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# Norwich to Tilbury

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City Council

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**nationalgrid**

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Overview	1
1.2	Project Description	2
1.3	Format and Structure of this Document	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>Record of Key Engagement</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Summary of Key Engagement	4
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1	Overview	13
3.2	Project development, description and design	14
3.3	Ecology and Biodiversity	22
3.4	Air Quality	27
3.5	Noise and Vibration	30
3.6	Health and Wellbeing	33
3.7	Historic Environment	37
3.8	Landscape and Visual	43
3.9	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	53
3.10	Cumulative Effects	56
3.11	Development Consent Order	59
3.12	Other Matters	59
<b>4.</b>	<b>Confirmation of Agreement</b>	<b>60</b>

Table 2.1	Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Colchester City Council	4
Table 3.1	Agreement status for matters presented in Section 3	13
Table 3.2	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to project development, description and design matters	14
Table 3.3	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Ecology and Biodiversity	22
Table 3.4	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Air Quality	27
Table 3.5	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Noise and Vibration	30
Table 3.6	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Health and Wellbeing	33
Table 3.7	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Historic Environment	37
Table 3.8	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Landscape and Visual	43
Table 3.9	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	53
Table 3.10	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Cumulative Effects	56
Table 3.11	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Development Consent Order	59



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared relating to the application for development consent for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the 'Project') made by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (referred to as 'National Grid' within this document). It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid as the Applicant and Colchester City Council (CCC). Colchester City Council is a prescribed consultee under Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) as a Host Authority.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties. It identifies areas of the Project within the Development Consent Order (DCO) application ('the Application'), where matters are agreed, under discussion or not agreed between the parties.
- 1.1.5 The engagement between the parties across the breadth of matters is ongoing. The SoCG is an evolving document and detailed wording within it is still being discussed between the parties.
- 1.1.6 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 Colchester City Council at key points for discussion.
- 1.1.7 Future iterations will evolve from this point and all parties reserve the right to supplement the matters identified as we progress the discussions to ensure it is comprehensive. There are many items within it that although not currently agreed have the potential to be resolved. 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.
- 1.1.8 The parties will continue to work together, seeking resolution where appropriate to ensure this SoCG is a reliable and up to date document which can inform the examination.
- 1.1.9 This SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the Application which are relevant to CCC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to CCC'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

- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration
- Health and Wellbeing
- Historic Environment
- Landscape and Visual
- Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
- Cumulative Effects
- Development Consent Order
- Other Matters

Colchester City Council will have regard to any points raised by statutory bodies and other relevant Interested Parties in respect of the matters covered in the SoCG. Therefore, this version reflects the current position of Colchester City Council but may be subject to change during the examination. A final position will be recorded in the final SoCG to be submitted close to the examination.

## 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 CCC
  - **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 Colchester City Council 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 CCC.

2.2.2 It is agreed that the below is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between National Grid and Colchester City Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

Table 2.1 Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Colchester City Council

Date	Format	Topic/Description
<b>General</b>		
August 2022	Meeting	Informal project catch-up and consultation feedback with CCC.
September 2022	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
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.
September 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
October 2023 - Ongoing	Meeting	Monthly informal catch-up meetings.
November 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
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.
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	All host authority workshop.
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 (Outline LEMP) and Outline CoCP.
November 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss approach to targeted consultation
November 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop
January 2025	Meeting	Meeting to provide project and design update
January 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the 2 <sup>nd</sup> iteration draft versions of the Outline CoCP and Outline LEMP to all host authorities for comment.



Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> iteration draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.
March 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss duty to further the purposes of the National Landscape
May 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
<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 and sought feedback from CCC and other authorities.
September 2023	Meeting	National Grid discussed the potential off-site scheme/initiatives for BNG.
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 LEMP
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Protected Species Proposed Mitigation Measures to stakeholders including CCC.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted 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 LEMP
May 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from the updated proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
<b>Air Quality</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Air Quality assessment for review and comment.
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Noise and Vibration assessment for review and comment.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Health and Wellbeing Assessment Methodology to all host authorities.
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.
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.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
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 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.
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	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.
November 2023	Meeting	Discussion with archaeological advisors to discuss approach to geophysical survey and trial trenching.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated cultural heritage viewpoints (including ZTV) for feedback from all host authorities, Natural England and Historic England.
March 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
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.
March 2024	Email Correspondence	Project response to Stakeholder feedback on Heritage Viewpoints.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Historic Environment 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 East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) (Site 001) with the Archaeology Working Group Members (including Colchester City Council) for information.
July 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
August 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.
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the draft Historic Baseline Report with Annex C & D.
February 2025	Meeting	Thematic group meeting to discuss the Historic Environment Viewpoints.
February 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss the Heritage Baseline report.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued updated the Historic Environment Viewpoints information to stakeholders including CCC.
April 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Draft Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Draft Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for post-consent stage of the project.
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>		
July 2022	Technical note	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) methodology and arboricultural assessment methodology shared for review and discussion at the Thematic Group Meeting
July 2022	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting. National Grid shared the Landscape and Visual

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		Impact Assessment (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.
May 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
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.
March 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Thematic Group call.
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.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the shapefiles for the landscape viewpoints and order limits with CCC 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 to accompany the Outline LEMP 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
November 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to confirm agreement on VPs and photomontages
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.
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.
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 CCC.
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.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
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.

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

### 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This chapter details the matters relevant to Colchester City Council 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 CCC. 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 Table 3.11 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	Colchester City 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>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>CCC acknowledge that the grid capacity offered by the Norwich to Tilbury project is needed.</p> <p>CCC note the NESO Clean Power 2030 report highlights the importance of Norwich to Tilbury and other projects to be delivered by 2030 to transmit clean power from East Anglia. While the NESO Clean Power report is only guidance, the need for Norwich to Tilbury was also reaffirmed by the Hiorns report (dated September 2023) which independently reviewed the need for network reinforcement in East Anglia.</p> <p>CCC note however that the ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts than the Norwich to Tilbury proposals.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			As set out in the T-con response CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure across Colchester and Essex should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed by the Council and the communities it represents.	
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 License) to provide capacity at the dates formally agreed in contracts with energy generators (or customers) by NESO.</p> <p>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>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>CCC note the NESO Clean Power 2030 report highlights the importance of Norwich to Tilbury and other projects to be delivered by 2030 to transmit clean power from East Anglia. Notwithstanding this, CCC considers that a further review of the contracted electricity generation is needed ahead of final submission of the DCO to ensure the timing proposed is robust noting that a longer period for delivery would allow greater potential for alternative solutions, noting the Hirons report findings as set out in</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024).	
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></p> <p>published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including offshore alternatives.</p>	<p>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>The ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts that the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. As such, CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or HVDC undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed as it would be materially less harmful (in many aspects) than the proposed development.</p>	Under discussion
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</p>	<p>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>The ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts that the Norwich to Tilbury</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>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 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.</p>	<p>proposals. As such, CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or HVDC undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed as it would be materially less harmful (in many aspects) than the proposed development.</p>	
<b>Project development process - Design</b>				
3.2.5	East Anglian Connection Node (EACN) substation	<p>National Grid has previously considered a number of alternative sites for the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation during the initial siting work as set out in the CPRSS and 2023 and 2024 DDRs. The decision making about siting considers the potential effects within the context of relevant policy, notably NPS EN-1, EN-5 and the Electricity Act 1989.</p> <p>We have kept our preliminary decisions under review and continue to consider the EACN substation as proposed to be the preferred location on the basis that an alternative further west presents greater uncertainty on deliverability and increased construction risk and is not compatible with our duties.</p>	<p>CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024):</p> <p>CCC supports an option that removes the EACN as it is the EACN that results in an alignment that is materially harmful to the Dedham Vale National Landscape. CCC notes a number of options that did not contain the EACN in the 2024 ESO East Anglia Network Study.</p> <p>In the event that the EACN remains, CCC strongly recommends the undergrounding of the section between the EACN and the Great Horkesley CSE removing the need to use OHLs over an already undergrounded section and hence</p>	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			removing the need for the Great Horkesley CSE its entirety.	
3.2.6	Colne Valley	<p>In line with NPS EN-5, the starting design technology for this area is overhead line because the Colne Valley is both outside and not within a setting of a National Landscape.</p> <p>In line with the NPS guidance we have also considered whether widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts in other locations may also justify the use of undergrounding. We have taken into account the Secretary of State's decision making criteria and do not consider that in this case the level of effects justify the level of cost. Further discussion around mitigation will be discussed in appropriate thematic group meetings and will be presented in the Environmental Statement.</p>	<p>CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024):</p> <p>CCC's position is that the area from West Bergholt, past Fordham and Aldham and into Marks Tey and Great Tey must be undergrounded for landscape reasons across the Colne Valley and neighbouring amenity reasons in Aldham, in particular. CCC's position is that the Colne Valley is a landscape of exceptional quality and value.</p> <p>CCC consider that the submission must be accompanied by a Valued Landscape Assessment as the Colne Valley clearly meets the criteria for a Valued Landscape.</p>	Under discussion
3.2.7	Dedham Vale National Landscape	<p>The landscape and visual effects of the Project on the National Landscape during construction and operation (and maintenance) will be set out in Appendix 13.5 of Chapter 13 of the ES. The Project has been designed to reduce as far as practicable, the potential adverse effects on the Dedham Vale National Landscape.</p> <p>Underground cabling is being provided through the National Landscape and within its setting in line with NPS EN-5 which makes it clear that the starting presumption of overhead lines for new electricity transmission projects is reversed in National Landscapes. The Project is following the approach set out in the DEFRA guidance on 'seeking to further the purposes of National Landscapes' (<a href="#">Guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes</a></p>	<p>CCC consider that the section of the alignment that passes through the northernmost section of Langham into Dedham is materially harmful to the National Landscape. It therefore fails to meet the legal duty to 'further the purpose' of the NL which requires the proposed development to actively provide demonstrable improvement. CCC submits that the scheme cannot meet this legal test.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><a href="#">of Protected Landscapes - GOV.UK</a>) and is engaging with the National Landscape Partnership and relevant stakeholders regarding agreeing an appropriate, reasonable and proportionate approach to seek to meet the duty.</p>		
<b>Project development process - Consultation</b>				
3.2.8	2022 non-statutory consultation	<p>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>, 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>		Under discussion
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>		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>CCC AoCM response:</p> <p>CCC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of our knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.</p> <p>CCC has no reason to doubt that NGET undertook the consultation in a way that was in accordance with the published SoCC and accordingly</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>has complied with the duties set out in Section 47 of the Planning Act.</p> <p>It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended due to the advent of a general election.</p> <p>CCC has no reason to doubt that NGET published the required notices and that the content of those notices complied with the requirements set out in the regulations. CCC therefore considers NGET has complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the PA 2008.</p>	
3.2.11	2025 targeted consultation	<p>Targeted consultations for Essex took place from 25 February 2025 – 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>CCC 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. It is also felt whilst NG consider that some changes to the scheme that may not be the most significant and are considered to be non-material, CCC 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</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>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. As CCC has not seen these changes to date is it not possible to comment on them.</p>	
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.2.12	Community Benefits	In March 2025 the government announced guidance for delivering 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>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>CCC would strongly encourage NGET to positively engage on the issue of social value and community benefits, particularly having regard to the Governments recently published Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure.</p> <p>CCC consider Norwich to Tilbury will have extensive residual impacts that adversely affect the local economy and environment, as well as the health and wellbeing of communities in the CCC area, 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>	Under discussion

### 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	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.3.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	Have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review, but based on the PEIR content, this is likely to be agreed.	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 Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.3.4	Assessment Methodology	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.3.5	Survey 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.	National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>In response to CCC's Statutory Consultation responses:</p> <p>Consultation with Essex and Suffolk Dormouse group has been undertaken; however, the detailed scope has been agreed with Natural England as the licensing authority.</p> <p>The best practice measures for mobile species such as Priority amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog will be detailed within the CoCP which will include sensitive vegetation clearance measures.</p>	<p>Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>CCC Statutory Consultation responses: <i>We recommend that the Essex &amp; Suffolk Dormouse Group should be involved in consultations on survey methodology.</i></p> <p><i>CCC support the methodology outlined for Otter.</i></p> <p><i>CCC welcome confirmation that National Grid has agreed with Natural England to apply to the District Level Licensing scheme for Great Crested Newt (GCN) instead of surveys. CCC acknowledge that GCN are therefore now scoped out from further assessment in the ES. However, it is expected that best practice methodology will be used during the construction phase to mitigate for potential impacts on other mobile species such as Priority amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog.</i></p> <p><i>CCC support the methodology outlined for Water Vole. CCC would like to see clarification of the method used (i.e., habitat parameters) for determining the Water Vole habitat suitability of a watercourse, and more detail as to how the issue of dense vegetation was resolved so that it did not present a significant survey constraint.</i></p>	



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.3.6	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment are summarised in Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the 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 Section 8.5 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>National Grid issued a technical note in January 2025 to all host authorities outlining the protected species proposed mitigation measures for agreement/comment.</p> <p>In May 2025, National Grid held a further meeting to discuss comments from an updated proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<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 Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.3.9	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Ecology and Biodiversity effects during construction are summarised in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES and set out in the Outline CoCP [document reference 7.2]. The standard	Comments received from Essex Place Services (EPS) on the 'Summary of Proposed Protected Species Mitigation' document – 6th February 2025.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>National Grid issued the 'Summary of Proposed Protected Species Mitigation' document on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.</p> <p>NG will take on board the comments received from Essex Place Services (EPS) when further developing the mitigation outlined in the ES.</p>	<p>Comments related to:</p> <p>badger pre-construction surveys and further precautionary work</p> <p>potential for objections to reptile mitigation work</p> <p>consideration of mitigation for any newly created haul road sections</p> <p>further clarification of the mitigation measures to be employed where hedgehog and brown hare are encountered</p>	
3.3.10	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.3.11	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.3.12	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the 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 Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES and is</p>	The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p>		
3.3.14	Outline LEMP	<p>The Outline LEMP includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES and is appropriate.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline LEMP. A further meeting was held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Comments received from EPS will be taken on board and addressed in the next iteration of the draft Outline LEMP.</p>	EPS response to the draft outline LEMP received from EPS on 22nd October 2024.	Under discussion
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.3.15	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	<p>National Grid issued the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document on 17th January 2025. Comments received from EPS on the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document – 6th February 2025. These comments will be taken on board for the BNG assessment.</p> <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>Comments received from EPS on the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document – 6th February 2025.</p> <p>CCC Statutory Consultation response:</p> <p><i>The Council consider the NGET should be going significantly further than the national baseline of 10% BNG and should commit to provide 20% uplift for the whole project.</i></p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<i>The Council require significantly more detail as to how this uplift is to be provided either within the order limits or outside of the order limits. In the inevitable position that offsite units are to be used, the Council would want to see the off-site gains made in locations within the CCC administrative boundary as close to the order limits as possible to ensure that where biodiversity is lost it is compensated for directly.</i>	
3.3.16	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	NG issued the AIA in March 2025 for comment.		Under discussion

## 3.4 Air Quality

Table 3.4 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Air Quality

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.4.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Air Quality assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 7.2 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<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 data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.4.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.4.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Air Quality are summarised in Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.4.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Air Quality are presented in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	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 Air Quality effects, are set out in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.4.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES 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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.4.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.4.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.4.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.4.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was</p>	E-mail from CCC dated 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 stated that 'CCC's EP team have said that from the noise, dust and contaminated land aspects the outline CoCP appears satisfactory.'	Agreed



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders. A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.		
Other matters as required				

### 3.5 Noise and Vibration

Table 3.5 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Noise and Vibration

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.5.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Noise and Vibration assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 14.2 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.5.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 14.4 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.5.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Noise and Vibration are summarised in Section 14.4 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

#### EIA – Baseline Conditions

3.5.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Noise and Vibration are presented in Section 14.5 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
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#### EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures

3.5.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Noise and Vibration effects, are set out in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.5.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES and	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		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.		
3.5.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.5.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 14.7 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.5.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 14.7 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.5.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p>	<p>E-mail from CCC dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 stated that ‘CCC’s EP team have said that from the noise, dust and contaminated land aspects the outline CoCP appears satisfactory.’</p> <p>May 2025 CCC fed back that proposed working hours start too early and end too late especially considering set up and pack away are not restricted by these hours.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.	These should be changed to 8:00 to 18:00hrs with no working at all on any Sundays or BH. This is to allow neighbours some respite during the potentially four-year construction phase.	

Other matters as required

## 3.6 Health and Wellbeing

Table 3.6 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Health and Wellbeing

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.6.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Health and Wellbeing assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.6.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			No comments received from CCC on the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note to date. It is therefore assumed that the study area is agreed.	
3.6.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.6.4	Assessment methodology	<p>A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter.</p> <p>The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.</p> <p>In response to CCC's Statutory Consultation feedback NG can confirm that the baseline identifies where local health indicators are better or worse than England averages. This will be used to inform the identification of vulnerable populations and how they may experience impacts arising from the Project. The ES will describe and explain these impacts and differences in how receptors experience them.</p> <p>The ES will take into account the local policy documents listed in the stat con response.</p>	<p>A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter.</p> <p>The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.</p> <p>CCC Statutory Consultation response –</p> <p>Are particular groups or vulnerable groups more likely to be impacted than others and is this clearly described and explained? What indicators within the current health baseline that are worse than England average/ local ward or LSOA levels?</p> <p>The health policy context of the PIER needs to broaden out to consider not only the Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, but also the localised Health and Wellbeing Strategies/Plans (in Chelmsford, Brentwood, Basildon, and Colchester</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			Three Year Plan - A City fit for the future). To also consider both Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plans for Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System and Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board.	
3.6.5	Key parameters and assumptions	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 ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.6.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	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 ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.6.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Health and Wellbeing effects, are set out in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.6.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the ES and set out in the Outline CoCP [document reference	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		7.2]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.		
3.6.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.6.10	Construction effects	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.6.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.6.12	Outline CoCP	<p>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 managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p>	The content of the CoCP with regards to health and well-being is still under discussion.	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
Other matters as required				

### 3.7 Historic Environment

Table 3.7 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Historic Environment

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.7.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Historic Environment assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 11.2 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.7.2	Study area	<p>The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The study area was also agreed through subsequent thematic group meetings where further comments were addressed.</p>	<p>The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The study area was also agreed through subsequent thematic group meetings where further comments were addressed.</p>	Agreed
3.7.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES.	EPS need an updated status on accuracy of AP rectification. Information recently provided by	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>EPS includes Palaeolithic potential to be included in Palaeolithic/geoarchaeology background.</p> <p>See 3.7.4 re: Non designated heritage assets (NDHAs) (EPS Built Heritage, May 2025)</p>	
3.7.4	Assessment methodology	<p>The scoping opinion stated: <i>'The Applicant should make effort to discuss and agree relevant non-designated heritage assets for assessment and the detailed assessment methodology with relevant local planning authorities.'</i></p> <p>The assessment methodology has been discussed at a number of Historic Environment Thematic Group Meetings held between July 2022 and November 2024.</p> <p>Comments raised by CCC as part of the Statutory Consultation will be considered during the update of the Baseline Report for DCO submission.</p> <p>It is considered that the assessment methodology has been agreed, with the exception of non-designated heritage assets, where the method is still under discussion.</p> <p>Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback will be taken into account for the assessment.</p>	<p>The assessment methodology has been discussed at a number of Historic Environment Thematic Group Meetings held between July 2022 and November 2024.</p> <p>Statutory Consultation response from CCC stated that 'all listed buildings should be considered, at a minimum, of high value/ sensitivity as their designation indicates they are of national significance,' and 'the baseline report should be amended to reflect this categorisation of all designated heritage assets as 'high value' with consequential changes to the significance of effects which need to be amended accordingly.'</p> <p>Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback received on 3rd March 2025 from EPS.</p> <p>With regard to the non designated heritage assets a programme of geophysics and trial trenching is underway within the undergrounding sections of the route, however it would be expected that a programme of archaeological</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>investigation will also have occurred in advance of the submission of the application in areas disturbed by the overhead proposals, including the access route, so that the impact on heritage assets is understood in these areas also. (May 2025)</p> <p>It appears that the only NDHAs included in Annex A are those that appear on the relevant Historic Environment Record. This is concerning as not all built NDHAs will be included on the HER. Unfortunately, no text has been provided which addresses various comments and questions previously raised regarding whether there was a methodology for identifying NDHAs as part of site walkovers, whether this has been undertaken, or whether any have been identified. As such, there are still concerns that not all NDHAs have been included (EPS, May 2025)</p> <p>A 'spot check' of the Draft Heritage Baseline Report was carried out by EPS which raised questions and concerns regarding the robustness of the methodology. These comments were submitted to NG in a letter dated 6th March 2025 (EPS – Built Heritage, May 2025)</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.7.7	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Historic Environment assessment are summarised in Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.7.8	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Historic Environment are presented in Section 11.5 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	A 'spot check' of the Draft Heritage Baseline Report was carried out by EPS which raised questions and concerns regarding the robustness of the methodology. These comments were submitted to NG in a letter dated 6th March 2025 (EPS – Built Heritage, May 2025)	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.7.9	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Historic Environment effects, are set out in Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.7.10	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES 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.  Mitigation measures to minimise harm to the setting of heritage assets have been carefully considered. The	CCC Statutory Consultation response: The standard mitigation proposed related to the historic environment are inadequate, and it would be expected that a detailed program of archaeological investigation has occurred in advance of the submission of the application so that the impact on heritage assets is understood.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		comments from CCC will be taken on board and included within the DCO submission.	Although the preliminary assessment has identified many impacts along the proposed routes further evaluation in the form of geophysics, aerial photographic rectification and trial trenching is likely to identify many more heritage assets.	
3.7.11	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.7.12	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.7.13	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.7.14	Outline CoCP	The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.  Meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was	Comments have been submitted to National Grid and this is still under discussion.  The structure of the CoCP is agreed but the contents are not. Comments were provided to NG in a letter dated	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		held on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.	24th February 2025 (EPS - Built Heritage, May 2025).	
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.7.15	Written Scheme of Investigations (WSIs) for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching.	The scope and methodology of WSIs for geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.		Under discussion
3.7.16	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.	The first draft of the mitigation strategy and Outline WSI was submitted in Late April with comments provided in May. In general the structure is fine, however, a lot more detail is still required. One major omission was the lack of outreach identified in the document.	Under discussion
3.7.17	Programme for completion of archaeological fieldwork	The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.		Under discussion

## 3.8 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	Colchester City 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>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Reference is also needed to the DEFRA guidance note (2024) in relation to the enhanced duty for National Landscapes under LURA (2023). Likely material.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-protected-landscapes-duty/guidance-for-relevant-authorities-on-seeking-to-further-the-purposes-of-protected-landscapes">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-protected-landscapes-duty/guidance-for-relevant-authorities-on-seeking-to-further-the-purposes-of-protected-landscapes</a></p> <p>Add reference to Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) Para 4.3.4 in relation to compensation for significant negative impacts 'To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy'</p>	Under discussion
<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	The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed	Agreed



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.	through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.	
3.8.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>CCC remain unsatisfied with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed generally (Email November 2024).</p> <p>Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, CCC remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value assessment (Email 22.04.2025).</p>	Under discussion
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 and through subsequent thematic workshops</p> <p>A meeting was held on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree the detailed methodology. A further meeting was held on 28th November 2024 to follow up any additional changes to the assessment.</p> <p>At Statutory Consultation, CCC 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.</p> <p>Viewpoints are still under discussion and comments from CCC have been taken on board.</p> <p>National Grid issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology in March 2025.</p>	<p>The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops</p> <p>A meeting was held on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree the detailed methodology. A further meeting was held on 28th November 2024 to follow up any additional changes to the assessment.</p> <p>At Statutory Consultation, CCC requested the inclusion of a Valued Landscape Assessment.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>CCC E-mail response to proposed LVIA viewpoints dated 11th October 2024.</p> <p>EPS Email response to proposed viewpoints in Essex North dated 24th October 2024.</p> <p>CCC/EPS remain unsatisfied generally with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed.</p> <p>Whilst CCC/EPS welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, CCC/EPS remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025)</p> <p>CCC/EPS also have reservations regarding the methodology for assessing the value of views as this appears skewed towards promotional data.</p>	
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual assessment are summarised in Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>The preliminary key parameters and assumptions are presented at 13.5 of the PEIR in relation to LVIA. It is understood <i>'This information is iterative and will be updated for the ES as the design evolves and relevant changes are accounted for in the assessment'</i>. CCC reserve the right to comment further should the parameters and assumptions change.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<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 Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>CCC/EPS remain unsatisfied generally with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed. Whilst CCC/EPS welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, we remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025)</p> <p>CCC/EPS also have reservations regarding the methodology for assessing the value of views as this is heavily skewed towards published data</p> <p>An approach to compensation is needed, not just mitigation, where and how it has been identified and described, how the applicant has sought engagement from the local authority on this issue etc. (See below)</p> <p>CCC/EPS do not consider the applicants have considered or met either the EIA Regs or EN-1 requirements in relation to compensation. The likely significant negative landscape and visual effects of the project appear not to be compensated for, over and above offering enhancements at substations and sealing end compounds. CCC/EPS suggest the</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			test of 'as far as possible' has not been met in any reasonable way in relation to the overwhelming likely permanent negative landscape and visual impacts along the length of the project described by the applicant within the PEIR. This has been an outstanding issue since 2023.	
<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 Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>Comments received from EPS made 5th November 2024 will be taken on board and discussed further as the assessment progresses.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>EPS E-mail 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 – Landscape – adequacy of undergrounding, mitigation and lack of compensation are all still under discussion.</p> <p>CCC/EPS do not agree with the response regarding additional proposed undergrounding e.g. in the Colne Valley, which has the qualities of a Special Landscape Area. We do not think this conclusion can be made in advance of a valued landscape assessment being carried out and shared with us.</p> <p>CCC/EPS remain unsatisfied with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025) Local landscape designation has not been national policy for decades. The Holford Rules are out of date on this issue and haven't been reviewed since the 1990s. Since then, landscape characterisation has become the tool</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>for understanding landscape and guidance on valued landscape assessment outside designated landscapes introduced.</p> <p>Even if <i>'policy statement EN-5 (which covers the development of new energy infrastructure) ... concludes that in most cases, the government expects that overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid'</i> it doesn't follow that there are no significant residual negative effects and therefore that potentially further undergrounding or compensation <i>'as far as possible'</i> might be required.</p> <p>Where undergrounding isn't proposed, explanation is needed as to why compensation isn't being offered instead, except at substations and sealing end compounds, when the PEIR states that significant landscape and visual impacts will occur along the length of the project length.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation measures are not addressing substantial significant negative residual impacts.</p> <p>As above, an approach to compensation is required. This has been an outstanding issue since 2023.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.8.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Landscape and Visual effects during construction are summarised in Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES 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.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	Standard mitigation measures do not wholly mitigate substantial significant temporary impacts caused by construction. See reference to proposed compensation elsewhere.	Under discussion
3.8.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Additional mitigation measures do not address significant residual negative impacts from pylons and the overhead cables.</p> <p>CCC/EPS do not agree that the mitigation hierarchy has been effectively applied as it does not include compensation for the significant residual negative impacts of the overhead lines and pylons.</p> <p>An approach to compensation is required, as above.</p> <p>CCC/EPS suggest the test of '<i>as far as possible</i>' has not been met in any reasonable way in relation to the likely significant permanent negative landscape and visual impacts along the length of the project described by the applicant within the PEIR.</p>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.8.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES. The assessment of effects</p>	EPS Statutory Consultation response for Colchester City Council (2024) identified:	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>The PEIR acknowledges that the proposals will have a significant negative landscape and visual impact at construction stage over the length of the Project</p> <p>Several instances where we judge the extent of significant impacts on landscape character and receptors would be more widespread than identified in the PEIR.</p> <p>Impacts on landscape of Colne Valley landscape including Open Access Land and Essex Way appear understated. Project line needs undergrounding or realigning in this area</p> <p>In relation to visual impact, we understand that 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> <p>Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 do not appear to be labelled on Figure 13.7 Pages 3 or 4.</p> <p>Not all suggested changes to siting, alignment, viewpoint assessments and visualisations have been addressed.</p>	
3.8.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES. The assessment</p>	<p>As above, Statutory Consultation response for Colchester City Council (2024) identified:</p>	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>CCC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>The PEIR acknowledges that the proposals will have a significant negative landscape and visual impact at operational stage over the length of the Project</p> <p>Several instances where we judge the extent of significant impacts on landscape character and receptors would be more widespread than identified in the PEIR.</p> <p>Impacts on landscape of Colne Valley landscape including Open Access Land and Essex Way understated. Project line needs undergrounding or realigning.</p> <p>In relation to visual impact, we understand that the Visual Receptor Areas are a pragmatic way of organising the data, but fear clarity and detail around the likely impacts may have been lost as a result.</p> <p>Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 do not appear to be labelled on Figure 13.7 Pages 3 or 4.</p> <p>Suggested changes to siting, alignment, viewpoint assessments and visualisations have not necessarily been addressed.</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 Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p>	<p>ECC provided comments and feedback in June 2025 on behalf of CCC, in relation to Landscape and</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>Meeting held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing. ECC comments on behalf of CCC are noted, and NG will continue to engage with ECC/CCC.</p>	Visual for the May 2025 iteration of the oCoCP.	
3.8.13	Outline LEMP	<p>The Outline LEMP includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES and is appropriate.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline LEMP. A further meeting was held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing. Comments received from EPS and ECC will be taken on board and addressed in the next iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p>	<p>EPS response to the draft Outline LEMP received on 22nd October 2024.</p> <p>ECC provided comments and feedback in June 2025 on behalf of CCC, in relation to Landscape and Visual for the May 2025 iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p>	Under discussion
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	Colchester City 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)</b> of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.9.2	Study area	<p>The Scoping Opinion stated: <i>“The Applicant should seek to agree the study area with the relevant local authorities”</i>.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 14th November 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion. Technical Notes were shared in June 2023 and April 2024.</p> <p>Following the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, it was agreed that the study area for businesses would be expanded from 1km to 3km to take into account potential visual effects on businesses.</p> <p>A 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Note is currently being prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology, therefore this matter is still under discussion.</p>	<p>No comments received to date on the Technical Notes.</p> <p>During the Thematic Group meeting in November 2024, it was proposed that the study area for businesses was increased from 1km to 3km to account for visual effects on businesses.</p>	Under discussion
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)</b> of the ES.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.9.4	Assessment methodology	<p>The Scoping Opinion stated “<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>”.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 14th November 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>A third Technical Note is currently being prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology, therefore this matter is still under discussion.</p>	No comments received to date on the Technical Notes.	Under discussion
3.9.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Socio-economics, 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>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<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>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	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>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City 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 [document reference 7.2]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	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.	CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Particular concern regarding accommodation and the impact on the tourism/leisure industry, associated supply chains and visitor attractions.	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 assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.9.12	Outline CoCP	The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 15</b>	The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>(Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES. and 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. A further meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p>		

Other matters as required

### 3.10 Cumulative Effects

Table 3.10 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Cumulative Effects

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City 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 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 ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<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.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.10.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 17.4 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES</b> .	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.10.4	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
3.10.5	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.10.6	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	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 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 appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion



ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.10.8	Standard mitigation	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 [document reference 7.2]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.10.9	Additional mitigation	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.10.10	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.	Likely Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts with Five Estuaries , North Falls and EACN. CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Particular concern regarding accommodation and the impact on the tourism/leisure industry, associated supply chains and visitor attractions.	Under discussion
3.10.11	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.	CCC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.10.12	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 on 9<sup>th</sup> October to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p>	The content of the Outline CoCP is still under discussion.	Under discussion

Other matters as required

### 3.11 Development Consent Order

Table 3.11 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Development Consent Order

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.11.1	DCO Requirements			
	DCO Wording			
<b>Other matters as required</b>				

### 3.12 Other Matters

# 4. Confirmation of Agreement

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

.....

Date:

.....

Signed for and on behalf of Colchester City 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
CCC	Colchester City Council
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPS	Essex Place Services
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
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
WHIASU	Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit
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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