

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0035

# Norwich to Tilbury

## Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.8 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Colchester  
City Council - Clean 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

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

# Contents

---

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Overview	1
1.2	Project Description	2
1.3	Format and Structure of this Document	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>Record of Key Engagement</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Summary of Key Engagement	4
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	Overview	15
3.2	Project development, description and design	16
3.3	Ecology and Biodiversity	26
3.4	Air Quality	46
3.5	Noise and Vibration	50
3.6	Health and Wellbeing	56
3.7	Historic Environment	64
3.8	Landscape and Visual	79
3.9	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	91
3.10	Cumulative Effects	99
3.11	Development Consent Order	106
3.12	Other Matters	107
<b>4.</b>	<b>Confirmation of Agreement</b>	<b>108</b>

---

Table 2.1	Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and Colchester City Council	4
Table 3.1	Agreement status for matters presented in Section 3	15
Table 3.2	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to project development, description and design matters	16
Table 3.3	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Ecology and Biodiversity	26
Table 3.4	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Air Quality	46
Table 3.5	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Noise and Vibration	50
Table 3.6	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Health and Wellbeing	56
Table 3.7	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Historic Environment	64
Table 3.8	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Landscape and Visual	79
Table 3.9	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	91
Table 3.10	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Cumulative Effects	99
Table 3.11	Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion in relation to Development Consent Order	106

---

Abbreviations	109
---------------	-----

---

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared relating to the application for development consent for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the 'Project') made by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (referred to as 'National Grid' within this document). It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid as the Applicant and Colchester City Council (CCC). CCC 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. It is intended to be a live and working document which will be updated as the Project progresses and shared with CCC at key points for discussion.
- 1.1.7 Future iterations will evolve from this point and all parties reserve the right to supplement the matters identified as we progress the discussions to ensure it is comprehensive. There are many items within it that although not currently agreed have the potential to be resolved. A final SoCG will be prepared ahead of the close of the DCO Examination. Unlike a final SoCG, this draft SoCG has not been officially signed by either party.
- 1.1.8 The parties will continue to work together, seeking resolution where appropriate to ensure this SoCG is a reliable and up to date document which can inform the examination.
- 1.1.9 This SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the Application which are relevant to CCC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to CCC's statutory remit. The following bullet points present the topics included in this SoCG (they are also presented in Section 3):
- Project development, description and design
  - Ecology and Biodiversity

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

CCC 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 CCC but may be subject to change during the examination. A final position will be recorded in the final SoCG to be submitted close to the examination.

## 1.2 Project Description

1.2.1 The Project is a proposal by National Grid to upgrade the electricity transmission system in East Anglia between Norwich and Tilbury, comprising:

- A new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission connection of approximately 180 km overall length from Norwich Main Substation to Tilbury Substation via Bramford Substation, a new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation and a new Tilbury North Substation, including:
  - Approximately 159 km of new overhead line supported on approximately 509 pylons, either standard steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) or low height steel lattice pylons (approximately 40 m in height) and some of which would be gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds or existing or proposed substations
  - Approximately 21 km of 400 kV underground cabling, some of which would be located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB1))
- Up to seven new CSE compounds (with permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables
- Modification works to connect into the existing Norwich Main Substation and a substation extension at the existing Bramford Substation
- A new 400 kV substation on the Tendring Peninsula, referred to as the EACN Substation (with a new permanent access). This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation
- A new 400 kV substation to the south of Orsett Golf Course in Essex, referred to as the Tilbury North Substation (with a new permanent access). This is proposed to be a Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation

- Modifications to the existing National Grid Electricity Transmission overhead lines to facilitate the connection of the existing network into the new Tilbury North Substation to provide connection to the Tilbury Substation
  - Ancillary and/or temporary works associated with the construction of the Project.
- 1.2.2 In addition, third party utilities diversions and/or modifications would be required to facilitate the construction of the Project. There would also be land required for environmental mitigation and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
- 1.2.3 As well as the permanent infrastructure, land would also be required temporarily for construction activities including, for example, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and temporary construction access.
- 1.2.4 The Project would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable health and safety legislation. The Project will need to comply with design safety standards including the Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS), which sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). This informs a suite of National Grid policies and processes, which contain details on design standards required to be met when designing, constructing and operating assets such as those proposed for the Project.

### 1.3 Format and Structure of this Document

- 1.3.1 This SoCG is structured as follows:
- **Section 2** provides a summary of the key engagement undertaken to date with CCC
  - **Section 3** summarises the key matters and captures the status of each issue / matter
  - **Section 4** includes the sign off sheet

## 2. Record of Key Engagement

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 National Grid has engaged with CCC on the Project throughout the pre-application process. This has included:

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

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

### 2.2 Summary of Key Engagement

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

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

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

Date	Format	Topic/Description
<b>General</b>		
August 2022	Meeting	Informal project catch-up and consultation feedback with CCC.
September 2022	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
November 2022	Meeting	Briefings on issued response to questions from OffSET with all host authorities.
November 2022	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
January 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
February 2023	Meeting	Pre-consultation session with all host authorities.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
March 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
May 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
June 2023	Meeting	Non-statutory consultation preferred alignment briefing to all host authorities.
July 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
September 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
October 2023 - Ongoing	Meeting	Monthly informal catch-up meetings.
November 2023	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
December 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to all host authorities for comment.
January 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
February 2024	Meeting	Statutory consultation preferred alignment briefing to all host authorities.
March 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
March 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the SoCC to all host authorities for statutory consultation.
May 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to all host authorities for comment.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and Outline CoCP.
November 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss approach to targeted consultation
November 2024	Meeting	All host authority workshop
January 2025	Meeting	Meeting to provide project and design update
January 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the 2 <sup>nd</sup> iteration draft versions of the Outline CoCP and Outline LEMP to all host authorities for comment.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> iteration draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
March 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss duty to further the purposes of the National Landscape
May 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the next iteration of the Outline CoCP including Appendix H – Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction strategy.
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the ES Appendix 17.1: Long List of Other Developments
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
<b>Ecology and Biodiversity</b>		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and Arboriculture Assessment Methodology for review ahead of the Thematic Group meeting.
July 2022	Meeting	Ecology and Biodiversity Thematic Group meeting - National Grid presented on the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and Arboriculture Assessment Methodology and sought feedback from CCC and other authorities.
September 2023	Meeting	National Grid discussed the potential off-site scheme/initiatives for BNG.
March 2024	Meeting	Biodiversity Thematic Group to discuss the methodology and scope of ecology surveys outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2024	Technical Note	National Grid issued a technical note to all host authorities outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Thematic Group call.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Outline LEMP
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Protected Species Proposed Mitigation Measures to stakeholders including CCC.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy.
January 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments received on the draft Biodiversity Net Gain Report.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the second iteration of the Outline LEMP
May 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss comments from the updated proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the next iteration of the Outline LEMP including Appendix D – Outline Landscape Proposals
September 2025	Meeting	Option thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the ecology section of the Environmental Statement.
January 2026	Meeting	Joint meeting attended by LPA's who are represented by Essex Place Service for ecology to discuss the Statement of Common Ground.
<b>Air Quality</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Air Quality assessment for review and comment.
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Noise and Vibration assessment for review and comment.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Health and Wellbeing Assessment Methodology to all host authorities.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
September 2023	Technical Note	National Grid issued a Health and Wellbeing technical note on the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including guidance, study area, scope, and assessment methodology.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss and agree the proposed assessment scope and methodology for the Health and Wellbeing chapter of the ES.
October 2024	Technical note	National Grid issued a refreshed Health and Wellbeing technical note on the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including guidance, study area, scope, and assessment methodology.
October 2025	Meeting	Optional thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the Health and Wellbeing section of the Environmental Statement.

### **Historic Environment**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
		was received from stakeholders regarding proposed viewpoints and additional viewpoints were proposed.
November 2023	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group meeting to discuss proposed locations of heritage viewpoints with all host authorities and Historic England. Viewpoint locations shared in PDF and shapefile.
November 2023	Meeting	Discussion with archaeological advisors to discuss approach to geophysical survey and trial trenching.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated cultural heritage viewpoints (including ZTV) for feedback from all host authorities, Natural England and Historic England.
March 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
March 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for review and comment.
March 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the updated Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Geophysical Surveys with the Archaeology Working Group Members.
March 2024	Email Correspondence	Project response to Stakeholder feedback on Heritage Viewpoints.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Historic Environment Thematic Group call.
May 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the WSI for Monitoring GI works under archaeological supervision with Archaeology Working Group Members for review and approval.
June 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the overarching WSI for the Archaeological Trial Trenching with the Archaeology Working Group Members for review and approval.
June 2024	Technical Note	National Grid shared the Site Specific WSI for the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) (Site 001) with the Archaeology Working Group Members (including CCC) for information.
July 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
August 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
October 2024	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group Meeting.
October 2024	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the setting survey locations with stakeholders.
February 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the draft Historic Baseline Report with Annex C & D.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
February 2025	Meeting	Thematic group meeting to discuss the Historic Environment Viewpoints.
February 2025	Meeting	National Grid hosted a meeting to discuss the Heritage Baseline report.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued updated the Historic Environment Viewpoints information to stakeholders including CCC.
April 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the Draft Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Draft Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for post-consent stage of the project.
May 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
June 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
June 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared additional trench plans for Site 009, Area 26.
June 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared updated trench plans for Site 009, Area 26
June 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared an Archaeological fieldwork summary for comment.
July 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
August 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
August 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared SSWSIs - Site 011
September 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
September 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared updated SSWSI sites 11
October 2025	Meeting	Optional thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the heritage section of the Environmental Statement
October 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
October 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared Trial Trench plans for review and approval for site 009 and site 011.
October 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared updated Trial trench plans for site 009 site 011.
November 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared shapefile for the phase 2 survey along with the priority area survey.
November 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
December 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the WSI for the Phase 2 geophysical survey.
December 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting to begin discussing Essex Place Services (EPS), working on behalf of CCC, comments on the Statement of Common Ground
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss matters relating to Archaeology in the Statements of Common Ground being covered by EPS.
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss matters relating to built heritage in the Colchester Statement of Common Ground
January 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
February 2026	Meeting	National Grid shared the Supplementary Environmental Information submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching completed to date with the Archaeology Working Group Stakeholders.
February 2026	Email Correspondence	Archaeology Working Group

### **Landscape and Visual**

July 2022	Technical note	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) methodology and arboricultural assessment methodology shared for review and discussion at the Thematic Group Meeting
July 2022	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting. National Grid shared the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Methodology and Arboricultural Assessment Methodology for review.
January 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued plans showing proposed viewpoint locations for review and comment to all host authorities.
February 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting to discuss proposed viewpoint locations in Essex. National Grid sought agreement on the viewpoint locations to include in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the ES.
May 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2023 – March 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared information, responded to further feedback on viewpoint locations received from the May 2023 meeting, and reviewed subsequent feedback

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
		received up to March 2024 with the aim to agree viewpoint locations for the PEIR and ES (based on the information available at this date).
August 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued wirelines and photomontages and proposed the approach to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping for comment.
January 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the updated landscape viewpoints (and the ZTV) and sought feedback from all host authorities.
March 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Thematic Group call.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Draft Landscape and Visual Methodology, Proposed LVIA Viewpoints (excel spreadsheet) and Proposed LVIA Viewpoints (map) ahead of the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape Thematic Group Meeting to find agreement on the LVIA methodology and the format/presentation of photomontages and/or wirelines which will form part of the development consent application.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the shapefiles for the landscape viewpoints and order limits with CCC and other stakeholders following the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the draft Outline LEMP and Sample Mitigation Drawings ahead of the draft Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP discussion.
September 2024	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting – LVIA Viewpoints within Essex North
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a focus meeting to discuss the National Landscape.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the Draft mitigation drawings to accompany the Outline LEMP with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the National landscape setting study with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared updated viewpoint information data following from the landscape thematic workshops
November 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to confirm agreement on VPs and photomontages

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Topic/Description</b>
January 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued the draft Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
May 2025	Email Correspondence	National Grid shared the next iteration of the Outline LEMP including Appendix D – Outline Landscape Proposals.
October 2025	Meeting	Optional thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the Landscape section of the Environmental Statement.
January 2026	Meeting	Joint meeting attended by LPA's who are represented by Essex Place Service for Landscape to discuss the Statement of Common Ground.

### **Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism**

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

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

Table 3.1 Agreement status for matters presented in Section 3

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

- 3.1.3 Engagement will continue as the Project develops and progresses through the various stages of the DCO process.
- 3.1.4 Table 3.3 to Table 3.11 provides the matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion in relation to the various topics.

## 3.2 Project development, description and design

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>Strategic options/needs case</b>				
3.2.1	Needs case	<p>Norwich to Tilbury is being proposed because the existing network in East Anglia doesn't have sufficient capacity to manage the expected (and in some cases, contracted) increase in offshore wind farms (and interconnectors) needing to connect to the grid as part of the Government's target of reaching net zero by 2050. The project sits alongside other work to reinforce and upgrade the existing network in East Anglia. Norwich to Tilbury is listed as a key project in Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</p>	<p>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): CCC acknowledge that the grid capacity offered by the Norwich to Tilbury project is needed. CCC note the NESO Clean Power 2030 report highlights the importance of Norwich to Tilbury and other projects to be delivered by 2030 to transmit clean power from East Anglia. While the NESO Clean Power report is only guidance, the need for Norwich to Tilbury was also reaffirmed by the Hiorns report (dated September 2023) which independently reviewed the need for network reinforcement in East Anglia. CCC note however that the ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts than the Norwich to Tilbury proposals.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>As set out in the T-con response CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure across Colchester and Essex should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed by the Council and the communities it represents.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Unchanged</p>	
3.2.2	Project timing	<p>Timing for the project is driven by the needs case – when offshore wind farms are contracted to connect to the UK network – the first of which are contracted to connect in 2030. National Grid is legally obliged (under our Transmission Owner License) to provide capacity at the dates formally agreed in contracts with energy generators (or customers) by NESO.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report shows that the constraint costs associated with a delay to the project timing as being between £2.7 and £2.8 billion.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p>	<p>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>CCC note the NESO Clean Power 2030 report highlights the importance of Norwich to Tilbury and other projects to be delivered by 2030 to transmit clean power from East Anglia.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, CCC considers that a further review of the contracted electricity generation is needed ahead of final submission of the DCO to ensure the timing proposed is robust noting that a longer period for delivery would allow greater potential for alternative solutions, noting the Hirons</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).	report findings as set out in CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024). CCC position December 2025: Unchanged	
3.2.3	Onshore route	<p>An onshore route allows for greater energy capacity and connectivity to feed into the grid. In assessing offshore options to deliver the same capacity as an onshore overhead line, we would need to build three subsea cables and associated infrastructure, which would add significant cost and not meet the needs case for Norwich to Tilbury.</p> <p><a href="#">Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents</a></p> <p>published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including offshore alternatives.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</p>	<p>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):</p> <p>The ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts that the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. As such, CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or HVDC undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed as it would be materially less harmful (in many aspects) than the proposed development.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Unchanged</p>	Under discussion
3.2.4	Predominantly overhead line route	Norwich to Tilbury has been designed in line with policy statement EN-5 (which covers the	CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025):	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>development of new energy infrastructure) which concludes that in most cases, the government expects that overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid.</p> <p><a href="#">Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents</a> published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including underground alternatives.</p> <p>The work undertaken shows that undergrounding, including using HVDC cables, would be significantly more expensive and have environmental impacts and present engineering challenges. Due to the higher price that would be involved in an underground alternative, we do not believe that this would be the most suitable option as all costs ultimately go onto domestic energy bills.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</p>	<p>The ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts than the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. As such, CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or HVDC undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed as it would be materially less harmful (in many aspects) than the proposed development.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Unchanged</p>	
<b>Project development process - Design</b>				
3.2.5	East Anglian Connection Node (EACN) substation	National Grid has previously considered a number of alternative sites for the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation during the initial siting work as set out in the CPRSS,	CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024): CCC supports an option that removes the EACN as it is the EACN that results	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>7.20 2023 Design Development Report [APP-358] and 7.21 2024 Design Development Report [APP-359].</b> The decision making about siting considers the potential effects within the context of relevant policy, notably National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1, EN-5 and the Electricity Act 1989.</p> <p>We have kept our preliminary decisions under review and continue to consider the EACN substation as proposed to be the preferred location on the basis that an alternative further west presents greater uncertainty on deliverability and increased construction risk and is not compatible with our duties.</p>	<p>in an alignment that is materially harmful to the Dedham Vale National Landscape. CCC notes a number of options that did not contain the EACN in the 2024 ESO East Anglia Network Study.</p> <p>In the event that the EACN remains, CCC strongly recommends the undergrounding of the section between the EACN and the Great Horkesley CSE removing the need to use OHLs over an already undergrounded section and hence removing the need for the Great Horkesley CSE its entirety.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Unchanged. Although not mentioned in our relevant representation, we would support the delivery of the project that removed the need for the EACN.</p>	
3.2.6	Colne Valley	<p>In line with NPS EN-5, the starting design technology for this area is overhead line because the Colne Valley is both outside and not within a setting of a National Landscape.</p> <p>In line with the NPS guidance we have also considered whether widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts in other locations may also justify the use of undergrounding. We have taken into account the Secretary of State's decision making criteria and do not consider that in this case the level of effects justify the level of cost. Further discussion around mitigation will</p>	<p>CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024):</p> <p>CCC's position is that the area from West Bergholt, past Fordham and Aldham and into Marks Tey and Great Tey must be undergrounded for landscape reasons across the Colne Valley and neighbouring amenity reasons in Aldham, in particular. CCC's position is that the Colne Valley is a landscape of exceptional quality and value.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>be discussed in appropriate thematic group meetings and has been presented in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> National Grid provided a response to this matter at Deadline 1 through the relevant representations process (document reference 8.4.1).</p>	<p>CCC consider that the submission must be accompanied by a Valued Landscape Assessment as the Colne Valley clearly meets the criteria for a Valued Landscape.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still retain this position. The impacts on landscape and view are significant, particularly near Fordham and Aldham. The Council still wishes to see the alignment altered to move the alignment further away from Fordham/Aldham or undergrounded as a preference.</p>	
3.2.7	Dedham Vale National Landscape	<p>The landscape and visual effects of the Project on the National Landscape during construction and operation (and maintenance) have been set out in <b>Appendix 13.5 of Chapter 13 of the ES [APP-235]</b>. The Project has been designed to reduce as far as practicable, the potential adverse effects on the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Underground cabling is being provided through the National Landscape and within its setting in line with NPS EN-5 which makes it clear that the starting presumption of overhead lines for new electricity transmission projects is reversed in National Landscapes.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> The Applicant has set out the approach to the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape in accordance with</p>	<p>CCC consider that the section of the alignment that passes through the northernmost section of Langham into Dedham is materially harmful to the National Landscape. It therefore fails to meet the legal duty to 'further the purpose' of the NL which requires the proposed development to actively provide demonstrable improvement. CCC submits that the scheme cannot meet this legal test.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. However, CCC does not retain the point about NG failure to meet the legal duty to 'further the purpose' of the NL. CCC acknowledges that NGET have made positive steps with the Dedham Vale National Landscape Team to discuss ways to</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</b> in the <b>National Landscapes - Duty to Seek to Further the Purposes Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120]</b>. The approach follows the Defra guidance (Guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes) with the additional measures proposed to be secured by a legal agreement. Engagement with the Dedham Vale National Landscape Partnership and relevant stakeholders is ongoing.</p>	<p>meet the Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. We await to see further information on the establishment of the Dedham Vale National Landscape Fund and the exploration of other steps to mitigate impacts such as through removing the existing UKPN 132 kV overhead line.</p>	
<b>Project development process - Consultation</b>				
3.2.8	2022 non-statutory consultation	<p>Non-statutory consultation took place between 21 April 2022 – 16 June 2022. Details of this consultation are outlined in the <a href="#">Consultation Strategy</a>, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the <a href="#">Feedback Report</a>.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published <a href="#">Consultation Strategy</a>.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Now agreed</p>	Agreed
3.2.9	2023 non-statutory consultation	<p>Non-statutory consultation took place between 27 June 2023 – 21 August 2023. Details of this consultation are outlined in the <a href="#">Consultation Strategy</a>, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the <a href="#">Feedback Report</a>.</p> <p>The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Now agreed</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.2.10	2024 statutory consultation	<p>Consultation Strategy.</p> <p>Statutory Consultation took place from Wednesday 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024 (the end date was extended from 18 June 2024 due to the general election.) Details of this consultation are outlined in the <a href="#">Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</a>. Responses to feedback received during statutory consultation are contained within the <b>5.1 Consultation Report [APP-066]</b>. The statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC.</p>	<p>CCC Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) response:</p> <p>CCC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of our knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.</p> <p>CCC has no reason to doubt that NGET undertook the consultation in a way that was in accordance with the published SoCC and accordingly has complied with the duties set out in Section 47 of the Planning Act.</p> <p>It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended due to the advent of a general election.</p> <p>CCC has no reason to doubt that NGET published the required notices and that the content of those notices complied with the requirements set out in the regulations. CCC therefore considers NGET has complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the PA 2008.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Now agreed</p>	Agreed
3.2.11	2025 targeted consultation	<p>Targeted consultations for Essex took place from 25 February 2025 – 27 March 2025. Details of these consultations are outlined in</p>	<p>CCC highlighted in its response to the targeted consultation and AoCM a number of areas where the consultation</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>the <a href="#">Targeted Consultation Strategy</a> and associated targeted consultation leaflets and environmental implications of change documents. Responses to feedback received during targeted consultation are contained within the <b>Consultation Report [APP-066]</b>. The targeted consultations were undertaken in accordance with the published Targeted <b>Consultation Strategy [APP-077]</b>.</p> <p>The approach to targeted consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance: Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024).</p>	<p>process including the lack of feedback to the statutory consultation undertaken in summer 2024 and which informed the scope of the targeted consultation, was considered harmful to the transparency and legitimacy of the process. It is also felt whilst NG consider that some changes to the scheme that may not be the most significant and are considered to be non-material, CCC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore be given an opportunity to comment on them through the targeted consultation carried out earlier this year.</p> <p>The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents. As CCC has not seen these changes to date is it not possible to comment on them.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as we stand by these points and don't think they have been satisfactorily addressed.</p>	
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.2.12	Community Benefits	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Socio-economic impacts on the local economy and the tourism sector are assessed assessed in <b>6.15 Environmental</b></p>	<p>CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): CCC would strongly encourage NGET to positively engage on the issue of</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism [APP-265].</b> The chapter concludes that there would be no significant impacts on the local economy as a result of the Project.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 or investment would be captured under the National Grid Community Grant Scheme and dealt with separately to the EIA.</p>	<p>social value and community benefits, particularly having regard to the Governments recently published Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure.</p> <p>CCC consider Norwich to Tilbury will have extensive residual impacts that adversely affect the local economy and environment, as well as the health and wellbeing of communities in the CCC area, and which cannot be sufficiently mitigated or compensated through the planning regime. Also, the national benefits will not offset the harm at a local level.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Unchanged</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	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.3.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the <b>Ecology and Biodiversity assessment</b> is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126]</b> and <b>Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <p>Position is agreed.</p>	Agreed
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.3.2	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 agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: “The scope of the survey effort is acceptable across the suite of ecological impact receptors within the Essex LPA areas”</p>	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</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as we note that there is still some areas undergoing ecological surveys.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>(Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026].</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Further survey information from the 2025 season has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025, achieving coverage of 97% of the Order Limits.</p>	<p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to bat survey data which requires further information and is noted in ID3.3.4.</p>	
3.3.4	Data sources (bats)	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the ES [AS-026].</p> <p>Further survey information from the 2025 season has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025, achieving coverage of 97% of the Order Limits.</p>	<p>As for the survey data, circa 12.5% of the Order Limits are still undergoing ecological survey. There are also certain protected species surveys where the results are more incomplete (for otter and water vole only 65% reported; see also ES Chapter 8, Table 8.4). This missing information in the dataset is anticipated to be provided in November 2025; CCC position pending.</p>	Under discussion
3.3.5	Assessment Methodology	<p>The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p>	<p>The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Unchanged</p>	Agreed
3.3.6	Survey Methodology	<p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>In response to CCC's Statutory Consultation responses:</p>	<p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>CCC Statutory Consultation responses: <i>We recommend that the Essex &amp; Suffolk</i></p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>Consultation with Essex and Suffolk Dormouse group has been undertaken; however, the detailed scope has been agreed with Natural England as the licensing authority.</p> <p>The best practice measures for mobile species such as Priority amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog will be detailed within the 7.2 <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> which will include sensitive vegetation clearance measures.</p>	<p><i>Dormouse Group should be involved in consultations on survey methodology. CCC support the methodology outlined for Otter.</i></p> <p><i>CCC welcome confirmation that National Grid has agreed with Natural England to apply to the District Level Licensing scheme for Great Crested Newt (GCN) instead of surveys. CCC acknowledge that GCN are therefore now scoped out from further assessment in the ES. However, it is expected that best practice methodology will be used during the construction phase to mitigate for potential impacts on other mobile species such as Priority amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog.</i></p> <p><i>CCC support the methodology outlined for Water Vole. CCC would like to see clarification of the method used (i.e., habitat parameters) for determining the Water Vole habitat suitability of a watercourse, and more detail as to how the issue of dense vegetation was resolved so that it did not present a significant survey constraint.</i></p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.3.7	Survey Methodology (Bats)	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.</p> <p>The survey approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England, as the statutory authority for roosting bats, and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale. Full aerial/emergence surveys will be undertaken on trees due to be lost during detailed design. Any roost affected will be covered under a Natural England licence following pre-agreed mitigation measures.</p>	<p>to survey methodology for bats which requires further information (see ID3.3.7).</p> <p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst bat roost climbing inspections for every PRF-M and FAR tree at risk of impact is perhaps not a practical expectation, CCC believes further survey effort prior to DCO consent is feasible. Enough at-height inspection surveys should be possible to facilitate a data-based estimation of the percentage of the PRF-M and FAR trees that will support non-minor bat roosting and will be lost to the project. This would lead to a better supported estimation of impact and the design of a more confidently proportionate mitigation/compensation scheme.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
3.3.8	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>National Grid await further response from CCC on requirements.</p>	<p>CCC position January 2026: The Key Parameters of Assessment and Assumptions stated in section 8.4.28 of the ES are acknowledged. The assumption regarding habitat reinstatement, "<i>Reinstatement: Habitat removed during construction would be reinstated (with the exception of planting restrictions associated with operational requirements as identified within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4))</i>", is considered tenuous to apply for</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>all situations along the construction corridor, given the minimal 5-year post completion time limit for habitat reinstatement. A mutually agreed replacement planting failure percentage should be factored into the compensation requirement.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under further review and that CCC will provide further comment following consideration around reinstatement.</p>	
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.3.9	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Biodiversity are presented in <b>Section 8.5 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>National Grid issued a Technical Note in January 2025 to all host authorities outlining the protected species proposed mitigation measures for agreement/comment.</p> <p>In May 2025, National Grid held a further meeting to discuss comments from an updated proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Further survey information from the 2025 season has been submitted to the Planning</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still unchanged as awaiting completion of final ecological surveys.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to baseline conditions and receptors for bats which requires further information (see ID3.3.10).</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>Inspectorate in November 2025, achieving coverage of 97% of the Order Limits.</p>		
3.3.10	Baseline conditions and receptors (Bats)	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Biodiversity are presented in <b>Section 8.5 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES [AS-026]</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>The survey approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England (under the Protected Species Licences section) [document reference 5.9.13] and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale. Full aerial/emergence surveys will be undertaken on trees due to be lost during detailed design. Any roost affected will be covered under a Natural England licence following pre-agreed mitigation measures.</p>	<p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that the baseline conditions and receptors for roosting bats requires further information and review.</p>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.3.11	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Ecology and Biodiversity effects, are set out in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity)</b> of the <b>ES [AS-026]</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We do agree that the planned mitigation measures are thorough and apply good practice. However, this should still be under discussion as greater confidence required about the enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation steps taken. Use of language such as 'where practicable'</li> </ul>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>introduces opportunity for subjective interpretation.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.</p>	
3.3.12	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Ecology and Biodiversity effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026] and set out in the Outline CoCP [APP-300] and Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>National Grid issued the 'Summary of Proposed Protected Species Mitigation' document on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>National Grid took on board the comments received from Essex Place Services (EPS) when developing the mitigation outlined in the ES.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Compliance with the final CoCP and LEMP is secured by Requirement 4 of the draft <b>DCO [APP-056]</b> and therefore non-compliance with the documents would be a criminal offence.</p>	<p>Comments received from CCC on the 'Summary of Proposed Protected Species Mitigation' document – 6th February 2025.</p> <p>Comments related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• badger pre-construction surveys and further precautionary work</li> <li>• potential for objections to reptile mitigation work</li> <li>• consideration of mitigation for any newly created haul road sections</li> <li>• further clarification of the mitigation measures to be employed where hedgehog and brown hare are encountered</li> </ul> <p>CCC position December 2025: We do agree that the planned mitigation measures are thorough and apply good practice. However, this line should still be under discussion as greater confidence required about the enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation steps taken. Use of language such as 'where practicable' introduces opportunity for subjective interpretation.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to standard mitigation for bats which can be found in ID3.3.13.	
3.3.13	Standard mitigation (Bats)	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Ecology and Biodiversity effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> and <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>The mitigation approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale. Full aerial/emergence surveys will be undertaken on trees due to be lost during detailed design. Any roost affected will be covered under a Natural England licence following pre-agreed mitigation measures. Further information on this can be provided.</p>	CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that the standard mitigation for bats requires further information and review.	Under discussion
3.3.14	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in	CCC position December 2025: We do agree that the planned mitigation measures are thorough and apply good practice. However, this line should still be under discussion as greater confidence	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Details on hedgerow replacement planting, including species mixes, are already provided within the <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>.</p> <p>The approach to BNG is set out in <b>the 7.1 BNG Report [APP-299]</b>. National Grid is open to ongoing engagement on potential offsite BNG sites in the local area that are/will be registered on Natural England BNG register. The LNRS will be taken into consideration as part of the offsite BNG site selection process once detailed design has been undertaken post-consent.</p>	<p>required about the enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation steps taken. Use of language such as 'where practicable' introduces opportunity for subjective interpretation.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Where habitats such as hedgerows and trees are removed, they should be reinstated with enhanced hedgerow habitats using locally important native species and local seed stock, in consultation with wildlife groups across Essex.</p> <p>CCC recommends that discussions be held to secure off-site biodiversity compensation within Essex, with a preference for delivery within strategic habitat opportunity areas identified in the Essex LNRS. To ensure long-term ecological benefits, CCC also encourages the establishment of stewardship agreements with local wildlife groups such as Essex Wildlife Trust, ECC, Place Services, and relevant Local Authorities.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.3.15	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Additional survey results from 2025 (including otter, water vole and bat roost inspections) are presented within the updated Environmental Statement <b>Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity (6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity [AS-026])</b> which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025.</p> <p>The bat roost survey scope was agreed with Natural England, as the statutory authority for roosting bats, in advance of survey being undertaken. Ground level tree assessments to identify potential bat roosting features have been undertaken on 97% of the land within the Order Limits. <b>Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [AS-026]</b> includes a reasonable worst case assessment of impacts on potential bat roost features.</p> <p>National Grid has committed to a 5-year aftercare period, for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting, which is considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as there is still missing data for various ecology. There are also additional concerns about assessment of impact on bat roosts, particularly as assessments seem to have focussed on barbastelle bat activity and not all bats (which are all protected species). Concern over time given for habitat re-establishment is not realistic (too short) and that habitat restoration may not be as successful as outlined in the ES.</p> <p>It would be useful transparency to advise on how long is it predicted to take for the long-term neutrality to be achieved for the affected receptors.</p> <p>The completion of only GLTAs is a significant constraint to the roosting bats impact assessment. Impacts on protected species need to be assessed with reasonable confidence and the proposed mitigation considered appropriate, prior to determination to support a lawful decision.</p> <p>CCC considers that the impact assessment for roosting bats falls short of achieving reasonable confidence in both the impact magnitude prediction and the appropriateness of mitigation.</p> <p>Where static bat detector surveys within the Order Limits recorded barbastelle bat</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>this scale. The Applicant has also committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within the 7.1 <b>Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-299]</b>. Table 8.23 and 8.24 within ES Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity [AS-026] do not restate a specific timeframe for residual effects because the duration of impacts has already been assessed and defined within the magnitude assessment using the agreed categories of short term (up to 1 year), medium term (1–10 years) and long term (greater than 10 years). Duration, along with other magnitude components, is fully considered and described in the earlier stages of the assessment, where it informs the evaluation of unmitigated effects. This approach reflects standard EIA practice, in which the residual effects section presents the final significance outcome, with the underlying factors, such as duration, embedded within the earlier magnitude assessment rather than restated.</p> <p>The survey approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England (the statutory responsible body for bats) and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale. Full aerial/emergence surveys will be undertaken on trees due to be lost during detailed design. Any roost affected will be covered under a Natural</p>	<p>activity above a defined threshold, robust roost survey methods were employed, including aerial inspections, dusk emergence surveys, backtracking surveys, and radio-tracking. However, this level of tree roost survey was undertaken at only 12 discrete locations, which must cover only a fraction of the overall potential for bat roost tree impacts. This conclusion is based on ES Table 8.23 which describe that, <i>“the trees that have been identified for complete removal comprise: 113 trees with PRF-M, 257 trees with PRF-I, 801 FAR trees [any number of which could be classified PRF-M after further survey] and 16 trees with hibernation features.”</i></p> <p>As a consequence of the restricted survey effort, there is no quantitative transparency as to how many non-minor and minor bat roosts could be collectively lost, the highest significances of roosts that could be lost, and the extent to which the different (especially non-barbastelle) bat species within the districts may be affected.</p> <p>The potential impact without any mitigation measures being applied is described in the ES Table 8.23: <i>“In the absence of mitigation, the direct loss of roost features and disturbance to roosting bats would have a permanent medium negative effect (large negative in the</i></p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>England licence following pre-agreed mitigation measures.</p>	<p><i>event of a loss of a maternity roost – mortality) that would be irreversible (in the event of mortality) or reversible in the medium-term if bats are not present at the time of removal. Bats are known to frequently change roost locations and may seek alternative, retained roosting resources within the Order Limits. Effects would be considered significant.”</i></p> <p>However, the residual impact assessment assumes that, whatever the number and significance of the bat roosts that end up being destroyed, doing so under derogation licence(s) (i.e. the expected delivering of two compensation bat boxes per roost lost, as stated in ES Table 8.23) will inevitably result in a cumulative negligible impact on all affected bat species/populations. This is not considered to be a reasonably supported assessment.</p> <p>What is being proposed is a quasi District Level Licence-type approach for roosting bats (i.e. getting DCO without first completing surveys), when CCC is not aware of any such DLL method for bats having been trialled and approved.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around timeframes.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.3.16	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is considered appropriate. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.3.17	Outline CoCP	<p>The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 9 October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. A further meeting was held on 29 January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> The Ecological Clerk of works (ECoW) would be suitably qualified based on industry good practice. Protected species specialists would be used where required as identified within the 7.4 <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>. Further detail on the EcOW will be provided within the final version of the LEMP post-consent.</p>	<p>The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Given the critical importance of the ECoW oversight and influence throughout the construction stage of the project, CCC would welcome a commitment as to the minimum qualifications/experience levels of the ECoWs to be used for specific tasks. CCC would also advise a clarification of ECoW decision capability and hierarchy, assuming that there will be multiple ECoWs (of varying levels) employed on the project.</p> <p>Potential Roost Features (PRFs) should be identified by a Natural England bat survey class licensed (level 2+ if endoscopy required) ecologist or ECoW. This is advised to clarify who should be accepted as a "competent" person for PRF classification.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>The <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> sets out that the ECoW will be supported by a range of ecological technical specialist, including individuals with Level 2 bat licence. All pre-construction tree inspections with the use of an endoscope will be undertaken by a Level 2 bat ecologist as per best practice.</p>	<p>2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around Ecological Clerk of Works.</p>	
3.3.18	Outline LEMP	<p>The <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 8 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the ES [AS-026]</b> and is appropriate.</p> <p>Meeting held on 9 October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>. A further meeting was held on 29 January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>Comments received from CCC were taken on board and addressed in the next iteration of the draft <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Natural England (the statutory responsible body for bats) has approved the method to classify potential roost features which are in line with standard guidelines. A risk-based approach has been taken when assessing trees for their hibernation potential for bats. While some features assessed as PRF-I or PRF-M may allow individual bats to hibernate for very short periods of time, only tree features where the PRF is highly likely to provide constant cool, stable and humid</p>	<p>With respect to paragraph 6.1.8, clarity regarding the criteria used for defining a tree's bat hibernation potential is sought? Given that there appear to be fewer trees with hibernation potential than the totals for PRF-I and PRF-M, how does the hibernation criteria exclude certain PRF-I and PRF-M features?</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around bat hibernation.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026:</p> <p>CCC requests clarity on the governance and long-term monitoring arrangements for BNG delivery. ECC recommends that the Outline LEMP include a robust monitoring framework with adaptive management provisions and opportunities for stakeholder engagement to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of BNG measures.</p> <p>While HMMP and LEMP are standalone documents CCC recommend that BNG</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>conditions, and therefore a higher likelihood of being used for longer periods of time, have been highlighted as having hibernation potential. For a project of such a large scale, to assume hibernation for all trees with any PRF is not reasonable and not realistic to apply appropriate and effective mitigation while ensuring project feasibility.</p> <p>The approach to mitigation involves all trees with PRFs that will be unavoidably impacted will undergo an updated Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) survey and aerial / emergence surveys, during which time the potential of each feature can be re-assessed for its suitability for hibernation using the same assessment as outlined above.</p> <p>A standalone Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) is not proposed. The habitat management and monitoring measures for the Environmental Areas will be included within the final LEMP, in line with the requirements of the <b>BNG Report [APP-299]</b>. This will include a robust management and monitoring framework with adaptive measures for the Environmental Areas.</p> <p>National Grid has committed to a 5-year aftercare period for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting, which is considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of this scale. The Applicant has also</p>	<p>delivery be cross referenced within the Outline LEMP and supported by a clear monitoring framework, including adaptive management provisions and community engagement.</p> <p>CCC recommends extending the monitoring period for landscape (GI) delivery to 10 years, in line with best practice demonstrated by other NSIPs (e.g. Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Wind Farms), The proposed 10-year monitoring period could be structured into two phases: an initial 5-year period of high-frequency establishment monitoring, followed by a subsequent 5-year period of lower-frequency development monitoring.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within <b>the BNG Report [APP-299]</b> .		
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.3.19	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Onsite and Assessment	<p>National Grid will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. The <b>Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-299]</b> sets out the approach to BNG.</p> <p>National Grid issued the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document on 17 January 2025. Comments received from CCC on the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document – 6 February 2025. These comments were taken on board for the BNG assessment.</p>	<p>Comments received from CCC on the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document – 6 February 2025. CCC Statutory Consultation response: <i>The Council consider the NGET should be going significantly further than the national baseline of 10% BNG and should commit to provide 20% uplift for the whole project.</i></p> <p><i>The Council require significantly more detail as to how this uplift is to be provided either within the order limits or outside of the order limits. In the inevitable position that offsite units are to be used, the Council would want to see the off-site gains made in locations within the CCC administrative boundary as close to the order limits as possible to ensure that where biodiversity is lost it is compensated for directly.</i></p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion, but are no longer stating that NG should commit to 20% BNG uplift. Support the achievement of 10% BNG but still waiting to see how this will be clearly achieved and want to see this happen using the Essex Local Nature</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>Recovery Strategy to ensure measures delivered to enhance/conserved biodiversity are done in the most beneficial locations.</p> <p>CCC would like this matter to remain under discussion. This matter cannot be considered fully accepted and agreed until the issue presented in ID3.3.8 is resolved.</p>	
3.3.20	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Offsite	<p>National Grid will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. The <b>Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-299]</b> sets out the approach to BNG.</p> <p>Offsite BNG will be secured by a legal agreement and delivered through collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will be considered as part of any off site BNG site selection process</p> <p>National Grid notes the comments and will continue to engagement with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>CCC position January 2026: CCC would recommend that offsite BNG proposals be co-developed with local stakeholders and LNRS delivery partners to ensure strategic alignment and long-term ecological value.</p> <p>Further detail is requested on how LNRS mapping and priority habitats have informed the site selection and design of BNG interventions.</p> <p>Transparent accounting is required to distinguish between mitigation, enhancement, and compensation to avoid double-counting BNG.</p> <p>CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around Offsite BNG.</p>	Under discussion
3.3.21	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	<p>National Grid issued the AIA in March 2025 for comment.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>The level of detail within <b>6.13.A6 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.6 - Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report [APP-236]</b> is based on the methodology outlined in Appendix J of <b>6.19 Scoping Report [APP-296]</b> and is considered appropriate for this stage of the Project.</p> <p>The Applicant will be seeking to retain the veteran trees through their detailed design. The Applicant has committed to a 3:1 replacement for individual trees and individual trees within small groups. The tree planting strategy would prioritise replanting within the Order Limits, although off-site provision may be required.</p> <p>Reporting of potential impacts corresponds to the Project sections. Information covering Colchester can be found on sheets 166-182 of Annex D within Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment of the ES (<b>13.6 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [APP-236]</b>).</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Many concerns with the AIA including the inability to clearly identify the trees lost in Colchester and concern that some tree loss may have been missed through desktop surveys as detailed in our relevant representation.</p> <p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the assessment, it is difficult to fully understand the level of tree loss as within Section C of the AIA (covering Babergh, Colchester and Tendring) tree loss cannot be disaggregated to those trees located in Colchester. However, it is estimated that at least 47 individual trees will be removed alongside substantial portions of 20 groups (~ 32 800 m<sup>2</sup> of canopy, potentially exceeding 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> with Section C estimated losses). To help understand, and mitigate, the tree loss the Council requests that the applicant should produce a Colchester Specific Canopy Cover Assessment and Recovery Plan clearly quantifying baseline canopy area within Colchester, level of canopy loss and disturbance and projected canopy recovery over 5, 10 and 15 years.</li> </ul>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.3.22	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	<p>The veteran tree (Ref No T566) is reported as removed due to its proximity to existing infrastructure and working area.</p> <p>Section 8.2.3 of the 7.4 <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> confirms that following detailed design and prior to construction, relevant surveys would be undertaken to reduce removal of trees/hedgerows as far as practicable and is recorded as mitigation measure GG14 within the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. Mitigation measures may, for example include tree pruning.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy submitted details that one veteran tree is to be removed. However, the reasoning behind the need for removal is unclear which is of significant concern considering its removal would constitute the loss of irreplaceable habitat. Full justification for its removal needs to be provided.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
3.3.23	Outline LEMP	<p>Detailed design will look to retain vegetation where practicable. In the event that veteran tree removal is unavoidable, the compensation, management and duration will need to be developed and be implementable with land owner agreement and will be detailed further in the <b>Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy [APP-323]</b> contained within the final LEMP.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Applicant does propose compensation through the Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy, including creation of replacement veteran features, retention of felled timber for in-situ habitat, and targeted veteranisation of younger oaks. While these measures align with good practice, the Council considers the impact major adverse and requires a Veteran Tree Compensation and Management Plan securing local delivery and a minimum 30-year management term.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
3.3.24	Outline LEMP	<p>The mitigation hierarchy will be followed, with replacement tree planting for individual and small groups of trees being undertaken</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>onsite as a priority and offsite only as a last resort. The <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> outlines the Project's commitment to onsite replacement planting under Section 9.3.1. The replacement planting native species mix is also outlined within this section of the same document.</p> <p>An Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy details the compensation and mitigation strategies for veteran trees and ancient woodland affected – see Appendix B of the <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>.</p> <p>National Grid has committed to a 5-year aftercare period which is considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of this scale. The 5 year period only relates to areas that are to be returned to landowners. National Grid has committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within the <b>BNG Report [APP-299]</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council notes the 3:1 replacement planting ratio proposed by the applicant. The Council wishes to emphasise that tree planting should occur on-site as priority, and where this is not possible then off-site compensatory planting undertaken. The replacement planting should reinstate boundary oak and hedgerow patterns using native, climate-resilient species, prioritise canopy continuity and ecological connectivity, include a 10-year aftercare programme and 30-year monitoring for veteran compensation planting, and be tied to DCO Requirements mandating outcome-based canopy recovery.</li> </ul>	
3.3.25	Outline LEMP	<p>Onsite tree monitoring will take place in line with <b>7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [AS-046], Section 9.4</b>, which also outlines the commitment to reinstatement of hedgerow field boundaries. The restoration of hedgerows would restore rural field-boundary character.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council requests that a Tree Monitoring Plan is included within the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) by the applicant and that it confirms that the Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will detail that</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			reinstatement planting will restore rural field-boundary character.	
3.3.26	Green Infrastructure	The Applicant can confirm the local nature recovery strategies for Essex will be considered as part of the Applicant's off-site BNG selection process.	CCC position January 2026: In respect of Green Infrastructure matters: The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) mapping should be incorporated into the desktop study to inform the identification of existing habitats and to guide the selection of appropriate locations for mitigation and compensation measures. It provides a spatial framework for identifying opportunities to enhance biodiversity and deliver nature recovery across Essex. Including LNRS mapping ensures alignment with national policy objectives and supports coordinated, cross-boundary environmental planning that reflects local priorities and ecological networks.	Under discussion

## 3.4 Air Quality

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.4.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Air Quality assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context)</b>	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>[APP-126] and Section 7.2 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].</b></p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>		
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.4.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.4.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].</b>	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.4.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Air Quality are summarised in <b>Section 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147].</b> The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.4.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Air Quality are presented in <b>Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES</b>	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		[APP-147]. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.		
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.4.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Air Quality effects, are set out in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> . The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.4.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.4.12	Outline CoCP	The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 7 (Air Quality) of the ES [APP-147]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. Meeting held on 9 October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> . A further meeting was held on 29 January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders. A further iteration of the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.	E-mail from CCC dated 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 stated that ' <i>CCC's EP team have said that from the noise, dust and contaminated land aspects the outline CoCP appears satisfactory.</i> ' CCC position December 2025: Unchanged	Agreed

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

### 3.5 Noise and Vibration

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.5.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Noise and Vibration assessment is presented in <b>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]</b> . All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.5.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 14.4 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> .	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.5.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Noise and Vibration are summarised in <b>Section 14.4 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> . The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.5.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Noise and Vibration are presented in <b>Section 14.5 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.5.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Noise and Vibration effects, are set out in <b>Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
3.5.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are	CCC position December 2025: Remain under discussion as CCC are still of the	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>summarised in <b>Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The construction works are largely linear and would not occur along the entire length of the Project for the full duration of the construction programme. Rather, there would be periods of higher and lower intensity working in each specific geographical area. Varying shift patterns for workers and construction crews means that downtime would occur at specific locations within the working week. These shift patterns would be rolling, and with workers not undertaking a five-day working week, the days on which downtime may occur would vary from week to week, and working would not take place every weekend or bank holiday.</p> <p>The defined core working hours provides essential flexibility. Importantly, the core working hours permit, but do not require, working on Sundays, Bank Holidays and other public holidays. This flexibility is critical to maintaining programme resilience, allowing the Project to respond to challenges that are often outside the control of the Applicant such as adverse</p>	<p>view that the construction hours schedule is inappropriate. We believe the hours should be:</p> <p>Monday-Friday: 08:00-18:00</p> <p>Saturday: 08:00-13:00</p> <p>No construction on Sundays, Bank Holidays and other public holidays.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>weather, poor ground conditions, supply chain disruption, seasonal restrictions and access constraints.</p> <p>Maintaining programme resilience is also necessary to accommodate interface dependencies between activities and contractors, manage delays to one work element without causing consequential delay to the overall programme, and enable safe and efficient sequencing of works where extended stoppages would be impractical or disruptive. Where progress can be recovered through limited additional working rather than prolonging the programme, this can reduce overall construction duration and avoid extended impacts on communities, traffic networks, landholdings, and the environment.</p> <p>A blanket prohibition on Sunday, Bank Holiday and other public holiday working would remove this necessary flexibility, increasing the risk of programme slippage, inefficient stop-start working, and a longer overall construction period, which would itself result in greater long-term exposure to construction impacts than occasional controlled working on those days. Such a restriction would also undermine the deliverability of this critical national priority project, where timely delivery is in the public interest.</p>		
3.5.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		measures are presented in <b>Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	this is acceptable.	
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.5.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 14.7 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
3.5.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 14.7 of Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.5.12	Outline CoCP	The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 14 (Noise and Vibration) of the ES [APP-256]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.  A meeting was held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> . A further meeting was held in January 2025 to address comments from	E-mail from CCC dated 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 stated that ' <i>CCC's EP team have said that from the noise, dust and contaminated land aspects the outline CoCP appears satisfactory.</i> '  May 2025 CCC fed back that proposed working hours start too early and end too late especially considering set up and pack away are not restricted by these hours.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> was issued in May 2025 following the meeting and feedback in writing.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>For further information relating to the working hours proposed by the Project please see response to ID3.5.8.</p> <p>Regarding start up and close down activities specifically, <b>6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration [APP-256]</b> assessed the impact to sensitive receptors from noise and vibration during the construction phase, and based the assessment on the core working hours proposed, which would include start up and close down activities taking place up to one hour either side of the core hours, and activities which can take place outside the core working hours. The assessment concluded that with the embedded mitigation and controls set out in <b>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-300]</b>, significant effects from during the construction phase are not anticipated. The measures set out therein will be secured via Requirement 4(a) (Construction Management Plans) of <b>3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [APP-056]</b> within the final Code of Construction Practice.</p> <p>The Applicant therefore considers the</p>	<p>These should be changed to 8:00 to 18:00hrs with no working at all on any Sundays or BH. This is to allow neighbours some respite during the potentially four-year construction phase.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Remain under discussion as CCC are still of the view that the construction hours schedule is inappropriate. We believe the hours should be:</p> <p>Monday-Friday: 08:00-18:00</p> <p>Saturday: 08:00-13:00</p> <p>No construction on Sundays, Bank Holidays and other public holidays.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		provision for start up and close down activities and activities that can commence outside of core working hours to be proportionate, justified, and consistent with established practice for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, noting that all such activities remain subject to the application of best practicable means and appropriate mitigation to manage noise and other environmental effects as set out in <b>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [APP-300]</b> .		

Other matters as required

### 3.6 Health and Wellbeing

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.6.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Health and Wellbeing assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126]</b> and <b>Section 10.2 of Chapter 10</b>	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Suggest NGET review the project impacts against updated Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data published in October 2025 and that more	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>(Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192].</b></p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The assessment undertaken in Chapter 10: Health and Wellbeing of the <b>ES (6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing [APP-192])</b> reported the available IMD data at the time it was prepared to understand baseline health and socio-economic characteristics of populations potentially affected by the Project. A review of the updated IMD data published in October 2025 (after the DCO application was submitted) shows that, as a whole, deprivation levels have reduced for the CCC area, with fewer neighbourhoods now ranking among the most deprived in England. It is not considered that the updated dataset would result in material changes to the conclusions of the Health and Wellbeing assessment <b>[APP-192]</b>.</p> <p>A cumulative assessment is provided in <b>Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES (6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects [APP-281])</b>. Paragraphs 17.5.46 to 17.5.48 contain the findings in relation to health and wellbeing of inter-project cumulative effects. For example, it is identified that, in a number of instances, adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing may be particularly relevant as a result of the scale of other development (for</p>	<p>granular LSOA information is used to identify localised deprivation.</p> <p>Also, there is no information given on cumulative health effects as required under NPS Policy EN-1.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		example significant residential or infrastructure development) and associated perceived effects on neighbourhood quality / sense of place / uncertainty during the construction phases.		
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.6.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024. No comments received from CCC on the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note to date. It is therefore assumed that the study area is agreed. CCC position December 2025: Unchanged.	Agreed
3.6.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b> . <b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> See response to ID3.6.1 in relation to the IMD dataset and conclusions for the Health and Wellbeing assessment.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Suggest NGET review the project impacts against updated Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data published in October 2025 and that more granular LSOA information is used to identify localised deprivation.	Under discussion
3.6.4	Assessment methodology	A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing <b>ES chapter [APP-192]</b> .	A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.</p> <p>In response to CCC's Statutory Consultation feedback NG can confirm that the baseline identifies where local health indicators are better or worse than England averages. This has been used to inform the identification of vulnerable populations and how they may experience impacts arising from the Project. The ES describes and explains these impacts and differences in how receptors experience them.</p> <p>The ES has taken local policy documents into account.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>A cumulative assessment is provided in <b>Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES (6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects [APP-281])</b>. Paragraphs 17.5.46 to 17.5.48 contain the findings in relation to health and wellbeing of inter-project cumulative effects. For example, it is identified that, in a number of instances, adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing may be particularly relevant as a result of the scale of other development (for example significant residential or infrastructure development) and associated perceived effects on neighbourhood quality / sense of place / uncertainty during the construction phases.</p>	<p>assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter.</p> <p>The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach – Technical Note issued in October 2024.</p> <p>CCC Statutory Consultation response –</p> <p>Are particular groups or vulnerable groups more likely to be impacted than others and is this clearly described and explained? What indicators within the current health baseline that are worse than England average/ local ward or LSOA levels?</p> <p>The health policy context of the PEIR needs to broaden out to consider not only the Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, but also the localised Health and Wellbeing Strategies/Plans (in Chelmsford, Brentwood, Basildon, and Colchester Three Year Plan - A City fit for the future). To also consider both Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plans for Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System and Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>ES Chapter 10 Health and Wellbeing <b>(6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing [APP-192])</b> contains an assessment of impacts on vulnerable groups. Vulnerable groups considered in the assessment are identified in Table 10.5 of ES Chapter 10. For each health determinant, impacts have been identified in relation to the general and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Health impacts associated with access to open space and active travel have been assessed in the section of ES Chapter 10 Health and Wellbeing <b>(6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 – Health and Wellbeing [APP-192])</b> relating to physical activity (paragraphs 10.7.81 to 10.7.107). The section considers impacts associated with access to areas of Open Access land, recreational facilities / land and areas of open space such as the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The section also considers impacts on health and wellbeing associated with changes to active travel (walking and cycling) routes.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion – Cumulative health impacts, impacts on vulnerable groups and indirect health impacts from reduced access to open space and active travel do not appear to have been assessed.</p>	
3.6.5	Key parameters and assumptions	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with Health and Wellbeing are summarised in <b>Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing) of the ES [APP-192]</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under review – awaiting advice from ECC.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.6.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Health and Wellbeing are presented in <b>Section 10.5 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b> . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. See response to ID3.6.1.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Suggest NGET review the project impacts against updated Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data published in October 2025 and that more granular LSOA information is used to identify localised deprivation.	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.6.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Health and Wellbeing effects, are set out in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Still under review – awaiting advice from ECC.	Under discussion
3.6.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> . The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Still under review – awaiting advice from ECC.	Under discussion
3.6.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 10.6 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b> . Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and	CCC position December 2025: Still under review – awaiting advice from ECC.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>No significant health and wellbeing impacts have been identified and as such there is no requirement for monitoring measures. However, the Applicant recognises that uncertainty while the Project is developed may cause anxiety. The Applicant has sought to reduce potential effects on communities and residents through routeing and design. The Applicant has also sought to reduce concern or uncertainty about the proposals through making timely design decisions and engaging with communities and stakeholders throughout the development of the Project. The Project team will continue to engage with people potentially affected during progress of the Project. This would enable concerns to be raised and discussed at an early opportunity and provide a regular point of contact to respond to queries and concerns.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ES concludes that no additional mitigation or monitoring is required beyond embedded measures. The Council considers this inadequate given the scale and duration of construction and the socioeconomic characteristics of affected communities. A Health and Wellbeing Monitoring Framework should be established, including baseline data on active travel, green space access, amenity satisfaction, and mental wellbeing. Indicators and reporting intervals should be clearly defined and co-developed with local communities.</li> </ul>	
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.6.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCC position December 2025: Still under review – awaiting</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		See response to ID3.6.4.	advice from ECC. However, there is concern that the cumulative impacts and impacts on vulnerable groups have not been determined.	
3.6.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b>. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>See response to ID3.6.4.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under review – awaiting advice from ECC. However, there is concern that the cumulative impacts and impacts on vulnerable groups have not been determined.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.6.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 10 (Health and Wellbeing)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-192]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. A further meeting was held in January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p>	CCC position December 2025: CCC is still reviewing the CoCP and awaiting advice from ECC.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		A further iteration of the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.		
<b>Other matters as required</b>				

### 3.7 Historic Environment

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.7.1	Policy and legislation (Archaeology)	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Historic Environment assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126] and Section 11.2 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> . All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC position December 2025: Under discussion – Still under review with Place. There is concern about the application currently not complying with paragraph 5.9.11 of EN-1 as fieldwork surveys have not been fully completed.	Under discussion
3.7.2	Policy and legislation (Built Heritage)	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Historic Environment assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126]</b> and Section 11.2 of Chapter 11	CCC [Built Heritage] conclude that based on a further review of the identification and assessment of the value of NDHA buildings in Document: <b>6.11.A1</b>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>(Historic Environment) of the <b>ES [APP-208]</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>National Grid notes the LPAs request for further clarity in relation to non-designated heritage assets. All non-designated heritage assets were assessed to determine their value in accordance with the <b>Scoping Report (6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 – APP-296])</b>, <b>Scoping Opinion (6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297])</b> and the <b>methodology set out in Chapter 11: Historic Environment of the ES (6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11- Historic Environment [APP-208])</b>. Those assets assessed to have a low or negligible value and located outside the Order Limits did not have a settings assessment undertaken. As they would not experience physical impacts there is no potential for significant effects as a result of change to setting for assets of these values. While some harm would still be possible, given their value and nature of potential impacts this would be at the very lowest end of the harm scale. In NPS (EN-1) instructions regarding the Applicant's assessment paragraph 5.9.9 'The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA, and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has</p>	<p><b>Environmental Statement Appendix 11.1 Historic Environment Baseline Report [APP-209]</b> we are able to agree this matter.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>been applied in the ES' and in several places refers to detail being proportionate to the importance/significance of the heritage asset. The Project therefore considers that it has appropriately complied with relevant policy in the NPS (EN-1) regarding assessment of impacts to non-designated heritage assets.</p>		
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.7.3	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
3.7.4	Data sources (archaeology) – survey data	<p>Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage on this matter.</p>	<p>CCC need an updated status on accuracy of AP rectification. Information recently provided by CCC includes Palaeolithic potential to be included in Palaeolithic/geoarchaeology background.</p> <p>See 3.7.4 re: Non designated heritage assets (NDHAs) (CCC Built Heritage, May 2025)</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as not all of the required archaeological fieldwork/surveys have been fully</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			completed. There is concern that the appropriate level of evaluation is not going to be completed within the determination period.	
3.7.5	Data sources (archaeology) - Desktop	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> .	ECC has reviewed the relevant documentation and confirms that sufficient desktop data has been collected (agreement confirmed during meeting January 2026).	Agreed
3.7.6	Data sources (Built Heritage)	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>.</p> <p>Non-designated historic buildings were identified in addition to those included in the HER and Local Lists. This was primarily through historic mapping. The methodology for desk-based research and walkover included identification of any previously unknown heritage assets, including historic buildings. The Historic Environment Baseline Report (<b>6.11.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 11.1 - Historic Environment Baseline Report [APP-209]</b>) is organised geographically and by period and includes baseline information on non-designated historic buildings. All assessed heritage assets were referred to in text either by their NHLE number in the case of designated</p>	CCC (Built Heritage) confirm their agreement on this matter following a meeting in January 2026.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		assets, or a Project ID number for non-designated assets. The baseline report and assessment tables are not structured by asset type as some heritage assets can contain both above ground built elements and archaeological remains.		
3.7.7	Assessment methodology (Archaeology)	The methodology for assessing Historic Environment was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	With regard to the non designated heritage assets a programme of geophysics and trial trenching is underway within the undergrounding sections of the route, however it would be expected that a programme of archaeological investigation will also have occurred in advance of the submission of the application in areas disturbed by the overhead proposals, including the access route, so that the impact on heritage assets is understood in these areas also. (May 2025)CCC is in agreement with this matter.	Agreed
3.7.8	Assessment methodology (Built Heritage)	<p>The methodology for assessing Historic Environment was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.</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</i></p>	It appears that the only NDHAs included in Annex A are those that appear on the relevant Historic Environment Record. This is concerning as not all built NDHAs will be included on the HER. Unfortunately, no text has been provided which addresses various comments and questions	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><i>detailed assessment methodology with relevant local planning authorities.'</i></p> <p>The assessment methodology has been discussed at a number of Historic Environment Thematic Group Meetings held between July 2022 and November 2024.</p> <p>Comments raised by CCC as part of the Statutory Consultation will be considered during the update of the Baseline Report for DCO submission.</p> <p>It is considered that the assessment methodology has been agreed, with the exception of non-designated heritage assets, where the method is still under discussion.</p> <p>Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback will be taken into account for the assessment.</p> <p>National Grid position regarding non-designated heritage assets is as outlined in section 3.7.2 (Policy and Legislation) and 3.7.6 (Data Sources) above. The assessment methodology is the same for designated and non-designated heritage assets.</p>	<p>previously raised regarding whether there was a methodology for identifying NDHAs as part of site walkovers, whether this has been undertaken, or whether any have been identified.</p> <p>As such, there are still concerns that not all NDHAs have been included (CCC, May 2025).</p> <p>A 'spot check' of the Draft Heritage Baseline Report was carried out by CCC which raised questions and concerns regarding the robustness of the methodology. These comments were submitted to NG in a letter dated 6th March 2025 (CCC – Built Heritage, May 2025). CCC (Built Heritage) confirm their agreement on this matter following a meeting in January 2026.</p> <p>CCC is of the view that above ground NDHAs are of a greater sensitivity than the Applicant has assessed, and they should be afforded similar impact assessment to a Grade II listed building (for example). This position may change pending further discussion.</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.7.9	Key parameters and assumptions (Archaeology)	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Historic Environment assessment are summarised in <b>Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>February 2025, National Grid issued Historic Environments (HE) Viewpoints information and held a thematic group meeting on the topic.</p> <p>March 2025, National Grid issued an updated version of the Historic Environment (HE) Viewpoints information.</p>	<p>CCC position January 2026: Until the completion of intrusive field evaluation there is not agreement with the statement under 11.4.33 that <i>“The information obtained to date from desk-based assessment and field investigations provides sufficient detail to characterise the likely nature and extent of any currently unrecorded remains.”</i></p>	Under discussion
3.7.10	Key parameters and assumptions (Built Heritage)	<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 <b>[APP-208]</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p>	<p>CCC (Built Heritage) is in agreement with the matter following review of the ES.</p>	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.7.11	Baseline conditions and receptors (Built Heritage)	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Historic Environment are presented in <b>Section 11.5 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>February 2025, National Grid issued a draft Historic Baseline Report including Annex C and Annex D for agreement/comment and held a meeting on the topic.</p> <p>Further detail relevant to this section are outlined in</p>	<p>A ‘spot check’ of the Draft Heritage Baseline Report was carried out by CCC which raised questions and concerns regarding the robustness of the methodology. These comments were submitted to NG in a letter dated 6th March 2025 (CCC – Built Heritage, May 2025)</p> <p>CCC (Built Heritage) is in agreement with this matter.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.7.12	Baseline conditions and receptors (Archaeology)	<p>ID3.7.4 (Data Sources).</p> <p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Historic Environment are presented in <b>Section 11.5 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>February 2025, National Grid issued a draft Historic Baseline Report including Annex C and Annex D for agreement/comment and held a meeting on the topic.</p>	ECC agreed this matter during call in January 2026.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.7.13	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Historic Environment effects, are set out in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>Matter remains under discussion for archaeology.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full completion of all archaeological survey information which is needed to inform a robust mitigation strategy.</p> <p>Also, some of the standard and embedded mitigation measures identified for built heritage should be strengthened (as detailed in our relevant rep).</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: The impact on unknown archaeological remains can only be better understood through further intrusive archaeological evaluation. This is most relevant in areas of undergrounding where there will be an impact on archaeological</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.7.14	Standard mitigation (Built Heritage)	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Regarding commitment H06 the term 'appropriate' in this context refers to the reinstatement of landscape features (such as hedgerows, fences, walls, and earthworks) in a manner that is sensitive to the local character, setting, and historic significance of the area. The general approach and reinstatement plans can be found in <b>Section 9 of 7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [AS-046]</b>. Specifically, this means:</p> <p>Replacement features will be of a similar type, scale, and material to those lost, wherever possible, reflecting the character and function of the original feature</p> <p>Design and siting will be informed by local landscape character assessments, historic environment records, and where relevant, consultation with Local Planning Authorities and heritage specialists</p>	<p>remains.</p> <p>Also, some of the standard and embedded mitigation measures identified for built heritage should be strengthened (as detailed in our relevant rep).</p> <p>This matter is agreed with regards to commitment H06.</p> <p>Whilst we understand that the anticipated effects of construction vibration on designated heritage assets are limited to the Grade II listed Little Bromley War Memorial (1493299) in Tendring District (which is not a dwelling) we would still recommend expansion of H07, to create a hotline or method of contact for building owners who are concerned about the effects of construction vibration on their buildings as works are undertaken to allay fears and allow the monitoring of effects.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>Species selection for replanting (e.g., hedgerows) will seek to match historic or locally appropriate species mixes, and construction/restoration of walls or banks will use traditional techniques and materials where feasible</p> <p>If retention of a feature is not possible, the replacement or reinstatement will be designed to ensure that the heritage, ecological, and landscape value is maintained, or where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>Regarding H07 <b>6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration [APP-256]</b> did not identify any heritage assets in Colchester, Braintree, Brentwood, Basildon or Thurrock that would be impacted by the Project. The vibration assessment identified one historic structure, the grade II listed Little Bromley War Memorial (1493299), in Tendring that has potential to be impacted. As this is not a residence the current approach in H07 and the associated NV04 is considered to be appropriate.</p>		
3.7.15	Standard mitigation (Archaeology)	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-208]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p>	<p>CCC Statutory Consultation response: The standard mitigation proposed related to the historic environment are inadequate, and it would be expected that a detailed program of archaeological investigation has occurred in advance of the submission of the application so that the impact on heritage assets is understood.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>Although the preliminary assessment has identified many impacts along the proposed routes further evaluation in the form of geophysics, aerial photographic rectification and trial trenching is likely to identify many more heritage assets.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full completion of all archaeological survey information which is needed to inform a robust mitigation strategy.</p> <p>ECC (Archaeology) agreed this matter during call held January 2026.</p>	
3.7.16	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 11.6 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b>. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>Matter will remain under discussion for archaeology until the Outline AMS OWSI is finalised during examination.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full completion of all archaeological survey information which is needed to inform a robust mitigation strategy.</p> <p>Need clarity that no additional mitigation is being proposed by the applicant as this is currently not clear (see para 11.6.10 of doc 6.11, Chapter 11 Historic Environment of ES).</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			ECC noted during call in January 2026 that this matter is not relevant for Built Heritage.	
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.7.17	Construction effects (Built Heritage)	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC (Built Heritage) are in agreement with this matter.	Agreed
3.7.18	Construction effects (archaeology)	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as not all of the required archaeological fieldwork/surveys have been fully completed. Therefore, the full impacts of the scheme cannot be determined.  Following review of the ES, CCC (Archaeology) confirmed agreement on this matter during call in January 2026.	Agreed
3.7.19	Operational (and maintenance) effects (Built Heritage)	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	This matter is agreed.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.7.20	Operational (and maintenance) effects (archaeology)	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 11.7 of Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the ES [APP-208]</b> . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as not all of the required archaeological fieldwork/surveys have been fully completed. Therefore, the full impacts of the scheme cannot be determined.  Following review of the ES, ECC confirmed agreement on this matter during call in January 2026.	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.7.21	Outline CoCP	<p>The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in Chapter 11 (Historic Environment) of the <b>ES [APP-208]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 9 October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. A further meeting was held on 29 January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>See 3.7.14 and 3.7.15 for current position.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Further discussions will take place following National Grid's review of CCC's Local Impact Report (LIR). National Grid will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Comments have been submitted to National Grid and this is still under discussion.</p> <p>The structure of the CoCP is agreed but the contents are not. Comments were provided to NG in a letter dated 24th February 2025 (CCC - Built Heritage, May 2025).</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion.</p> <p>This section is currently under review (ECC Archaeology). Further comments will be included within the LIR which require action.</p> <p>For CCC (Built Heritage) See 3.6.14 Standard mitigation (Built Heritage) for current position.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.7.22	Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSIs) for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching.	National Grid shared overarching WSIs in March – June 2024 and December 2024. The scope and methodology of the overarching WSI for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	The scope and methodology of the overarching WSI for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	Agreed
3.7.23	Site specific Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) for pre-consent priority archaeological trial trenching.	The scope and methodology of WSIs for archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required. There are still addenda to site specific WSIs forthcoming that have yet to be issued.	The scope and methodology of WSIs for archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	Agreed
3.7.24	Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI.	The contents of the Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI (AMS-OWSI) is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required. National Grid issued the Outline AMS-OWSI for the post-consent stage of the project in April 2025.	CCC position November 2025: Still under discussion as the document still needs to clarify the scope and extent of further evaluation required prior to any agreed mitigation. This will include further geophysical survey, archaeological trial trenching and geoarchaeological investigation. This will allow all parties to be clear about the scope and level of evaluation that may be required should consent be given. Would also suggest that 3.7.13 and 3.7.14 may also be under	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>discussion but awaiting clarification from CCC.</p> <p>The Outline AMS-WSI is currently not agreed, further comments will be provided in the Local Impact report (ECC Archaeology).</p>	
3.7.25	Programme for completion of archaeological fieldwork	<p>A summary of the progress to date and future programme for the archaeological evaluation fieldwork for the Project was presented in the technical note: 'Summary of Archaeological Fieldwork - Progress and Programme', issued on the 27 June 2025.</p> <p>A phased approach to archaeological evaluation is being undertaken. The Project has defined 'priority areas' on the basis of the likely scale of impact on archaeological remains, flexibility in design and construction programme. A proportion of the evaluation of 'priority areas' was complete at submission with the rest completed and submitted pre-examination. Evaluation of 'non priority areas' is proposed to be undertaken following completion of 'priority areas'.</p> <p>The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.</p>	The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	Agreed

### 3.8 Landscape and Visual

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.8.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Landscape and Visual assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126] and Section 13.2 Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>National Grid's approach to the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape is set out in the National Landscapes – Duty to Seek to Further the Purpose Report (<b>s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</b>) [APP-120] which includes reference to and consideration of the Defra guidance note.</p> <p>CCC's comments are noted, and National Grid will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Reference is also needed to the DEFRA guidance note (2024) in relation to the enhanced duty for National Landscapes under LURA (2023). Likely material.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-protected-landscapes-duty/guidance-for-relevant-authorities-on-seeking-to-further-the-purposes-of-protected-landscapes">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-protected-landscapes-duty/guidance-for-relevant-authorities-on-seeking-to-further-the-purposes-of-protected-landscapes</a></p> <p>Add reference to Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) Para 4.3.4 in relation to compensation for significant negative impacts 'To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy'</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Concern has been raised about reference to the non-existence of locally valued landscapes in Colchester despite no local authorities doing this anymore as not required by national policy.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Additionally, the baseline evaluation and judgements appear to be</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>made solely at a district and not a site/setting level, they do not necessarily address the value of the key characteristics of the landscapes in the study area that are directly affected, particularly river valleys.</p> <p>Elements remaining for discussion include National Landscapes and furthering the purpose of landscape mitigation/compensation</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	

### EIA – Approach and Methods

3.8.2	Study area	<p>The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.</p>	<p>The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.</p>	Agreed
3.8.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b>.</p> <p>CCC's comments are noted, and National Grid will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>CCC remain unsatisfied with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed generally (Email November 2024).</p> <p>Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, CCC remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value assessment (Email 22.04.2025).</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as given the publishing of the ES it is clear that the scheme will be able to be seen from vast distances. Consider that additional viewpoints are required between 0.5km-1.5km in many locations to check that impacts are not significant, particularly with effects on the PROW network. Additional viewpoints from the CSECs in Great</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>Horkesley needed beyond 3km particularly in the areas that could affect the national landscape, to demonstrate the effects are not significant.</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	
3.8.4	Assessment methodology (including LVIA methodology and viewpoints)	<p>The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.</p> <p>A meeting was held on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree the detailed methodology. A further meeting was held on 28 November 2024 to follow up any additional changes to the assessment.</p> <p>At Statutory Consultation, CCC requested the inclusion of a Valued Landscape Assessment. National Grid has considered valued landscape qualities in the LVIA although has not undertaken a separate valued landscape assessment.</p> <p>National Grid issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology in March 2025.</p>	<p>The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops</p> <p>A meeting was held on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree the detailed methodology. A further meeting was held on 28th November 2024 to follow up any additional changes to the assessment.</p> <p>At Statutory Consultation, CCC requested the inclusion of a Valued Landscape Assessment.</p> <p>CCC E-mail response to proposed LVIA viewpoints dated 11th October 2024.</p> <p>CCC Email response to proposed viewpoints in Essex North dated 24th October 2024.</p> <p>CCC remain unsatisfied generally with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed.</p> <p>Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, CCC remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025)</p> <p>CCC also have reservations regarding the methodology for assessing the value of views as this appears skewed towards promotional data.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion for reasons outlined in ID 3.8.3 of this document.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Additionally, still have concerns about the valued landscape assessment and how some areas of high landscape value may have been ignored as not designated as 'valued landscapes'.</p> <p>Additionally, concern about how the Holford Rules have been addressed as the route was chosen before landscape value criteria were included in the assessment. <i>'Where possible choose routes which minimise the effect on Special Landscape Areas, areas of Great Landscape Value and other similar designations of County, District or Local value.'</i></p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual assessment are summarised in <b>Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b> . The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	<p>The preliminary key parameters and assumptions are presented at 13.5 of the PEIR in relation to LVIA. It is understood <i>'This information is iterative and will be updated for the ES as the design evolves and relevant changes are accounted for in the assessment'</i>. CCC reserve the right to comment further should the parameters and assumptions change.</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.8.6	Baseline conditions	The baseline conditions and receptors for Landscape and Visual are presented in <b>Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Landscape</b>	CCC remain unsatisfied generally with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed.	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
	and receptors	<p><b>and Visual) of the ES [APP-226].</b> The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p>National Grid notes the comments and welcomes continued engagement with ECC on this matter.</p>	<p>Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, we remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025)</p> <p>CCC also have reservations regarding the methodology for assessing the value of views as this is heavily skewed towards published data.</p> <p>An approach to compensation is needed, not just mitigation, where and how it has been identified and described, how the applicant has sought engagement from the local authority on this issue etc. (See below).</p> <p>CCC do not consider the applicants have considered or met either the EIA Regs or EN-1 requirements in relation to compensation. The likely significant negative landscape and visual effects of the project appear not to be compensated for, over and above offering enhancements at substations and sealing end compounds. CCC suggest the test of 'as far as possible' has not been met in any reasonable way in relation to the overwhelming likely permanent negative landscape and visual impacts along the length of the project described by the applicant within the PEIR. This has been an outstanding issue since 2023.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as baseline environment not adequately assessed against the updated Colchester Landscape Character Assessment 2024. Also, due consideration does not appear to have been given to considering landscape value at the site/setting level (it has been done at district level which doesn't</p>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>identify key characteristics of local landscapes). Still retain concerns about methodology for assessing the value of views and the lack of compensation that NG identify</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.8.7	Embedded mitigation	<p>Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Landscape and Visual effects, are set out in <b>Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p>	<p>CCC E-mail 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 – Landscape – adequacy of undergrounding, mitigation and lack of compensation are all still under discussion.</p> <p>CCC do not agree with the response regarding additional proposed undergrounding e.g. in the Colne Valley, which has the qualities of a Special Landscape Area. We do not think this conclusion can be made in advance of a valued landscape assessment being carried out and shared with us.</p> <p>CCC remain unsatisfied with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025) Local landscape designation has not been national policy for decades. The Holford Rules are out of date on this issue and haven't been reviewed since the 1990s. Since then, landscape characterisation has become the tool for understanding landscape and guidance on valued landscape assessment outside designated landscapes introduced.</p> <p>Even if <i>'policy statement EN-5 (which covers the development of new energy infrastructure) ... concludes that in most cases, the government expects that overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid'</i> it doesn't follow that there are no significant residual</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			<p>negative effects and therefore that potentially further undergrounding or compensation '<i>as far as possible</i>' might be required.</p> <p>Where undergrounding isn't proposed, explanation is needed as to why compensation isn't being offered instead, except at substations and sealing end compounds, when the PEIR states that significant landscape and visual impacts will occur along the length of the project length.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation measures are not addressing substantial significant negative residual impacts.</p> <p>As above, an approach to compensation is required. This has been an outstanding issue since 2023.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as majority of the above is still retained following review of the ES.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Request that when mitigation approaches to landscape are considered that these are also aligned with LNRS priorities.</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	
3.8.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Landscape and Visual effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226] and set out in the Outline CoCP [document reference 7.2] [APP-300] and Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> . The standard mitigation is considered appropriate	<p>Standard mitigation measures do not wholly mitigate substantial significant temporary impacts caused by construction. See reference to proposed compensation elsewhere.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Compensation for residual landscape impacts not addressed. This includes impacts of locating three pylons on Open</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	<p>Access Land near Fordham where compensation should be required (as detailed in our relevant representation).</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	
3.8.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b>. No additional mitigation measures, beyond the embedded and standard measures identified, are proposed for landscape and visual.</p> <p>CCC's comments are noted, and National Grid will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Additional mitigation measures do not address significant residual negative impacts from pylons and the overhead cables.</p> <p>CCC do not agree that the mitigation hierarchy has been effectively applied as it does not include compensation for the significant residual negative impacts of the overhead lines and pylons.</p> <p>An approach to compensation is required, as above.</p> <p>CCC suggest the test of '<i>as far as possible</i>' has not been met in any reasonable way in relation to the likely significant permanent negative landscape and visual impacts along the length of the project described by the applicant within the PEIR.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as much of the above is still retained following review of the ES.</p> <p>CCC position January 2026: Compensation should be delivered and this should be co-ordinated with key organisations such as ECC, Essex Wildlife Trust and others where landscape mitigation could also benefit biodiversity. This off-site compensation should align where possible with LNRS strategic habitat opportunity areas.</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.8.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>CCC's comments are noted, and National Grid will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>CCC Statutory Consultation response for Colchester City Council (2024) identified:</p> <p>The PEIR acknowledges that the proposals will have a significant negative landscape and visual impact at construction stage over the length of the Project</p> <p>Several instances where we judge the extent of significant impacts on landscape character and receptors would be more widespread than identified in the PEIR.</p> <p>Impacts on landscape of Colne Valley landscape including Open Access Land and Essex Way appear understated. Project line needs undergrounding or realigning in this area.</p> <p>In relation to visual impact, we understand that the Visual Receptor Areas are a pragmatic way of organising the data, but fear clarity and detail may have been lost as a result.</p> <p>Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 do not appear to be labelled on Figure 13.7 Pages 3 or 4.</p> <p>Not all suggested changes to siting, alignment, viewpoint assessments and visualisations have been addressed.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as much of the above is still retained following review of the ES. Increased viewpoints are required at greater distances from the alignment to determine if impacts are significant (as detailed in the relevant representation).</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.8.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 13.7 of Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b>. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>CCC's comments are noted, and National Grid will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p> <p>As above, Statutory Consultation response for Colchester City Council (2024) identified:</p> <p>The PEIR acknowledges that the proposals will have a significant negative landscape and visual impact at operational stage over the length of the Project.</p> <p>Several instances where we judge the extent of significant impacts on landscape character and receptors would be more widespread than identified in the PEIR.</p> <p>Impacts on landscape of Colne Valley landscape including Open Access Land and Essex Way understated. Project line needs undergrounding or realigning.</p> <p>In relation to visual impact, we understand that the Visual Receptor Areas are a pragmatic way of organising the data, but fear clarity and detail around the likely impacts may have been lost as a result.</p> <p>Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 do not appear to be labelled on Figure 13.7 Pages 3 or 4. Suggested changes to siting, alignment, viewpoint assessments and visualisations have not necessarily been addressed.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as much of the above is still retained following review of the ES. Increased viewpoints are required at greater distances from the alignment to</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<p>determine if impacts are significant (as detailed in the relevant representation). Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>				
<p><b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b></p>				
3.8.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. A further meeting was held in January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p> <p>ECC's comments on behalf of CCC are noted, and National Grid will continue to engage with ECC/CCC.</p>	<p>ECC provided comments and feedback in June 2025 on behalf of CCC, in relation to Landscape and Visual for the May 2025 iteration of the oCoCP.</p> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	Under discussion
3.8.13	Outline LEMP	<p>The <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual) of the ES [APP-226]</b> and is appropriate.</p> <p>A meeting was held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>. A further meeting was held in</p>	<p>CCC response to the draft Outline LEMP received on 22nd October 2024.</p> <p>ECC provided comments and feedback in June 2025 on behalf of CCC, in relation to Landscape and Visual for the May 2025 iteration of the Outline LEMP.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>A further iteration of the <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b> was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p> <p>Comments received from CCC and ECC were taken on board during the drafting of the <b>Outline LEMP [AS-046]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that following a meeting to discuss the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this Landscape and Visual matter remains under discussion.</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion – Awaiting information from Place.</li> </ul> <p>CCC positions January 2026: CCC recommends that compensation measures be clearly distinguished from mitigation and BNG obligations, with geo-located planting plans and habitat creation evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC recommend that additional mitigation and compensation measures be considered in consultation with Place Services, Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Essex Wildlife Trust and other wildlife organisations, including enhanced planting schemes in key locations, and landscape-scale GI interventions</li> </ul> <p>Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.</p>	
<p><b>Other matters as required</b></p>				

### 3.9 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.9.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126]</b> and <b>Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265]</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.9.2	Study area	<p>The Scoping Opinion stated: <i>“The Applicant should seek to agree the study area with the relevant local authorities”</i>.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 14th November 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion. Technical Notes were shared in June 2023 and April 2024.</p> <p>Following the meeting held on 14 November 2024, it was agreed that the study area for businesses would be expanded from 1 km to 3 km to take into account potential visual effects on businesses.</p> <p>A 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Note has been prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p>	<p>During the Thematic Group meeting in November 2024, it was proposed that the study area for businesses was increased from 1km to 3km to account for visual effects on businesses.</p> <p>CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full comments from ECC but likely to be agreed now.</li> </ul> <p>CCC position January 2026: Agreed that study area is acceptable. However, would propose that where it is identified that</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>CCC's position noted. In consideration of the <b>Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual)</b> of the ES [APP-226], it is anticipated that no likely significant visual effects will occur for receptors located beyond 3 km from the Order Limits. Consequently, potential effects on businesses within this area are also not expected to be significant and have therefore been scoped out of the ES in order to maintain a proportionate assessment.</p>	<p>particular businesses will be impacted outside of the scope of this (potentially some wedding venues, hotels etc) that these should be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	
3.9.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Section 15.4 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the ES [APP-265].</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Data collection undertaken for this assessment are in line with the approaches used on other comparable National Grid projects, including Yorkshire GREEN.</p>	<p>CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Do not agree that sufficient survey data has been undertaken to assess impact of the project on visitor accommodation and the available bedspace that would actually be suitable for construction workers (rather than assessing overall bedspace capacity).</li> </ul>	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 on 14 November 2024 to seek to agree this point in the Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>A third Technical Note was prepared to seek to agree the study area and methodology.</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position January 2026: See comments on 3.9.2 as these apply here. If addressed then suggest that 3.9.2 and 3.9.4 can be agreed.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
3.9.5	Key parameters	<p>Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment are summarised in <b>Section 15.4</b> of</p>	<p>CCC position January 2026: Still need greater clarity for what NG are going to deliver for training and skills. This should be</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
	and assumptions	<p><b>Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b>. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The Applicant recognises the importance of skills development and workforce planning and has already given detailed consideration to the scale and nature of employment likely to arise from the Project. Due to the characteristics of the works, the maximum peak onsite construction workforce attributable to local labour is anticipated to be approximately 172 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) roles, with a total local job demand of approximately 480 roles across the four-year construction period. This level of employment is modest in scale and is not considered significant when compared with employment demand in other sectors or large-scale regeneration schemes.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to supporting skills development and workforce planning at both local and regional levels, beyond the scope of this individual Project. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with local suppliers and supporting forums, such as Chambers of Commerce</li> <li>• Contributing to a coordinated regional approach to electricity industry jobs and skills planning</li> <li>• Engaging with Local Authorities to understand local priorities and opportunities around skills and employment.</li> </ul>	considered and distinguished separately from community benefits.	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>These commitments form part of the Applicant's wider approach to community benefits and legacy and are broader than, and separate from, the DCO process. The delivery of these initiatives will be taken forward through non-statutory community benefit and engagement mechanisms, rather than through the development consent process, consistent with established guidance.</p>		
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.9.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions and receptors for Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism are presented in <b>Section 15.5 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b>. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The assessment undertaken in Chapter 15: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism of the ES (<b>6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism (Final Issue A) [APP-265]</b>) reported the available IMD data at the time it was prepared to understand baseline socio-economic characteristics of populations potentially affected by the Project. A review of the updated IMD data published in October 2025 (after the DCO application was submitted) shows that, as a whole, deprivation levels have reduced for the Colchester City Council area, with fewer neighbourhoods now ranking among the most deprived in England. It is not considered that the updated dataset would result</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. IMD data used is now out of date. Further checks needed on other areas.</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		in material changes to the conclusions of the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment.		
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.9.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects, are set out in <b>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b> . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed.	Agreed
3.9.8	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects during construction are summarised in <b>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Impacts on local businesses, including where effects are considered to be significant, are set out in <b>6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism [APP-265]</b>.</p> <p>Potential effects on communities, including residents and local businesses, have been reduced through routing and design. The Applicant has sought to reduce concern or uncertainty about the proposals through transparent engagement with residents and stakeholders, which has formed an important part of Project development to date. <b>5.1 Consultation</b></p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Believe there is scope to fund provision of resource to provide businesses with information about the project and its delivery to help with managing impacts of disruption.</li> <li>• CCC position January 2026: Community benefits need considering and outlining separately from contribution to skills and training.</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p><b>Report [APP-066]</b> sets out the Applicant's approach to engagement to date. The Project team will continue to engage with people potentially affected during progress of the Project, through regular communication including letters, phone calls and meetings. This will enable concerns to be raised and discussed at an early opportunity and provide a regular point of contact to respond to queries and concerns.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to providing a coordinated local and regional approach to community benefits. This will be delivered outside the development consent process, since this is not a material consideration in the decision on the proposed 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 or investment will be captured under the National Grid Community Grant Scheme and dealt with separately to the EIA.</p>		
3.9.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b>. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b> Please refer to the response provided above in ID 3.9.8.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to providing a coordinated local and regional approach to</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Believe there is scope to fund provision of resource to provide businesses with information about the project and its delivery to help with managing impacts of disruption.</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>community benefits. This will be delivered outside the development consent process, since this is not a material consideration in the decision on the proposed 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 or investment will be captured under the National Grid Community Grant Scheme and dealt with separately to the EIA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also, additional funding could be provided to support local skills and employment that could help support the transition to net zero.</li> <li>• CCC position January 2026: Contribution to community benefits needs to be outlined.</li> </ul>	

### EIA – Assessment Conclusions

3.9.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism) of the ES [APP-265]</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>Chapter 15: Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism (<b>6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism (Final Issue A) [APP-265]</b>) of the ES considers the impacts of the project in relation to visitor accommodation (e.g. impacts on bedspace availability as a result of the construction workforce). <b>Paragraphs 15.7.26 to 15.7.30 of ES Chapter 15 [APP-265]</b> conclude that the residual effect on visitor accommodation bedspace would be negligible adverse and not significant.</p> <p>The assessment anticipates an estimated peak non-local construction workforce of 1,528. This figure represents the total workforce distributed along the</p>	<p>CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Particular concern regarding accommodation and the impact on the tourism/leisure industry, associated supply chains and visitor attractions.</p> <p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Believe cumulative impacts of the project have not been satisfactorily addressed. Still have concerns about impacts on accommodation.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
--------	----------------------	--	---	------------------

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>entire linear route of 180 km of the Project, rather than concentrated in a single geographic area. As construction activity progresses along the route, short-term accommodation is expected to be spread across the district and county, reducing pressure on any one locality.</p> <p>Given these factors, the Project is not expected to compromise the availability of visitor accommodation, including budget options.</p> <p>The cumulative impact of other projects, including NSIPs, has been considered within ES Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects (<b>6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects (Final Issue A) [APP-281]</b>).</p>		
3.9.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b>. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p>	<p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full comments from ECC.</p>	Under discussion
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.9.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-265]</b>, and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held in October to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. A further meeting was held in January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p>	<p>The content of the CoCP is still under discussion.</p> <p>CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full comments from ECC.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>A further iteration of the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing.</p> <p>National Grid notes the comment and will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>		

Other matters as required

### 3.10 Cumulative Effects

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance</b>				
3.10.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Cumulative Effects assessment is presented in <b>Chapter 2 (Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context) [APP-126]</b> and <b>Section 17.2 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects) [APP-281]</b> of the <b>ES</b>.</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p>	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Approach and Methods</b>				
3.10.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.10.3	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within <b>Sections 17.4 and 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-281]</b>.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The inter-project cumulative assessment presented in <b>Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES (6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects [APP-281])</b> included a 'cut-off date' of 1 April 2025 to confirm the long list of cumulative developments to be assessed. However, since the 1 April the Applicant has been undertaking monthly reviews of planning registers and Local Planning Authority websites and will continue to do so during the Examination period, to check whether there are any new relevant developments / allocations. Where this review identifies the potential for new or different significant effects or changes to the conclusions presented in ES then these would be published into Examination as updates to the relevant inter-project Cumulative Effects documents (as appropriate). Cumulative Effects documents would not be updated just because there is new information available about a development, where this information has been assessed as having no change to the assessment or conclusions presented in <b>Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES (6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 – Cumulative Effects [APP-281])</b>. In addition, Colchester City Council will also be required to undertake their own assessments to determine the viability of any new allocations.</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion – Need to do full review of all projects included and consider if suitable to include sites put forward in emerging Local Plan for potential development.</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.10.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.10.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Cumulative Effects assessment are summarised in <b>Sections 17.5 and 17.6 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-281]</b> . The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.  National Grid notes the comment and welcomes continued engagement with CCC on this matter.	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Baseline Conditions</b>				
3.10.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Cumulative Effects are within the environmental topic chapters ( <b>Chapters 6 – 16 of the ES [APP-138 to APP-280]</b> ). The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.  See response to ID3.10.3.	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion – Need to do full review of all projects included and consider if suitable to include sites put forward in emerging Local Plan for potential development.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
<b>EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures</b>				
3.10.7	Embedded mitigation	The assessment of cumulative effects considers the residual effects identified during construction and operation (and maintenance) within the environmental topic chapters ( <b>Chapters 6 – 16 of the ES</b> ). Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project are set out in the	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>environmental topic chapters of the <b>ES</b>. Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>National Grid notes the comment and welcomes continued engagement with CCC on this matter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under consideration and awaiting further information from ECC.</li> </ul>	
3.10.8	Standard mitigation	<p>The assessment of cumulative effects considers the residual effects identified during construction and operation (and maintenance) within the environmental topic chapters (<b>Chapters 6 – 16</b> of the <b>ES</b>). Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Cumulative Effects during construction are summarised in the environmental topic chapters of the <b>ES</b> and set out in the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>National Grid notes the comment and will continue engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under consideration and awaiting further information from ECC.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
3.10.9	Additional mitigation	<p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in <b>Section 17.4</b> and <b>17.5</b> of <b>Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-281]</b>. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p> <p>National Grid notes the comment and will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under consideration and awaiting further information from ECC</li> </ul>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>EIA – Assessment Conclusions</b>				
3.10.10	Construction effects	<p>The assessment of effects during construction is presented in <b>Section 17.4 and 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-281]</b>. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The cumulative assessment within Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES (<b>6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects [APP-281]</b>) has been undertaken in accordance with the agreed methodology in the <b>Scoping Report (6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 - 296])</b> and Scoping Opinion (<b>6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]</b>) which assesses other NSIPs in the East of England within defined Study Areas (that are based on how far impacts could reach as a result of the Project on environmental receptors). The assessment includes landscape and visual impacts, economic impacts and traffic congestion.</p> <p>An assessment on potential effects on planning applications and Local Plan has been undertaken as part of the ES in <b>Chapter 15 (6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism (Final Issue A) [APP-265])</b>.</p> <p>Also see response to ID3.10.3.</p>	<p>Likely Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts with Five Estuaries, North Falls and EACN.</p> <p>CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Particular concern regarding accommodation and the impact on the tourism/leisure industry, associated supply chains and visitor attractions.</p> <p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion and position/points related to economic and health cumulative impacts not fully considered.</li> <li>• Also aware that project may impact on viability/availability of sites for housing and employment in Local Plan. This should be kept under review along with progression of the Local Plan review.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
3.10.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	<p>The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in <b>Section 17.4 and 17.5 of Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-281]</b>. The assessment of effects during</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		<p>operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.</p> <p>See response to ID3.10.10.</p> <p>National Grid responded to Colchester City Council's Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation 2025 on 14 January 2026.</p> <p>Overhead electricity lines can be successfully co-located with development provided that the statutory safety clearances are maintained in accordance with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. National Grid has produced its Design Guidelines for development near high voltage overhead lines, which set out these statutory safety clearances and provide detailed guidance for developers on how successful co-location can be achieved in practice.</p> <p>Accordingly, National Grid does not consider that the Norwich to Tilbury Project would adversely affect the delivery of the proposed site allocations, subject to the future development of those sites having full regard to this guidance. In this context, National Grid recommended that the policies explicitly reference the need to comply with both the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 and National Grid's Design Guidelines for Development Near Pylons and High Voltage Overhead Power Lines, in order to facilitate successful development, should the Norwich to Tilbury Project Development Consent Order be granted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion and position/points related to economic and health cumulative impacts not fully considered.</li> <li>• Aware that the project may impact on viability/availability of sites for housing and employment in Local Plan. This should be kept under review along with progression of the Local Plan review.</li> </ul>	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>				
3.10.12	Outline CoCP	<p>The <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b> includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in <b>Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-281]</b> and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>A meeting was held in October to agree on the structure for the <b>Outline CoCP [APP-300]</b>. A further meeting was held in January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>National Grid notes the comment and will continue to engage with CCC on this matter.</p>	<p>The content of the Outline CoCP is still under discussion.</p> <p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion.</li> </ul>	Under discussion
<b>Other matters as required</b>				
3.10.13	Cumulative effects	<p><b>Updated position (February 2026):</b></p> <p>The intra-cumulative assessment within Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES (6.17 Environmental Statement <b>Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects [APP-281]</b>) assessed the impacts on common receptors within the ES (Volume 6 of the DCO application) in accordance with the agreed methodology in the Scoping Report (<b>6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 - 296]</b>) and <b>Scoping Opinion (6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297])</b>. The assessment did not conclude that there would be any intra-cumulative effects common agriculture and soil, ecology or historic receptors. The assessment did, however, assess a number of common landscape and visual receptors.</p>	<p>Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council also notes that the applicant identifies several intra-project impacts between different receptors including Land and Community Assets, Development Land and Businesses, and Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders and these only at Construction Stage. We are concerned that no intra-project cumulative effects are identified at the Construction and Operational Stage for Agricultural and Soil, Landscape, Ecology and Historic receptors.</li> </ul>	Under discussion

## 3.11 Development Consent Order

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.11.1	DCO Requirements – working hours	See response to ID 3.5.8 and 3.5.12.	Construction working hours are not suitable. There should be shorter working hours on Saturdays and no working on Sundays, Bank Holidays and other public holidays.	Under discussion
3.11.2	DCO Wording – authorised development and LoD	The authorised development and associated development are described in Schedule 1 to the <b>draft DCO [APP-056]</b> . The authorised development is further shown on the Works Plans. In addition, the <b>Applicant submitted a Details of Associated Development with references to documents</b> report <b>[APP-121]</b> with its application, which delineates the authorised development and the associated development. The limits of deviation are set out in Article 5 (limits of deviation) to the draft DCO are shown on the <b>Works Plans [APP-017]</b> to APP-024) and in the table of parameters at the back of the Works Plans for each section.	Further clarity is needed around the limits of deviation and authorised development so that the scope of the development consent can be clearly set out, in order to reflect the development subject to the examination.	Under discussion
3.11.3	DCO Wording – definition and terminology	CCC comments on the consistency of terminology in the draft DCO are noted, and National Grid will review and consider these points in the next revision of the draft DCO.	For consistency within the DCO, there are a number of definitions and drafting points to be addressed (such as the use of 'business day,' 'working day' and 'day' interchangeably; and 'discharging authority' and 'relevant authority'). The Permit Scheme and Traffic Regulation Order ("TRO") definitions need to be aligned with each other in terms of timescales and process. For clarity, the Permit Scheme	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			includes the temporary TRO process within it.	
Other matters as required				

### 3.12 Other Matters

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.12.1	Flood Risk	Building on the information provided in Appendix C of <b>Application document 7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]</b> further details regarding proposals for surface water management (including storage calculations) will be shared with Essex County Council in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority and submitted to the examination in the form of a Drainage Strategy report. This is expected to be shared at Deadline 1.	The Council has no significant concerns to raise but encourage the Examining Authority to review any issues raised by Essex County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Essex.	Agreed
3.12.2	Contaminated Land	The assessment for Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology are presented in <b>Section 9.5 of Chapter 9 (Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology)</b> of the <b>ES [APP-181]</b> . National Grid notes this comment.	7.1. The Council's Contaminated Land Officer has reviewed the Contaminated Land Geology and Hydrogeology chapter of the ES. The Council notes that there is a relatively low level of contamination risk as the project will mainly affect agricultural and undeveloped land since the late 1800s. Therefore, there are no main concerns the Council would like to raise.	Agreed

## 4. Confirmation of Agreement

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

.....

Date:

.....

Signed for and on behalf of Colchester City Council:

.....

Date:

.....

# Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Loads
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CCC	Colchester City Council
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
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
ZoI	Zone of Influence
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4031152  
[nationalgrid.com](http://nationalgrid.com)