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District Council

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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 Braintree District Council (BDC). Braintree District 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 Braintree District 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 BDC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to BDC'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

Braintree District 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 Braintree District 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 BDC
 - **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 BDC 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 draft 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 BDC.
- 2.2.2 It is agreed that the below is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between National Grid and Braintree District Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

Table 2.1 Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Braintree District Council

Date	Format	Topic/description
General		
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.
March 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.

Date	Format	Topic/description
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) and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) 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 LEMP and Outline CoCP.
October 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss heritage assessment
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 2nd iteration draft versions of the Outline CoCP and Outline LEMP to all host authorities for comment.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on the 2nd iteration draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.

Date	Format	Topic/description
March 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
Ecology and Biodiversity		
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 stakeholders.
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.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Protected Species Proposed Mitigation Measures to stakeholders including BDC.
May 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from the updated proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
Air Quality		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Air Quality assessment for review and comment.
Noise and Vibration		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Noise and Vibration assessment for review and comment.

Date	Format	Topic/description
Health and Wellbeing		
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 EIA Assessment, 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.
Historic Environment		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued a document detailing the scope and methodology for the Historic Environment assessment and baseline to all host authorities and Historic England.
July 2022	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group to discuss the proposed approach for the EIA assessment.
September 2022	Meeting	National Grid presented an updated approach to defining study areas, scoping of walkover and scoping of historic buildings to consider in the assessment, in response to feedback received.
January 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the plans showing the proposed viewpoint locations for landscape and heritage ahead of the Thematic Group meeting in February 2023 to all host authorities.
February 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting with all host authorities to discuss landscape and heritage viewpoints.
June 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note to Historic England and host authorities 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

Date	Format	Topic/description
		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.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated viewpoints (including ZTV) for feedback from all host authorities, Natural England and Historic England.
March 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for review and comment.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Thematic Group call.
June 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
August 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
October 2024	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group Meeting – aim was to seek agreement on the Historic Environment Methodology with respect to study area and assessment approach.
October 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid shared the setting survey locations with stakeholders.
December 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Heritage Viewpoints Documents with stakeholders.
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Draft Heritage Baseline Report with stakeholders.
February 2025	Meeting	Thematic group meeting to further discussions regarding the Historic Environment Viewpoints.
February 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the Draft Heritage Baseline Report.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued updated the Historic Environment Viewpoints information to stakeholders including BDC.
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.

Date	Format	Topic/description
Landscape and Visual		
July 2022	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting. National Grid shared the Landscape and Visual 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	Thematic Group meeting – proposed viewpoint locations - Essex
April 2023	Meeting	National Grid presented and discussed the responses to the feedback on the viewpoint locations received from the February meeting (covering both heritage and landscape viewpoints). Stakeholders provided feedback on updated and additional viewpoint locations at the meeting and in subsequent correspondence.
May 2023	Meeting	EIA viewpoints meeting - Essex
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 responded to feedback received on viewpoints.
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
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology.
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism		
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 BDC.
June 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a Technical Note setting out the study area and methodology for assessing businesses where visual impacts are a potential operational consideration, and Public Right of Way (PRoW) during construction and operation.
August 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Thematic Group Meeting to discuss the study area and methodology for assessing businesses.
April 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared an updated technical note with all host authorities to demonstrate how their feedback had been considered in developing the PEIR.
September 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical note on the ES Chapter.
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 BDC 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 BDC. 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 3.2 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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
Strategic options/needs case				
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>BDC Response to Targeted Consultations (28/03/2025):</p> <p>Owing to NESO's Clean Power report and the Hiorns report, BDC acknowledge, based on the information available to date, that the grid capacity offered by the Norwich to Tilbury project is needed.</p> <p>However, BDC's preferred strategic option remains that of securing an integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not include overhead lines (OHL's) and pylons along its entire length. This it is considered, would deliver the best outcome in the interests of safeguarding the amenities of communities and the environment.</p>	Under discussion
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</p>	<p>BDC acknowledges NG's contractual obligations, however considers that a further review of the contracted electricity generation is needed ahead of final submission of the DCO to assess whether the contracted position and the readiness of projects to connect as planned, is robust and</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		customers) by NESO. Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report shows that the constraint costs associated with a delay to the project timing as being between £2.7 and £2.8 billion.	thereby reaffirm the need and timescale for the planned Norwich to Tilbury Project as this could change the viability of alternate solutions to deliver the necessary capacity	
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><u>Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents</u></p> <p>published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including offshore alternatives.</p>	<p>BDC Response to Targeted Consultations (28/03/2025):</p> <p>BDC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or High Voltage Direct Current undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure across Braintree and Essex, should be explored fully</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
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><u>Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents</u> published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including underground alternatives.</p> <p>The work undertaken shows that undergrounding, including using HVDC cables, would be significantly more expensive and have environmental impacts and present engineering challenges. Due to the higher price 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>BDC Response to Targeted Consultations (28/03/2025):</p> <p>BDC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or High Voltage Direct Current undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure across Braintree and Essex, should be explored fully</p>	Under discussion

Project development process - Design

	Design Principles	<p>The primary design requirement for electricity infrastructure is that it must be safe and secure. These functional constraints, particularly around safety and operational reliability, can significantly limit National Grid's ability to adapt the aesthetic appearance of its infrastructure.</p> <p>Good design, even with the functional restrictions, is nonetheless achieved through</p>	<p>The Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to have regard in determining applications for development consent to the desirability of good design. Advice in NPS EN1 Section 4.6 is for applicants to consider the criteria for good design at an early stage when developing projects. Achieving good design requires a holistic approach to deliver</p>	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		<p>careful consideration of the Holford Rules (relating to the connection routeing and siting), the Horlock Rules (relating to the siting of substations and similar cable sealing end compounds and line entries) and the environmental impact assessment process. These demonstrate the importance of balancing the inherent form and function of electricity transmission infrastructure with technical, economic and environmental considerations to reach reasonably practicable development proposals.</p> <p>While the overall design is largely fixed by necessity, smaller design details, such as the colour of finishes, are agreed upon and documented through the Development Consent Order process.</p> <p>Furthermore, NPS EN-1 encourages developers "Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible" within the bounds of functional and safety constraints.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate Good Design advice advises that 'Good design is not primarily about how infrastructure looks, although these considerations (the aesthetics) are important'. EN-1 refers to the importance of process and addressing sustainability are</p>	<p>high quality, sustainable infrastructure that responds to place and takes account of often complex environments. Further, the Council also draws on the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which has been prepared based on good practice and applicants are encouraged to follow the recommendations set out.</p> <p>BDC considers there is an opportunity to be innovative in the approach to design while ensuring the infrastructure remains safe and secure NGET must follow a good design process to ensuring that the infrastructure proposed remains functional while realising the best local design outcomes</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		essential elements of good design. The emphasis placed on the importance of process through the projects evolution and delivering sustainability is set out in the Design and Access Statement (document reference 7.15).		
	Pylon Route by Rivenhall Place	Noting the concerns of BDC and following feedback from the public, together with the results of environmental surveys, amendments have been made to the proposed project design and associated Limits of Deviation in this location to enable the retention of the tree known locally as "Henry".	As set out in BDC's Targeted Consultation response, every effort should be made to protect the tree known locally as "Henry", near to pylon TB092 – the route should be fixed in this area with limits of deviation not applied, or reduced, to ensure that the tree can remain	Under discussion

Project development process - Consultation

3.2.5	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 Consultation Strategy, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the Feedback Report.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.</p>	BDC have no evidence to suggest that the non-statutory consultation was not undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.	Under discussion
3.2.6	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 Consultation Strategy, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the Feedback Report.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.</p>	BDC have no evidence to suggest that the non-statutory consultation was not undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
3.2.7	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 <u>Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</u>. 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>BDC have no evidence to suggest that the statutory consultation was not undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.</p> <p>BDC refers to its response to this consultation dated 25th July 2025 and awaits sight of the Consultation Report to assess the consultation responses that were received.</p>	Under discussion
3.2.8	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 <u>Targeted Consultation Strategy</u> 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>BDC have no evidence to suggest that the targeted consultation was not undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.</p> <p>While NG considered that some changes to the scheme may not be the most significant and are considered to be non-material, BDC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore be given an opportunity to comment on them through the targeted consultation carried out earlier this year.</p> <p>The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
Other matters as required				
3.2.9	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>BDC Response to Targeted Consultations (28/03/2025):</p> <p>BDC would strongly encourage NGET to positively respond to the issue of social value and community benefits particularly having regard to the Governments recently published Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure</p> <p>Furthermore, BDC consider Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) will have extensive residual impacts that adversely affect the local economy and environment, as well as the health and wellbeing of communities in Braintree and Essex, and which cannot be sufficiently mitigated or compensated through the planning regime. Also, the national benefits will not offset the harm at a local level.</p>	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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.2.1	Policy and legislation	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. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	Have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review, but based on the PEIR content, this is likely to be agreed.	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
3.2.2	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
3.2.3	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.	Have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review, but based on the PEIR, we expect that sufficient desktop data has been collected. Cannot comment on the sufficiency of survey data since that information has not yet been shared.	Under discussion
3.2.4	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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
3.2.5	Survey Methodology	<p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>At the time of writing there has been no specific feedback from BDC on this Technical Note.</p> <p>In response to the comments received regarding smaller ancient woodland parcels, NG can ensure that field survey work has been undertaken across 2023 and 2024 including habitat assessments of woodland blocks, smaller ancient woodland parcels will be identified through on-site surveys.</p> <p>Regarding comments raised in response to the first iteration of the SoCG. Braintree District Council's comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with Braintree District Council on this matter.</p>	<p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>At the time of writing there has been no specific feedback from BDC on this Technical Note, however in their statutory consultation response BDC stated that smaller ancient woodland parcels (< 2ha) are not included in the Natural England inventory; further habitat survey work is expected to identify any such parcels in the study area.</p> <p>Response from NG has been provided (see NG's position) and therefore if this response is considered sufficient it is assumed that the Survey Methodology is Agreed.</p> <p>PEIR comments issued previously. The intended survey methods have been broadly acceptable, but final analysis will depend on the actual survey methods that were executed. Presumably this will be detailed in Chapter 8 of the ES, which has not yet been issued.</p>	Under discussion
3.2.6	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	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment are not explicitly summarised in the PEIR, and	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	we have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review.	
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.2.7	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>January 2025, National Grid issued a technical note 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> <p>BDC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with BDC on this matter.</p>	<p>Have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review, but based on the PEIR content this is agreed with respect to the determination of receptors. Cannot comment on baseline condition coverage and survey adequacy.</p>	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.2.8	Embedded mitigation	<p>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.</p> <p>BDC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with BDC on this matter.</p>	<p>BDC have reviewed and commented on the Outline CoCP, Outline LEMP, and the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy. However, we have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review. BDC are not comfortable with confirming the adequacy of mitigation measures without having had sight of the ecology survey data and of any impact assessments.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
3.2.9	Standard mitigation	<p>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 mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>BDC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with BDC on this matter.</p>	BDC have reviewed the Outline CoCP, Outline LEMP, and the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy. However, we have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review. BDC are not comfortable with confirming the adequacy of mitigation measures without having had sight of the ecology survey data and of any impact assessments.	Under discussion
3.2.10	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> <p>BDC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with BDC on this matter.</p>	Have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review. BDC cannot comment on the adequacy of additional mitigation measures without having had sight of the ecology survey data and of any impact assessments.	Under discussion

EIA – Assessment Conclusions

3.2.11	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> <p>Full detail on the impacts to habitats will be clearly set out within the ES, as well as any associated mitigation.</p> <p>Updated ancient woodland locations will be included within the ES and will include</p>	BDC stated in their statutory consultation response that the issue of vegetation clearance and the extent of impacts appear poorly understood in the PEIR. This prevents comparisons being undertaken between existing and proposed conditions, and in turn conclusions being reached as to the whether appropriate opportunities have been taken to mitigate for harm or justify loss.	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		<p>Rivenhall Thicks, Parson's and Queen's Wood and Halhook Row.</p> <p>BDC comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with BDC on this matter.</p>	<p>The potential for impacts upon Rivenhall Thicks ancient woodland have also been missed within the PEIR. In addition, further buffers will be required for Parson's and Queen's Wood and Halhook Row ancient woodlands located on the draft Order Limits.</p> <p>BDC cannot comment as we have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review and have had no sight of any survey-based impact assessments.</p>	
3.2.12	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>	<p>BDC cannot comment as we have not received Chapter 8 of the ES to review and have had no sight of any survey-based impact assessments.</p>	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.2.13	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 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</p>	<p>BDC cannot comment whether the Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 8 of the ES as we have not received that document.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		<p>meeting was held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>		
3.2.14	Outline LEMP	<p>The 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 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>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	<p>Outline LEMP 1st Iteration response was issued (<i>N2T_draft LEMP_Ecology comments_BDC_22 Nov 2024_issued</i>). BDC can reissue if needed, but the response mirrors that issued for BMSDC and other Councils.</p> <p>BDC cannot comment whether the Outline LEMP includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 8 of the ES as we have not received that document</p>	Under discussion

Other matters as required

3.2.13	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	<p>National Grid will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. Offsite BNG will be delivered through collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers.</p> <p>In January 2025, National Grid issued the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy.</p> <p>Comments received from BDC in e-mail dated 10th Feb 2025. These comments are noted,</p>
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		and NG will continue to engage with BDC on this matter.		
3.2.14	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	NG issued the AIA in March 2025 for comment.		

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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.4.1	Policy and legislation	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. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District 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.	BDC 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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
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.	BDC 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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
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 held on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	<p>E-mail from BDC on 27th November 2024 – comments on the 1st Iteration of the Outline CoCP regarding air quality. Recommended that further review is required.</p> <p>Comments on 2nd Iteration are yet to be received.</p>	Under discussion
Other matters as required				

3.5 Noise and Vibration

Comment received from BDC on 17 June 2025 noted that with regards to the Noise and Vibration section of the SOCG BDC have no comments to make until the ES is received.

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
3.5.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.3	Data sources	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.	BDC 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	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
			Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	
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.	BDC 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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
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.	BDC 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 set out in the Outline CoCP (document reference 7.2). The standard mitigation is considered	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

EIA – Assessment Conclusions

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.	BDC 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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring

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 BDC on 27th November 2024 – comments on the 1st Iteration of the Outline CoCP regarding noise and vibration. Recommended that further review is required.</p> <p>Comments on 2nd Iteration are yet to be received.</p> <p>BDC position pending sight of the ES.</p>	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP. A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.		

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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
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.	Support the position of ECC -	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
3.6.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.	No comments received from BDC on the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note to date. It is	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
			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.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
3.6.4	Assessment methodology	The Methodology was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024. A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter.	No comments received from BDC on the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note to date. It is therefore assumed that the methodology is agreed. Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Agreed
3.6.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Health and Wellbeing are summarised in Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.6.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Health and Wellbeing are presented in Section 10.5 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
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 Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		Wellbeing) of the ES . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.		
3.6.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) 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.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
3.6.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.6.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
3.6.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.6.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) 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>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
Other matters as required				

3.7 Historic Environment

Comment received from BDC on 17 June 2025 noted that with regards to the Historic Environment section of the SOCG BDC have no comments to make until the ES is received.

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
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>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
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	<p>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.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
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 October 2024.</p> <p>BDC stated at statutory consultation that all listed buildings should be considered, at a minimum, of high value/ sensitivity as their designation indicates they are of national significance. A scale within this category of ‘high value’ could be agreed to differentiate between Grade I, Grade II*, and Grade II buildings, for example. National Grid will consider this 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 the value of Grade II listed buildings, 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 October 2024.</p> <p>BDC stated at statutory consultation that all listed buildings should be considered, at a minimum, of high value/ sensitivity as their designation indicates they are of national significance. A scale within this category of ‘high value’ could be agreed to differentiate between Grade I, Grade II*, and Grade II buildings, for example. National Grid will consider this 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 the value of Grade II listed buildings, where the method is still under discussion.</p> <p>Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback received on 4th March 2025 from Essex Place Services (EPS).</p> <p>BDC position pending sight of the ES.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
3.7.7	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>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.</p> <p>In March 2025, National Grid issued an updated version of the Historic Environment (HE) Viewpoints information.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.7.8	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>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.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.7.9	Embedded mitigation	<p>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.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
3.7.10	Standard mitigation	<p>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</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.		
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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

EIA – Assessment Conclusions

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.	BDC 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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring

3.7.14	Outline CoCP	<p>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.</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>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		<p>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>		
Other matters as required				
3.7.15	Written Scheme of Investigations (WSIs) for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching.	<p>The scope and methodology of WSIs for geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.</p> <p>This would include defining priority areas on the basis of potential impact from construction works to focus the geophysical survey and trial trenching approach and inform the programme for these works.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
3.7.16	Draft Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI	<p>The contents of the Draft Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.</p> <p>National Grid issued the Draft Outline Mitigation Strategy and draft Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for post-consent stage of the project in April 2025.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
3.7.17	Programme for completion of archaeological fieldwork	<p>The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.8.1	Policy and legislation	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. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
3.8.2	Study area	The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.	The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.	Agreed
3.8.3	Data sources	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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.8.4	Assessment methodology (including LVIA methodology and viewpoints)	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	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	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		<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>Viewpoints are still under discussion.</p> <p>National Grid issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology in March 2025.</p>	<p>subsequent thematic workshops.</p> <p>E-mail from BDC dated 8th October 2024 – stated some areas that are agreed, e.g. study area and general categories for visual susceptibility, methodology for ZTV mapping and viewpoint photography and photomontage creation. However, this e-mail also stated some areas of concern in relation to viewpoints and visual value.</p> <p>Viewpoints are still under discussion.</p>	
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.8.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.8.7	Embedded mitigation	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	Statutory consultation response stated that 'In order to reduce significant landscape and visual impacts at the operational stage over the length of the Project, more use of undergrounding is	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		<p>considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <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>Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including underground alternatives.</p>	required to protect valued local landscapes, long-distant rights of way and rural amenity sites.'	
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>	BDC position pending sight of the ES	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>	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
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 during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>E-mail received from Suffolk County Council on 4th Nov 2024 suggested that concerns had been raised by a number of stakeholders (inc. BDC) regarding the lack of assessment for tree and hedgerow loss along the route.</p> <p>NG can confirm that tree and hedgerow loss will be assessed as part of the assessment of effects on landscape character during construction and operation. This will also be captured within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Ecology Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.</p>	<p>E-mail received on 4th Nov 2024 suggested that concerns had been raised by a number of stakeholders (inc. BDC) regarding the lack of assessment for tree and hedgerow loss along the route.</p> <p>BDC position pending sight of the ES</p>	Under discussion
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 of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
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>	BDC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District 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>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>		
3.8.13	Outline LEMP	<p>The 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 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>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline LEMP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p> <p>Comments from EPS will be taken on board for the next iteration of this document.</p>	E-mail from EPS dated 22 nd October 2024 with comments on the structure of the Outline LEMP. No further comments received on the 2 nd iteration to date.	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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.8.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
3.8.2	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>A 3rd Technical Note is currently being prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology.</p> <p>During the Thematic Group meeting in November 2024, it was agreed that the study area for businesses would be increased from 1km to 3km to account for visual effects on businesses.</p>	<p>No comments received to date on the Technical Notes.</p> <p>A 3rd Technical Note is currently being prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology.</p> <p>During the Thematic Group meeting in November 2024, it was agreed that the study area for businesses would be increased from 1km to 3km to account for visual effects on businesses.</p> <p>Support the position of ECC - no further comment.</p>	Under discussion
3.8.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as	Support the position of ECC - no	Under

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		presented within Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES.	further comment.	discussion
3.8.4	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 3rd Technical Note is currently being prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology.</p>	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment are summarised in Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.8.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism are presented in Section 15.5 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.8.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects, are set out in Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
3.8.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects during construction are summarised in Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism) 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.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
3.8.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.8.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		Tourism) of the ES . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.		
3.8.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.8.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES. and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 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>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	Support the position of ECC - no further comment.	Under discussion
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	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.10.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Cumulative Effects assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) and Section 17.2 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Approach and Methods				
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 Section 17.4 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES.	BDC 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	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		summarised in Section 17.4 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.		
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.10.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Cumulative Effects are presented in Section 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.10.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Cumulative Effects, are set out in Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.10.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Cumulative Effects during construction are summarised in Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) 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.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.10.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Braintree District Council's Position	Status
		Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.		
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.10.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 17.7 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.10.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 17.7 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.10.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9th October 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>Meeting held in March 2025 to discuss the second iteration of the Outline CoCP.</p> <p>A further iteration of the Outline CoCP was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p>	BDC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

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

3.12 Other Matters

4. Confirmation of Agreement

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

.....

Signed for and on behalf of Braintree District 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
BDC	Braintree District Council
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
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
ES	Environmental Statement
GI	Ground Investigation
GW	Gigawatt
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MSBDC	Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council
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

Abbreviation	Full Reference
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
Zol	Zone of Influence
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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