

As the proposals include compulsory acquisition powers, the Secretary of State would need to accept that there is a compelling case in the public interest to justify the proposed interference with private land rights and that the public benefits associated with the proposal outweigh any private loss.

Less harmful routes and undergrounding options have not been adequately considered. There is evidence to suggest that an integrated offshore grid would be faster, cheaper, and more efficient, with studies citing significant savings. Large-scale loss of hedgerows, trees, and habitats will occur. While National Grid has mitigated impacts on designated sites such as SSSIs and ancient woodland, it fails to address the significant habitat loss on the much more significant areas which are not specifically designated.