

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0020

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.12 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Basildon
Borough Council - Tracked Changes Version

Final Issue B

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(g)

nationalgrid

Revision History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Submitted at</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>29 August 2025</u>	<u>DCO Application</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>26 February 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 1</u>

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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 Basildon Borough Council (BBC). Basildon Borough 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 stage of the DCO examination process, for Deadline 1 ahead of submission. It is intended to be a live and working document which will be updated as the Project progresses and shared with BBC 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 BBC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to BBC'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

~~Basildon Borough 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 Basildon Borough 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.~~

4.31.2 Project Description

~~4.3.11.2.1~~ 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 (~~AONB~~¹AONB¹))
- 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

¹ National Landscape is the rebranded name of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) from 22 November 2023

- 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.

4.3.21.2.2 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).

4.3.31.2.3 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.

4.3.41.2.4 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.

4.41.3 **Format and Structure of this Document**

4.4.1.3.1 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** provides a summary of the key engagement undertaken to date with BBC
- **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 Basildon Borough Council on the Project throughout the pre-application process. This has included:

- Non-statutory consultation in Spring 2022 and Summer 2023
- Statutory consultation in Spring 2024
- Targeted consultations in Spring 2025
- Regular meetings with lead officers about the Project as a whole
- Regular ‘Thematic Group’ meetings bringing together host authorities to discuss specific topics
- One to one / small group technical meetings on specific detailed matters
- Sharing of papers and documentation at key stages

2.1.2 Further details on National Grid’s engagement with stakeholders is provided in the Consultation Report and the Environmental Statement.

2.2 Summary of Key Engagement

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

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

Table 2.1 Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Basildon Borough Council

Date	Format	Topic/Description
General		
June 2022	Meeting	Informal project catch-up and consultation feedback with BBC.
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.

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

Date	Format	Topic/Description
May 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
June 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss Statement of Common Ground
June 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued draft DCO, explanatory memorandum and draft requirements
July 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
August 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued draft Heads of Terms for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and off-site tree provision
August 2025	Meeting	Meeting to provide project and design update
September 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
November 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
January 2026	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 BBC and other authorities.
September 2023	Meeting	National Grid discussed the potential off-site scheme/initiatives for BNG.
March 2024	Meeting	Biodiversity Thematic Group to discuss the methodology and scope of ecology surveys outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2024	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note to all host authorities outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Thematic Group call.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline LEMP and CoCP.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Protected Species Proposed Mitigation Measures to stakeholders including BBC.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Biodiversity Net Gain BNG Strategy.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments received on the draft Biodiversity Net Gain Report.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on the second iteration of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.
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.
Health and Wellbeing		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Health and Wellbeing Assessment Methodology to all host authorities.
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

Date	Format	Topic/Description
		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 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.
February 2025	Meeting	Thematic Group meeting to discuss the Historic Environment Viewpoints.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
February 2025	Meeting	National Grid Hosted a meeting to discuss the Heritage Baseline report.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued updated the Historic Environment Viewpoints information to stakeholders including BBC.
March 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.
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.
April 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2023	Meeting	National Grid presented and discussed the responses to the feedback on the viewpoint locations received from the February meeting (covering both heritage and landscape viewpoints). Stakeholders provided feedback on updated and additional viewpoint locations at the meeting and in subsequent correspondence.
May 2023 – March 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared information, responded to further feedback on viewpoint locations received from the May 2023 meeting, and reviewed subsequent feedback received up to March 2024 with the aim to agree viewpoint locations for the PEIR and ES (based on the information available at this date).
August 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued wirelines and photomontages and proposed the approach to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping for comment.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated landscape viewpoints (and the ZTV) and sought feedback from all host authorities.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
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.
September 2024	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting – LVIA Viewpoints within Essex South and Thurrock VPs.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the shapefiles for the landscape viewpoints and order limits with BBC and other stakeholders following the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the draft Outline LEMP and Sample Mitigation Drawings ahead of the draft Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP discussion.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline LEMP and CoCP.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Draft mitigation drawings with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared updated viewpoint information data following from the landscape thematic workshops
November 2024	Meeting	Thematic group meeting to discuss viewpoints and methodology.
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-

Date	Format	Topic/Description
June 2023	Technical Note	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 BBC.
August 2023	Meeting	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.
April 2024	Technical Note	National Grid held a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Thematic Group Meeting to discuss the study area and methodology for assessing businesses.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid shared an updated technical note with all host authorities to demonstrate how their feedback had been considered in developing the PEIR.
September 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical note on the ES Chapter.
September 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism technical note with stakeholders.
November 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a follow up meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical note on the ES Chapter.

3. Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This chapter details the matters relevant to Basildon Borough Council which have been agreed, not agreed or are under discussion between the parties. Matters are arranged by topic (using broad headings, or EIA chapter headings where appropriate) and each matter is given a unique reference number to aid identification.
- 3.1.2 The red, amber, green status shows the level of agreement with BBC. 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~~ 3.1.4 Table 3.3 to 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	Basildon Borough 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 AnnexAppendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report.</p>	<p>BBC Response to Targeted Consultations (March 2025):</p> <p>Basildon Council has always acknowledged that the grid capacity offered by the Norwich to Tilbury project is needed. National Grid's own Strategic Options Backcheck and Review (April 2024), as well as ongoing liaison with the project team and earlier consultation material have sufficiently made the case for the project.</p>	Agreed
3.2.2	Project timing	<p>Timing for the project is driven by the needs case – when offshore wind farms are contracted to connect to the UK network – the first of which are contracted to connect in 2030. National Grid is legally obliged (under our Transmission Owner License) to provide capacity at the dates formally agreed in contracts with energy generators (or customers) by NESO.</p> <p>AnnexAppendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report shows that the constraint costs associated with a delay</p>	<p>BBC Response to Targeted Consultations (March 2025):</p> <p>It remains unclear why the project must be in place by 2030/31, as the ESO study also found that undergrounded High Voltage Direct Current would be cost comparable to overhead pylons assuming a 2034 completion date. Overall, the latter date may still prove to be a better option given the greater efficiency of this approach.</p> <p>Basildon Relevant Representation (November 2025):</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>to the project timing as being between £2.7 and £2.8 billion.</p> <p><u>Updated position (February 2026): National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</u></p>	<p><u>Basildon Council accepts that the network reinforcement offered by this project is needed to accommodate the additional planned electricity generation in the East Anglia region. It would also assist in the decarbonisation of the UK's energy supply and help deliver the Government targets of net zero by 2050.</u></p> <p><u>However, the timeframes to achieve the required network reinforcement is more uncertain. The Applicants assert that the project is required to be delivered by 2030 to meet Government targets and contract and/or licensing requirements. Conversely, the independently commissioned (Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils) Hiorns report (November 2023) suggested that having regard to the realities of when connection of new generation sources to the transmission network was likely to be required, an exceedance of current or committed transmission network capacity (including the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement which is currently underway) was not likely before 2035. If indeed the timing for the network reinforcement is less acute as suggested in the Hiorns report, The current application proposes predominantly 50m high lattice pylons, with targeted AC undergrounding in the Dedham Vale National Landscape. As such, the scheme as put forward would have very significant impacts including landscape and visual. If indeed the timing for the network</u></p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
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>Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including offshore alternatives.</p>	<p><u>reinforcement is less acute as suggested in the Hiorns report, The Council consider that alternative schemes to the current lattice pylons scheme should be explored in more detail (such as off-shore and High Voltage Direct Current undergrounding) to ascertain whether they would achieve better environmental outcomes overall than the current submitted scheme, and if so, put forward at pace to achieve the required network reinforcement instead of the submitted scheme. Owing to the above, the Council request that the Examining Authority carefully consider the available evidence including the Hiorns Report and have an Issue Specific Hearing to assess this issue of timeframes further.</u></p> <p>BBC Response to Targeted Consultations (March 2025):</p> <p>BBC believe credible alternatives to overhead transmission lines, such as an offshore centered approach or HVDC Undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully</p> <p><u>Basildon Relevant Representation (November 2025):</u></p> <p><u>Basildon Council's preferred strategic option is that of securing an integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not</u></p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough 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>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> <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</p>	<p><u>include overhead lines (OHLs) and pylons along its entire length.</u></p> <p><u>Basildon, along with ECC considers that option could deliver the best outcome in the interests of safeguarding the amenities of communities and the environment.</u></p> <p><u>We believe that alternative solutions, including undergrounding or different pylon design, should have been assessed in line with the mitigation hierarchy and principles of good design in NPS EN-1 and EN-5.</u></p> <p>BBC Response to Targeted Consultations (March 2025):</p> <p>BBC believe credible alternatives to overhead transmission lines, such as an offshore centered approach or HVDC, undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully.</p> <p><u>Basildon Relevant Representation (November 2025):</u></p> <p><u>The current application proposes predominantly 50m high lattice pylons, with targeted AC undergrounding in the Dedham Vale National Landscape. As such, the scheme as put forward would have very significant impacts including landscape and visual.</u></p> <p><u>It is imperative that Norwich to Tilbury does not impede or inhibit growth potential for Basildon and the surrounding areas.</u></p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>alternative, we do not believe that this would be the most suitable option as all costs ultimately go onto domestic energy bills.</p> <p>Updated position (February 2026): <u>National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</u></p>	<p><u>We request that all means to mitigate the impact of the OHP scheme be pursued, including the securing of an underground solution to minimise the viability and deliverability of both DHGV and adjacent Basildon Local Plan housing (H11) site.</u></p> <p><u>Basildon Council's preferred strategic option is that of securing an integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not include overhead lines (OHLs) and pylons along its entire length.</u></p>	Under discussion

Project development process -- Design

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>	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</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>during consultation are included in the Feedback Report.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.</p>		
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 SoCC. Responses to feedback received during statutory consultation are will be made available at DCO submission within the Consultation Feedback Report [APP-066].</p> <p>The statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC.</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 Targeted Consultation Strategy and associated targeted consultation leaflets and environmental implications of change documents. Responses to feedback received during targeted consultation are contained will be made available at DCO submission within the Consultation Feedback Report [APP-066].</p>		Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<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>		

Other matters as required

3.2.9	Community Benefits	<p><u>Socio-economic impacts on the local economy and the tourism sector are assessed in 6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism [APP-265]. The chapter concludes that there would be no significant impacts on the local economy as a result of the Project.</u></p> <p><u>In addition to the ES, the Applicant is committed to providing a coordinated local and regional approach to community benefits. The Government has published its March 2025 the government announced guidance on community funds for delivering community benefit packages for communities hosting new, onshore transmission infrastructure (DESNZ, 2025). The Applicant is committed to working with Ofgem, industry partners,</u></p>	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p><u>local communities and their representatives to ensure community benefits are delivered fairly and effectively, driving lasting, positive change for the people and places integral to our developing electricity network.</u></p> <p><u>projects. This would be delivered outside the development consent process, since it is guidance is clear that community benefit matters should be separate from, and not a material consideration in the decision on the Project or a matter to be secured as part of the Development Consent Order (, the planning process. Outside of the DCO), as per the Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure: Guidance (DESNZ, 2025) 14.. Therefore, any community benefit or investment would be captured under the process, National Grid Community Grant Scheme and dealt will work with stakeholders to understand the opportunity and delivery of this funding, in line with separately to the EIA guidance.</u></p>		
3.2.10	Impact on future housing allocations	National Grid has taken into consideration the location of planning applications and housing allocations in establishing the baseline as part of the routeing and siting studies to minimise any potential for direct impacts on housing development site, where possible. At all stages in the	BBC Response to Statutory Consultations (July 2024): National Grid's preferred solution of an overhead line poses questions for Basildon Borough Council's ability to propose site allocations in the west of Basildon borough in its new Local Plan, given the concerns	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>development of the Project, National Grid has considered local plan allocations (both adopted and emerging) as well as planning applications along the route.</p> <p><u>Updated position (February 2026): National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</u></p>	<p>which an overhead route raises around the ability to secure the necessary infrastructure funding from new development. Uncertainties over the ability to propose allocations close to the Norwich to Tilbury route places issues on viability evidence which would identify an infrastructure funding gap. This, in turn, helps to influence viability and any identified gap could be significantly higher if the pylon route subsequently provokes a deterioration in house prices/land values close to the route.</p> <p><u>Basildon Relevant Representation (November 2025):</u></p> <p><u>Basildon is in the process of preparing a New Local Plan to guide future development and Basildon also made a joint Expression of Interest to the New Towns Task Force earlier this year. This illustrates future growth potential in this area, which will look to Basildon as the largest sub-regional town centre in the area and one of the largest economies in Essex, as a focus for redevelopment. It is imperative that Norwich to Tilbury does not impede or inhibit growth potential for Basildon and the surrounding areas.</u></p> <p><u>It should also be understood that this housing allocation forms part of the wider growth ambition of Basildon Borough Council in our intent to meet the Government's revised Standard Method of</u></p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
			<p><u>housing allocation. Norwich to Tilbury must not inhibit the community development potential for Basildon</u></p>	
3.2.11	<p><u>Dunton Hills Garden Village</u></p>	<p><u>National Grid has taken into account the potential effect of its proposals when developing the route alignment. In this location we have to work within the context of the planning status of other projects, including the Dunton Hills Garden Village proposals.</u></p> <p><u>National Grid has developed its proposal in this area in line with EN-1 and EN-5, the starting presumption being overhead line as the area is not subject to a national landscape designation (or within its setting) which would lead to a change in technology (underground cable) in line with EN-5. We do not consider the level of effects meets the threshold for undergrounding elsewhere as set out in 2.9.23 of EN-5.</u></p> <p><u>The 2024 Design Development Report [APP-359] identified that there would be a direct loss of development footprint by the use of underground cable. The current proposed overhead line alignment follows the corridor created by the safety zone of an existing gas pipeline, which in combination with detailed master planning, would substantially mitigate potential effects on developable land and indirect effects.</u></p>	<p><u>Basildon Relevant Representation (November 2025):</u></p> <p><u>It is our view that this current preferred alignment fails to mitigate locally significant effects on DHGV and surrounding allocations and thereby undermines the planned delivery of housing and infrastructure in Brentwood, Basildon and Thurrock. The Applicant has not properly taken this into account in route selection, contrary to Holford Rule 7. The pylons and overhead lines are likely to have a materially adverse effect on residential values and residual land value (circa £17.5m reduction), with consequential risks to the delivery of affordable housing and essential infrastructure at DHGV and other emerging sites.</u></p> <p><u>The route has a direct impact on the Dunton Hills proposal. Dunton Hills Garden Village is a cross-boundary allocated strategic housing site in Brentwood and runs along the boundary of Basildon, and is directly impacted by the Norwich to Tilbury route. It is dealt with directly by a separate dedicated application.</u></p> <p><u>Dunton Hills Garden Village (DHGV) is an allocated strategic housing site (Policy R01) in the Brentwood Local Plan adopted on 23rd March 2022 to deliver circa 4000 new</u></p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u>	<p><u>homes together with associated infrastructure. This allocation was identified to meet the majority of Brentwood's housing need, within the Plan period and beyond. In support of this policy objective, Brentwood Borough Council approved the Dunton Hills Supplementary Planning Document in January 2023 (SPD). Brentwood is in the process of reviewing its adopted Local Plan accordingly.</u></p> <p><u>As the marginal viability of the proposed development of Dunton Hills Garden Village (DHGV) could impact the provision delivery of affordable housing and necessary infrastructure, we request that all means to mitigate the impact of the OHP scheme be pursued, including the securing of an underground solution to minimise the viability and deliverability of, both, DHGV and adjacent Basildon Local Plan housing (H11) site, which is also designed to meet the Garden City standards</u></p>	

3.3 Ecology and Biodiversity

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.3.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking	Not yet seen the ES so cannot comment at this stage.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126] and Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026].</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		

EIA – Approach and Methods

3.3.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.3.3	Data sources	<p>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 [AS-026].</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.3.4	Assessment Methodology	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.3.5	Survey Methodology	National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and	National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>No comments received to date on the Technical Note from BBC, no comments received at Statutory Consultation, therefore it is assumed that this matter is agreed.</p>	<p>the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>No comments received to date on the Technical Note from BBC, no comments received at Statutory Consultation, therefore it is assumed that this matter is agreed.</p>	
3.3.6	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>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 [AS-026]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.3.7	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Biodiversity are presented in Section 8.5 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.3.8	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 [AS-026]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES .	Under discussion
3.3.9	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 [AS-026] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300 document reference 7.2.X]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	CoCP comments are being provided by Essex Place Services (EPS) on behalf of all the Essex councils. The Council defers to that response.	Under discussion
3.3.10	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES .	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.3.11	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.3.12	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.3.13	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026] and</p>	The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting wasMeeting held inon-9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP. A further meeting was held inon-29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.3.14	Outline LEMP	<p>The Outline LEMP [AS-046] includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026] and is appropriate.</p> <p>A meeting wasMeeting held inon-9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline LEMP [AS-046]. A further meeting was held inon-29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	EPS response to the draft outline LEMP on 22nd October 2024.	Under discussion
Other matters as required				
3.3.15	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	<p>National Grid will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. <u>The Biodiversity Net Gain Report [PP-299] sets out the approach to BNG.</u></p> <p>Offsite BNG will be <u>secured by a legal agreement and</u> delivered through</p>	<u>No comments received from BBC on this matter.</u>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers.</p> <p>National Grid shared the Biodiversity Net Gain strategy with stakeholders in January 2025.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.3.16	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	<p>National Grid shared the AIA in March 2025.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<u>No comments received from BBC on this matter.</u>	Under discussion

3.4 Air Quality

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.4.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Air Quality assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126] and Section 7.2 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) [APP-147] of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
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	<p>Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.4.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.4.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with Air Quality are summarised in Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.4.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Air Quality are presented in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.4.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>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 [APP-147]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.4.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300 document reference 7.2]. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and</p>	CoCP comments are being provided by EPS on behalf of all the Essex councils. The Council defers to that response.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.4.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].- Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.4.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].- The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.4.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].- The assessment of effects during operation (and</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.4.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p><u>A meeting was held on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300].</u> A further meeting was held <u>on 29th January 2025</u> to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	CoCP comments are being provided by EPS	Under discussion
Other matters as required				

3.5 Noise and Vibration

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.5.1	Policy and legislation	<p>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) [APP-126] and Section 14.2 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256].</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC 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	<p>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 [APP-256].</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.5.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.5.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with Noise and Vibration are summarised in Section 14.4 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP 256]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

EIA – Baseline Conditions

3.5.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Noise and Vibration are presented in Section 14.5 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
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EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures

3.5.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>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 [APP-256]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.5.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300 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><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.5.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.5.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 14.7 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]. The assessment of effects</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.5.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 14.7 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC 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 [APP-300] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p><u>A meeting was held on 9th October 2024</u> to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300]. A further meeting was held in^{on} 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	CoCP comments to be provided by EPS	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
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	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.6.1	Policy and legislation	<p>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) [APP-126] and Section 10.2 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192].</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	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.	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
			Agreed. The Council did submit a response to the initial Health and Wellbeing technical note.	
3.6.3	Data sources	<p>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 [APP-192].</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
3.6.4	Assessment methodology	<p>A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter.</p> <p>The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.</p>	<p>A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter.</p> <p>The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.</p> <p>There were no comments, correspondence or objections from BBC following the meeting on 24 September, therefore it is assumed that the assessment methodology is agreed.</p>	Agreed
3.6.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with Health and Wellbeing are summarised in Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>				
<p>EIA – Baseline Conditions</p>				
3.6.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Health and Wellbeing are presented in Section 10.5 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
<p>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</p>				
3.6.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>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) of the ES [APP-192]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC refer to EPS for comments on the oCoCP.	Under discussion
3.6.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192] and set out in the Outline CoCP</p>	BBC refer to EPS for comments on the oCoCP.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>[APP-300 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><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.6.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192].- Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC refer to EPS for comments on the oCoCP.	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.6.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192].- The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.6.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>in Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.6.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was Meeting held in on 9th October <u>2024</u> to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300]. A further meeting was held in on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p>The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.</p> <p>As 3.6.8, CoCP comment to be provided by EPS</p>	Under discussion
Other matters as required				

3.7 Historic Environment

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough 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) [APP-126] and Section 11.2 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208].</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	<p>Agreed in respect of the area covered by BBC.</p> <p>The Council defers to EPSPlace Services' comments on the historic environment submitted March 2025. .</p>	Agreed
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 [APP-208].</p>	<p>BBC position pending sight of the ES</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.7.4	Assessment methodology	<p>The scoping opinion stated: ‘<i>The Applicant should make effort to discuss and agree relevant non-designated heritage assets for assessment and the detailed assessment methodology with relevant local planning authorities.</i>’</p> <p>The assessment methodology has been discussed at a number of Historic Environment Thematic Group Meetings held between July 2022 and November 2024.</p> <p>It is considered that the assessment methodology has been agreed, with the exception of non-designated heritage assets, where the method is still under discussion.</p> <p>Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback will be taken into account for the assessment.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p>The scoping opinion stated: ‘<i>The Applicant should make effort to discuss and agree relevant non-designated heritage assets for assessment and the detailed assessment methodology with relevant local planning authorities.</i>’</p> <p>The assessment methodology has been discussed at a number of Historic Environment Thematic Group Meetings held between July 2022 and November 2024.</p> <p>It is considered that the assessment methodology has been agreed, with the exception of non-designated heritage assets, where the method is still under discussion.</p> <p>Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback received on 4th March 2025 from EPS.</p>	Under discussion
3.7.5	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 [APP-208]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>In March 2025, National Grid issued an updated version of the Historic Environment (HE) Viewpoints information.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.7.6	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 [APP-208]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.7.7	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 [APP-208]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.7.8	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 [APP-208] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300 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><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p>CoCP comments are being provided by EPS on behalf of all the Essex councils. The Council defers to that response.</p>	Under discussion
3.7.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p>BBC position pending sight of the ES</p>	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.7.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p>	<p>BBC position pending sight of the ES</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.7.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.7.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p><u>A meeting was held in on 9th October 2024</u> to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300]. A further meeting was held <u>in on 29th January 2025</u> to address comments from stakeholders.</p>	CoCP comments are being provided by EPS on behalf of all the Essex councils. The Council defers to that response.	Under discussion
Other matters as required				
3.7.13	Written Scheme of Investigations (WSIs) for pre-consent geophysical surveys	The scope and methodology of WSIs for geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate	<p>EPS email on 6th March 2025 on behalf of BBC requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra research aims added into this section in case the archaeology is 	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
	and archaeological trial trenching.	<p>and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.</p> <p>Responses from EPS will be taken on board.</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> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p>later or earlier in date than is expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have consistency if this is a full strip. In this small section 1 m is sufficient but for future ones a percentage would be more appropriate (normally we would recommend 10% as minimum). • Second bullet point is more related to evaluations and this is not occurring on site at present. The level of excavation will be high enough to provide a full record of the archaeological deposits. • Metal detecting needs to state excavation or strip map and record. • Any complex deposits will require full excavation. 	
3.7.14	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><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.7.15	Programme for completion of archaeological fieldwork	<p>The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of impact anticipated.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u>		

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	Basildon Borough 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) [APP-126] and Section 13.2 Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) [APP-226] of the ES. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment. <u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u>	BBC 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	The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		and through subsequent thematic workshops.	and through subsequent thematic workshops.	
3.8.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226].</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.8.4	Assessment methodology (including LVIA methodology and viewpoints)	<p>The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops</p> <p>A meeting was held in on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree the detailed methodology. A further meeting was held in 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>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	EPS provided comments on the proposed viewpoints in Essex South in an E-mail on 25th October 2024. Viewpoints are still under discussion.	Under discussion
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>assessment are summarised in Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>		
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.8.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Landscape and Visual are presented in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.8.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Landscape and Visual effects, are set out in Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u></p>	EPS email 5 th Nov 2024 – Landscape – adequacy of undergrounding, mitigation and lack of compensation are all still under discussion.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.8.8	Standard mitigation	<p><u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p> <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 [APP-226] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300 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>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	More information sought.	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 [APP-226]. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
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 [APP-226]. The assessment of</p>	More information sought.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.8.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	More information sought.	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.8.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held in <u>Meeting held in</u> 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300]. A further meeting was held in 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p>The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.</p> <p>As 3.6.8 CoCP comment to be provide by EPS</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.8.13	Outline LEMP	<p>The Outline LEMP [AS-046] includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226] and is appropriate.</p> <p>A meeting was Meeting held in on 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline LEMP [AS-046]. A further meeting was held in on 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></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	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.9.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment is presented in Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126] and Section</p>	Agreed - subject to further clarification on social value/community benefits information.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>15.2 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>		

EIA – Approach and Methods

3.9.2	Study area	<p>The Scoping Opinion stated: “<i>The Applicant should seek to agree the study area with the relevant local authorities</i>”.</p> <p>A meeting was held in on 14th November 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion. Technical Notes were shared in June 2023 and April 2024.</p> <p>Following the meeting held in on 14th November <u>2024</u>, it was agreed that the study area for businesses would be expanded from 1km to 3km to take into account potential visual effects on businesses.</p> <p>The A 3rd Technical Note was issued in March 2025 is currently being prepared to seek agreement onto agree the study area and methodology, therefore this area is still under discussion.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): National Grid Regarding comments raised in response to the first iteration of the SoCG. BBC's comments are noted, and NG will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	<p>Basildon Council responded to the Socio Economic & Tourism technical note consultation on 17 July 2023.</p> <p>A response to the non-technical Health note was also provided where BBC stated that the methodology should consider how the project will impact on health in respect of the following:</p> <p>Disruption to Green Space and Nature: assessing whether construction of the project could result in the loss of green space used for leisure and recreation purposes.</p> <p>Traffic and Transport: Linking to the Council's full consultation response, will there be any possible human health effects e.g. physical injury from accidents due to more traffic on the roads, or increased congestion and driver stress?</p> <p>Water: Is there a risk of human health effects during construction if and where contaminants of groundwater enters the public water supply? How will this be prevented? Some consideration may need to be given to the new National</p>	Under discussion
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
			<p>Policy Statement on water, which came into force in September 2023.</p> <p>Soil contamination: Soil quality is linked to Nutrient Neutrality matters and thus the potential to disrupt nature. Would there be any potential build-up of ground gases and/or soil contamination from construction activity? What impacts, if any, on human health, could arise?</p> <p>General community disruption: This would test general effects on well-being; and what effects (if any) the construction of the route will have on communities, and whether or not this varies in different local authorities across the route?</p>	
3.9.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265].</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.9.4	Assessment methodology	<p>The Scoping Opinion stated “<i>The ES should detail the criteria used to identify businesses likely to be affected and the Applicant should seek to agree these with relevant local authorities</i>”.</p> <p>A meeting was held in on 14th November 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion.</p>	<p>During the Thematic Group Meeting (August 2023), BBC requested the quantification of employment numbers to be generated on a borough by borough basis or at a local community level within the assessment.</p> <p>BBC statutory consultation response also reiterated the above stating that: <i>Failing to set out what the project will achieve in</i></p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>TheA 3rd Technical Note was issued in March 2025is currently being prepared to seek agreement onto agree the study area and methodology.</p> <p><u>National Grid</u>NG response to the Statutory Consultation response:</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the potential effect on the economy and employment within the Wider Study Area will be undertaken in the ES stage. However, a district or borough breakdown of direct and indirect employment generation will not be available. This is due to the fact that job uptake will be skills level dependent, as well as taking into account suitability. The potential employment opportunities for the Project would also serve a much wider scale, including short tenure and mobile employment. Therefore, it will be appropriate to assess the employment generation assessment in the Wider Study Area as a whole.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	<p><i>this respect appears to go against the heart of the LURA 2023 legislation, and, By this stage of the project, clear facts and figures about the opportunities N-T will create should really be available.</i></p> <p>Govt policy now expects community benefits information to be provided. The Council feels that information on job creation will help National Grid to demonstrate co-working with LPAs if a breakdown at local level can be provided.</p>	
3.9.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>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 [APP-265]. The key</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.9.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>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 [APP-265]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.9.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects, are set out in Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265]. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.9.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects during construction are summarised in Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300 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><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	As 3.6.8, CoCP comment to be provide by EPS.	Under discussion
3.9.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265]. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.9.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-</p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>265]. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		
3.9.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>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 [APP-265]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.9.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265]. and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p><u>A meeting was held in on 9th October 2024</u> to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300]. A further meeting was held <u>in on 29th January 2025</u> to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026):</p>	Content is still under discussion. CoCP comments are being provided by EPS on behalf of all the Essex councils. BBC defers to that response.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u>		
Other matters as required				
<u>3.9.13</u>	<u>Skills and Employment</u>	<p data-bbox="674 347 1256 676"><u>Socio-economic impacts on the local economy and the tourism sector are assessed in 6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism [APP-265]. The chapter concludes that there would be no significant impacts on the local economy as a result of the Project.</u></p> <p data-bbox="674 687 1256 1198"><u>In addition to the ES, the Applicant is committed to providing a coordinated local and regional approach to community benefits. The Government has published its guidance on community funds for transmission infrastructure (DESNZ, 2025). The Applicant is committed to working with Ofgem, industry partners, local communities and their representatives to ensure community benefits are delivered fairly and effectively, driving lasting, positive change for the people and places integral to our developing electricity network.</u></p> <p data-bbox="674 1209 1256 1461"><u>This would be delivered outside the development consent process, since it is not a material consideration in the decision on the Project or a matter to be secured as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO), as per the Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure: Guidance (DESNZ, 2025). Therefore, any community benefit</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1294 347 1861 416"><u>Basildon Relevant Representation (November 2025):</u></p> <p data-bbox="1294 427 1861 863"><u>It is essential that National Grid proactively explores mitigation strategies to minimise these impacts and works closely with local partners to identify opportunities to support and strengthen the local economy. This includes ensuring that Essex-based businesses are able to benefit from the project through meaningful engagement with the supply chain, procurement opportunities, and targeted support to help them meet project requirements</u></p> <p data-bbox="1294 874 1861 1054"><u>Given the acute national and local skills shortages, the employment and skills benefits—both during construction and operation—are significant and must be fully recognised and planned for.</u></p> <p data-bbox="1294 1066 1861 1461"><u>We support the calls by Essex County Council to request National Grid to provide detailed labour market demand data as early as possible. This will allow for timely coordination with local education and training providers, enabling the development of targeted upskilling programmes and reducing the risk of workforce shortages that could delay project delivery. Also, the request that the applicant should actively engage with relevant partners to mitigate risks associated with skills shortages and consider opportunities for shared</u></p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<u>or investment would be captured under the National Grid Community Grant Scheme and dealt with separately to the EIA.</u>	<u>apprenticeships, traineeships, and collaborative training programmes across concurrent projects. A strategic approach that considers the wider infrastructure pipeline will help maximise social value and ensure long-term benefits for the local workforce.</u>	

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	Basildon Borough 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) [APP-126] and Section 17.2 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281].</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
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 Sections Section 17.4 and 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281]. <u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion
3.10.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.10.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Cumulative Effects assessment are summarised in Sections Section 17.5 and 17.64 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281]. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. <u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.10.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Cumulative Effects are presented <u>within the environmental topic chapters (Chapters 6 – 16 in Section 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-138 to APP-280])</u>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.10.7	Embedded mitigation	<p><u>The assessment of cumulative effects considered the residual effects identified during construction and operation (and maintenance) within the environmental topic chapters (Chapters 6 – 16 of the ES [APP-138 to APP-280])</u>. Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project <u>relevant to Cumulative Effects</u>, are set out in <u>the environmental topic chapters (Chapters Section 17.6 – 16 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-138 to APP-280])</u>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.10.8	Standard mitigation	<p><u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p> <p><u>The assessment of cumulative effects considers the residual effects identified during construction and operation (and maintenance) within the environmental topic chapters (Chapters 6 – 16 of the ES [APP-138 to APP-280]).</u> Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Cumulative Effects during construction are summarised in <u>the environmental topic chapters (Chapters Section 17.6 – 16 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-138 to APP-280])</u> and set out in the Outline CoCP <u>[APP-300 document reference 7.2]</u>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	CoCP comments are being provided by EPS on behalf of all the Essex councils. BBC defers to that response.	Under discussion
3.10.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <u>Sections Section 17.4 and 17.56 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281].</u> Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>				
<p>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</p>				
3.10.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <u>Sections Section 17.4 and 17.57</u> of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281]. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
3.10.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <u>Sections Section 17.4 and 17.57</u> of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281]. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>Updated Position (February 2026): <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>	BBC position pending sight of the ES.	Under discussion
<p>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</p>				
3.10.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The Outline CoCP [APP-300] includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) of the ES [APP-281] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p>	<p>Content is still under discussion. CoCP comments are being provided by EPS on behalf of all the Essex councils. BBC defers to that response.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
		<p>A meeting wasMeeting held inon 9th October 2024 to agree on the structure for the Outline CoCP [APP-300]. A further meeting was held inon 29th January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Updated Position (February 2026):</u> <u>National Grid will continue to engage with BBC on this matter.</u></p>		

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	Basildon Borough Council's Position	Status
3.11.1	DCO Requirements			
3.11.2	DCO Wording			
Other matters as required				

3.12 Other Matters

4. Confirmation of Agreement

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

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Signed for and on behalf of Basildon Borough Council:

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Date:

.....

Abbreviations

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

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