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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.1 Draft Statement of Common Ground - DVNL & Stour
Valley - Clean Version**

Final Issue B

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nationalgrid

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (referred to as National Grid within this document) and the Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley (hereafter referred to as the 'National Landscape'). It identifies areas of the Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the Application) where matters are agreed, under discussion or not agreed between the parties.
- 1.1.2 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the examination phase of the application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during examination and then updated as necessary or as requested during the examination phase.
- 1.1.3 A note on nomenclature. The term National Landscapes is used in this document as the brand name adopted in November 2023 for nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

1.2 Summary of matters under discussion

As requested by the Examining Authority, the below table provides an 'at a glance' summary of matters which are under discussion, together with a deadline by which such matters are expected to be resolved.

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
3.2.13 - Embedded mitigation	The National Landscapes noted that there are concerns with the Horizontal Directional Drilling approach for drilling in the National Landscape and that this matter may remain unresolved. Further discussion is required before the position is changed.	Resolution likely to be by Deadline 7 if achievable. Further conversations are to take place to confirm.
3.2.14 - Standard mitigation	The National Landscape require further review of the standard mitigation requirements from the Partnership prior to moving this matter to agreed.	Resolution likely to be by Deadline 7
3.2.18 - Outline CoCP	The National Landscape require further review of the requirements in the Outline CoCP from the Partnership prior to moving this matter to agreed. It is likely that this will involve review of the most up to date documents submitted as part of Deadline 2 and 3.	Resolution likely to be by Deadline 7

1.3 Project Description

1.3.1 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.

1.3.2 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).

1.3.3 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.

1.3.4 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.

1.4 Format and structure of this document

1.4.1 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** provides a summary of the key engagement undertaken to date with National Landscapes.
- **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 National Landscapes on the Project throughout the pre-application process.
- 2.1.2 The National Landscape Partnership is a non-constituted organisation set up in 1993 to act as an advocate for the National Landscape. Individual members of the Partnership may express a view expressing their individual organisations aspirations or responsibilities.
- 2.1.3 The engagement to date has included:
- Non-statutory consultation in Spring 2022 and Summer 2023
 - Statutory Consultation in Spring 2024
 - Targeted Consultations in Spring 2025
 - One to one / small group technical meetings on specific detailed matters
 - Sharing of papers and documentation at key stages Regular ‘Thematic Group’ meetings to discuss specific topics
 - National Grid presenting to the National Landscape Partnership
- 2.1.4 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 National Landscapes.

Table 2.1 Summary of Key Engagement between National Grid and National Landscapes

Date	Format	Topic/Description
July 2022	E-mail	National Grid issued the assessment methodology to stakeholders for review ahead of the Thematic Group Meeting in July 2022.
July 2022	E-mail	National Grid shared the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) methodology and arboricultural assessment methodology for review and discussion ahead of the Thematic Group Meeting.
July 2022	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group meeting – LVIA methodology and arboricultural assessment methodology.
September 2022	Meeting	Attendance at Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership Meeting.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2023	E-mail	National Grid shared plans showing proposed viewpoint locations for review and comment.
February 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting to discuss proposed viewpoint locations in Suffolk. National Grid sought agreement on the viewpoint locations to include in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the ES.
April 2023	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
April 2023	Meeting	National Grid presented at Dedham Vale National Landscape Partnership meeting
May 2023	Meeting	National Grid presented and discussed the responses to the feedback on the viewpoint locations received from the February meeting. Stakeholders provided feedback on updated and additional viewpoint locations at the meeting and in subsequent correspondence.
June 2023	E-mail	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 PRow during construction and operation.
August 2023	Email Correspondence	National Grid issued wirelines and photomontages and proposed the approach to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping for comment.
September 2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and potential off-site schemes/initiatives.
January 2024	E-mail	National Grid shared an update on viewpoints, including ZTV.
April 2024	Meeting	National Grid presented at Dedham Vale National Landscape Partnership meeting.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Historic Environment Thematic Groups for Suffolk and Essex North.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Landscape Thematic Group – Suffolk.
September 2024	E-mail	National Grid shared the LVIA methodology and proposed viewpoints.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape Thematic Group meeting to seek agreement on the LVIA Methodology.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid presented at Dedham Vale National Landscape Partnership meeting

Date	Format	Topic/Description
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape Thematic Group meeting to discuss viewpoints in the Essex North area.
September 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a Landscape Thematic Group meeting to discuss viewpoints in Suffolk.
October 2024	E-mail	National Grid shared the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting presentation and associated shapefiles, landscape viewpoints and order limits.
October 2024	E-mail	National Grid shared updated viewpoint information (follow up from Landscape Thematic Workshops).
October 2024	E-mail	National Grid shared the National Landscape Setting Study with key stakeholders.
October 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a focus meeting on National Landscapes to discuss the findings of the draft National Landscape Setting Study, to discuss and agree LVIA viewpoints and to discuss potential effects on the National Landscape and appropriate mitigation and compensation measures.
November 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to agree viewpoint photography locations and photomontages to be used for the ES.
November 2024	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss approach to targeted consultation.
April 2025	E-mail	National Grid shared the Outline CoCP with the National Landscape.
April 2025	E-mail	National Grid shared the Outline LEMP with the National Landscape.
May 2025	Meeting	National Grid held a meeting to discuss high level approach to duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape.
May 2025	Email	National Grid shared the Outline LEMP with the National Landscape
May 2025	E-mail	National Grid shared the Outline CoCP with the National Landscape.
June 2025	E-mail	National Landscape Team provided their feedback on National Grid's approach to duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape.
June 2025	Meeting	Meeting with National Grid and the National Landscape Team to discuss approach to duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape.

Date	Format	Topic/Description
July 2025	E-mail	National Grid shared draft document with National Landscapes Team setting out more detail in relation to measures proposed to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape.
July 2025	E-mail	National Grid shared updated draft document with National Landscapes Team setting out measures proposed to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape for consultation with wider Partnership.
August 2025	E-mail	National Grid provided an update on the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape and an indication of next steps.
August 2025	Email	National Grid shared submission documents with the National Landscape.
August 2025	E-mail	National Grid provided a response to National Landscape Team regarding approach to feasibility study in connection with removal of 132 kV UK Power Networks Line.
October 2025	E-mail	National Grid shared Heads of Terms for legal agreement to secure measures to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape with National Landscape Team.
October 2025	E-mail	National Landscape Team shared initial comments on Heads of Terms.
November 2025	Email	The National Landscape provided their relevant representations to National Grid.
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting with National Grid and the National Landscape to discuss the Statement of Common Ground and duty to further the purposes.
February 2026	Email	National Grid shared details responding to comments on the Landscape Setting Study with the National Landscape.
February 2026	Email	National Grid shared the Statement of Common Ground with National Landscapes (clean and tracked versions) for wider partnership review
February 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the Statement of Common Ground following review by wider partnership.
February 2026	Email	National Grid shared a further Statement of Common Ground with National Landscapes (clean and tracked versions) for wider partnership review.
April 2026	Email	National Grid shared an updated Statement of Common Ground with National Landscapes for review.
May 2026	Meeting	Meeting to progress the matters which are Under Discussion in the Statement of Common Ground.

3. Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This chapter details the matters relevant to the National Landscape 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 the National Landscape 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 3.2 provides the matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion in relation to the National Landscape.

3.2 Landscape and Visual

Table 3.2 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Landscape and Visual

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
EIA – Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.2.1	Policy and legislation	<p>The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is presented in 6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context [APP-126] and Section 13.2 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226].</p> <p>All relevant legislation, policy and guidance have been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.</p> <p>The Planning Act 2008 (“the Act”) requires that the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) in deciding the application for development consent must have regard to relevant NPSs, such as EN-1 and EN-5. The Planning Statement submitted with the Application assesses the Project against the NPSs and includes an assessment against the National Planning Policy Framework policies which are considered to be both important and relevant matters in the determination of the Project. The Planning Statement also considers the Project against Local Plan policies, recognising that such policies may also be important and relevant in the context</p>	<p>Statutory consultation response stated that: <i>“The Partnership considers that development proposals should comply with local and national policy requirements”</i>.</p> <p>E-mail correspondence from 1st May 2025: <i>National Landscape Partnership recognise that the scheme is following policy in so far as where route does not avoid a nationally designated landscape it is proposing undergrounding through it which is likely to minimise visual impacts during the operational phase.</i></p> <p>There needs to be reference to the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley Management plan in this section and how the project considers that. There needs to be reference to the strengthened s85 CRoW Act duty in this section and comment on how the Project has considered its requirements.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>of determining an application for development consent.</p> <p>The 8.4.2 Policy Compliance Tracker [REP1-133] includes consideration of the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project Area Management Plan (2026-31). The assessment of effects on the special qualities of Dedham Vale National Landscape, set out in 6.13.A5 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.5 - National Landscape Assessment Study [APP-235], was reviewed against the 2026-31 Management Plan. There is no change to the identified special qualities of Dedham Vale National Landscape, which are set out in the Alison Farmer Associates report: Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks (July 2016). The findings of the National Landscape Assessment Study therefore remain valid.</p>		
3.2.2	Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	<p>Measures to address the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape are set out in the 5.10 National Landscapes – Duty to Seek to Further the Purpose Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120] and are appropriate, reasonable and proportionate. The approach follows the 2024 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. The Heads of Terms were shared with the National Landscape on</p>	<p>The National Landscape requested in their Relevant Representation dated 2025 confirmation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as amended by section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) has been met in developing the proposals. <p>Feedback received on the Heads of Terms by the National Landscape on 27th October 2025, awaiting legal review by Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>21 October 2025 and are subject of ongoing discussion.</p> <p>Section 3.11 of 8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports (Final Issue A) [REP2-030] also sets out the legal and policy context and the Applicant's approach to the duty.</p>	<p>the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion. Further consideration is sought from the National Landscape Partnership.</p> <p>Heads of Terms is agreed in principle, subject to the National Landscapes Host Authorities legal agreements.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.</p>	
3.2.3	Dedham Vale National Landscape Management Plan 2021-26 and 2026-31	<p>The statutory Dedham Vale National Landscape Management Plan 2021-26 has been considered in the assessment of effects of the Project on Dedham Vale National Landscape. Section 5 of 6.13.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 - Landscape and Visual Methodology [APP-227] sets out the method of approach for assessing effects of the Project on Dedham Vale National Landscape. Reference is made to the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area Management Plan 2021 – 2026 (Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley, 2021) and the Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks Final Report (Alison Farmer Associates, 2016), which summarises the special qualities of the National Landscape.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.46 to 2.49 of 5.10 National Landscapes – Duty to Seek to Further the Purpose Report (s85 Countryside and</p>	<p>The National Landscape requested in their Relevant Representation dated 2025 confirmation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the statutory Dedham Vale National Landscape Management Plan 2021-26 has been considered during the development of these proposals. <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion pending further consideration on which version of the Dedham Vale National Landscape Management Plan would be taken forward (2021-2026 or 2026-2031).</p> <p>Project was developed based on 2021-2026 Management plan and will be delivered under 2026-2031 plan.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120] confirms that the 2026-31 draft Management Plan was given appropriate consideration by the Applicant as part of the approach to the seek to further duty alongside the previously adopted Management Plan (2021-26).</p> <p>Annex A of 5.10 National Landscapes – Duty to Seek to Further the Purposes Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120] which identifies the list of potential projects is based on the 2026-2031 Management Plan principles. The measures and projects identified to meet the duty to seek to further the purpose of the National Landscape are considered in accordance with the newly adopted Management Plan.</p> <p>As explained against 3.2.1 above the assessment of effects on the special qualities of Dedham Vale National Landscape, set out in 6.13.A5 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.5 - National Landscape Assessment Study [APP-235], was reviewed against the 2026-31 Management Plan. There is no change to the identified special qualities of Dedham Vale National Landscape, which are set out in the Alison Farmer Associates report: Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks (July 2016). The findings of the National Landscape Assessment Study therefore remain valid.</p>	Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
3.2.4	Coordination with other energy projects impacting the Dedham Vale National Landscape	<p>The multiple developments that are proposed to connect to the Project, including other energy projects that impact the Dedham Vale National Landscape, are assessed within 6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 – Cumulative Effects [APP-281] including the North Falls and Five Estuaries projects. The assessment was undertaken in accordance with 6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296] and 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]. A full list of Other Developments considered is detailed within the long list of Other Developments in 6.17.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 17.2 - Long List and Short List of Other Developments [APP-283]. The cumulative effects assessment also follows the Planning Inspectorate's advice page on Cumulative Effects Assessment.</p> <p>8.4.3 Report on Interrelationship with Other Infrastructure Projects [REP1-134] submitted at Deadline 1 details the approach taken by the Applicant to coordinate the Project with the other projects, including a summary log of discussions with the developers of the projects both pre-application and pre-examination.</p>	<p>The National Landscape requested in their Relevant Representation dated November 2025 confirmation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the scheme proposer has coordinated with other energy projects impacting the Dedham Vale National Landscape (proposed, consented, under construction and operational) to reduce impacts on the designated landscape. <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.</p>	Agreed
3.2.5	Impacts on defined Natural Beauty indicators	<p>Section 5 of 6.13.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 - Landscape and Visual Methodology [APP-227] sets out the method of approach for assessing effects of the Project on the special qualities (natural beauty) of Dedham Vale National Landscape.</p>	<p>The National Landscape requested in their Relevant Representation dated 2025 confirmation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the scheme proposer has assessed the impacts on the defined Natural Beauty indicators (Landscape Quality, Scenic Quality, Relative Wildness, 	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>Reference was made to the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area Management Plan 2021 – 2026 (Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley, 2021) and the Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks Final Report (Alison Farmer Associates, 2016), which summarises the special qualities of the National Landscape. As explained in 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 above the 2021-26 Management Plan was reviewed against the 2026-31 Management Plan and the Applicant confirms that the findings of the National Landscape Assessment Study remain valid.</p> <p>6.13.A5 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.5 - National Landscape Assessment Study [APP-235] presents the assessment of effects of the Project on Dedham Vale National Landscape. The assessment was undertaken taking into consideration the special qualities (natural beauty) of Dedham Vale National Landscape. These are reflective of Natural Beauty indicators including - Landscape Quality, Scenic Quality, Relative Wildness, Relative Tranquillity, Natural Heritage Features, Cultural Heritage.</p>	<p>Relative Tranquillity, Natural Heritage Features, Cultural Heritage) and Special Qualities on the National Landscape.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion pending a decision being on which process for determining impacts was going to be followed.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.</p>	
3.2.6	Impacts on defined Natural Beauty indicators (Development in the setting of the National Landscape)	Annex A of 6.13.A5 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.5 - National Landscape Assessment Study [APP-235] includes the Dedham Vale National Landscape Setting Study. The purpose of the annex is to identify areas of the landscape that form part of the setting of the National Landscape, to	<p>The National Landscape requested in their Relevant Representation dated 2025 confirmation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How development in the setting of the National Landscape is impacting the Natural Beauty indicators (Landscape Quality, Scenic Quality, Relative Wildness, 	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>inform the assessment of effects of the Project on the defined special qualities (natural beauty) of the National Landscape.</p> <p>6.13.A5 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.5 - National Landscape Assessment Study [APP-235] presents the assessment of effects of the Project on Dedham Vale National Landscape. The assessment was undertaken taking into consideration the special qualities (natural beauty) of Dedham Vale National Landscape. These are reflective of Natural Beauty indicators including - Landscape Quality, Scenic Quality, Relative Wildness, Relative Tranquillity, Natural Heritage Features, Cultural Heritage.</p>	<p>Relative Tranquility, Natural Heritage Features, Cultural Heritage) and Special Qualities of the National Landscape.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion pending a decision being on which process for determining impacts was going to be followed.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.</p>	

EIA – Approach and Methods

3.2.7	Study area	<p>The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through 6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296] and 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297] received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate stated in 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297] (document reference 6.20), '<i>...that the Study Area and ZTV should represent the extent of the likely impacts from all phases of the Proposed Development (including construction, maintenance and decommissioning) and should encompass long views from within the Dedham Vale AONB</i>'.</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
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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>The proposed Study Area was reviewed in light of further assessment work undertaken in preparation of the PEIR (National Grid, 2024). The emphasis of the preliminary assessment was based on landscape and visual receptors lying within 3 km of the operational overground elements of the Project and 1 km of the operational underground cable route.</p> <p>For the purposes of the Environmental Statement (ES), the LVIA Study Area has been reviewed in light of feedback received during non-statutory and statutory consultation, ongoing site surveys, and following the production of updated ZTVs as the Project has developed.</p>		
3.2.8	Data sources	<p>Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 13.4 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226].</p>	<p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.</p>	Agreed
3.2.9	Assessment methodology (including LVIA methodology)	<p>In July 2022 National Grid shared the LVIA methodology and Arboricultural assessment methodology with the National Landscape for review. Meeting held in July 2022 to discuss LVIA methodology.</p>	<p>The scope of the LVIA was agreed through a technical note and meeting held in July 2022.</p>	Agreed
3.2.10	Landscape Viewpoints (inc. Locations for wireframes and photomontages.)	<p>National Grid has shared viewpoint locations with the National Landscape and held a series of Thematic Group Workshops to discuss viewpoints.</p>	<p>E-mail correspondence from 1st May 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The National Landscape Partnership note that there may be a visual impact during the operational phase due to restrictions on vegetation above any underground cables. It considers that a representative</i> 	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>Comments received from the Planning Inspectorate in 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297] (December 2022):</p> <p>* <i>“The number and location of viewpoints (representative, specific and illustrative), as well as the locations for wireframes and photomontages, should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies including local authorities, Historic England, NE and the AONB Partnership and be in line with relevant guidance, where possible.”</i></p> <p>Specific feedback on viewpoints received from the National Landscape will be taken into account.</p>	<p><i>View Point be included to demonstrate any possible impacts of where the underground transmission line passes under a hedgerow or similar (perhaps a road with a hedgerow either side and a field boundary hedgerow).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consider at least one viewpoint on a bridleway and adapt assessment to height of horse rider (ie above standard walking height).</i> • <i>The National Landscape Partnership note that statutory bodies (Local Authorities and Natural England) have a responsibility to the National Landscape and consider that any views those bodies give in relation to the National Landscape are given appropriate weight.</i> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.</p>	
3.2.11	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual assessment are summarised in Section 13.4 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] . The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
EIA – Baseline Conditions				
3.2.12	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Landscape and Visual are presented in Section 13.5 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] . The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.	Agreed
EIA – Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.2.13	Embedded mitigation	Embedded measures are those that are intrinsic to and built into the design of the Project, which are presented in Table 4.2 in 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 - Project Description [APP-130] and also paragraphs 13.6.2 to 13.6.4 in Section 13.6 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] . Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. National Grid has carefully considered the request for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) but has concluded that the circumstances raised by the respondent to justify trenchless techniques are not generally encountered. Much of the route of the underground cable within the Dedham Vale National Landscape is through grassland or arable cropping. Whilst some hedgerows will require replacement, the interaction with any area where an unnaturally straight-line amenity impact might occur is limited as they have	Targeted consultation response: <i>To meet the revised section 85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) duty the National Landscape Partnership considers that the undergrounding should be achieved through Horizontal Directional Drilling (or similar). At the very least, cable installation through Horizontal Directional Drilling (or similar) under all environments where cable installation through trenching would deliver an unnatural straight-line amenity impact on above-ground vegetation, particularly woodland and thus be detrimental to the preservation of natural beauty.</i> <i>It considers that the trenching method would have significant impacts on the National Landscape during construction and operation. If using a less intrusive method of achieving undergrounding, the National Landscape Partnership considers that this would demonstrate seeking to meet the active duty outlined in section 85 of the Countryside and</i>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>either been avoided or are already proposed to utilise a trenchless technique. These techniques require the excavation of large launch and receiving pits and are higher cost techniques. They are proposed for areas of particular archaeological and ecological interest, crossing the River Stour, and where crossing the A12 and railway to minimise disruption.</p> <p>The Applicant awaits further correspondence and will continue to engage with the National Landscape on this matter.</p>	<p><i>Rights of Way Act (2000) as amended by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023).</i></p> <p>E-mail correspondence from 1 May 2025: <i>The National Landscape Partnership has called for the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (or similar) during construction to minimise visual impacts during this phase.</i></p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in meetings on the 23 February and 6th May 2026 that this matter was still under discussion, It was noted that the issue surrounding Horizontal Directional Drilling in the National Landscape means that this matter may remain unresolved.</p>	
3.2.14	Standard mitigation	<p>Standard mitigation measures comprise management activities and techniques which would be implemented during construction of the Project to limit effects through adherence to good site practices and achieving legal compliance.</p> <p>Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Landscape and Visual effects during construction are summarised in Section 13.6 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] and set out in the 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-025].</p> <p>The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.</p>	<p>The National Landscape confirmed in meetings on the 23 February and 6th May 2026 that this matter was still under discussion pending further review from the wider Partnership.</p>	Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		<p>The Applicant awaits further correspondence and will continue to engage with the National Landscape on this matter.</p>		
3.2.15	Additional mitigation	<p>Additional mitigation comprises measures over and above any embedded and standard mitigation measures.</p> <p>The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 13.6 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226]. Measures to address the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape are set out in the 5.10 National Landscapes – Duty to Seek to Further the Purpose Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120]. The package of measures includes undertaking or commissioning a piece of work to look at the feasibility of the future removal of an existing UK Power Networks 132 kV overhead line which runs through the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths and the Dedham Vale National Landscapes. Given the complexity and costs of removal of the line (as set out in [APP-120] the extent of the proposal is to undertake a feasibility exercise and anything beyond that would be a matter for future consideration with relevant stakeholders outside the DCO process.</p> <p>Section 3.11 of 8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports (Final Issue A) [REP2-030] also sets out the Applicant's approach to the duty. The Applicant considers the measures that have been identified meet</p>	<p>The National Landscape Partnership considers that the current purpose of the existing 132 kV line may become redundant if the Norwich to Tilbury project is built. If this is the case then a method to secure the benefits for the removal of the 132 kV line should be considered, ideally as part of the Development Consent Order but if this is not possible by some other legal agreement. This could demonstrate meeting the obligations of section 85 of the Countryside and Rights Way Act (2000).</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion pending further review from the wider partnership.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
		the requirements of section 85(1) of the CROW Act, and are appropriate, reasonable and proportionate in accordance with NPS EN-1 (2024) and the Defra guidance.		
EIA – Assessment Conclusions				
3.2.16	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 13.7 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] . The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	Targeted consultation response (2025): <i>The National Landscape Partnership note that the revised proposals include a longer length of transmission line through the nationally designated landscape. It considers that whatever method of undergrounding that is used that this will cause a greater negative impact on the National Landscape due to increased construction area.</i> The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.	Agreed
3.2.17	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 13.7 of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] . The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that the National Landscape was satisfied this matter was addressed by the National Grid position and was considered agreed.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.2.18	Outline CoCP	<p>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-025] includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.</p> <p>7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-025] was originally shared with the National Landscape on the 3 April 2025 and then a further iteration on 19 May 2025. No comments received on the structure of the Outline CoCP at the time of writing.</p> <p>The Applicant awaits further correspondence and will continue to engage with the National Landscape on this matter.</p>	<p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23rd February and 6th May 2026 that this matter was still under discussion pending further review from the wider Partnership.</p>	Under discussion
3.2.19	Outline LEMP	<p>7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP3-030] includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226] and is appropriate.</p> <p>7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP3-030] was originally shared with the National Landscape on the 3 April 2025 and then a further iteration on 19 May 2025.</p>	<p>No comments received on the structure of the Outline LEMP at the time of writing.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23rd February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion pending further review from the wider Partnership.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.</p>	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	National Landscape's Position	Status
Other matters as required				
3.2.20	Landscape Setting Study	Feedback was reviewed with a number of comments taken on board and detailed in the Errata List [REP1-071] . Remaining points are subject to further clarification and engagement.	<p>Detailed feedback was received from the National Landscape on 11th October 2024. The comments related to where wording should be changed and removal of certain references within the document.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 23 February 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was still under discussion pending further review from the wider partnership and receipt of the Errata List following Deadline 1.</p> <p>The National Landscape confirmed in a meeting on the 06 May 2026 to discuss the Statement of Common Ground that this matter was Agreed.</p>	Agreed

4. Confirmation of Agreement

The above SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

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Date:

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Signed for and on behalf of Dedham Vale National Landscape & Stour Valley:

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Date:

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DCO	Development Consent Order
DLL	District Level Licensing
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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