


Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership responses to ExA Q1

EXQ1	Question to:	Question	Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Partnership Response
LV 1.14	All local authorities	<p>ES Appendix 13.5 National Landscape assessment study - 2</p> <p>The study [APP-235] concludes that: <i>"In conclusion, the Project would result in significant adverse effects on the special qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape during construction. However, during operation (and maintenance) the adverse effects on the special qualities of the National Landscape are judged to be minor and not significant (adverse)"</i> (paragraph 13.3.8)</p> <p>The local authorities are asked whether they agree with this conclusion and provide reasoning if you do not.</p>	<p>The National Landscape Partnership broadly concur with this view that the majority of negative impacts will be felt by the National Landscape during construction. However, the National Landscape Partnership consider the impacts during operation, while noting they are assessed as 'minor and not significant (adverse) are still a negative and not contributing to statutory purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty.</p>
LV 1.16	The applicant Suffolk CC	<p>National Landscapes - duty to seek to further the purposes report - 2</p> <p>Appendix A of the report [APP-120] proposes a sum of £2,426,752 to be paid to the County Council to deliver benefits and to enhance the NL and its setting. To both parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Explain how this sum has been calculated. b) Give your views on whether this sum should be indexed. c) Does this sum provide mitigation for the project? 	<p>It is the view of the National Landscape Partnership that this sum would demonstrate the developer's ability to meet the s85 CRoW Act duty on relevant authorities. A) The calculation was made by identifying a series of projects from the Dedham Vale National Landscape Management Plan 2026 31 that would demonstrate the scheme proposer could meet its s85 CRoW Act duty. The identified projects were then costed as outlined in APP-120 b) The National Landscape Partnership consider that this sum should be index linked from the time of writing of the APP-120 document c) The sum is not proposed to provide mitigation for the project but to allow the scheme</p>

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			proposer to demonstrate it is meeting its obligation under the s85 CROW Act (2000).
LV 1.17	Suffolk CC Essex CC	<p>National Landscapes - duty to seek to further the purposes report - 3</p> <p>The Report [APP-120] concludes that the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in accordance with national policy. Please confirm whether you agree with this conclusion and provide reasoning if not.</p>	<p>It is the National Landscape Partnership's view that there is mitigation embedded in the scheme design, that are designed to minimise the impact on the National Landscape, for example siting of the Cable Sealing Ends and proposed undergrounding the cables through the National Landscape. It is noted that national policy (for example Rule 1 of the Holford Rules that states: <i>Avoid altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value, by so planning the general route of the first line in the first place, even if the total mileage is somewhat increased in consequence</i>) dictates that such infrastructure should avoid nationally designated landscapes, such as National Parks and National Landscapes. The National Landscape Partnership consider that the detailed design of the scheme, method of undergrounding, seeking to minimise impacts during construction demonstrates attempts to comply with the mitigation hierarchy but notes that this cannot be fully met as the scheme is not avoiding the National Landscape and impacts will be felt by the National Landscape, hence the need for minimalisation and compensation. The National Landscape Partnership notes that s85 CROW Act (2000) is still active. Although Government has announced that it is taking forward the recommendations of the Nuclear Regulatory this will</p>

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			<p>require primary legislation to make changes, the National Landscape Partnership is not aware of the timetable for this primary legislation. The National Landscape Partnership notes that even if the legislation is changed the duty will still apply to NSIP developers in relation that they have a duty as a relevant authority to seek to further the purpose of the National Landscape in its decision making.</p>