

Submission ID: S5454B00D

Attached are comments made in response to Action Point 27 Colne Valley North:

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.4.12.2 Response to ISH2 Action Point 27 - Masterplans

Final Issue A

June 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

Action Point 27: Colne Valley (north Fordham) – Draft Opportunities Plan Comments

1. The draft plan presents a number of environmental enhancements which, on closer examination, are either existing habitats, existing management by third parties, or projects already being undertaken by others. As a result, the plan gives the impression of delivering environmental gain where little or no genuine additional enhancement is actually proposed.

Section 2.6.1 appears to undermine the credibility of the Draft Opportunities Plan, as it acknowledges that many of the proposed opportunities are on land owned or managed by third parties who have not agreed to these proposals. **The reality is they haven't proposed anything of genuine new enhancement to the environment.**

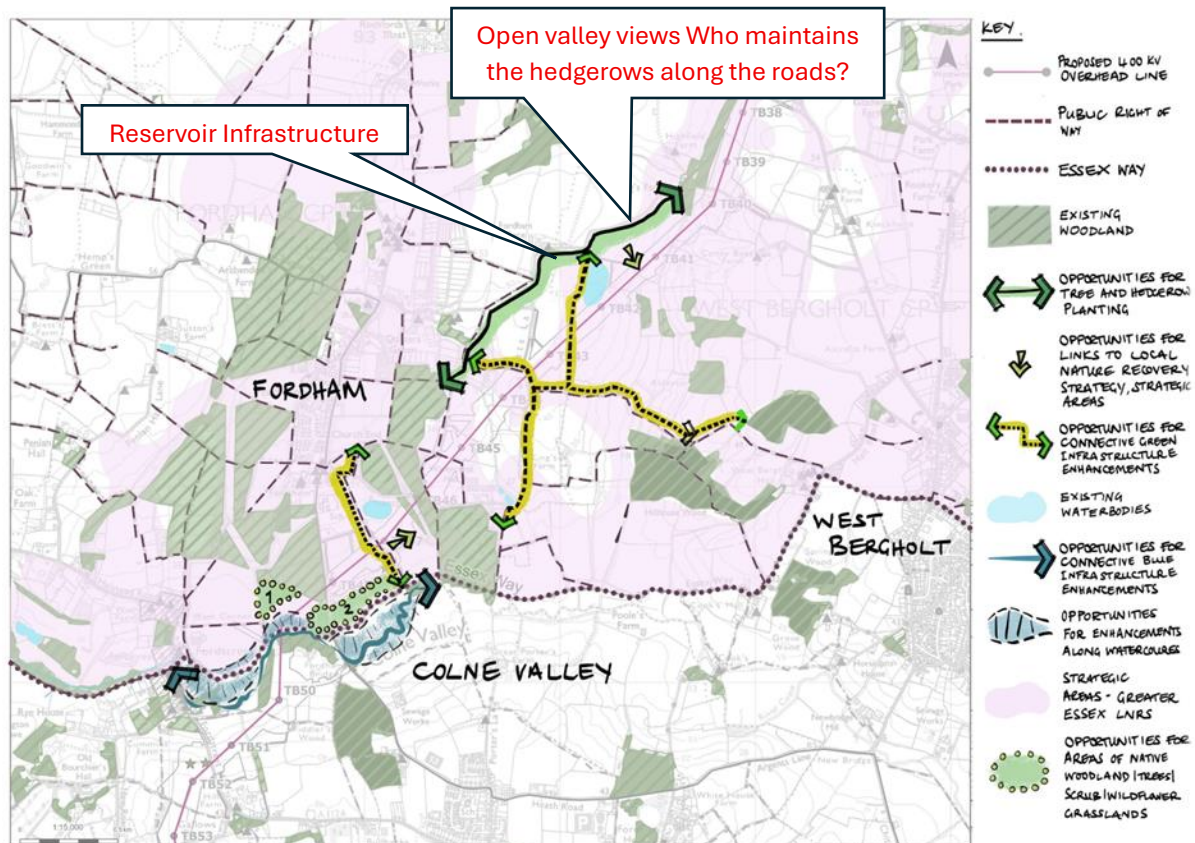
2.6 Deliverability Considerations

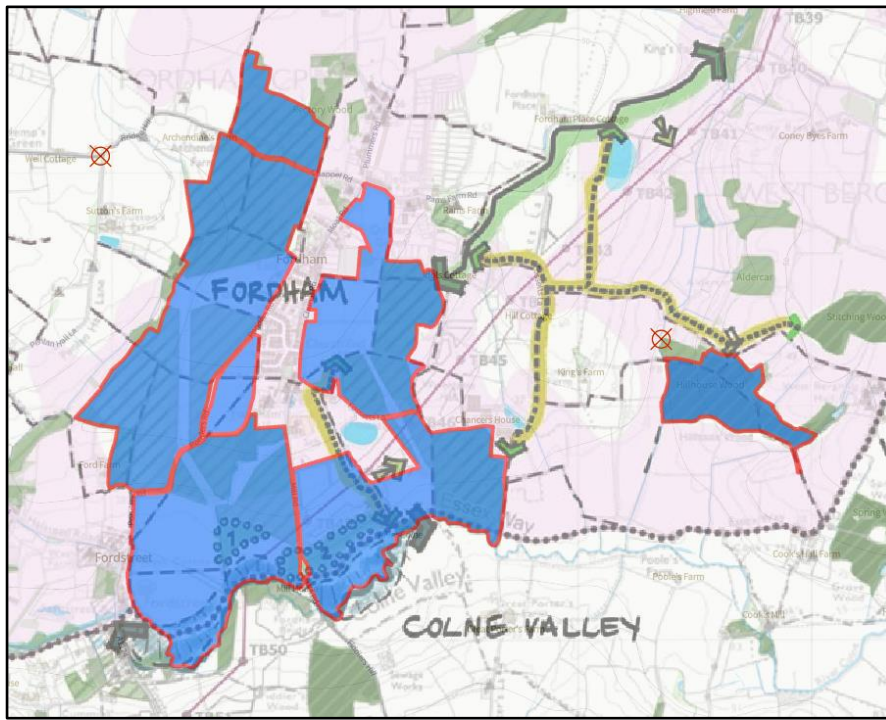
2.6.1 Much of what is being requested and shown indicatively on the draft opportunities plans falls outside of the Order Limits for the Project, and on land that is not within the Applicant's ownership or control. Delivery of such measures could not be assured without third party/landowner agreement. No discussions have yet been held with the relevant landowners, and no agreement has been reached to pursue compensation or enhancement measures between the Applicant and other parties. Any such schemes, if delivered, would need to be provided on a voluntary basis i.e. with landowner consent. If, contrary to the Applicant's submissions, any of the enhancement measures are considered by the Examining Authority to be necessary, further work would be required to determine the criteria and scope for the specific locations.

2. The map is such poor quality it is hard to read, even for those who know the area!
3. The map is misleading, it does not show the full extent of Woodland Trust land and, as such, makes it look like NG are proposing enhancements in areas not already being maintained by the WT.
4. Does the title 'Draft Opportunities Plan' indicate that a more detailed plan will be produced for consultation? The current plan is extremely vague and provides insufficient detail for meaningful consultation. Furthermore, does the repeated use of the term 'opportunities' indicate that these measures are merely potential options rather than firm commitments? If so, what criteria will National Grid apply in deciding whether these opportunities are actually delivered, and what guarantees are there that they will be implemented? For example, what is meant by 'Opportunity for links to LNRS strategic area' and 'Opportunities for connective blue infrastructure'?
5. The 'Opportunity for connective green infrastructure enhancements' areas shown on the map already have hedgerows so it's not an opportunity as it already exists.
6. Areas 1 and 2 detailed on map as 'Opportunities for areas of native woodland, trees, shrub, wildflower grassland' are already within and the Woodland Trust area of land and being managed by them in this way.
7. The flood plain area near to Fordham bridge marked as 'Opportunities for connective blue infrastructure' has already been developed, with scrapes, ponds, channels and lowering of riverbanks to reduce the risk for flooding and increase biodiversity through establishment of wetlands. The aim of the Woodland Trust is to achieve official designation.
8. The area marked as an 'Opportunity for tree and hedgerow planting' already has some hedgerow, but the remaining area is open that allows for travellers to enjoy the wonderful views

across the valley. Creating a hedge would further block the views that are already to be blighted by pylons and further change the character of this beautiful part of the village.

9. If NG plant hedgerows along roadsides, do they intend to maintain those hedgerows to prevent growth and obstruction onto the highways?
10. There needs to be communication with Fairfield Farms as hedgerow planting appears to occur in an area where they have laid pipes and sunk infrastructure which connects with the agricultural reservoir.
11. The plans do not identify where existing hedgerows and mature trees will be removed as part of pylon construction, nor do they make clear whether the proposed “opportunities” are intended simply to compensate for habitats that National Grid itself will destroy. If this is the intention, the plans should state this explicitly. Furthermore, the use of the word ‘restore’ is misleading. Once mature trees, established hedgerows and long-established habitats are removed, they cannot be restored within any meaningful timescale. Newly planted trees and hedgerows cannot replicate the ecological value, biodiversity, landscape character or visual screening provided by mature vegetation for many decades. Any proposals should therefore distinguish clearly between genuine restoration and replacement planting.





The full extent of Woodland Trust Land. The river enhancements are already in WT land and are something WT have already constructed!