amenities of communities and the environment.</p> <p>Localised design responses involving undergrounding and /or alternate pylon design as part of the application of the mitigation hierarchy, should not be discounted by NG. The County Council consider such an approach would not be contrary to national policy statements and would actually be consistent with Holford Rule 7 where it states projects should be</p>	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		that would be involved in an underground alternative, we do not believe that this would be the most suitable option as all costs ultimately go onto domestic energy bills.	routed to minimise as far as possible effects on development. ECC contends that insufficient weight has been to the effects of development on existing and / or planned development as well as broader strategic objectives to deliver new homes, to inform more appropriate localised design responses.	
3.2.5	Policy compliance	In deciding an application for development consent Section 104 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to determine the application in accordance with any relevant National Policy Statement (NPS). The NPSs relevant to this project are the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) which came into force in January 2024. The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3 2024) also includes support for the onshore infrastructure required to deliver new offshore wind developments. Norwich to Tilbury has been developed in line with these National Planning Policies, and more information can be found in the <a href="#">2024 Design Development Report</a> .	ECC sought legal advice in confirming that there is presumption in favour of approving an NPS compliant scheme and that the SoS must determine a DCO application in accordance with the relevant NPS, unless one of a range of specified exceptions applies. The advice did however acknowledge that a decision can be made other than in accordance with the NPS and in accordance with S104(7) of the Planning Act 2008, where the adverse impact and of the proposed development would outweigh its benefits of the project. In so doing, the advice clarified the importance of clear robust evidence to support any identified harm, if the ExA and/or the Secretary of State are to be in a position to give consideration to an argument that the adverse impacts of the scheme outweigh the benefits, or that the residual impacts after mitigation has been applied render the circumstances truly exceptional, whereby consent could be refused or the scheme modified, with no breach of the relevant statutory or policy requirements.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			<p>The advice also confirmed that weight is to be applied to local plan policy and strategic designations and when the projects critical national priority (CNP) status is applied in the overall decision-making process.</p> <p>ECC also acknowledges that there are updates to national policy statements currently being consulted on and the implications for the scheme in light of any changes will have to be considered.</p>	
<b>Project development process – Design</b>				
3.2.6	Dunton Hills Garden Village	<p>National Grid has taken into account the potential effect of its proposals when developing the route alignment. In this location we have to work within the context of the planning status of other projects, including the Dunton Hills Garden Village proposals.</p> <p>National Grid has developed its proposal in this area in line with EN-1 and EN-5, the starting assumption being overhead line as the area is not subject to a landscape designation (or within its setting) which would lead to a change in technology (underground cable) in line with EN-5. We do not consider the level of effects meets the threshold for undergrounding elsewhere as set out in 2.9.23 of EN-5.</p> <p>The 2024 Design Development Report identified that there would be a direct loss of development footprint by the use of underground cable. The current</p>	<p>ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025):</p> <p>Overhead powerlines and pylons offer no potential to enhance the quality of the landscape or the amenity of DHGV. The County Council therefore maintains this will degrade the principles of a Garden Village and considers it is highly likely to lead to a reduction in current and future land value and property prices, which will be to the detriment of the viability and deliverability of housing and infrastructure delivery.</p> <p>Given the current housing need within Basildon / Brentwood and across the region, the importance of this development in terms of numbers and infrastructure being delivered, this situation is not acceptable to ECC.</p> <p>ECC is seeking alternative design solutions and / or mitigation along this section of the proposed route to avoid any impact on</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		proposed overhead line alignment follows the corridor created by the safety zone of an existing gas pipeline, which in combination with detailed master planning, would substantially mitigate potential effects on developable land and indirect effects.	housing numbers, infrastructure, and delivery.	
3.2.7	Design principles	<p>The primary design requirement for electricity infrastructure is that it must be safe and secure. These functional constraints, particularly around safety and operational reliability, can significantly limit National Grid's ability to adapt the aesthetic appearance of its infrastructure.</p> <p>Good design, even with the functional restrictions, is nonetheless achieved through careful consideration of the Holford Rules (relating to the connection routeing and siting), the Horlock Rules (relating to the siting of substations and similar cable sealing end compounds and line entries) and the environmental impact assessment process. These demonstrate the importance of balancing the inherent form and function of electricity transmission infrastructure with technical, economic and environmental considerations to reach reasonably practicable development proposals.</p> <p>While the overall design is largely fixed by necessity, smaller design details, such as the colour of finishes, are</p>	<p>ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025), updated via email (08/07/2025):</p> <p>The Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to have regard in determining applications for development consent to the desirability of good design. Advice in NPS EN1 Section 4.6 is for applicants to consider the criteria for good design at an early stage when developing projects. Achieving good design requires a holistic approach to deliver high quality, sustainable infrastructure that responds to place and takes account of often complex environments. Further, the Council also draws on the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which has been prepared based on good practice and applicants are encouraged to follow the recommendations set out. In particular, it is noted the advice states "Good design is crucial for achieving excellent functionality, sustainability, positive place-making and resilience in NSIPs".</p> <p>The Council feels there is an opportunity to be innovative in the approach to design</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>agreed upon and documented through the Development Consent Order process.</p> <p>Furthermore, NPS EN-1 encourages developers "Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible" within the bounds of functional and safety constraints.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate Good Design advice advises that 'Good design is not primarily about how infrastructure looks, although these considerations (the aesthetics) are important'. EN-1 refers to the importance of process and addressing sustainability are essential elements of good design. The emphasis placed on the importance of process through the projects evolution and delivering sustainability is set out in the Design and Access Statement (document reference 7.15).</p>	<p>while ensuring the infrastructure remains safe and secure. It is supportive of the concerns raised by Tending District Council regarding the impact of the proposed infrastructure on the environment around Ardleigh. NGET must follow a good design process to ensuring that the infrastructure proposed remains functional and safe while giving sufficient consideration to and realising the best local design and environmental outcomes for the project.</p>	
<b>Project development process - Consultation</b>				
3.2.8	2022 non-statutory consultation	Non-statutory consultation took place between 21 April 2022 – 16 June 2022. Details of this consultation are outlined in the <a href="#">Consultation Strategy</a> ,	ECC acknowledges the non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Strategy	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the <a href="#">Feedback Report</a>.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published <a href="#">Consultation Strategy</a>.</p>	ECC refers to its response to this consultation dated 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 and awaits sight of the Consultation Report to assess the consultation responses that were received.	
3.2.9	2023 non-statutory consultation	<p>Non-statutory consultation took place between 27 June 2023 – 21 August 2023. Details of this consultation are outlined in the <a href="#">Consultation Strategy</a>, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the <a href="#">Feedback Report</a>.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.</p>	<p>ECC acknowledges the non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Strategy</p> <p>ECC refers to its response to this consultation dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and awaits sight of the Consultation Report to assess the consultation responses that were received.</p>	Under Discussion
3.2.10	2024 statutory consultation	<p>Statutory Consultation took place from Wednesday 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024 (the end date was extended from 18 June 2024 due to the general election.) Details of this consultation are outlined in the <a href="#">Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</a>. Responses to feedback received during statutory consultation will be made available at DCO submission within the Consultation Feedback Report.</p> <p>The statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC.</p>	<p>ECC acknowledges the nonstatutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation.</p> <p>ECC refers to its response to this consultation dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and awaits sight of the Consultation Report to assess the consultation responses that were received.</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.2.11	2025 targeted consultation	<p>Targeted consultations for Essex took place from 25 February - 27 March 2025. Details of these consultations are outlined in the <a href="#">Targeted Consultation Strategy</a> and associated targeted consultation leaflets and environmental implications of change documents. Responses to feedback received during targeted consultation will be made available at DCO submission within the Consultation Feedback Report.</p> <p>The targeted consultations were undertaken in accordance with the published Targeted Consultation Strategy.</p> <p>The approach to targeted consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance: Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024).</p>	<p>ECC acknowledges the non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Targeted Consultation Strategy</p> <p>ECC refers to its response to this consultation dated 15 April 2025 and awaits sight of the Consultation Report to assess the consultation responses that were received.</p> <p>ECC highlighted in its response to the targeted consultation and AoCM a number of areas where the consultation process including the lack of feedback to the statutory consultation undertaken in summer 2024 and which informed the scope of the targeted consultation, was considered harmful to the transparency and legitimacy of the process.</p> <p>It is also felt that some changes to the scheme may not be the most significant and are considered to be non-material, ECC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore be given an opportunity to comment on them through the targeted consultation carried out earlier this year.</p> <p>The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents.</p>	Under Discussion
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.2.12	Community benefits	In March 2025 the government announced guidance for delivering	ECC Response to Targeted Consultations (15/04/2025):	Under Discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>community benefit packages for communities hosting new, onshore transmission infrastructure projects. This guidance is clear that community benefit matters should be separate from, and not a material consideration in, the planning process. Outside of the DCO process, National Grid will work with stakeholders to understand the opportunity and delivery of this funding, in line with guidance.</p>	<p>ECC considered Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) will have extensive residual impacts that adversely affect the local economy and environment, as well as the health and wellbeing of communities in Essex, and which cannot be sufficiently mitigated or compensated through the planning regime. Also, the national benefits will not offset the harm at a local level.</p> <p>ECC strongly encourage NGET to respond positively to the issue of social value and community benefits as set out in our response to the statutory consultation in 2024 particularly having regard to the Governments recently published Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure.</p> <p>In particular, significant benefits should be realised from N2T for education, skills, and employment during construction and operation, alone and cumulatively with other NSIPs</p>	

### 3.3 Ecology and Biodiversity

Table 3.3 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Ecology and Biodiversity

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.3.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.3.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.3.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> .	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
3.3.4	Assessment Methodology	National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		All methodologies for surveying licensable species, including water voles have been agreed with Natural England.		
3.3.5	Survey Methodology	<p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>All methodologies for surveying licensable species have been agreed with Natural England.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>ECC has been provided with extremely limited amount of ecological survey information to review, which is preventing any meaningful assessment and comment.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing</p>	Under discussion
3.3.6	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment are summarised in <b>Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p>	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.3.7	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Biodiversity are presented in <b>Section 8.5 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p>	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.3.8	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Ecology and Biodiversity effects, are set out in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
3.3.9	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Ecology and Biodiversity effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP ( <b>document reference 7.2</b> ). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	The Summary of Proposed Protected Species Mitigation, Outline CoCP, and Draft LEMP documents have been shared with ECC. ECC review expressed no major concerns but did advise a number of clarifications and additions to those documents.	Under discussion
3.3.10	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.3.11	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
3.3.12	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.3.13	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	The Outline CoCP has been shared with ECC. ECC review expressed no major concerns but did advise a number of clarifications and additions. See response dated 22nd November 2024 and 19th February 2025.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.		
3.3.14	Outline LEMP	<p>The Outline LEMP includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the ES and is appropriate.</p> <p>Meeting held in October to agree on the structure for the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	The Outline LEMP has been shared with ECC. ECC review expressed no major concerns but did advise a number of clarifications and additions. See response dated 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.	Under discussion
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.3.15	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	<p>National Grid will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. Offsite BNG will be delivered through collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers.</p> <p>National Grid shared the Biodiversity Net Gain strategy with stakeholders in January 2025.</p> <p>No comments received to date on the BNG strategy from ECC.</p>		Under discussion
3.3.15	Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA)	National Grid issued the draft AIA in March 2025.		Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		No comments received to date on the AIA from ECC.		

### 3.4 Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology

Table 3.4 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.4.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 9.2 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the ES.  All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.4.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.4.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		assessment as presented within <b>Section 9.4 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, of the Geology and Hydrogeology) ES.</b>		
3.4.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	<p>Statutory Consultation Responses 2024 - the MWPA has set out the need for Minerals Resource Assessment (MRA), a Mineral Infrastructure Impact Assessment (MIIA) and a Waste Infrastructure Impact Assessment (WIIA).</p> <p>The MWPA recognises that the normally requested sampling techniques to inform an MRA are not practical given the size of the proposed development. It is also recognised that prior extraction outside of where land is currently being worked or has been put forward for allocation is also unlikely given the linear form of the development. The MWPA do however expect the MRA to set out the extent that issues of mineral sterilisation have impacted on the final proposed route.</p>	Under discussion
3.4.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology assessment are summarised in <b>Section 9.4 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology) of the ES.</b> The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.4.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology are presented in <b>Section 9.5 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.4.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology effects, are set out in <b>Section 9.6 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion
3.4.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 9.6 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP [document reference 7.2]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.4.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 9.6 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.4.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 9.7 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion
3.4.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 9.7 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.4.12	Outline CoCP	The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.	Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>		

Other matters as required

## 3.5 Health and Wellbeing

- 3.5.1 In relation to air quality and noise and vibration, the expertise for these topics sits with districts and boroughs Environmental Protection / Health Officers, therefore are not included here.

Table 3.5 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Health and Wellbeing

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.5.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Health and Wellbeing assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context), Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES.</b></p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Chapter:</p> <p>Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 of the PEIR states that local policy, specific to Health and Wellbeing will include local authorities and Integrated Care Boards Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) and Health and Wellbeing Strategies.</p> <p>Reference to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy should also</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>be considered in the policy context linking into assessment of mental health impacts.</p> <p>As part of the Statutory Consultation, ECC Public Health response to the PEIR, reference to the localised health and wellbeing strategies is also recommended.</p>	
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.5.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b>.</p> <p>National Grid issued the Health and Wellbeing Technical Note – Refreshed Approach on the 9th October 2024. ECC response to the technical note was received in November 2024. National Grid responded to ECC's comments on the technical note in May 2025.</p> <p>NG can confirm that the baseline section of the ES chapter will include a review of individual domains of deprivation as well as reference to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Data relating to individual deprivation domains and the IMD will be reviewed at LSOA level.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Chapter:</p> <p>An additional technical note for health and wellbeing (November 2024) refreshed approach has been produced and should be referenced here.</p> <p>Clarification is required on use of 'Indices of Deprivation', will this look at the overall measure of deprivation along the route or will it focus domains of deprivation as part of defining sensitivity.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		NG can confirm that published local position statements such as the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy have been included within the ES chapter.		
3.5.4	Assessment methodology	<p>A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter. This is still under discussion.</p> <p>Comments received on Technical Note 01/11/2024 - currently under consideration.</p>	As part of the Statutory Consultation, ECC Public Health highlighted the need for a more robust health impact assessment and the need for National Grid to focus on actively driving out maximum local benefits to the health and wellbeing of communities across Essex.	Under discussion
3.5.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with Health and Wellbeing are summarised in <b>Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>National Grid issued the Health and Wellbeing Technical Note – Refreshed Approach on the 9th October 2024. ECC response to the technical note was received in November 2024. National Grid responded to ECC's comments on the technical note in May 2025.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Key parameters presented in the PEIR are considered appropriate at a population level, consideration of vulnerable groups and the application of a precautionary principle.</p> <p>As with the revised health and wellbeing approach, use of the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) guidance is recommended to inform the identification of vulnerable population groups is recommended. The refreshed approach to Health and Wellbeing should be referenced here.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.5.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Health and Wellbeing are presented in <b>Section 10.5 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>The key information sources outlined in section 10.5.4 are considered appropriate.</p> <p>Use of IEMA guidance on determining significance for Human Health and Effective Scoping of Human Health in EIA.</p> <p>The additional guidance noted in the refreshed technical note for health and wellbeing, Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) is considered to be an appropriate approach for the identification of vulnerable groups is considered appropriate.</p> <p>Use of the Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment is considered an appropriate approach for assessing the impacts on people's mental wellbeing in relation to control, resilience and community assets and participation and inclusion in the context of the wider determinants of mental well-being, ensuring this also links to the above population characteristics and sensitive receptors as outlined above.</p> <p>ECC requests whether there is any updated guidance as the above mentioned is from 2011.</p> <p>ECC requests that NG refer to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy.</p>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.5.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the</p>	<p>Embedded measures relevant to the Health and Wellbeing Chapter which are intrinsic to</p>	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		Project relevant to Health and Wellbeing effects, are set out in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	and build into the design of the project are considered appropriate and adequate. However, will need to account of and be informed by full ES which includes the refreshed approach to Health and Wellbeing Assessment.	
3.5.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing), of the ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP [document <b>reference 7.2</b> ]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Standard mitigation measures relevant to health and wellbeing are considered appropriate and adequate to address potential effects, however, will need to take account of and be informed by the baseline conditions, mental health impact assessment as noted above in the ES.	Under discussion
3.5.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing), of the ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	<b>Health and Wellbeing Chapter:</b> It is noted that the PEIR has not identified any requirements for additional mitigation for Health and Wellbeing at this stage, this should be revisited once the above refreshed health and wellbeing assessment approach is undertaken within the ES, including the Mental Health Impact Assessment approach that will seek to assess the mental health impacts according to the four protective factors; enhancing control, increasing resilience, facilitating participation, promoting social inclusion. Additional mitigation measures highlighted in LV10 highlighted that draft Order Limits could include adequate room for planting	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			and potentially mounding for additional screening.	
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.5.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>It is noted that mental health and wellbeing may also be impacted by residents experiencing anxiety in relation to air quality effects. However, with the mitigation measures identified, the residual effects of the Project in relation to Health and Wellbeing for both the general population and for vulnerable groups is considered to be neutral and not significant. This will need to be informed by the refreshed approach to health and wellbeing assessment in the revised technical note.</p> <p>It is also noted that mental health and wellbeing may be impacted in relation to effects on visual amenity during construction. However, effects are considered to be temporary, and the location of impacted population would change throughout the construction period due to the linear nature of the Project.</p> <p>Relevant mitigation includes community liaison measures to inform residents of construction activities. As noted in the revised health and wellbeing technical note, the effects would need to assess sensitivity of receptors across the linear project, magnitude of effect in relation to mental health and wellbeing. This should also include qualitative assessment of the anticipated mental health and wellbeing impacts as noted within the revised</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			<p>approach and should provide the opportunity to input qualitative information to co-produce mitigation measures to offset the anticipated mental health impacts from the project which is one of the listed protective factors within the assessment "facilitating participation".</p> <p>It is noted preliminary residual effects of the Project in relation to Health and Wellbeing is potentially negative during construction due to changes in travel choice and potential effects on journey times and distances in particular for those accessing healthcare facilities. Though considered to be not significant, further assessment and mitigation measures should be provided in the ES according to the revised health and wellbeing assessment approach.</p>	
3.5.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Chapter:</p> <p>Significant negative effects on landscape character during operation (and maintenance) are predicted to extend across the draft Order Limits and the surrounding landscapes within approximately 0.5 km to 1 km of the project. Similarly, significant negative effects on views and visual amenity during operation (and maintenance) are predicted to be experienced within approximately 1 km to 2 km of the project and these are likely to be experienced by a range of visual receptors including residents, road users and recreational receptors. It is understood that response of the local communities to these</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			<p>aspects are subjective, and effects are likely to be experienced by a proportion of the local population due to how the Project may impact setting of homes, businesses and or culturally or ecologically important community assets. Further assessment undertaken and presented in the ES should also draw from the mental health and wellbeing assessment approach within the refreshed approach to health and wellbeing assessment technical note which will include a qualitative aspect.</p> <p>As part of the Statutory Consultation, ECC Public Health highlighted the need to consider how significant negative impacts could be off set through positive community benefits for local communities within Essex, such as funding for community energy schemes, training, and skills investment within the local area for those adversely affected by the Project particularly in areas with high levels of deprivation.</p> <p>There is the opportunity to push for the creation of accessible green spaces providing benefits for health and wellbeing and enhancing biodiversity and local nature recovery.</p>	
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.5.12	Outline CoCP	The Outline CoCP includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> , of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate for	Health and Wellbeing Chapter: Note comments above for embedded, standard and additional mitigation measures which are applicable to the CoCP.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Table 5.1 in the CoCP to include a section for construction and operation phase management phase in relation to health and wellbeing taking account of the refreshed approach to health and wellbeing assessment approach. This is currently referred to in section 5.1.11 of the outline CoCP has not been provided its own section in table 5.1.</p>	
Other matters as required				

## 3.6 Historic Environment

Table 3.6 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Historic Environment

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.6.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Historic Environment assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 11.2 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the ES.</p>	<p>ECC position pending sight of ES. If a Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) is being produced as well as the CoCP this would need to be included. In addition, early sight of the draft DCO alongside the ES, is requested as we are requesting changes on this in many of the NSIPS we are dealing with.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>		
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.6.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.6.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b> .	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion
3.6.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Historic Environment was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Email 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 - Built heritage – consultant's methodology not agreed, and all assets affected not identified.	Under discussion
3.6.7	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Historic Environment assessment are summarised in <b>Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>February 2025, National Grid issued Historic Environments (HE) Viewpoints</p>	ECC position pending sight of ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>information and held a thematic group meeting on the topic.</p> <p>March 2025, National Grid issued an updated version of the Historic Environment (HE) Viewpoints information.</p>		
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.6.8	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Historic Environment are presented in <b>Section 11.5 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>February 2025, National Grid issued a draft Historic Baseline Report including Annex C and Annex D for agreement/comment and held a meeting on the topic.</p>	ECC position pending response to comments made in letter dated 06.03.2025.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.6.9	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Historic Environment effects, are set out in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>April 2025, National Grid issued the Draft Outline Mitigation Strategy and draft Outline Written Scheme of</p>	ECC position pending response to previous comments and sight of ES.	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		Investigation (WSI) for post-consent stage of the project.		
3.6.10	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP ( <b>document reference 7.2</b> ). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending response to previous comments and sight of ES.	Under discussion
3.6.11	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending response to previous comments and sight of ES.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.6.12	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.  ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	Email 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 - Archaeology – consultants not assessing significant areas of 132 kV or 400kV cable undergrounding or overhead line tower locations intrusively prior to submission.  Email 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 – further discussion required regarding vibration assessments.	Under discussion
3.6.13	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is	ECC position pending response to previous comments and sight of ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		presented in <b>Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.		
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.6.14	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Concern that the CoCP does not acknowledge the potential impacts to built heritage during the construction phase and makes reference only to the how the project may affect the historic environment through disturbing known and unknown archaeology and the removal of historic landscape features</p> <p>Further details and information is expected as part of the ES.</p>	Under discussion
3.6.15	Environmental Actions and Commitments	Mitigation measures/ environmental commitments will be highlighted in the Outline CoCP.	ECC position pending sight of the REAC.	
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.6.16	Written Scheme of Investigations (WSIs) for pre-consent geophysical surveys	The scope and methodology of WSIs for geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and	Ongoing discussions - only agreement on certain WSI's and even some of those we are awaiting final versions. Everything else is still under discussion.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
	and archaeological trial trenching.	proportionate to the level of impact anticipated. ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	It is considered beneficial to have the Written Scheme of investigations as separate lines rather than all integrated into a single line. At present we are discussing 4 separate ones and expect quite a few more.	
3.6.18	Draft Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI	The contents of the Draft Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.	Ongoing discussions – as above	Under discussion
3.6.18	Programme for completion of archaeological fieldwork	The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.		Under discussion

### 3.7 Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk

Table 3.7 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.7.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 9.2 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the ES.	On going discussions - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements. ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.		
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.7.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.7.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 12.4 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> .	On going discussions - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements. ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion
3.7.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate. Technical notes for the following under consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works In, Over and Under Watercourses</li> </ul>	The methodology for assessing Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate. It was also noted in the Statutory Consultation that ECC does not raise any principal areas of disagreement with National Grid on this topic.	Agreed
3.7.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk assessment are summarised in <b>Section 12.4 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> .	On going discussions - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.7.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk are presented in <b>Section 12.5 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	On going discussions which have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements. ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.7.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk effects, are set out in <b>Section 12.6 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	On going discussions which have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements. ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion
3.7.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 12.6 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP ( <b>document reference 7.2</b> ). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate	On going discussions that have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements. ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.		
3.7.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 12.6 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	On going discussions that have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements.  ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.7.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 12.7 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	On going discussions that have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements.  ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion
3.7.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 12.7 of Chapter 12 (Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	On going discussions that have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements.  ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.7.12	Outline CoCP (including Flood	The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 12 (Hydrology,</b>	On going discussions that have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
	Warning and Evacuation Plan)	<p><b>Land Drainage and Flood Risk) of the ES and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</b></p> <p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	<p>the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements.</p> <p>ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.</p>	
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.7.13	Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	<p>The draft FRA was issued to stakeholders in January and March 2025.</p> <p>The scope, methodology, assessment and conclusions drawn in the FRA are considered appropriate and proportionate.</p>	<p>On going discussions that have resolved many issues - further information to be provided within the FRA for submission with the DCO surrounding the proposals for surface water management and storage calculations/requirements.</p> <p>ECC position pending sight of final ES / FRA.</p>	Under discussion



## 3.8 Landscape and Visual

Table 3.8 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Landscape and Visual

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.8.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Landscape and Visual assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 13.2 Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>ECC agree with the overarching policy documents stated in the PEIR but would wish to also see reference and further action in relation to NPS EN-1. Section 4 Assessment, Para 4.1.5 Weighing Impacts and Benefits:</p> <p><i>'In considering any proposed development ... the Secretary of State should take into account...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy'</i></li> </ul> <p>In ECC's Statutory Consultation May/June 2024 in relation to Landscape and Visual Issues they flagged that a Valued Landscape Assessment should form part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment carried out e.g. through the final EIA. Local landscape designation no longer forms part of promoted government policy and therefore local value generally needs to be assessed in line with 'TGN 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations'</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			<p>ECC are not clear as to how or if this has been taken forward.</p> <p>ECC also had concerns regarding whether a preliminary judgement on significance had been determined without going through the stage of identifying susceptibility and magnitude of effects or whether this stage had been carried out but not shared. ECC are not clear as to the outcome of this.</p>	
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.8.2	Study area	The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.	ECC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
3.8.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the ES.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>ECC Statutory Consultation May/June 2024 in relation to Landscape and Visual Issues - ECC identified that the limited number of viewpoints and visualisations that are proposed over the length of the Project needed to be reviewed. Although the number of viewpoints has been increased, ECC still judge there are critical gaps in the viewpoint distribution that need filling in order to demonstrate assertions regarding extent of significance.</p> <p>ECC also remarked that the preliminary LVIA did not appear to include details of the agreed criteria on which the assessment judgements are based. Without details of these criteria, it is hard to appraise whether the impacts are significant or not.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			<p>ECC identified a number of additional areas where they believe data quality and presentation could be improved in order to aid access and interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• location labelling on the visualisations</li> <li>• location maps for the visualisations need an OS base.</li> <li>• Increase scale of visual receptor maps e.g., a 1:10,000 baseline as used for the Proposed Project Design Maps</li> <li>• Wireline visualisations e.g., <i>Volume II: Figures Part 18 of 27: Figures 13.9.51 - 13.9.56 - Wireline Visualisations</i>. Label by route section and/or district rather than figure number alone.</li> <li>• Include details of the agreed criteria on which the assessment judgements are based. i.e., for the sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and magnitude of the effects.</li> <li>• Provide Indicative layouts and elevations for the CSE's and EACN rather than just descriptions.</li> </ul> <p>Provide an alternative approach to plan formatting ahead of submission of the DCO.</p>	
3.8.4	Assessment methodology (including LVIA methodology and viewpoints)	<p>The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Meetings were held on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree</p>	<p>Email dated 5th Nov 2024 – Landscape – viewpoints are still under discussion.</p> <p>In relation to valued landscapes see comments from statutory consultation and response at 3.8.3 above.</p> <p>National Grid needs to identify how they propose to consider valued landscape</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>the detailed methodology as well as the number and location of viewpoints. ECC requested the inclusion of a Valued Landscape Assessment. National Grid propose to consider valued landscape qualities in the LVIA but do not propose to undertake a separate valued landscape assessment. This matter is still under discussion.</p> <p>March 2025, National Grid issued an update on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Viewpoints and Methodology. Viewpoints are still under discussion.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>qualities in the LVIA and why they do not propose to undertake a separate valued landscape assessment.</p>	
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual assessment are summarised in <b>Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. ECC comment refers to the PEIR, this section will be within the ES.</p>	<p>Latest version of ES required – ECC position to be confirmed. ECC are not sure what is meant by the terms key parameters and assumptions. Section 13.4 is headed 'Project Engagement and Consultation'.</p>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.8.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Landscape and Visual are presented in <b>Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b>.</p>	<p>Statutory Consultation May/June 2024 in relation to Landscape and Visual Issues - ECC identified concerns with the Visual Receptors and Groupings have been identified based only partially on shared</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>landscape characteristics and a similarity in the nature of views. ECC understand that, as the Project area is so large, the Visual Receptor Areas are a pragmatic way of organising the data, but fear clarity and detail may have been lost as a result.</p>	
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.8.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Landscape and Visual effects, are set out in <b>Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>E-mail 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 – Landscape – adequacy of undergrounding, mitigation and lack of compensation are all still under discussion.</p>	Under discussion
3.8.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Landscape and Visual effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP (<b>document reference 7.2</b>). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Standard mitigation does not address residual significant visual impacts.</p> <p>Compensation for residual impacts is not addressed.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.8.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Additional mitigation does not address residual significant visual impacts.</p> <p>Compensation for residual impacts is not addressed.</p>	Under discussion

#### EIA – Assessment Conclusions

3.8.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p>	<p>E-mail 4th Nov 2024 - Landscape – consultants not assessing tree and hedgerow loss along the route.</p>	Under discussion
3.8.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p><b>Statutory Consultation May/June 2024 in relation to Landscape and Visual Issues</b> – ECC identified that in order to reduce significant landscape and visual impacts further at the operational stage more use of undergrounding or re-routing is required, particularly in river valleys, to protect valued local landscapes, long-distant rights of way and rural amenity sites.</p> <p>ECC also flagged up that the PEIR acknowledges there will be a significant negative landscape and visual impact at both construction and operational stages over the length of the Project.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			<p>And yet no substantive proposals have been put forward in terms of off-setting or compensation to deal with this.</p> <p>Also as already flagged in this document, the full details of the agreed criteria on which the assessment judgements are based. i.e., for the sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and magnitude of the effects, did not appear to have been presented in the PEIR.</p> <p>These issues remain substantially unaddressed.</p>	
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.8.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	Outstanding issues to be discussed which are ongoing.	Under discussion
3.8.13	Outline LEMP	<p>The Outline LEMP includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate.</p>	Outstanding issues to be discussed.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>		

Other matters as required

### 3.9 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

Table 3.9 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.9.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES.</b></p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	<p>Latest iteration of Technical Note to be reviewed.</p> <p>It is also requested that skills should be considered separately from community benefits.</p>	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.		
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.9.2	Study area	The Scoping Opinion stated, “The Applicant should seek to agree the study area with the relevant local authorities”. A meeting was held on 12 September 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion.	Email dated 3rd October 2024 confirmed that ECC were in agreement on the scope and methodology regarding Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism as laid out in the Technical Note, in relation to employment and skills.	Agreed
3.9.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES.</b> ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	Latest iteration of Technical Note to be reviewed. Clarification requested on what is being done for training and skills. There is a lack of reference to data on employment and skills and it is suggested a regional skills analysis is undertaken.	Under discussion
3.9.4	Assessment methodology	The Scoping Opinion stated, “ <i>The Applicant should seek to agree the study area with the relevant local authorities</i> ” and “ <i>The ES should detail the criteria used to identify businesses likely to be affected and the Applicant should seek to agree these with relevant local authorities</i> ”. A meeting was held on 12 September 2024 to seek to agree the points raised in the Scoping Opinion.		Under discussion
3.9.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Socio-economics,	ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>Recreation and Tourism assessment are summarised in <b>Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>However, ECC would like to make a general comment requesting clarification on what NG are doing for training and skills. There is a lack of reference to data on employment and skills, and it is suggested that a regional skills analysis is undertaken. ECC would also like to take the opportunity again to suggest that skills should be considered separately from community benefits.</p>	
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.9.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism are presented in <b>Section 15.5 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p>	<p>ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject.</p>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.9.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects, are set out in <b>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject.</p> <p>It is requested that skills should be considered separately from community benefits.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.9.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP ( <b>document reference 7.2</b> ). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject. It is requested that skills should be considered separately from community benefits.	Under discussion
3.9.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject. It is requested that skills should be considered separately from community benefits.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.9.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject.	Under discussion
3.9.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The	ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.		
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.9.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	ECC position pending sight of ES and any further technical paper on this subject.	Under discussion
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.9.13	Skills and Training	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	ECC would like to make a general comment requesting clarification on what National Grid are doing for training and skills. There is a lack of reference to data on employment and skills, and it is suggested that a regional skills analysis is undertaken. ECC would also like to take the opportunity to suggest that skills should be considered separately from community benefits.	Under discussion

### 3.10 Traffic and Transport

Table 3.10 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Traffic and Transport

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.10.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Traffic and Transport assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 16.2 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	<p>ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES. It is noted in previous comments on the PEIR that the following policy sections should be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS-EN1 para 5.14.8 and 5.14.12</li> <li>Section 2.5 of NPS-5</li> </ul>	Under Discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.10.2	Study Area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed	Agreed
3.10.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 16.4 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b>	ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES and data collection.	Under Discussion
3.10.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Traffic and Transport was outlined through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Previous concerns around using 2019 DfT data rather than more recent data appear to have been dealt with in the draft TA where 2023 DfT data is presented. However, we would require the relevant section of the	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			draft ES to be provided so as to confirm the current status of this document.	
3.10.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Traffic and Transport assessment are summarised in <b>Section 16.4 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	<p>ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES.</p> <p>ECC to review list of committed development since the original agreed list so that the most up to date cumulative impacts can be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>Not all traffic assumptions have been accepted as they relate to agreement on monitoring, management and mitigation to ensure the assumptions are retained – in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers arrive/depart outside of the local highway peak hours including during the autumn/winter months when there is potential for reducing working days due to weather and lighting conditions</li> <li>Car occupancy rates of the workforce</li> </ul> <p>Some parameters have not been accepted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working hours at the weekends and bank holidays</li> <li>HGV arrivals/departures during the peak hours on some routes where there is sensitivity (specific highway junctions/links (tbc) and routes with nearby schools (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>See PRoW SoCG with respect to Types of PRoW</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.10.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Traffic and Transport are presented in <b>Section 16.5 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	<p>ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES</p> <p>ECC to review the list of committed development since the original agreed list so that the most up to date cumulative impacts can be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>ECC to confirm receptors in relation to school activity and PRow on the routes – for example where there is on street pick up/drop off associated with a nearby school or well used PRow crossing or walking along construction routes to access.</p>	Under Discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.10.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Traffic and Transport effects, are set out in <b>Section 16.6 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . This includes the <b>Outline CTMP</b> (document reference 7.3) which includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures and traffic routing. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	<p>ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES so as to review embedded mitigation.</p> <p>ECC to review assumed diversion routes on public highways and PRow (set out in draft DCO Schedules provided) and embedded measures set out in the ES.</p>	Under Discussion
3.10.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Traffic and Transport effects during construction are	ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES so as to review list of standard mitigation.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		summarised in <b>Section 16.6</b> of <b>Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP</b> (document reference 7.2). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC have provided comments on the Outline CoCP in relation to the informal consultation period 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025 which should be taken into account in the ES where relevant. Refer to PRoW SoCG in relation to Routes with Public Access Affected by the Proposed Development which show management measures.	
3.10.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 16.6</b> of <b>Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES. On going discussions following presentation of ES mitigation to ECC in recent informal workshops.	Under Discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.10.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 16.7 (Residual Effects)</b> of <b>Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	ECC position pending sight of relevant section of the ES.	Under Discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.10.11	Outline CoCP	The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and	ECC position pending sight of relevant section of the ES. Note comments on Outline CoCP provided on 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025.	Under Discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p>		
<b>Transport Assessment (TA) – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.10.12	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Traffic and Transport assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 3 of the TA (document reference 7.11)</b></p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	<p>Agreed, assuming the following policy section is to be updated in the final TA as per response to our comments from the draft TA with inclusion of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS-EN1 para 5.14.8 and 5.14.12</li> <li>• Section 2.5 of NPS-5</li> </ul>	Agreed
<b>Transport Assessment – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.10.13	Study Area	<p>The study area comprises all roads along the PARs, Wider road network (SRN/MRN) that might experience changes in traffic patterns resulting from the Project, PRoW and WCH routes that interact with the haul roads within the Order Limits and the PARs as presented within <b>Section 2.6 (Transport Assessment Study Area) of the TA (document reference 7.11)</b>.</p> <p>The Study Area is considered appropriate for the assessment.</p>	The study area is agreed.	Agreed
3.10.14	Multi-modal Strategy	<p>A multi-modal assessment has been undertaken to examine opportunities to use rail and water-borne transport modes to supply materials for the construction of the Project and reduce</p>	The multi modal assessment is considered appropriate	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>movements on the wider highway network as presented within <b>Section 6.2 (Construction Traffic Generation and Routeing - Multi-modal Assessment)</b> of the TA (document reference 7.11).</p> <p>The multi-modal assessment is considered appropriate and sufficiently covers the need to consider transport impacts, as set out within the Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy EN-1 (2023).</p>		
3.10.15	Junction Capacity Assessment Methodology	<p>Preliminary junction capacity assessments have been undertaken to establish whether there is a requirement to carry out a full assessment of the junctions with a traffic model as presented in <b>Section 6.3 (Construction Traffic Assessment Methodology Road-only Transport Scenario)</b> of the TA (document reference 7.11). This involved a preliminary assessment of the estimation of the volume to capacity (V/C) ratio that defines the performance threshold that classifies the operational status of each arm of the junction. If the junction V/C ratio is approaching capacity, at capacity or over capacity, a traffic model is required. The capacity assessment methodology used is considered appropriate.</p>	<p>Further discussion. The V/C ratio is understood but an explanation of the critical gap assessment is required (including the source of the default values and follow up times) – see previous comments on draft TA.</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.10.16	Junction Modelling	The methodology used for undertaking junction assessments is presented in <b>Section 6.3 (Construction Traffic Assessment Methodology (Road-only Transport Scenario))</b> of the TA (document reference 7.11). The assessment methodology used is considered appropriate.	Accept use of JUNCTIONS 10 and LINSIG industry standard software for the junction modelling.	Agreed
3.10.17	Assessment of WCH	The assessment of WCH impacts as a result of the Project is presented in <b>Section 7.4 (Walkers, Cyclists and Horse riders network)</b> of the TA (document reference 7.11). This is based on the assessment undertaken within <b>Section 16.7 (Residual Effects)</b> and <b>Appendix 16.4: Traffic and Transport Construction Effects of Chapter 16 - Traffic and Transport</b> (document reference 6.16.A4). The assessment methodology used is considered appropriate.	Agree the methodology based on publicly available information, however ECC to provide more local information for review in the TA.	Under Discussion
3.10.18	Impact on Parking	The methodology for the assessment of impact to on-street parking is presented within <b>Section 6.5 (on Street Parking)</b> of the TA (document reference 7.11). This includes a case-by-case assessment of temporary suspensions of formal and informal kerbside parking by the Project along PARs and Abnormal Load routes. This methodology is considered appropriate.	Section 6.5 of the TA refers to ES Chapter 16 which we have not seen. We would require the relevant section for review. The TA includes thresholds for assessing the impact on parking which we do not accept – refer to our previous comments on the draft TA. Note we are currently reviewing the DCO Schedules relating to parking restrictions and will be providing comments on relevant locations.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.10.19	Road Safety	<p>An assessment on Road Safety has been undertaken that thoroughly identifies the potential impact of the Project as set out in <b>Section 4 (Baseline Conditions)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b>. Collisions clusters have been identified along road links forming the PARs, based on existing baseline characteristics. A calculation of the accident rate per billion vehicle kilometres has been carried out on the road links forming the PARs to compare against the national statistics.</p> <p>Areas where potential road safety issues have been identified, as set out within <b>Section 7 (Transport Assessment)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b>, will be highlighted within the Driver's pack as part of mitigation measures secured within the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b>. The assessment methodology used is considered appropriate.</p>	Review the use of iRAP (in current IEMA standards).	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>Transport Assessment – Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.10.20	Mitigation Measures	Mitigation measures include embedded, standard and additional mitigation identified within <b>Section 2.2 (Project Description)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> and as reported within <b>Section 16.6 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . This includes the <b>Outline CoCP (document reference 7.2)</b> , <b>Outline CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b> and additional mitigation at junctions and specific areas to help reduce the impact on capacity and provide environmental mitigation measures to reduce the significance of effects of the Project. The measures presented are considered appropriate.	To be agreed. Currently reviewing the traffic and ES mitigation measures presented.	Under Discussion
<b>Transport Assessment – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.10.21	Baseline conditions	The baseline conditions and sensitive receptors for Traffic and Transport are presented in <b>Section 4 (Existing Baseline Transport Conditions)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> and are considered appropriate.	ECC to review sensitive receptors (schools and PRow for example)	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>Transport Assessment – Future Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.10.22	Growth Factors	The future baseline traffic on the SRN / MRN has been estimated applying appropriate growth factors derived from TEMPro NTEM dataset v7.2 and are presented in <b>Chapter 5 (Future Baseline)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> . Growth factors have been applied for the peak year of activity and therefore vary along PARs. This approach and the growth rate used is considered appropriate.	Agreed	Agreed
3.10.23	Cumulative Developments	The committed developments included within the cumulative assessment for the future baseline year are presented in <b>Chapter 5 (Future Baseline)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> . These have been derived through a review of local authority planning portals and information received from LPAs and identifying those developments that overlap with the peak year activity for each PAR. The developments included within the assessment are considered appropriate.	ECC to review the list of committed development since the original agreed list so that the most up to date cumulative impacts can be considered in the assessment.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>Transport Assessment – Trip Generation</b>				
3.10.24	Key Assumptions	Key assumptions associated with the Traffic and Transport assessment are summarised in <b>Section 16.4 of Chapter 16 (Traffic and Transport) of the Environmental Statement (ES)</b> and <b>Section 6.2 of Chapter 6 of the Transport Assessment (document reference 7.11)</b> . The key assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	<p>ECC position pending sight of relevant sections of the ES</p> <p>ECC to review the list of committed development since the original agreed list so that the most up to date cumulative impacts can be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>Not all traffic assumptions have been accepted as they relate to agreement on monitoring, management and mitigation to ensure the assumptions are retained – in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers arrive/depart outside of the local highway peak hours including during the autumn/winter months when there is potential for reducing working days due to weather and lighting conditions</li> <li>Car occupancy rates of the workforce</li> </ul> <p>Some parameters have not been accepted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working hours at the weekends and bank holidays</li> <li>HGV arrivals/departures during the peak hours on some routes where there is sensitivity (specific highway junctions/links (tbc) and routes with nearby schools (tbc)</li> </ul>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.10.25	Methodology	The methodology for assessing the technical information received from the technical teams and generating the trip estimate is found within <b>Section 6 (Methodology)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> is considered suitable and robust.	The methodology is agreed in that it based on other sites. However, is subject to monitor, manage and mitigate (as set out in 3.10.25 above and 3.10.27 - 28 below) which has not yet been agreed.	Under Discussion
3.10.26	Construction Vehicle Trips	Trip generation estimation has been undertaken to evaluate the daily traffic levels associated with construction activities for both the OHL and cables and substations. The estimation is based on a worst-case scenario, identifying peak-day vehicle movements for each construction activity to ensure a robust and conservative impact. This is presented in <b>Section 6.2 (Construction vehicles overview)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> . The trip generation is considered appropriate.	The trip generation is based on information provided by the team which is very specific to the NSIP project and as such ECC accept the figures on the basis that they will be monitored and managed with mitigation. However, the monitor, manage and mitigation has not been agreed as yet.	Under Discussion
3.10.27	Construction Workforce Trips	Overhead Line, cabling and substation workforce trips have been estimated based on shared occupancy as presented in <b>Section 6.3 (Construction Staff Overview)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> . An <b>Outline Construction Workers Travel Plan (CWTP)</b> has been prepared as part of the DCO application and is contained as an appendix within the <b>Outline CTMP</b>	The trip generation is based on information provided by the team which is very specific to the NSIP project and as such ECC accept the figures on the basis that they will be monitored and managed with mitigation. However, the monitor, manage and mitigation has not been agreed as yet.	Under Discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		(document reference 7.3). The Outline CWTP will be developed into a final detailed CWTP by the Main Works Contractor(s) following the submission of the DCO application. The workforce trip generation is considered appropriate.		
<b>Transport Assessment – Conclusions</b>				
3.10.28	Overall impact of the Project	The conclusions of the Transport Assessment are presented within <b>Section 8 (Conclusion)</b> of the <b>TA (document reference 7.11)</b> . The conclusions are considered appropriate.	The draft TA that we have seen does not include conclusions. We haven't seen the final TA.	Under Discussion
<b>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)</b>				
3.10.29	Project Team Roles and Responsibilities	The Project Teams Roles and Responsibilities are set out in <b>Section 3</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b> . These are considered to be clear and sufficient for the delivery of the Project.	Agreed	Agreed
3.10.30	Pre-and Post Construction Surveys	Details of the proposed Pre and Post Construction surveys are set out in <b>Section 5.2</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b> and connect to the mitigation measures detailed within the <b>Outline Code of Construction Practice (COCP) (document reference 7.2)</b> . These pre- and post-construction surveys are considered appropriate for the Project.	Note comments/queries on latest comments on the draft report.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.10.31	Traffic Management Measures	Details of the proposed traffic management measures are set out in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b> . These traffic management measures are considered to be appropriate and adequate in terms of their nature and scale to address potential construction impacts.	Note comments/queries on latest comments on the draft report.	Under Discussion
3.10.32	Implementation/ Enforcement	The implementation and enforcement process set out in <b>Section 6</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b> is considered to be appropriate and adequate for the Project.	Note comments/queries on latest comments on the draft report.	Under Discussion
<b>Outline Construction Workers Travel Plan (CWTP)</b>				
3.10.33	Policy	The policy context, including legislation and guidance considered in the development of the document is set out in <b>Section 4</b> of the <b>CWTP (Appendix B of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b> . All relevant legislation, policy, and guidance have been identified and appropriately considered to inform the <b>CWTP</b> .	The Essex Travel Plan Guidance includes requirement for baseline figure which is currently missing from the report	Under Discussion
3.10.34	Site Accessibility Review	The Site Accessibility review is captured within <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>CWTP (Appendix B of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b> . This review is appropriate for the Project.	Agreed	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.10.35	Targets, Strategy, and Measures	<p>Targets are set out within <b>Section 6</b> of the <b>CWTP (Appendix B of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b>. Strategy and Measures are set out within <b>Section 8</b> of the <b>CWTP</b>.</p> <p>The construction targets set out are considered to be relevant and achievable, given the present stage of Project development.</p> <p>The strategy and measures proposed to be implemented are suitable and appropriate for managing the anticipated construction staff travel impacts arising from the Project.</p>	<p>We need some measures in place if the assumptions do not come to fruition.</p> <p>Note comments/queries on latest draft report.</p>	Under Discussion
3.10.36	Monitoring and Review	<p>The proposed monitoring and review process is set out in <b>Section 9</b> of the <b>CWTP (Appendix B of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b>. This is considered to be suitable and appropriate, given the present stage of Project development.</p>	Note comments/queries on latest draft report	Under Discussion
<b>Construction Access Strategy and Design</b>				
3.10.37	Construction Access Approach	<p>The approach for construction access for the Project is proposed to utilise designated routes for construction traffic on local roads. These are defined as 'Primary Access Routes' (PARs) within <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b>. This approach is considered to be suitable for construction traffic for the Project.</p>	Construction access utilising designated routes is an agreed approach.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.10.38	Primary Access Route Selection	<p>Routes on local roads proposed to be utilised as Primary Access Routes (PARs) are shown in the <b>Outline Highway Mitigation Plans</b> within <b>Appendix C</b> of the <b>CTMP</b> (document reference 7.3). These have been discussed with Essex County Council during regular engagement meetings since September 2023. These PARs are considered to be suitable for use by the proposed construction traffic, considering the proposed mitigation measures detailed within the <b>CTMP</b>.</p>	Awaiting highway mitigation and access designs following RSA and DR.	Under Discussion
3.10.39	Construction Access and Crossover Design	<p>The proposed site access locations ('Access Bellmouths') and locations where construction traffic is proposed to cross the Public Highway ('Crossover Bellmouths') are set out in <b>Schedule 9 – Access to Works</b> and further shown in the <b>Outline Highway Mitigation Plans</b> within <b>Appendix C</b> of the <b>CTMP</b>. These locations are considered to be suitable for use by the proposed construction traffic as part of the Project.</p> <p>The designs of the proposed accesses in these locations have been based on the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges CD123, and Stage 1 Road Safety Audits (RSAs) have been undertaken for each proposed location, overseen by Essex County Council. These locations are considered to be suitable in principle,</p>	Awaiting crossover designs following RSA with Designer's Response.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		and remaining comments arising from the Stage 1 RSAs will be addressed in consultation with Essex County Council as the Overseeing Authority.		
3.10.40	Highway Mitigation Design	<p>Mitigation measures proposed on the Public Highway are described in <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>CTMP</b>, and are further set out in the following DCO Schedules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Schedule 6, Part 1 - Streets Subject to Permanent Alteration of Layout.</b></li> <li>• <b>Schedule 6, Part 2 - Street Subject to Temporary Alteration of Layout.</b></li> </ul> <p>These are considered to be suitable and sufficient for the delivery of the Project.</p> <p>Where measures have been identified which may require works outside of the Public Highway (categorised as 'Red' mitigations in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b>), specific designs have been developed for these locations. These designs were discussed with Essex County Council during an engagement session in April 2025, and further to this Stage 1 Road Safety Audits have been undertaken for each location, overseen by Essex County Council. These locations are considered to be suitable in principle, and remaining</p>	Awaiting mitigation plans following RSA along with Designer's Response	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		comments arising from the Stage 1 RSAs will be addressed in consultation with Essex County Council as the Overseeing Authority.		
3.10.41	Traffic Management	<p>Traffic Management measures proposed on the Public Highway are described in <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b>, and further set out in <b>Schedule 5 - Streets Subject to Streetworks</b>. These are considered to be suitable and sufficient for the delivery of the Project.</p> <p>Approaches to Traffic Management were discussed in principle during engagement session in June 2024, and further specific measures relating to highway mitigation design were discussed during an engagement session in April 2025.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with Essex County Council as the proposed Traffic Management measures are developed further, including through the Road Safety Audit process where these relate to proposed site access and crossover design (<b>ID 3.10.40</b>), and highway mitigation design (<b>ID 3.10.41</b>).</p>	<p>Awaiting mitigation plans following RSA along with Designer's Response.</p> <p>Note comments provided on draft CTMP.</p>	Under Discussion
3.10.42	Traffic Regulation Orders and Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders	<p>Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) are shown</p>	Note comments/queries on latest draft plans	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>in the <b>Traffic Regulation Order Plans</b> and set out in <b>Schedule 13</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Part 1 - Temporary Restriction of Waiting and Restriction of Speed.</b></li> <li>• <b>Part 2 - Permanent Restriction of Waiting and Restriction of Speed.</b></li> <li>• <b>Part 3 – Temporary Restriction of Access.</b></li> <li>• <b>Part 4 – Temporary no Overtaking Order.</b></li> </ul> <p>These are considered to be suitable and sufficient for the delivery of the Project.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with Essex County Council as the proposed TROs and TTROs are developed further, including through the Road Safety Audit process where these relate to proposed site access and crossover design (<b>ID 3.10.40</b>), and highway mitigation design (<b>ID 3.10.41</b>).</p>		
3.10.43	Highway Mitigation Design on National Highways Infrastructure	Further to Matter <b>ID 3.10.41</b> (Highway Mitigation Design), it has been identified that the A120(E) / Bentley Road junction (described in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>CTMP</b> ) impacts primarily upon the Strategic Road Network (SRN) managed by National Highways. On the basis that this proposed mitigation impacts principally	Would expect input into the design but accept that National Highways would be the Overseeing Organisation.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		upon the network managed by National Highways, it is considered appropriate for National Highways to be the Overseeing Organisation for the Road Safety Audit in this location.		
3.10.44	Construction Access Design on National Highways Infrastructure	Further to Matter <b>ID 3.10.39</b> (Construction Access and Crossover Design), it has been identified that bellmouth TB-B059 off the A120 Colchester Road east of Coggeshall (described in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>CTMP</b> ) impacts primarily upon the Strategic Road Network (SRN) managed by National Highways. On the basis that this access is proposed to be taken directly from the network managed by National Highways, it is considered appropriate for National Highways to be the Overseeing Organisation for the Road Safety Audit in this location.	Agreed	Agreed
3.10.45	Proposed Highway Mitigation Design on Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road	National Grid have engaged with Essex County Council around the proposed Primary Access Route (PAR) on Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road, south and west of Little Bromley in Tendring. This route is shown as H17-A2 on the <b>Outline Highway Mitigation Plans</b> within <b>Appendix C</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b> .  A mitigation scheme has been developed to facilitate the use of this route by the Project. This is detailed in	Principles agreed but details still outstanding – for example, ground conditions (existing construction of Bentley Road), and remote cycle way provision (maintenance issues), RSA/Designer's Response not seen	Under Discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>Section 5.8</b> of the <b>CTMP</b>, and includes four principal components:</p> <p>Improvement of the A120(E) / Bentley Road junction, as discussed in Matter ID 3.10.43.</p> <p>Widening of the existing carriageway along Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road, to be retained in the permanent case to accommodate National Grid's operational access requirements to the proposed Substation.</p> <p>A permanent private access road between Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road, to be retained in the permanent case to accommodate National Grid's operational access requirements to the proposed Substation. This would not be adopted as part of the Public Highway.</p> <p>A temporary facility for Non-Motorised Users separate to the carriageway along Bentley Road and Ardleigh Road. The provision of this facility has been discussed with Essex County Council, and it has been agreed that it would be required in the temporary case only, and would be removed following the completion of construction activities.</p> <p>Appropriate coordination of these arrangements with Essex County Council, National Highways, and other developers in accordance with <b>Section 6.6</b> of the <b>CTMP</b> (document</p>		

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		reference 7.3). This proposed arrangement is considered suitable and sufficient for the proposed construction and operational access usage.		
<b>Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Access</b>				
3.10.46	Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Access Approach	<p>The approach for Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) access to the Project is to utilise designated routes on the local and Strategic Road networks. This approach is set out within <b>Section 5</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3)</b>, and further detailed within the <b>AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b>. A draft version of the <b>AIL Access Strategy</b> was shared with Essex County Council in March 2025.</p> <p>This approach, in principle, is considered to be suitable for AIL access for the Project at the current stage of project development.</p> <p>National Grid held a Traffic and Transport Working Group Meeting following the closure of the targeted consultations. Updates were provided relating to engagement on AILS, PRoWS and highways modelling.</p>	Principle of using designated routes on the local road network is agreed. However, details to be agreed.	Agreed
3.10.47	Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Access Routes	Routes proposed to be utilised by AILs are shown in the <b>AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A</b> of the <b>CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b> .	<p>Ongoing discussions with respect to ongoing structural investigations.</p> <p>Drawings showing AIL tracking are being provided for ECC to review.</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>These have been developed following consultations with Essex County Council. As part of these consultations, draft route information was shared in July 2024 and April 2025.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with Essex County Council as the proposed AIL access routes are developed further, including with respect to the ongoing structural investigations.</p>		
3.10.48	Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Structural Investigations	<p>Routes proposed to be utilised by Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) are shown in the <b>AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b>. National Grid have been consulting with Essex County Council in relation to structures on the sections of the Local Road Network impacted by these proposed routes. As part of these consultations, draft route information was shared in July 2024 and April 2025, and information around impacted structures requested. Specific concerns raised by Essex County Council in relation to structures on the draft routes shared have been considered in the development of the proposals shown in the <b>AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b>.</p> <p>Engagement with respect to impacted structures is anticipated to be ongoing</p>	Ongoing discussions over feasibility with respect to structural investigations.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>in parallel with the Development Consent Order process. It is understood that any Approvals in Principle secured at the current stage of project development do not remove requirements for formal application ahead of any AIL movements undertaken by the Project. The relevant process is set out within <b>Section 6 of the AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A of the CTMP (document reference 7.3))</b>.</p> <p>This approach is considered to establish in principle that the proposed AIL deliveries required for the Project are feasible, and that a suitable process is being undertaken in order to facilitate the anticipated formal AIL movement applications anticipated during construction of the Project.</p> <p>The AIL applications submitted prior to vehicle movements made by the Main Works Contractor will address structures affected, street furniture and any third-party land impacts as well as programming and operational arrangements to accommodate the movements with minimal impact on the network.</p>		
3.10.49	Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Mitigation and Management Measures	<p>The locations of proposed mitigation measures associated with proposed AIL Routes are shown in the <b>Outline Highway Mitigation Plans</b> within <b>Appendix C of the CTMP (document</b></p>	<p>Ongoing discussions.</p> <p>Note comments provided on draft CTMP.</p> <p>Note comments provided on highway mitigation drawings sent on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>reference 7.3). These mitigation measures have been developed consistently with the wider Highway Mitigation approach for the Project (ID 3.10.41), and are considered to be suitable and sufficient for the delivery of the Project.</p> <p>Management measures relevant to AIL movements are discussed within Section 5.3 of the CTMP (document reference 7.3), and Section 6 of the AIL Access Strategy (Appendix A of the CTMP (document reference 7.3)). This approach, in principle, is considered to be suitable for AIL access for the Project at the current stage of project development.</p> <p>In April 2025, National Grid held a further meeting to discuss the AIL process and report with ECC, Essex and Suffolk police.</p>	Awaiting final drawings following RSA and Designer's Response.	

### 3.11 Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

Table 3.11 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Public Rights of Way

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>PRoW Assessment Chapter</b>				
3.11.1	PRoW Separate Chapter	<p>As per the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate, National Grid has not included a separate PRoW chapter in the <b>Environmental Statement (ES)</b>.</p> <p>Preparing a separate PRoW chapter is not standard practice (there are no previous examples) and would contain a lot of repetition. Multiple effects on single PRoWs will be assessed within the cumulative <b>ES</b> chapter.</p> <p>Note that an <b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan</b> (item ID <b>3.11.3</b>) (document reference 7.6) has been prepared to set out the proposed approach to the management of PRoWs during construction of the Project.</p>	No comment	Agreed
3.11.2	Types of PRoW	<p>Types of PRoW intended to be considered as part of the Management Strategy were shared with Essex County Council within <b>Section 2.1</b> of the <b>PRoW Methodology Statement</b> document in April 2025. This list is considered to suitable, and no additional PRoW types are required to be captured. The PRoW types intended to be considered are:</p>	<p>There should be a separation between routes with legal status and administered by ECC, and those that have not got legal status – i.e. Permissive Paths and Other Routes with public access. ECC have no influence over or interest in the routes with no legal status and are unable to make comment on them. The PROW MP does create the separation and so this table should reflect that as well.</p>	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally designated PROWs (footways, bridleways, restricted byways, and byways open to all traffic)</li> <li>Permissive paths</li> <li>Open access land</li> <li>Cycle tracks, including the National Cycle Network</li> <li>Other routes with public access.</li> </ul> <p>This is set out in <b>Section 1.4</b> of the <b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan</b> (document reference 7.6).</p>	New type of Open Access created under the Marine and Coastal Access Act – created England Coast Path– variation orders etc need to be considered.	
3.11.3	Proposed Management Regime Approach	<p>The intended approach to management regimes to be considered as part of the Management Strategy were shared with Essex County Council within <b>Section 2.4</b> of the <b>PROW Methodology Statement</b> document in April 2025. This established the following hierarchy of management measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PROWs to be kept upon existing alignments as a first preference, utilising management measures if required.</li> <li>Where maintaining existing PROW alignments is not practicable, diversions along the shortest suitable route will be proposed.</li> </ul>	No permanent stopping up of PROW has been identified at this stage. If, at detailed design, it becomes apparent that permanent stopping up is required, ECC and National Grid will continue to engage to understand how best to mitigate the effects, consistent with the principles of the PROW Management Plan. Additionally, and with reference to discussions on the PROW Management Plan, where bridleways need to be diverted or fenced adjacent to a haul road due to construction works it is noted there have been discussion around providing 4m wide routes because the horses need space to turn due to spooking associated with the construction works.	Under Discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where no suitable diversion routes are identified, PRow closures will be considered as a last resort.</li> </ul> <p>This is set out in <b>Section 3</b> of the <b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan</b> (document reference 7.6).</p> <p>National Grid will continue to work with ECC, including if any permanent stopping up becomes apparent.</p>		
3.11.4	Routes with Public Access Affected by the Proposed Development	<p>Routes with public access affected by the proposed development are shown in the <b>Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans</b>. Details of proposed management measures for each impacted route are shown in <b>Section 4</b> of the <b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan</b> (document reference 7.6). These are considered to be suitable, in line with the Proposed Management Regime Approach (<b>ID 3.11.3</b>) set out above.</p>	Agreed in principle – they should be on the same map, but we need to see a copy of this map to ensure that the types of route are clearly identified separately.	Under Discussion
3.11.5	Reinstatement Approach	<p>All PRow's impacted by construction works will be reinstated to at least the same condition as prior to the works being undertaken. Pre- and Post-Condition Surveys will be undertaken in support of this, and any remediation works will be undertaken in consultation with Essex County Council PRow Officers as well as impacted landowner(s).</p>	No comment.	Agreed



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		This is set out in <b>Section 3</b> of the <b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan</b> (document reference 7.6).		

## 3.12 Cumulative Effects

Table 3.12 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Cumulative Effects

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.12.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Cumulative Effects assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b> and <b>Section 17.2 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	Awaiting confirmation pending sight of further information	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.12.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.12.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the	Awaiting confirmation pending sight of further information	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		assessment as presented within <b>Section 17.4 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> .		
3.12.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.12.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Cumulative Effects assessment are summarised in <b>Section 17.4 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	Further information is required on a number of proposed aspects as set out in ECC's response to the targeted consultation. In particular, there are a number of access points and routes that are not currently supported. Please refer to the ongoing discussion and the points raised in the response to the targeted consultation.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.12.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Cumulative Effects are presented in <b>Section 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	This is the subject of on-going discussions.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.12.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Cumulative Effects, are set out in <b>Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered	More information and clarification is required on a range of issues before ECC can confirm the adequacy of any mitigation.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
		<p>appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>		
3.12.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Cumulative Effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the Outline CoCP <b>(document reference 7.2)</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	More information and clarification is required on a range of issues before ECC can confirm the adequacy of any mitigation.	Under discussion
3.12.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b>. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.</p>	More information and clarification is required on a range of issues before ECC can confirm the adequacy of any mitigation.	Under discussion

## EIA – Assessment Conclusions

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.12.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 17.7 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	Further information is required on a number of proposed aspects as set out in ECC's response to the targeted consultation. In particular, there are a number of access points and routes that are not currently supported.	Under discussion
3.12.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 17.7 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	In the absence of information, it is difficult to confirm the acceptability of the effects during operation (and maintenance), but it is recognised on-going discussions seek to resolve these issues.	Under discussion

#### Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring

3.12.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held in October to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	In the absence of information, it is difficult to confirm the acceptability of the effects during operation (and maintenance), but it is recognised on-going discussions seek to resolve these issues.	Under discussion
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#### Other matters as required

### 3.13 Development Consent Order

Table 3.13 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Development Consent Order

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.111.1	DCO Requirements			
	DCO Wording			
	Other matters as required			

### 3.14 Other Matters

Table 3.14 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Other Matters

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
3.13.1	Dunton Hills Garden Village Viabilit	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	ECC reserves its final position subject to the outcome of the Savills report into the impact of the proposal on the viability of the proposed development and the ability to support necessary affordable housing and infrastructure to support the creation of a sustainable community. ECC would reiterate its concern regarding the lack of any baseline assessment undertaken by NGET in relation to the impacts of overhead line and pylon technology at DHGV and the lack of application of the mitigation hierarchy, including compensation, to the likely significant effects from those impacts to the principles of the Garden Village and viability	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			of this strategic housing allocation, including its supporting infrastructure.	
3.13.2	Design	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	There is an opportunity to be innovative in the approach to design while ensuring the infrastructure remains safe and secure. It is supportive of the concerns raised by Tending District Council regarding the impact of the proposed infrastructure on the environment around Ardleigh. NGET must follow a good design process to ensuring that the infrastructure proposed remains functional while realising the best local design outcomes. ECC would wish to see commitments around the issue of design informing the draft DCO / Schedule of Requirements.	Under discussion
3.13.3	Climate Change	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	Please refer to comments made in response to the 2024 statutory consultation and the 2025 targeted consultation.	Under discussion
3.13.4	Green Infrastructure / BNG	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	ECC places significant importance on protecting and enhancing green infrastructure, accessibility, and biodiversity net gain. There is no objections in principle to the relocation, alignment of pylons in several of the sections, where it reduces the removal of trees and reduce the impact on mature woodlands but ECC supports a strategy that seeks to maximise opportunity to reduce environmental impacts and for habitat retention, enhancement, and creation through the delivery of Green Infrastructure to meet the biodiversity net gain requirements and align with the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy objectives.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Essex County Council's Position	Status
			Please refer to comments made in response to the 2024 statutory consultation and the 2025 targeted consultation	
3.13.5	Removal of Obsolete Pylons	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	ECC welcomes the proposal to remove a number of 132kV pylon lines operated by UK Power Networks and would encourage National Grid to continue to explore opportunities for N2T to facilitate the removal of further 132kV pylon lines operated by UK Power Networks, to reduce the cumulative visual impact of energy infrastructure, and compensate for the additional LSE to landscape and amenity of the proposed new 400kV power lines	Under discussion
3.13.6	Airfields	ECC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC on this matter.	ECC reserves its position on this issue pending the outcome of these discussions and confirmation regarding the impact on the future use of airfield across the country as highlighted in the response to the targeted consultation.	Under discussion

# 4. Confirmation of Agreement

The above SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Essex County Council on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

.....

Signed for and on behalf of Essex County Council:

.....

Date:

.....



# Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Loads
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
ECC	Essex County Council
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
GI	Ground Investigation
GW	Gigawatt
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MIIA	Mineral Infrastructure Impact Assessment
MRA	Minerals Resource Assessment
NCR	National Cycle Route
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NPSs	National Policy Statements
PARs	Primary Access Routes
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WIIA	Waste Infrastructure Impact Assessment
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Abbreviation	Full Reference
Zol	Zone of Influence
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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