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Norwich to Tilbury

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Consultation Milestone - Tracked Changes Version

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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

Appendix M1

LPA Adequacy of Consultation letter

<LOCAL AUTHORITY>

14 April 2025

Planning Inspectorate's Reference EN020027

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning Act 2008
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

I am writing to you regarding Norwich to Tilbury and the adequacy of the consultation carried out to date, as we prepare our application for development consent.

Once the application for development consent is submitted, the Planning Inspectorate will assess whether we have complied with the pre-application procedure. As part of this process, under section 55(4)(b) of the PA2008, the Inspectorate will ask local authorities to submit an Adequacy of Consultation Representation to assist in deciding whether to accept the application for examination.

At the pre-application stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning process, the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects guidance and The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-Application Prospectus introduced the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM).

The AoCM is a written submission to the Inspectorate to allow for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation carried out by the applicant at pre-application stage. The Guidance recommends the AoCM to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.

The Norwich to Tilbury AoCM will address the following aspects:

- the consultation undertaken to date;
- how the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been met; and
- the way in which the consultation responses are shaping the application.

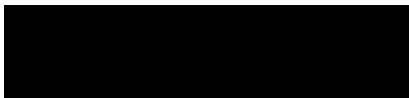
Both the Guidance and Prospectus state that the submission should also include, if available, the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities.

As you may recall, we consulted you on the draft SoCC in March 2024. The SoCC was then finalised and published in April 2024, having regard to the responses received. The table at the end of this letter sets out the commitments made in the SoCC and how we complied with them.

I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether your Council is satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) compliance table

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
1	3.1.1. National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the proposed Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have been engaged throughout the development of this Project, since the first staged non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and second in 2023. This was followed by the statutory consultation in 2024 and targeted consultations in 2025. After each round of consultation, National Grid analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work developed the Project design.
2	3.1.2. National Grid's approach to engagement in support of the proposed Project is to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation guided by the requirements of the Planning Act.	National Grid's approach to engagement contained both non-statutory and statutory consultations which were guided by the requirements of the Planning Act (PA) 2008: • Non-statutory 1: between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022. • Non-statutory 2: between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023. • Statutory: between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024. • Targeted (Norfolk and Suffolk): between 30 January 2025 and 3 March 2025 • Targeted (Essex and Thurrock): between 25 February 2025 and 27 March 2025 • Targeted statutory: between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025.
3	3.1.8. More information on both non-statutory consultations and how the feedback received at both non-statutory consultations helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report and the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report. These are available on the Project website.	The 2022 and 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Reports can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website Norwic https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library h to Tilbury Document library National Grid ET

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
4	<u>5.1.1.</u> The statutory consultation (under Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008) will run for 10 weeks.	The statutory consultation started on 12:00 noon on Wednesday 10 April 2024 and was scheduled until 11:59pm on Tuesday 18 June 2024, but the consultation period was extended for five weeks until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024 to give people additional time to have their say and provide feedback on our proposals after the General Elections. The consultation was open for a total of 15 weeks.
5	<u>5.2.2.</u> Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the proposed Project and will be provided during the statutory consultation, consistent with how the Project has previously been presented.	In the same way as previous consultations, the location plans were split into geographical sections. Sections were divided as follows: • Section A: South Norfolk • Section B: Mid Suffolk • Section C and D: Babergh, Tendring and Colchester • Section E: Braintree • Section F: Chelmsford • Section G: Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone) • Section H: Thurrock Copies of the consultation plans can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
6	<u>5.2.3.</u> National Grid will consult on all aspects of the proposed development for the Project, including: • Approximately 159 km of new 400 kV overhead line supported on approximately 510 steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) some of which are gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed CSE compounds, or existing or proposed substations; • Approximately 25 km of 400 kV underground cabling some of which is	The feedback questionnaire included questions about each section of the route and there was also space to comment generally about the Project and the consultation, such as '<i>Do you have any further comments on our proposals in this section?</i>'. The feedback questionnaire can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape (formerly known as Dedham Vale AONB); • Six new CSE compounds, each with a permanent access, to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables; • A new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node (“EACN”) substation, with a new permanent access, on the Tendring Peninsula. This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (“AIS”) substation; • Substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation to connect and support operation of the new transmission connection; • Temporary works associated with construction of the Project; and • An alternative design at the Waveney Valley (referred to as the Waveney Valley Alternative) is also being considered and is the subject of consultation and ongoing assessment. This design alternative, if taken forward, would result in changes to those elements of the Project set out below. This would instead comprise: – installation of approximately 157 km of new 400 kV overhead line; – installation of approximately 27 km of 400 kV underground cabling (some of which is located through	

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	the Dedham Vale National Landscape; and – eight new CSE compounds (each with a permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.	
7	<u>5.2.4.</u> The Project as currently proposed is an EIA development and therefore we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this statutory consultation in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.	The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was made available in the document library on the Project website. The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PIER was also available at the inspection points. A copy of the PEIR and the NTS can be found in the ‘Document Library’ section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
8	<u>5.3.1.</u> The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project, and National Grid will have regard to all consultation responses received by the relevant deadline.	National Grid have had regard all the consultation responses received from anyone who was interested in the Project by the relevant deadline. A summary of consultation responses will be presented in a Consultation Report at DCO submission. Consultation responses received at the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations can be found in the feedback reports in the ‘Document Library’ section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
9	<u>5.3.2.</u> Under Section 47 of the PA 2008, we have a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land, i.e., the local community. In consultation with the local authorities set out in Section 1.1.3 we have developed a PCZ for the distribution of our Community Newsletter, as shown in Appendix A.	National Grid consulted the local community living in the vicinity of the Project. More information of the consultees and methods used is noted below.
10	<u>5.3.3.</u> The PCZ includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km	The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) was established as a result of the feedback and environmental studies. The PCZ consisted of people and

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	of the proposed Project's Order Limits (representing the anticipated extent of land in which the proposed Project may take place). The zone has changed since the last round of consultation as a result of feedback and environmental studies as well as the inclusion of information such as construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction. This latest zone amounts to approximately 77,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods.	businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project's draft Order Limits, approximately 77,000 addresses.
11	5.3.4. An additional wider Secondary Consultation Zone ("SCZ") has been developed, comprising a 4 km buffer around the Order Limits, whereby wider publicity of the proposed Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix A.	The Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) was established to publicise the Project within 4 km of the Projects' draft Order Limits.
12	5.3.5. Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via methods outlined in Section 5.5.	The local community was notified about the consultation within the PCZ and SCZ using the following consultation methods as outlined in Section 5.5 of the SoCC: • Direct mailout of a community newsletter with Project information to residential and business addresses in PCZ. A second mailout of a postcard was issued to the PCZ on 6 June 2024 to advise of the extension to the consultation; • Press release shared with 24 local and regional newspapers in circulation in PCZ and SCZ; • Newspaper advertisements in 3 local and regional newspapers in circulation in PCZ and SCZ, published between 10 April 2024 & 18 April 2024. Newspaper adverts were republished between 12 June 2024 & 20 June 2024 to advise of the consultation extension;

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		• Social media advertisements targeting different demographics across Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) from 15 April 2024 – 26 April 2024. Social media adverts were republished on 2 July 2024 – 16 August 2024 to advise of the consultation extension; and • Statutory notices (Section 48 notice) were published in 5 newspapers on 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024, and were republished on 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 to advise of the consultation extension.
13	<u>5.3.6.</u> As well as properties and businesses within the PCZ, we will also consult with various groups and individuals including parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008.	The groups and individuals representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities were consulted within the PCZ and SCZ. The local authorities defined under Section 43 that were consulted include: • The Broads Authority (National Park) • London Borough of Bexley • Greater London Assembly • Breckland Council • London Borough of Havering • East Suffolk Council • London Borough of Redbridge • West Suffolk Council • Enfield London Borough Council • Norwich City Council • London Borough of Waltham Forest • The Broads Authority • Ebbsfleet Development Corporation • North Norfolk District Council • Epping Forest District Council • East Cambridgeshire District • South Cambridgeshire District • Ipswich Borough Council • Gravesham Borough Council • Medway Council • Great Yarmouth Borough Council • Maldon District Council • Southend on Sea Borough Council

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		• Rochford District Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Norwich City Council • Broadland District Council • Uttlesford District Council • King's Lynn and West Norfolk • Dartford Borough Council • South Norfolk and Broadland District Council • Chelmsford City Council • Mid Suffolk District Council • Thurrock Council • Babergh District Council • Brentwood Borough Council • Colchester City Council • Basildon Borough Council • Tendring District Council • Braintree District Council • Essex County Council • Suffolk County Council • Norfolk County Council • Cambridgeshire County Council • Hertfordshire County Council • Lincolnshire County Council • Kent County Council
14	5.3.7. In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and Section 43 of the Planning Act. We will also consult persons who fall within Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008.	Prescribed Consultees and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b), (d), Section 43 and Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 were identified and consulted. On 10 April 2024, National Grid sent a consultation letter to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees and Section 42(1)(b) consultees defined under Section 43, along with a copy of the community newsletter and Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 10 April 2024. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A letter

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees and Section 42(1)(b) consultees defined under Section 43 on 5 June 2024, along with a copy of the updated Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 5 June 2024. National Grid also consulted all persons identified under Section 44, being persons with a relevant interest in land (PILs) affected by the Project. A letter informing of the consultation was sent to Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 (consultees) during the week of 8 April 2024. A second letter detailing the extension was sent during the week of 19 June 2024.
15	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Project Background Document: This document will provide a summary of the proposed Project including: • The background to the Project; • Information about design changes as a result of the 2023 non-statutory consultation; • Information about potential benefits and impacts of the proposed Project; • How we might propose to mitigate any significant effects; • Signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request	The Project Background Document contained the following chapters: 1. The consultation 2. The need 3. Our proposals 4. Construction 5. Managing and mitigating effects 6. Other information 7. Next steps These chapters contained information to cover all bullet points listed in the SoCC. The Project Background Document can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The Project Background document was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • as a paper copy upon request (92 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); • at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table; and • at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table.

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances	No requests for alternative formats of the Project Background Document were made.
16	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Community Newsletter 2024: The newsletter will set out the proposed Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the proposed Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period. Target Audience: All residents and businesses with properties within the PCZ. The Community Newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. It will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	The Community Newsletter was produced to communicate the Project proposals, the background and how to get involved in consultation. The Community Newsletter 2024 can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The Community Newsletter was posted to all properties within the PCZ. The Community Newsletter was also available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (27 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table; and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. No requests for alternative formats of the Community Newsletter were made.
17	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR): The PEIR will contain a description of the proposed Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project	The PEIR was produced for the statutory consultation and contained information to cover all items listed in the SoCC. A non-technical summary (NTS) was also produced. The PEIR and NTS were available: to download in the document library of the Project website;

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the benefits of the proposed Project. A non-technical summary (“NTS”) of the PEIR will also be made available. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The PEIR will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. The NTS will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request (subject to availability), at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	- as a paper copy upon request (24 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period, including two full sets of the PEIR); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table; and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. No requests for alternative formats of the PEIR or NTS were made.
18	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> 2024 Design Development Report An in-depth technical document detailing the work we have undertaken to date, focusing on the work since the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.	The 2024 Design Development Report can be found in the ‘Document Library’ section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The 2024 Design Development Report was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at public information events listed Item 33 of this table; and - as a paper copy upon request (19 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	Paper copies of the Design Development Report 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	
19	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> 2024 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	A 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review Document was produced as a technical report providing an overview description of the options that National Grid has identified and subsequently evaluated for reinforcement of the network in the East Anglian region. A copy of the document can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review Document was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table; and • as a paper copy upon request (19 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
20	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report: Summarising the feedback, we received during the 2023 non-statutory consultation and how it has been considered. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail).	The 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report summarises the feedback National Grid received during the 2023 consultation, and it how has been considered. The 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The 2024 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website;

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	This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	- at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table and - as a paper copy upon request (four requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
21	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Project maps / Project area maps A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the proposed Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy at public information events.	The Project maps were available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table; and - as a paper copy upon request (82 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
22	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Consultation banners A series of exhibition banners with information relating to the proposed Project that will be used at the public information events. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.	The consultation banners were available: - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table; and - to download in the document library of the Project website.
23	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Interactive Project map An interactive map of the proposed Project.	The interactive map was available: - on the Project website; and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table.

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The interactive Project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.	
24	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Consultation notices: We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 48 of the PA 2008. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy on request.	The consultation notices were provided to the statutory consultees and the evidence of these notices can be found in can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The consultation notices were also available: - on the Project website; and - as a paper copy upon request (no requests were made during the consultation period).
25	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> SoCC The SoCC sets out how National Grid intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The SoCC will be published on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events.	The SoCC can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The SoCC was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (two requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. The Section 47 notice of SoCC was published in the following local newspapers: - East Anglia Daily Times – 10 April 2024 - Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024 - London Gazette – 10 April 2024

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	As required under Section 47 of the Planning Act, notice of the SoCC will also be published in local newspapers.	- The Guardian – (an incorrect version was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024) - Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024 The Section 47 notice can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
26	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Feedback questionnaire An online and paper feedback questionnaire to gather responses to the statutory consultation. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The feedback questionnaire will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T)	The feedback questionnaire can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The feedback questionnaire was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (286 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. The Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T was available for the duration of consultation to receive hard-copy feedback.
27	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans A guide outlining the consultation maps and plans, and how to use them. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be available on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at public information events.	A Guide to Interacting with Our Consultation Plans was produced to provide guidance on interacting with the latest consultation plans during the statutory consultation. The Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plan can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (no requests were made during the consultation period); and

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table.
28	5.4.2. National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in Table 5.1 in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	Document copies were available in alternative format upon request, no requests were made.
29	5.4.3. All consultation materials will also be available on the Project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements.	The Project website contained all the consultation materials for statutory consultation and Project materials relating to previous consultations.
30	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Project website All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation period. We will provide the following local authorities with a link to all the consultation documents: - Norfolk County Council; - Suffolk County Council; - Essex County Council; - Thurrock Council; - South Norfolk District Council; - Mid Suffolk District Council; - Babergh District Council; - Tendring District Council; - Colchester City Council; - Braintree District Council; - Chelmsford City Council;	The Project website contained the following digital materials. More information can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library - Project background document 2024; - Community newsletter 2024; - Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and non-technical summary (NTS); 2024 Design Development Report; 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review; 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report; - Project maps; - Consultation banners; - Consultation notices; - SoCC; - Feedback questionnaire; and - Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans. The Project website link was provided to the local authorities as described. Hard copy requests fulfilled include:

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	- Brentwood Borough Council; and - Basildon Borough Council. Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	- Project background documents – 92; - Feedback questionnaires – 286; - Strategic Options Backcheck and Review – 19; - Design Development Report – 19; - Community newsletter – 27; 2023 consultation documents – four; - Response to ESO Report – two; - PEIR documents – 24 – (including two requests for full printed copies of PEIR); - Statement of Community Consultation – two; and - Map requests– 82.
31	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Inspection points While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure the Community Newsletter, Project Background Document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire are available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period. - Long Stratton Library: The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ; - Norwich Library: Unit 3, The Forum Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW; - Tuckswood Library: Robin Hood Road, Eaton, NR4 6BX; - Diss Library: Church Street, Diss, IP22 4DD;	The Project information, the Project background document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire, was also available to view in multiple inspection points accessible for the public. The documents were available to view at 14 inspection points throughout the consultation period, outlined below: - Long Stratton Library - Norwich Library - Tuckswood Library - Diss Library - Capel St Mary Library - Coggeshall Library - Chelmsford Central Library - Colchester Library - Tilbury Library - Greenstead Library - Stanway Library - Prettygate Library - Wivenhoe Library

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	- Stowmarket Library: Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX; - Capel St Mary Library: Village Hall, The Street, Capel St. Mary IP9 2EF; - Coggeshall Library: The Friends Meeting House, Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH; - Chelmsford Central Library: Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH; - Colchester Library: Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB; - Tilbury Library: Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD; - Greenstead Library: Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE; - Stanway Library: 10, Villa Road, Stanway CO3 0RH; - Prettygate Library: Prettygate Road, Colchester CO3 4EQ; and - Wivenhoe Library: 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB. Prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked. We will check that consultation documentation remains at the inspection points throughout the consultation period. We will also try to use local websites to act as public inspection points, by requesting they host a link to the Project website. These may include the following: - local authority websites - local library websites	In addition to the 14 inspection points outlined in the SoCC, the Project team made the documents available in an additional 11 other locations. This decision was made in response to requests from the public and stakeholders. The 11 other locations are outlined below: - Manningtree Library - Basildon Library - Hatfield Peverel Library - Witham Library - Brentwood Library - Brentwood Town Council - Chadwell Library - Ingatestone Library - Writtle Library - Ipswich Library - East Tilbury Hub and Library On 9 May 2024, contact was made with all the inspection points to ensure that stock levels of consultation documents were appropriate. The following requests were fulfilled by delivering additional consultation materials to the inspection points: - Stowmarket Library – 10 feedback questionnaires, 10 foldable maps, 10 community newsletters; - Chelmsford Central Library – six feedback questionnaires, six foldable maps, six community newsletters; - Ipswich Library – a full library consultation document pack; and - Brentwood Library – five community newsletters.

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	- parish websites - MP websites	
32	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Document requests: Following the launch of the statutory consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request, free of charge will be: - Community Newsletter; - Project Background Document; - Feedback questionnaire; - NTS of the PEIR. Requests for paper copies of the technical documents forming the PEIR will be reviewed on a case by-case basis; and - SoCC. Paper copies of other consultation documents will also be available on request. To cover	Hard copy documents were available on request. All requests for posted documents were fulfilled, however, no requests that involved a printing charge were made during consultation period. Hard copy requests fulfilled include: - Project background documents – 92; - Feedback questionnaires – 286; - Strategic Options Backcheck and Review – 19; - Design Development Report – 19; - Community newsletter – 27; 2023 consultation documents – four; - Response to ESO Report – two; - PEIR documents – 24 – (including two requests for full printed copies of PEIR); - Statement of Community Consultation – two; and - Map requests– 82.

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	printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents. Requests can be made by contacting us using the details provided in Section 6.1. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents on a case by case basis.	
33	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Public information events: Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review at the public information events. More detail on the public events is available in Section 5.6.	Consultation documents were made available at the following public information events: • Wednesday 24 April, 12pm-5pm: Towngate Theatre, Basildon. • Thursday 25 April, 2pm-7pm: The Brentwood Centre, Brentwood. • Saturday 27 April, 11am-4pm: Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford. • Tuesday 30 April, 12pm-5pm: Gislingham Village Hall, Gislingham. • Wednesday 1 May, 11am-4pm: Copdock Village Hall, Copdock. • Friday 3 May, 1pm-6pm: Needham Market Community Centre, Ipswich. • Saturday 4 May, 11am-4pm: Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Manningtree. • Wednesday 8 May, 2pm-7pm: The Civic Hall, Grays. • Thursday 9 May, 1pm-6pm: Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe. • Friday 10 May, 1pm-6pm: Tibenham Community Hall, Norwich. • Tuesday 14 May, 11am-4pm: Witham Public Hall, Witham. • Wednesday 15 May, 1pm-6pm: Diss Town Football Club, Diss. • Thursday 16 May, 2pm-7pm: Langham Community Centre, Colchester. • Friday 17 May, 1pm-6pm: Great Bromley Village Hall, Colchester.
34	<u>5.5.1.</u> Residents, local businesses and community organisations within the PCZ will be notified of the start of the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community Newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 above. A	National Grid notified residents, local businesses and community organisations within PCZ through a community newsletter, and a copy of the community Newsletter can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library

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	map showing the PCZ (approximately 77,000 addresses) can be found in Appendix A	A postcard was also issued to the PCZ on 6 June 2024 which provided details about the extension to the consultation (described in Section Error! Reference source not found.). A copy of the postcard can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
35	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list is likely to include the following media: • BBC Look East; • BBC Radio Essex; • BBC Radio Norfolk; • BBC Radio Suffolk; • Basildon Standard; • Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo; • Braintree and Witham Times; • Brentwood Gazette; • Brentwood Live; • Brentwood Weekly News; • Bury Free Press; • Bury Mercury; • Chelmsford Weekly News; • Dereham Times; • Diss Express; • Diss Mercury; • Dunmow Broadcast;	A press release publicising the consultation was issued to: • ITV Anglia; • BBC Look East; • BBC Radio Suffolk; • BBC Radio Norfolk; • BBC Radio Essex; • BBC Politics East; • Colchester Gazette; • Eastern Daily Press; • East Anglican Daily Times; • Ipswich Star; and • Suffolk News. The press release was issued under embargo for launch date.

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	• East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; • Essex Chronicle; • Essex Focus; • Essex Live; and • Thurrock Advertiser. The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and the SCZ, as well as further afield.	
36	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Newspaper advertisements: Two rounds of newspaper advertisements will be undertaken during the consultation. Advertisements will provide details of the consultation, where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the engagement activities. Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ. We will place adverts in the following titles: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle.	Two rounds of full-page newspaper adverts were placed between 10 and 18 April 2024. The adverts were placed in the following newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle. Two rounds of half-page newspaper adverts which provided details about the extension to the consultation due to the General Election were placed in the same newspapers between 12 and 20 June 2024.
37	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Emails and letters: We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:	National Grid sent emails and distributed letters that included information about the consultation and how to get involved. These were sent to MPs within PCZ and SCZ, and elected representatives within PCZ. National Grid also sent notification emails to those who had registered for email updates. Each notification email was sent to approximately 2,641 email addresses.

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	• MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; • Elected representatives within the PCZ at: – Norfolk County Council; – Suffolk County Council; – Essex County Council; – Thurrock Council; – South Norfolk District Council; – Mid Suffolk District Council; – Babergh District Council; – Tendring District Council; – Colchester City Council; – Braintree District Council; – Chelmsford City Council; – Brentwood Borough Council; – Basildon Borough Council; and – Parish Councils within the PCZ.	A copy of emails and letters will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Statutory notices • We will publish statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers; and We will publicise the consultation – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers.	The initial Section 48 notice was published twice in three local newspapers with a circulation area within PCZ and SCZ: • East Anglican Daily Times: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; • Eastern Daily Press: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; and • Essex Chronicle: 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024. The initial Section 48 notice was also published in a national newspaper and the London Gazette: • London Gazette: 10 April 2024 • Guardian: an incorrect version of the Section 48 notice was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024.

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		The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024. The Section 47 notice was published in three local newspapers between 10 and 17 April 2024: • East Anglia Daily Times, 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; • Eastern Daily Press: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024. • Essex Chronicle: 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024. The consultation extension was republished in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 and 30 June 2024. Evidence of the publication of the Section 47 and Section 48 notices in newspapers will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
38	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Information posters: Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be sent to each parish council within the PCZ.	National Grid produced a poster that included information about the Project and details of the consultation and how to get involved. These posters were sent to each parish council within PCZ. The information poster will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
39	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Social media We will promote the consultation on National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook account, @NationalGridUK. We will also develop a social media guide for local authorities to use on their social media channels. This guide will include links for the Project website. We are unable to accept feedback through social media channels, however, we will monitor comments or questions we receive through our owned channels and respond	Social media adverts were placed to promote the consultation. These media adverts included links to the Project website. More information about social media posts will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission. A social media guide was developed that contained key consultation information and links to the Project website. This guide was shared with the Local Planning Authorities on the 9 April 2024 and will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission. No feedback was captured and considered within social media channels.

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	where practicable. We will aim to point people towards sources of information, including the Project website, the interactive Project map and to formal feedback channels.	
40	<u>5.6.1.</u> Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.	The Project information posters and feedback questionnaires were available in the public information events. Representatives of the Project team attended these events to talk and respond any query from the public. The list of the public information events can be found in Item 33 of this table.
41	<u>5.6.2.</u> Details of where and when the public information events will be held will be published on the Project website and in the Community Newsletter sent to all properties within the PCZ and available at inspection points.	The information about the public events were published on the Project website and was shared in the Community Newsletter.
42	<u>5.6.3.</u> The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and at least one will be held on a weekend, where feasible.	The public information events were arranged to be held during afternoons, early evenings and one in the weekend, to give the consultees the opportunity to attend the events. More information of the public information events can be found in Item 33 of this table.
43	<u>5.6.4.</u> Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each event. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.	A paper copy of the consultation materials was available in the public information events.
44	<u>5.6.5.</u> Those attending the public information events will be encouraged to provide their feedback via the online or paper feedback questionnaire on the proposals.	Hard copies of the feedback questionnaire were available at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. The Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T was available for the duration of consultation to receive hard-copy feedback. Details about the Project website were also available on all consultation materials at the public information events.
45	<u>5.6.6.</u> Should any events (in person or webinars) need to be altered or cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation	The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and five of the webinars were re-arranged.

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	would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authority(ies)	We contacted the LPA officers to discuss our approach before making the decision to move the dates of the webinars. On the 28 May 2024, an email notification was sent to approximately 150 members of the public who had signed up for the webinars to advise they would be re-scheduled. On the 3 June 2024, a follow-up email notification was sent to the same 150 members of the public with the new confirmed dates. Further details of the webinars can be found in Item 46 of this table.
46	<u>5.7.1.</u> We will try to hold six webinars during the consultation period. We will run two general overview webinars and four that are section specific. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1.	Six webinars were held and 209 people attended, further detailed information will be provided in the Consultation Report at DCO submission. Due to General Elections, five webinars were rescheduled to allow time for the public to attend. These webinars were scheduled to the following dates: • Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One; • Wednesday 10 July, 6pm-7pm: Section A and B South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk; • Thursday 11 July, 6pm-7pm: Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester; • Tuesday 16 July, 6pm-7pm: Section E and F – Braintree and Chelmsford; • Wednesday 17 July, 6pm-7pm: Section G and H Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock; and • Thursday 18 July, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview Two.
47	<u>5.7.2.</u> The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team.	The webinars gave the opportunity for the public to ask questions about the Project.
48	<u>5.7.3.</u> National Grid will endeavour to make British Sign Language interpretation available for one of the general overview webinars which will be recorded and published on the Project website.	National Grid made available British Sign Language interpretation for the following webinar: • Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One

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49	<u>5.8.1.</u> National Grid will offer briefings and / or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation: • MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; • Elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ; • Parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ; • Local authorities, including neighbouring authorities; • Key prescribed consultees, such as National Landscapes (formerly known as AONB) conservation boards; and Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008.	The proposed briefings and meetings took place with the stakeholders described. Briefings were arranged with 13 councils prior and during the consultation period. As the General Election took place during the consultation period, briefings were given to former and new (newly elected and re-elected) MPs. Briefings took place with local Boroughs, including Basildon Borough and Brentwood Borough.
50	<u>5.8.2.</u> National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.	There were no additional requests for meetings with organisations or individuals that were different to those listed in paragraph 5.8.1
51	<u>5.9.1.</u> National Grid wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason	Engagement and consultation were inclusive, ensuring the hard to reach and seldom heard groups were reached by utilising different engagement methods listed in Table 5.4 of the SoCC. More details about how National Grid reached seldom heard groups will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
52	<u>5.9.2.</u> To allow people to engage with the proposed Project and the consultation at their own convenience, we have taken a 'digital first' approach to consultation. This allows individuals and groups to take part even if they cannot make an event. The online webinar and	The public were able to sign up to an online webinar and see the Project website as part of the 'online approach'. The feedback questionnaire was also available online for the public to provide feedback and ask questions by contacting National Grid contact details.

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	Project website is open and accessible to anyone to attend and ask questions of the Project team. Information will be available on the website and people are encouraged to submit feedback using the online feedback questionnaire. Those engaging with the Project can also ask questions and find out more by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1.	
53	<u>5.9.3.</u> For those less able or less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed consultation 'in person' aspects to be as accessible as possible, with the focus on ensuring events are accessible and held over several days in different locations to encourage attendance. We will also seek to ensure there is adequate parking and venues are accessible via public transport.	The Project team offered an 'in-person' approach for those members of the public that preferred this format, ensuring the events were accessible and held over different days and times to ensure attendance. Full details of in-person events can be found in Item 33 of this table.
54	<u>5.9.4.</u> Inspection points have also been identified based on their accessibility and availability for people wanting to access Project information.	Inspection points were identified based on accessibility and availability to the public. More information on the inspection points can be found in Item 31 of this table.
55	<u>5.9.5.</u> We also recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulty taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. These organisations will be written to, via email, at the start of consultation. Requests for specific additional consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.	National Grid identified and engaged with several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. Section 5.9.7 of the SoCC included Table 5.4 which detailed how the Project would engage with hard to reach or seldom heard groups. On 10 April 2024 a consultation letter was attached to an email sent to all identified organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. The letter provided details about the consultation, Project, and how to respond. A copy of the letter will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
56	<u>5.9.6.</u> On request, we will also consider providing materials in alternative formats. We	National Grid provided materials in alternative format if requested. All feedback received through writing via email, post or online feedback questionnaire.

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	will endeavour to provide British Sign Language signing at one of our webinars.	A BSL interpreter attended the webinar on Wednesday 17 April.
57	<u>5.9.7.</u> Table 5.4 sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.	National Grid identified and engaged with several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups as set out in Table 5.4 of the SoCC. More information will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
58	<u>6.1.1.</u> People will be able to submit their feedback in the following ways: • Completing the feedback questionnaire online via the Project website: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury; • Providing feedback by email (contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com) or in writing (FREEPOST N TO T); • Completing a paper feedback questionnaire, which can be provided on request, at one of the designated inspection points, or completed in person at the face-to-face events; and The questionnaire can be returned free-of-charge using the Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).	National Grid made available different options to submit consultation responses. These were online, by email, by post, or at inspection points and they were available throughout the consultation period.
59	<u>6.1.2.</u> Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.	No social media feedback has been recorded as a formal consultation response.
60	<u>6.1.3.</u> Responses given orally, such as via telephone or in a meeting, may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.	Conversations held over the phone or in meetings directed people to submit consultation responses online, by email, by post, or at inspection points. No oral feedback has been recorded as a formal consultation response as there were no requests for this to be done.
61	<u>6.1.5.</u> All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning	National Grid are legally obligated to use personal information in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK

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	the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) .	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, see the full data privacy statement: nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy. Any personal information included in the feedback questionnaire will be handled, made available or used by the following recipients to record, analyse, and report on the feedback received: • National Grid; • The Planning Inspectorate (which will administer our application for consent to build the Project – any details published as part of this process will be anonymised); • The Secretary of State (who will take the decision on our application); • Our legal advisers; and • Consultants working on the Project.
62	<u>6.1.6.</u> More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the consultation feedback questionnaire and on the Project website during the consultation period.	National Grid included in the feedback questionnaire the purposes of how the data will collected be used. The purposes included: • <i>'To analyse your feedback to the consultation;</i> • <i>To produce a Consultation Feedback Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in that report.);</i> • <i>To write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments if you have provided consent for us to do so; and</i> <i>To keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.'</i>
63	<u>6.2.1.</u> Following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where appropriate, refined in light of feedback.	After the consultation closed, all feedback was analysed, and themes will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO submission. Responses will be thematically presented within this report with National Grid's response to those matters raised as well as changes made to the Project further to feedback received. Consultation responses received at the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations were analysed and themes were presented in the relevant consultation feedback reports, which can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-

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		transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
64	6.2.2. The proposed DCO application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act.	The Consultation Report at DCO submission will demonstrate the requirement to have regard to consultation responses (Section 49).
65	6.2.3. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for a DCO, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for a DCO.	The Consultation Report will be produced as required by Section 37 (3)(c) of the PA 2008. This report will comprise of a summary of the consultation process undertaken and how the feedback has shaped the proposals submitted within the application for a DCO.
66	6.2.4. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.	National Grid are legally obligated to use personal information in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, see the full data privacy statement: nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy . All responses will be fully redacted to ensure confidentiality of addresses and contact details.
67	6.2.5. Upon receipt of an application for a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.	Local authorities are being invited for comment through this letter as per new adequacy of consultation milestone guidance published in August 2024.
68	6.2.6. The Consultation Report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for a DCO has been accepted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and may be	The Consultation Report will be available at DCO submission on Planning Inspectorate website, as well as in the Project website. Paper copies of the report will be available upon request. For more information, including printing and postage fees, please contact the Project team at:

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	subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	• 0800 915 2497; • FREEPOST N TO T; and • contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
69	6.3.1. If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.	A period of targeted statutory consultation is scheduled to take place between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025. The targeted consultation will be conducted in accordance with the principles of the PA 2008 and in line with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.
70	<u>Contact us</u> If you would like to contact the Community Relations team, please get in touch via: 0800 915 2497 FREEPOST N TO T contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury	National Grid made available the following options to submit the consultation response: telephone, post, email address and website for the consultation. The Project team were monitoring the phone calls and emails throughout the consultation period.

Appendix M2

Feedback from LPA Adequacy
of Consultation Milestone letter

Subject: RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 14/04/2025, 17:00:10
From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted]

Apologies for the oversight - 5 May is a Bank Holiday! Appreciate any feedback by 6 May but do let us know if you require more time.

Thanks,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:36
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

Dear [Redacted]

I hope you’re well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC. While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague Bart (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
[Redacted]

Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid

[Redacted]

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

Appendix M2.1

Feedback from Basildon Borough Council

Date: 6 May 2025
Department: Planning Strategy & Implementation Team
Tel. No: 01268 533333 (Option 5)
E-mail: planningpolicy@basildon.gov.uk

Sent via email to:



Dear



RE: ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Thank you for providing Basildon Borough Council with the opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process for the Norwich to Tilbury scheme to date. This response should be viewed alongside the submission from ECC and other host local authorities for the project.

To the best of the Council's knowledge, it is believed that National Grid has correctly identified the parties to be consulted, has complied with their duty to consult all relevant parties and carried out consultation events in line with its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

However, the Council does have some observations on the process, as set out below.

The Council had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April 2025, which gave 21 days to issue a response on the adequacy of consultation. Although this was useful in terms of assessing compliance with commitments in the SoCC, it is considered that this does not comprehensively reflect the actions carried out in connection with the targeted consultation exercises in the first quarter of 2025.

The Council understands that formal stakeholder responses to the 2024 statutory consultation were appraised, and that these subsequently informed the range of localised changes proposed to the scheme's design. In turn, those proposed changes were then subject to a round of consultation (the various targeted localised consultations) in early 2025.

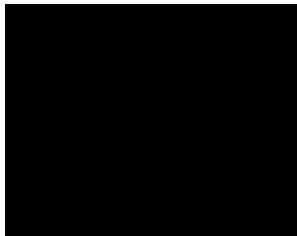
This is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and to the design evolution of the project. Although the changes proposed through the targeted consultation within Basildon borough were relatively minor and raised no concerns, this may not be the case elsewhere on the route.

The Council understands that, in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on during the targeted consultation periods, there are other changes to the scheme design which were not included in the process, and, subsequently, were not subject to consultation. The Council understands this is because, in National Grid's view, some of these changes were considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development. However, any concentration of non-material changes can be aggregated to have a bearing on their materiality, and how these would be experienced by residents of the area.

Transparency is important in the planning process, and National Grid must acknowledge the importance of feedback from residents and community representatives to ensure that the final proposal is the most appropriate. As such, all stakeholders must be provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties and assets, or their general business operations where this is relevant.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Basildon Borough Council

Appendix M2.2

Feedback from Braintree District Council

Our ref: 24/70021/PPA
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
Ask for: [REDACTED]
Date: 05/06/2025

[REDACTED]
National Grid
By email to [REDACTED]

Development Management
Causeway House, Braintree,
Essex, CM7 9HB
Tel: 01376 557779
Email: planning@braintree.gov.uk

PURPOSE OF LETTER: The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) regarding the Norwich to Tilbury electricity network reinforcement project.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Braintree District Council (BDC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

1. Purpose of The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)

- 1.1. The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk at the acceptance stage, of the application progressing to examination. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.
- 1.2. Consultation with the public and other key stakeholders is not only a statutory requirement but is also fundamental to securing public confidence in the process. It is therefore important that as a minimum, consultation is conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 1.3. In providing this response, we have had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April and although useful in terms of assessing compliance with commitments in the SoCC, it is considered it fails to comprehensively reflect what actions have been carried out in connection with the targeted consultation undertaken earlier this year. This is set out in more detail within this response.

2. Summary of Pre-Application Consultation

- 2.1. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which BDC has responded as part of its ongoing engagement with ECC and local residents and stakeholders.
 - i. Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.

- ii. Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- iii. Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26 July 2024).
- iv. Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26 July 2024).
- v. Targeted Consultation for Essex – held between Tuesday 25 February until Thursday 27 March 2025.

3. Statutory Requirements

- 3.1. BDC's comments are centred around the pre-application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives BDC's opinion as to whether National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

4. Section 42 – Duty to Consult

- 4.1. Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- a) *such persons as may be prescribed,*
 - a. *the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- b) *each local authority that is within section 43,*
- c) *the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- d) *each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to 'such persons as may be prescribed'. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

- 4.2. BDC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of BDC's knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.

5. Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

- 5.1. Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

- 1. The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.
- 2. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

3. The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.
4. In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).
5. In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).
6. Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—
 - (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,
 - (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and
 - (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.
7. The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.

- a. Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

- 5.2. The statutory consultation was subsequently held between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024 with the targeted consultation for Essex taking place between 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025.
- 5.3. BDC 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.
- 5.4. It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended to acknowledge the general election held on 4 July. This extension was welcomed by BDC.

6. Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

- 6.1. Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.
 1. The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.
 2. Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.
- 6.2. BDC 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. BDC therefore considers NGET has to the best of our knowledge and subject to the review of Consultation Report, complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the Planning Act 2008.

7. Position regarding Statutory Requirements

- 7.1. Taking the above comments into account and subject to the review of the Consultation Report, it is BDC's current opinion that NGET has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 7.2. While BDC recognises the challenges a project of this scale and complexity presents, and notwithstanding our current opinion of the minimum statutory tests being complied with, there are several observations on the consultation process and how it could be enhanced which we have set out below. These comments have been provided in the interest of ensuring that consultation on this NSIP is carried out effectively and positively, allowing communities and stakeholders to fully engage, and have their comments properly recorded and considered in a transparent process of design iteration.

8. Observations on Consultation (to date)

Consultation Feedback

- 8.1. Unfortunately, unlike for the non-statutory consultation, no feedback has been published in response to the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. Moreover, it is understood that responses from this statutory consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the targeted consultation. However, without sight of any feedback on the issues raised by the public/stakeholders in their responses, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind or the merits of the changes proposed, when compared to those issues also raised by residents/stakeholders that it was felt did not warrant any change to the scheme and therefore, were not addressed.
- 8.2. It is considered this is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and design evolution of the Project. BDC would encourage NGET to be more transparent in their publication of feedback drawing upon best practice examples on how to effectively communicate this at pre-application stage in a clear and transparent way, possibly making greater use of the community newsletter and project updates.
- 8.3. BDC would also welcome early sight of the draft consultation report so we can understand better the matters which have been raised and work collaboratively to address issues where we can.

Targeted Consultation

- 8.4. As per our Targeted Consultation response (dated 27 March 2025), BDC understands that in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on through the targeted consultation, there are other changes to the scheme design that were not included in this process. It is understood this is because some are considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development as experienced by residents.
- 8.5. The importance of feedback from residents and community representatives in developing the most appropriate proposal is clearly recognised, and it is therefore important that residents are provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties.
- 8.6. While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, BDC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them their significance may be greater,

and they should therefore have been given an opportunity to comment on them. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents.

- 8.7. BDC is also concerned about the impact on confidence in the process if residents subsequently identify these changes and raise concerns about their effects. It would also refer to Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which highlights the importance of transparency in the process and emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process".
- 8.8. Officers have previously and repeatedly, requested a list of these non-material changes, and it is extremely disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those currently being consulted on.
- 8.9. Overall, it is considered this decision could mean it is difficult for stakeholders to fully comprehend the impacts of the scheme at particular locations.

Bespoke Consultation Zones

- 8.10. In our response to the draft SoCC provided by NGET in respect of the targeted consultation, it was noted that only those in the consultation zones would receive direct notifications. BDC highlighted the importance of community engagement around these proposed changes and the likely negative perception of the wider stakeholder group should specific re-consultation be carried out. While it is acknowledged that notification of changes for some areas was published in the community newsletter, this in BDC's opinion didn't go far enough to address the likely negative perception issues (as above).

9. Comments in respect of ES

- 9.1. BDC recognises that this is a large and complex project and welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. However, it is felt that progress on the SoCG is being hampered by the lack of available detailed information to enable matters to be agreed early in the process. This makes it difficult for BDC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the project at this time.
- 9.2. BDC remains committed to front loading the resolution of issues through the pre-application phase and this situation is likely to create additional pressures at examination. This is compounded by the focus on progressing towards a fixed submission date for the DCO which is likely to impact on the time available to consider options and comments received. Additional time for the public to comment on the targeted consultation (an increase from 4 weeks to 6 weeks) was also requested in BDC's response to the draft SOCC but not agreed.
- 9.3. It is important to note that there is no suggestion of any intent by NGET to delay providing information or deliberately make understanding the full extent of the scheme's impacts difficult, but to achieve a good understanding of the scheme and its impacts requires a substantial amount of work and resources including time. It is therefore important that parties continue to work together, and that proportionate time is made available to consider and respond to the information as it is made available.
- 9.4. BDC remains hopeful that many of these outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with NGET informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

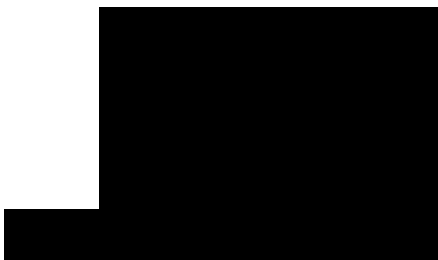
10. Scheme Revisions

- 10.1. As would be expected for a scheme of this scale and complexity, there are numerous examples where changes have been made to the proposed scheme since the first non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022. The fact that changes have been made as a result of consultation is of course welcomed, and BDC supports many of the changes made. We do consider however that in many cases the changes proposed do not go far enough to address the issue in question, especially across Essex more generally. Moreover, we believe that predominantly, the changes made are relatively minor in nature and to date there has not been agreement to any of the more substantive changes that have been requested by BDC and other stakeholders.
- 10.2. There remains a concern therefore that NGET have not addressed legitimate concerns held by BDC and other stakeholders on aspects of the scheme that are most in need of change whether it be because of cost or impact on programme and have not weighted the effect on new developments and communities sufficiently. It follows that if the DCO application is accepted, BDC intend to support other stakeholders to continue making representations to NGET and if necessary to the examination on changes necessary to make the scheme acceptable locally.

11. Summary & Conclusion

- 11.1. With reference to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, BDC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 11.2. BDC welcomes and appreciates the consultation and level of engagement to date and looks forward to this positive relationship continuing. It is though considered that the project is being progressed to the extent that some of the potential changes which could have significant and obvious benefit have not been fully considered. As a result, whilst BDC and other stakeholders are working closely with NGET to develop the Statements of Common Ground, many issues remain.
- 11.3. For these reasons we believe it will be particularly important for NGET to continue meaningful engagement with stakeholders over the coming months in an effort to resolve as many of the outstanding issues as possible prior to the submission of the DCO.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

Appendix M2.3

Feedback from Brentwood Borough Council

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

BBC is of the understanding that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) allows early assessment of whether the applicant's consultation efforts meet the required standards, reducing the risk of delays at the application acceptance stage. It helps the Planning Inspectorate determine if the consultation was appropriate for the project's complexity.

Public and stakeholder consultation is both a legal requirement and essential for building trust in the process. At a minimum, it must comply with Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act and align with the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

BBC note National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which the Council has responded as part of its ongoing engagement:

- I. Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- II. Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- III. Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024). iv)
- IV. Targeted Consultation for Essex – held between Tuesday 25 February until Thursday 27 March 2025

In preparing this response, we considered the table included with your letter dated 14 April. Our comments are centered around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives BBC's opinion as to whether NGET, has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal. BBC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by

Section 42 and to the best of BBC's knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

BBC acknowledges that NGET conducted the consultation in accordance with the published SoCC and fulfilled its obligations under Section 47 of the Planning Act. The extension of the statutory consultation to accommodate the 4th July general election was noted and welcomed by BBC.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

BBC acknowledges that NGET published the required notices in compliance with regulatory content standards. BBC therefore considers that NGET has met its duty to publicise under the Planning Act 2008.

Position regarding Statutory Requirements

Given the above, it is BBC's opinion that NGET has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. While BBC considers that the minimum statutory requirements have been met, the Council wishes to take this opportunity to formally record the following concerns.

Consultation Feedback

Unlike the non-statutory consultation, no feedback has been published following the 2024 statutory consultation. While it is understood that responses informed the localised changes presented in the targeted consultation, the absence of published feedback makes extremely difficult to assess the rationale behind these changes. It also raises questions about why some issues prompted revisions while others did not. It is believed this lack of transparency undermines confidence in the consultation process and the project's design evolution.

Moving forward BBC would greatly welcome early access to the draft Consultation Report to better understand the issues raised and to collaborate on addressing them where possible.

Targeted Consultation

BBC understands that, beyond the changes consulted on during the targeted consultation, additional design changes have been made to the scheme. These were not included in the consultation, reportedly due to their minor nature and perceived lack of material impact on residents.

While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, BBC emphasises the importance of providing residents and community representatives with clear, comprehensive information to help them understand and respond to any localised changes affecting their properties.

Even minor changes can have a significant impact on those living nearby, and residents should have been given the opportunity to comment. It is disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those consulted on.

Scheme Revisions

Given the scale and complexity of the scheme, it is understandable that numerous changes have been made since the initial non-statutory consultation in 2022. BBC welcomes the fact that consultation has led to some revisions and supports many of the changes introduced. However, we believe that in many instances, the adjustments do not sufficiently address the underlying concerns. Most of the changes appear to be relatively minor, and to date, none of the more significant modifications requested by BBC and other stakeholders - particularly those relating to the potential impact on the viability of Dunton Hills Garden Village - have been agreed to.

This raises ongoing concerns that NGET has not adequately responded to the legitimate issues raised by BBC and others, especially where changes are most needed. These may have been overlooked due to cost implications or potential delays to the programme. Furthermore, the impact on emerging developments and new communities does not appear to have been given appropriate weight.

Should the DCO application be accepted, BBC intends to continue engaging with NGET and, if necessary, raise these matters during the examination process to advocate for the changes we believe are essential to ensure the scheme is locally acceptable.

Closing remarks

In response to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation during the pre-application stage, BBC considers that the consultation has met the legal requirements under Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

However, we are concerned that the project has progressed in a way that may have limited consideration of certain potential changes that could offer clear and significant benefits. While BBC continues to work closely with NGET on the Statements of Common Ground, key issues remain unresolved.

It is therefore essential that NGET maintains meaningful engagement with stakeholders, including BBC, in the coming months to address as many of these outstanding matters as possible ahead of the DCO submission.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the representative of Brentwood Borough Council.

Brentwood Borough Council

Appendix M2.4

Feedback from Chelmsford City Council

National Grid

BY EMAIL

Planning and Development Management
P.O. Box 7544, Civic Centre,
Duke Street, Chelmsford,
Essex, CM1 1XP

Your ref:
My ref: 
Telephone: 01245 606826
Date: 8th May 2025

Dear National Grid

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) - Section 55

Application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Proposal

Response to Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email dated 14 April 2025 asking Chelmsford City Council (CCC) for representations on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM).

Purpose of AoCM

The purpose of the AoCM is to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk of the application not being accepted at the acceptance stage. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.

Scope of CCC's comments

For the avoidance of doubt, these comments are made without prejudice to CCC's Adequacy of Consultation Response which will be made to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process and give CCC's consideration of whether the consultation arrangements proposed by National Grid (NG) to date are adequate for the level of the complexity of the proposed project.

Statutory requirements

CCC is aware that National Grid have a duty to comply with the following sections under the Planning Act 2008.

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

CCC will provide a full response as to whether NG has complied with these sections of the Planning Act in its Adequacy of Consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.

Pre-application consultation

The following pre-application consultation has been undertaken so far:

- Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April 2024 and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024).
- Targeted Consultation – held between Tuesday 25 February 2025 until Thursday 27 March 2025.

Statement of Community Consultation

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

NG sent CCC a draft SoCC on 1st December 2023 and we responded on 5th January 2024. The SoCC was then published for consultation in March 2024 and CCC sent a formal response on 2nd April 2024. A further draft SoCC in respect of the proposed Targeted Consultation was issued on 4th December 2024 with CCC submitting comments on 18th December 2024.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) compliance table has been submitted as part of this Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. It details National Grids commitments within the SoCC and explains how NG have complied with it, but it does not explain how NG has considered CCC's comments, nor those of other stakeholders and Members of the Public. Neither does it refer to the Targeted Consultation dated February to March this year.

It is understood that a Consultation Report; prepared in accordance with Section 37(c) of the Planning Act, will be submitted upon submission of the application and will address these concerns. In the absence of this report, it is not possible to determine whether the consultation has sufficiently considered the relevant parties concerns or whether further changes to the scheme; that would warrant additional consultation, are necessary.

Observations on Consultation

In the interests of engaging with the process, CCC has several observations on the consultation undertaken to date which are set out below.

Absence of feedback

No feedback has been published in response to the Statutory Consultation undertaken in 2024. This is concerning because it is understood that responses from the Statutory Consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the Targeted Consultation. Without first seeing any feedback on the issues raised in the responses received from the public / stakeholders, it is difficult for CCC to understand the rationale behind or the merits of the changes proposed under the Targeted Consultation. and Statement of Community Consultation For example, what prompted these changes, what were they in response to and why were they necessary? Further, there is silence on what other

changes were proposed by interested parties and stakeholders but were discounted by NG. For example, what did not warrant a change to the scheme and why?

The lack of information makes it difficult to determine whether additional consultation is required and is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and the design evolution of the proposal.

Targeted Consultation - General

CCC is aware that NG are seeking to undertake further changes to the proposal without consultation. It is understood this is because some changes are considered by NG to be of a minor nature such that they would have no material impact on the proposal.

The lack of transparency on this matter is concerning as the concept of materiality is enshrined in planning law. In the absence of details of the proposed changes, it is impossible to form a view as to whether the changes are material or not and to determine the appropriate level of consultation required.

The importance of consultation and feedback from residents and other stakeholders is central to planning. It is important that they are provided with comprehensive information to enable them to respond to the effect of the proposed localised changes and that changes are made clearly and transparently.

The results and outcomes of the consultation should be published as soon as they are available and should be communicated clearly to help residents and stakeholders understand the outcomes of the consultation and what the next steps will be.

This need for transparency is highlighted in the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process". It is important that residents and stakeholders understand how their comments have informed the design review of the process.

Although a change may appear to be of a minor nature to NG, a resident / stakeholder may take a differing view, and the significance of these changes may be perceived by them to be greater. For example, the movement of a pylon closer / further along the proposed alignment could materially affect a resident's perception of outlook and living conditions. Should the DCO be granted, residents/stakeholders residing near to the pylons would have to live with them in perpetuity. It is thus critical that residents and stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment on all changes affecting them and for their concerns to be considered, before moving onto the next step of the process.

CCC is further concerned that a high amount of non-material changes could lead to a cumulative change in the nature of the proposal; such that the proposal submitted for examination is materially different to the proposal presented at Statutory Consultation stage. Should this be the case, it is likely that additional Statutory Consultation may be required before the examination can commence.

Officers have previously and repeatedly requested a list of non-material changes, but these have not been forthcoming and it is extremely disappointing that this information has not been provided.

Targeted Consultation – Great and Little Waltham

At the time of writing, CCC, has raised substantive concerns to the Targeted Consultation proposals affecting Great Waltham and Little Waltham and has proposed three alternative options, If agreed by NG, they would require further consultation prior to the submission of the proposal for examination.

CCC and NG are now seeking to work together in attempt to understand and where possible resolve these concerns before examination, but it is clear that more meaningful and responsive engagement with CCC, residents and stakeholders is needed to address these concerns.

Environmental Statement (ES)

Since the Statutory Consultation, CCC appreciate that information that has been shared by NG over this period. However, CCC and other stakeholders have consistently requested additional information / amendments to the proposal in relation to the ES which has not been forthcoming.

The lack of information makes it difficult for CCC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the project as the key evidence base informing the ES is still under preparation. This affects the ability of CCC and stakeholders to inform and have meaningful discussions in attempt to resolve outstanding issues relating to the ES. This includes, but is not limited to, full identification of the level of harm that may or may not be caused by the proposal in ES terms and the need for mitigation and its effect on harm.

Submission documents

CCC recognises this is a large and complex project and welcomes the engagement undertaken so far, but to date, CCC has not seen any of the draft submission documents, including the draft DCO itself. CCC has repeatedly been requesting this information since January 2025; reiterating the need to consider the terms and content of the DCO.

CCC is particularly concerned about the timescales for discharging the requirements; as CCC will be responsible for these discharging in the event that the DCO is granted and wants to ensure that the proposed timeframes are reasonable and deliverable. CCC now understand that this information will not be shared until June 2025 at the earliest meaning the timeframe to consider and obtain legal advice in respect of the DCO prior to submission of the proposal is limited.

CCC is keen to frontload the resolution of concerns at pre-submission stage and as it is aware of the pressures of the examination process. With the submission timetable being set for late August, CCC is concerned that it will have insufficient time to interpret and productively respond to the different technical elements of the examination.

In relation to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), this is being hampered by the lack of available detailed information to enable matters to be agreed/disagreed. This makes it difficult for CCC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the proposal at this time.

Conclusion

CCC acknowledges and welcomes NG's involvement to date and reiterates that it remains committed to working closely with NG. CCC appreciates National Grids desire to submit the proposal in late August, but is concerned that in the interests of programme, aspects of the proposal are being fast tracked. CCC is concerned that NG have not addressed legitimate concerns held by CCC and other stakeholders because of cost or impact on the programme and have not weighted these concerns appropriately.

Accordingly CCC considers that a late August submission is likely to be premature and implores NG to undertake more active and meaningful engagement with CCC, stakeholders and residents.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.A solid black rectangular box used to redact text, likely a name or title.

Appendix M2.5

Feedback from Colchester City Council

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 06/05/2025, 15:13:21
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Dear [REDACTED]

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55
Norwich to Tilbury Project Proposals by National Grid Electricity Transmission
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

Statutory Requirements

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives CCC's informal opinion as to whether National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.
The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- (a) *such persons as may be prescribed,*
- (aa) *the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- (b) *each local authority that is within section 43,*
- (c) *the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- (d) *each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to 'such persons as may be prescribed'. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

- (1) *The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.*
- (2) *Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.*
- (3) *The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.*
- (4) *In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).*
- (5) *In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).*
- (6) *Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—*
 - (za) *make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,*
 - (a) *publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and*
 - (b) *publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (7) *The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.*

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.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

- (1) *The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.*
- (2) *Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.*

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.

Position regarding Statutory Requirements

Taking the above comments into account, it is CCC's current opinion that NGET has carried out adequate pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, noting that in practice the legal requirements are a low bar.

Notwithstanding this CCC does have several observations on the consultation process thus far as follows and questions if the consultation has met the *Gunning* principles and in particular question if consultation (both stat and non-stat) has taken place when the scheme was at a sufficiently formative stage.

Feedback (or lack of)

Unfortunately, no feedback has been published in response to the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. It is understood that responses from this statutory consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the targeted consultation. However, without first seeing any feedback on the issues raised in the responses received from the public / stakeholders, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind or the merits of, the changes proposed when compared with those issues raised by residents / stakeholders that it was felt did not warrant any change to the scheme and therefore, were not addressed. This is considered this is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and design evolution of the Project.

Targeted Consultation

CCC understands that in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on through the targeted consultation, there are other changes to the scheme design that were not included in this process. It is understood this is because some are considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development as experienced by residents.

The importance of feedback from residents and community representatives in developing the most appropriate proposal is clearly recognised and it is therefore important, that residents are provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties. While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, CCC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore have been given an opportunity to comment on them. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents.

CCC is also concerned about the impact on confidence in the process if residents subsequently identify these changes and raise concerns about their effects. It would also refer to Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which highlight the importance of transparency in the process and emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process". It is disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those currently being consulted on. Overall, it is considered this decision could mean it is difficult for stakeholders to fully comprehend the impacts of the scheme at particular locations.

Scheme Revisions

As would be expected for a scheme of this scale and complexity, there are numerous examples where changes have been made to the proposed scheme since the first non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022. The fact that changes have been made as a result of consultation is of course welcomed but CCC consider that in many cases the changes proposed do not go far enough to address the issue in question and in some cases - for example Langham, the changes are more damaging than previous iteration. Moreover, we believe that predominantly, the changes made are relatively minor in nature and to date there hasn't been agreement to any of the more substantive changes that have been requested by CCC or other LPAs and other stakeholders especially with regards to alternatives to OHLs. There remains a concern therefore that NGET have not addressed legitimate concerns held by CCC and other stakeholders on aspects of the scheme that are most in need of change whether it be because of cost or impact on programme and have not weighted the effect on new developments and communities sufficiently. It follows that if the DCO application is accepted, CCC intend to continue making representations to NGET and if necessary to the examination on changes that we think are required to the scheme to make it acceptable locally.

Webinars

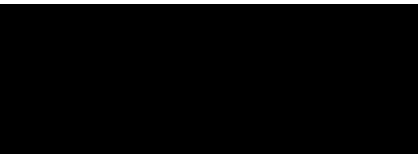
The webinars held in connection with the statutory consultation were welcome, but attendance may have been limited by the fact that they were held at the same time albeit, on different days. It would have been better if the webinars were offered at a variety of times to reflect the different life patterns for local communities.

Conclusion

With reference to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, CCC is of the opinion that actions in respect of consultation have been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the PA 2008.

CCC of course, welcomes and appreciates the consultation and level of engagement to date, and looks forward to this positive relationship continuing. However, it is considered that the process is being progressed to the extent that some of the potential changes to the project which could have significant and obvious benefit have not been fully considered. As a result, whilst CCC and other stakeholders are working closely with NGET to develop the Statements of Common Ground, many issues remain.

Many thanks



Development Management | Place and Client | Colchester City Council | 33 Sheepen Road | Colchester | Essex | CO3 3WG

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:43
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

This message originated **Externally**. Do **not** click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender, were expecting it and know that the content is safe.

Dear [Redacted]

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague [Redacted] (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
[Redacted]

Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid



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clicking on the appropriate link)

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Appendix M2.6

Feedback from Essex County Council

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Response sent via email:

Our Ref: [REDACTED]
Date: 7 May 2025
Telephone: 03330 139505

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55 (4)

Norwich to Tilbury Project Proposals by National Grid Electricity Transmission

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Essex County Council (ECC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

Purpose of AoCM

The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk at the acceptance stage, of the application progressing to examination. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.

Consultation with the public and other key stakeholders is not only a statutory requirement but is also fundamental to securing public confidence in the process. It is therefore important that as a minimum, consultation is conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In providing this response, we have had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April and although useful in terms of assessing compliance with commitments in the SoCC, it is considered it fails to comprehensively reflect what actions have been carried out in connection with the targeted consultation undertaken earlier this year.

Summary of Pre-Application Consultation

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which the County Council has responded as part of its ongoing engagement with ECC and local residents and stakeholders.

- i) Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- ii) Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.

- iii) Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024).
- iv) Targeted Consultation for Essex – held between Tuesday 25 February until Thursday 27 March 2025 (period for comments to be made extended at the outset until Friday 11th March due to timing of consultation and availability of staff)

Statutory Requirements

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives ECC’s opinion as to whether National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- (a) *such persons as may be prescribed,*
- (aa) *the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- (b) *each local authority that is within section 43,*
- (c) *the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- (d) *each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to ‘such persons as may be prescribed’. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

ECC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of ECC’s knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

- (1) *The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.*
- (2) *Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.*
- (3) *The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.*

- (4) *In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).*
- (5) *In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).*
- (6) *Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—*
 - (za) *make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,*
 - (a) *publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and*
 - (b) *publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (7) *The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.*

ECC received a draft SoCC on 1st March 2024 and we responded with comments on 27th March 2024. The SOCC was then published 10th April 2024. A further draft SOCC in respect of the proposed targeted consultation was issued on 4th December 2024 with ECC submitting comments on 18th December 2024.

The statutory consultation was subsequently held between 10th April 2024 and 26th July 2024 with the targeted consultation for Essex taking place between 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025.

ECC 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.

It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended to acknowledge the general election held on 4th July. This extension was welcomed by ECC.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

- (1) *The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.*
- (2) *Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.*

ECC 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. ECC therefore considers NGET has to the best of our knowledge and subject to the review of Consultation Report, complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the Planning Act 2008.

Position regarding Statutory Requirements

Taking the above comments into account and subject to the review of the Consultation Report, it is ECC’s current opinion that NGET has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

While ECC recognises the challenges a project of this scale and complexity presents, and notwithstanding our current opinion the minimum statutory tests being complied with, there are several observations on the consultation process and how it could be enhanced which we have set out below. These comments have been provided in the interest of ensuring that consultation on this NSIP is carried out effectively and positively, allowing communities and stakeholders to fully engage, and have their comments properly recorded and considered in a transparent process of design iteration.

Observations on Consultation.

Consultation Feedback

Unfortunately, unlike that for the non-statutory consultation, no feedback has been published in response to the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. Moreover, it is understood that responses from this statutory consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the targeted consultation. However, without sight of any feedback on the issues raised by the public / stakeholders in their responses, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind or the merits of, the changes proposed, when compared to those issues also raised by residents / stakeholders that it was felt did not warrant any change to the scheme and therefore, were not addressed.

It is considered this is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and design evolution of the Project. ECC would encourage NGET to be more transparent in their publication of feedback drawing upon best practice examples on how to effectively communicate this at pre application stage in a clear and transparent way, possibly making greater use of the community newsletter and project updates.

ECC would also welcome early sight of the draft consultation report so we can understand better the matters which have been raised and work collaboratively to address issues where we can.

Targeted Consultation

ECC understands that in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on through the targeted consultation, there are other changes to the scheme design that were not included in this process. It is understood this is because some are considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development as experienced by residents.

The importance of feedback from residents and community representatives in developing the most appropriate proposal is clearly recognised and it is therefore important, that residents are provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties.

While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, ECC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore have been given an opportunity to comment on them. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents.

ECC is also concerned about the impact on confidence in the process if residents subsequently identify these changes and raise concerns about their effects. It would also refer to Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which highlights the importance of transparency in the process and emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process".

Officers have previously and repeatedly, requested a list of these non-material changes, and it is extremely disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those currently being consulted on.

Overall, it is considered this decision could mean it is difficult for stakeholders to fully comprehend the impacts of the scheme at particular locations.

Bespoke Consultation Zones

In our response to the draft SoCC provided by NGET in respect of the targeted consultation, it was noted that only those in the consultation zones would receive direct notifications. ECC highlighted the importance of community engagement around these proposed changes and in the absence of full details around the consultation zones and the extent of neighbour notification, queried how the boundaries to the consultation zones were to be drawn given the potential for excluding many who may be interested in the project.

ECC therefore requested that it be consulted on the bespoke consultation zones to help validate the extent of the consultation zones but received no feedback on this request. While the need to progress with the targeted consultation was noted, notwithstanding the subsequent delays to the commencement of the targeted consultation, it is considered taking the Council up on its offer would have assisted with the transparency and robustness of the approach to targeted consultation.

Comments in respect of ES

ECC recognises this is a large and complex project and welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. However, it is felt progress on the SoCG is being hampered by the lack of available detailed information to enable matters to be agreed early in the process. This makes it difficult for ECC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the project at this time.

ECC remains committed to front loading the resolution of issues through the pre application phase and this situation is likely to create additional pressures at examination. This is compounded by the focus on progressing towards a fixed submission date for the DCO which is likely to impact on the time available to consider options and comments received. An example being that for the draft SoCG sent to District Council's where only 21 days was given for comments. Additional time for the public to comment on the targeted consultation (an increase from 4 weeks to 6 weeks) was also requested in ECC's response to the draft SOCC but not agreed .

It is important to note that there is no suggestion of any intent by NGET to delay providing information or deliberately make understanding the full extent of the scheme's impacts difficult, but to achieve a good understanding of the scheme and its impacts, this requires a substantial amount of work and resources including time. It is therefore important that parties continue to work together, and that proportionate time is made available to consider and respond to the information as it is made available.

ECC remains hopeful that many of these outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with NGET informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

Scheme Revisions

As would be expected for a scheme of this scale and complexity, there are numerous examples where changes have been made to the proposed scheme since the first non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022. The fact that changes have been made as a result of consultation is of course welcomed, and ECC supports many of the changes made. We do consider however that in many cases the changes proposed do not go far enough to address the issue in question. Moreover, we believe that predominantly, the changes made are relatively minor in nature and to date there has not been agreement to any of the more substantive changes that have been requested by ECC and other stakeholders especially in connection with the concerns around the impact on the viability of Dunton Hills Garden Village.

There remains a concern therefore that NGET have not addressed legitimate concerns held by ECC and other stakeholders on aspects of the scheme that are most in need of change whether it be because of cost or impact on programme, and have not weighted the effect on new developments and communities sufficiently. It follows that if the DCO application is accepted, ECC intend to continue making representations to NGET and if necessary to the examination on changes that we think are required to the scheme to make it acceptable locally.

Webinars

The webinars held in connection with the statutory consultation were welcome, but attendance may have been limited by the fact that they were held at the same time albeit, on different days. It would have been better if the webinars were offered at a variety of times to reflect the different life patterns for local communities.

It is also felt that on occasion webinars were not always attended by representatives from NGET with sufficient detailed knowledge of the issues to enable questions to be comprehensively responded to. For example, during an Essex event for the targeted consultation attended by officers, the NGET representatives were unable to answer questions around Dunton Hills Garden Village.

Conclusion

With reference to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, ECC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the PA 2008.

ECC of course, welcomes and appreciates the consultation and level of engagement to date, and looks forward to this positive relationship continuing. It is though considered that the project is being progressed to the extent that some of the potential changes which could have significant and obvious benefit have not been fully considered. As a result, whilst ECC and other stakeholders are working closely with NGET to develop the Statements of Common Ground, many issues remain.

For these reasons we believe it will be particularly important for NGET to continue meaningful engagement with stakeholders including ECC over the coming months in an effort to resolve as many of the outstanding issues as possible prior to the submission of the DCO.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of



Appendix M2.7

Feedback from King's Lynn and West
Norfolk Borough Council

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
Service: Planning Control
Email: [REDACTED]
Direct dial: [REDACTED]

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



22 April 2025

**RE: Planning Act 2008
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

Dear Sir

I refer to your letter dated 14 April 2025 regarding the above and I also refer to previous correspondence of the Borough Council dated 26 June 2024 and 14 March 2025.

The Council raises no additional comments other than the Council is satisfied that National Grid has met its obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Planning Control

Appendix M2.8

Feedback from London Borough of Redbridge

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 16/04/2025, 09:44:07
From: DPD (Planning Service Area)<DPD@redbridge.gov.uk>
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [TWIMC AoCM LAs lettertable V1.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter and email regarding adequacy of consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury project.

I can confirm on behalf of the London Borough of Redbridge, that we have been adequately consulted to date. We have not commented on the proposals as it is too far away to impact us.

Thank you very much,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Planning Policy
Regeneration and Culture Directorate
London Borough of Redbridge
5th Floor Front, Lynton House, 255-259 High Road, Ilford, IG1 1NY
Tel: 020 8708 2844

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: www.redbridge.gov.uk

Twitter: [@RedbridgeLive](https://twitter.com/RedbridgeLive)

Facebook: [@RedbridgeCouncilOfficial](https://facebook.com/RedbridgeCouncilOfficial)

Instagram: [@redbridgecouncil](https://instagram.com/redbridgecouncil)

TikTok: [@redbridgecouncil](https://tiktok.com/@redbridgecouncil)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 April 2025 17:04

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Apologies for the oversight - 5 May is a Bank Holiday! Please see attached updated letter.

Appreciate any feedback by 6 May but do let us know if you require more time.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:52
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

We are reaching out to provide you, as a neighbouring authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury.

Please see the attached letter which provides all the necessary information for you to respond.

We kindly ask that you submit your response by 05 May 2025, to allow us to consider your feedback as we move forward.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss further

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid

[REDACTED]

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Appendix M2.9

Feedback from Mid Suffolk and
Babergh District Council

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 29/04/2025, 15:27:35
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED] thank you for your email and the attached AoCM letter.

[REDACTED] have reviewed this and have the following comments to make:

- I think we had agreed that there would be an additional inspection point for the consultation documents at Endeavour House in Ipswich and I believe Grid did this. Please could you confirm?
- We note the text at rows 51, 55 and 57 that “More details about how National Grid reached seldom heard groups will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO” and look forward to seeing these details.
- Otherwise, I can confirm that BMSDC are satisfied that the consultation has been carried out in accordance with the SoCC.

submission.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wednesdays and Thursdays only **

Sustainable Communities

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils - Working Together

Pronouns: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For general enquiries email: planningadmin@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Websites: www.babergh.gov.uk or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

[Click Here](#) for the latest planning news and changes to the service coming up this year.

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Planning fees are increasing from the 1st April 2025 – please [REDACTED] to review the new fees.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL: Don't click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Click [here](#) for more information or help from Suffolk IT**

Dear 

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague  (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,


Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid



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requested, or fulfil a request for information. Any information about you that we pass to a third party will be held securely by that party, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and used only to provide the services or information you have requested.

For more information on how we do this and your rights in regards to your personal information and how to access it, visit our website.

Appendix M2.10

Feedback from Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council response to the National Grid Consultation on:

Norwich to Tilbury – Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement of Community Consultation

May 2025

Thank you for consulting Norfolk County Council on the above consultation.

Norfolk County Council have been pleased with the level and quality of engagement strategy provided by the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid. Communication, both on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and on other areas of the project, is always clear and timely, and we have been kept well informed of project updates throughout the process. The County Council use the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid, as an exemplar for how to provide good, effective communications for NSIPs.

The County Council received an informal draft SoCC consultation ahead of the formal submission, and comments made at the first stage were fed into the formal consultation. All comments provided for the formal SoCC consultation were either enacted or responses provided for why they could not be. The County Council requested an extension for the statutory consultation period, to allow adequate time to prepare responses and consult members, and the team did extend the consultation period, one of the few projects to do so.

Overall, the County Council is content that the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid have met their consultation requirements for the SoCC.

If you have any queries with any of the above comments, please contact the NSIP team NSIPs@norfolk.gov.uk

Appendix M2.11

Feedback from South Norfolk Council

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 12/05/2025, 16:46:22
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: AoCM

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Good afternoon, [REDACTED]

Firstly, thank you for agreeing an extension to comment until today.

Please find below South Norfolk Council’s consultation feedback.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Planning Inspectorate’s Reference EN020027

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 National Grid Electricity Transmission
Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

We note that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone was introduced it 2024 and it is a written submission to the Planning Inspectorate to allow for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation carried out at pre-application stage to whether the applicant has complied with, in relation to its proposed application, the applicants duties under sections 42 consult with prescribed consultees, 47 consult with the community and 48 publicise the proposed application.

National Grid have requested that South Norfolk Council as Host Local Authority reviews the table provided which sets out the commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation and how they have been complied with, in relation to the consultations undertaken to date.

There are two points we would wish to raise are Section 6 refers to the alternative design scheme at Waveney Valley however National Grid have advised us on 7 January 2025 that they would no longer be considering undergrounding and would be taking forward an overhead line in this area. To accurately reflect this change, we would suggest that the section is updated, and it be noted that no formal consultation seeking our views was undertaken following this decision. Section 13 refers to South Norfolk and Broadland District Council which is incorrect, South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are two independent Councils, please can this be corrected.

We would comment that to the best our knowledge as a Council, that the consultations undertaken reflect those commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation as required by sections 42, 47 and 48, specifically in relation to the delivery of the Statement of Community Consultation.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Our Broadland and South Norfolk Councils offices are now based at Broadland Business Park in the [REDACTED] find out how you can access our services by visiting our website or by calling us on 01508 533633

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From [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:36

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague [REDACTED] (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
E
[nationalgrid](#)

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Appendix M2.12

Feedback from Suffolk County Council

Our Ref: N2T

Date: 21 May 2025

Enquiries to: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

BY EMAIL

For the attention of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NORWICH TO TILBURY DCO APPLICATION ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Suffolk County Council (SCC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

Purpose of AoCM

The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk at the acceptance stage, of the application progressing to examination. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.

Consultation with the public and other key stakeholders is not only a statutory requirement but is also fundamental to securing public confidence in the process. It is therefore important that as a minimum, consultation is conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In providing this response, we have had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April.

Summary of Pre-Application Consultation

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which the SCC has responded.

- i) Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- ii) Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- iii) Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024).
- iv) Targeted Consultation for Suffolk – held between Thursday 30 January until Monday 3 March 2025.

Statutory Requirements

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives SCC's opinion as to whether NGET, has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

(a) such persons as may be prescribed,

(aa) the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),

(b) each local authority that is within section 43,

(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and

(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

Subsection a) refers to 'such persons as may be prescribed'. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

SCC is generally satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of ECC's knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties. **However, the operator of Raydon Airfield has made it known to National Grid Electricity Generation and SCC that they have not been consulted throughout all of the pre-application consultation stages.**

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.

(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.

(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).

(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).

(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must— (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land, (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.

(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.

SCC received a draft SoCC on 1st March 2024 and we responded with comments on the 2nd April 2024. The SOCC was then published 10th April 2024.

The statutory consultation was subsequently held between 10th April 2024 and 26th July 2024 with a further non-statutory consultation for Suffolk taking place between 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025. It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended to acknowledge the general election held on 4th July. This extension was welcomed by SCC.

SCC is generally satisfied 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. **However, Section 5.3 of the SoCC includes reference to Primary Consultation Zone which includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1km of the project's red line boundary including Raydon Airfield.**

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Appendix M2.13

Feedback from Tendring District Council

06 May 2025

Email: [REDACTED]
contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Dear [REDACTED]

Norwich to Tilbury Project Proposals by National Grid Electricity Transmission

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Sections 42, 47, 48 and 55

I refer to your letter dated 14 April 2025, inviting Tendring District Council (TDC) to comment on the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date by National Grid in relation to the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage.

The adequacy of consultation for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) is an important consideration and should be viewed in the context of ensuring that all relevant parties have had a fair and meaningful opportunity to engage with the proposals. In particular, for a project of this scale and complexity, effective consultation is not only a statutory requirement but also fundamental to securing public confidence and informed participation. Our response has been prepared with reference to the summary table accompanying your letter of 14 April, as well as National Grid's Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

We include a summary of the relevant sections of the legislation outlining the statutory requirements and our understanding of its purpose, followed by TDC's position after each section.

Section 42 – Duty to Consult Prescribed Bodies and Land Interests

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out the duty on applicants to consult prescribed consultees prior to submitting a Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This includes:

- **Local Authorities:** Those within or near the proposed development area.
- **Prescribed Bodies:** As defined under secondary legislation, including statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.
- **Land Interests:** Including landowners, tenants, and others with interests in affected land.
- **The Greater London Authority** (where applicable).

The purpose of this section is to ensure consultation is conducted in the prescribed manner and at a sufficiently early stage to allow prescribed consultees to engage with the project (and the consultation phase) and respond effectively.

TDC's Position on Section 42

TDC finds no reason to dispute that National Grid correctly identified and consulted the parties required under Section 42. On this basis, we are satisfied that the statutory duty under this section has been met.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult the Local Community

Section 47 requires the applicant to prepare a SoCC and consult local authorities on its content before conducting community consultation. Specifically, it requires the applicant to:

1. Prepare and consult on the SoCC.
2. Consider local authority feedback on the SoCC.
3. Publicise the final SoCC.
4. Undertake consultation in accordance with it.

The purpose of this section is to enable early and effective engagement with people living in the area likely to be affected, and to gather local views and identify potential issues before submission of the application.

TDC's Position on Section 47

While National Grid assert that it has fulfilled its obligations under Section 47, TDC remains concerned that the consultation failed to deliver effective and meaningful engagement. Despite numerous efforts to engage with National Grid, particularly concerning the site selection methodology, the rationale for siting the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) in the Tendring peninsula, and the exclusion of alternative routes, we have received limited or unsatisfactory responses, hindering our ability to engage constructively.

The SoCC states that consultation should cover “all aspects of the proposed development.” However, its focus has been too narrowly confined to refining a preferred route without adequate explanation of the alternatives or the reasons for their exclusion. Moreover, fundamental questions—such as the need for the project, choice of technology, and strategic route options—appear to have been treated as closed matters, with the consultation process centred on adjusting minor elements of a pre-determined scheme.

TDC understands that alternative options have been internally reviewed and discounted without meaningful public engagement. There is no published rationale or supporting evidence that clearly explains why all other potentially viable options were not considered or shared publicly.

The lack of published feedback following the 2024 statutory consultation makes it difficult to assess how National Grid has considered stakeholder responses or justified its decisions, and therefore TDC is not convinced that the consultation process has managed to capture or reflect the concerns of communities most directly affected, especially those in north-western Tendring.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 requires the applicant to publicise the proposed application before submission. This includes:

- Publication in at least one national and one local newspaper.

- A brief description of the development.
- Details of document inspection locations.
- Instructions on how to respond.
- A deadline (minimum 28 days from publication).

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure the wider public is informed and able to engage in the process.

TDC's Position on Section 48

TDC has no evidence to suggest National Grid failed to meet the public notification requirements under Section 48. Based on available information, we accept that National Grid has complied with its duty to publicise the project appropriately.

For completeness, **Section 55 (Acceptance of Applications)** of the Planning Act 2008 outlines the criteria that the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, must apply when deciding whether to accept a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for examination.

The key requirements are as follows:

1. Form and Content of the Application:

The application must be submitted in the prescribed form and comply with the relevant regulations, notably the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

2. Accompanying Documents:

The application must include all necessary supporting documentation, such as:

- An Environmental Statement (where required),
- A Consultation Report (outlining how consultation duties have been fulfilled),
- A draft DCO,
- Land and Works Plans, among others.

3. Compliance with Consultation Duties:

The applicant must demonstrate that it has met the statutory consultation requirements set out in:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land,
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community,
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise the proposed application.

4. Adequacy of Consultation:

The Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that the consultation has been carried out effectively and in accordance with the statutory requirements, based on the evidence provided in the Consultation Report.

5. Suitability for Examination:

The application must not be frivolous or vexatious and must appear, on its face, to be capable of resulting in the grant of development consent.

This section is included for information only, to support the completeness and clarity of our response. Tendring District Council does not propose to comment on the adequacy of National Grid's compliance with Section 55 because this section merely contains the overview of what is required to ensure acceptance of a DCO application.

Other Matters

Targeted Consultation and Non-Material Changes

TDC understands that certain design changes were not included in the latest (now completed) targeted consultation, on the grounds that National Grid considers them to be of minor significance. While they may be minor in engineering terms, these changes may have significant perceived or actual impacts for residents living close to the affected areas.

It is vital that communities are fully informed of **all** changes—whether material or not—so they can understand how the development may affect them and respond accordingly. The cumulative impact of numerous “non-material” changes can be significant and should not be progressed without public consultation.

TDC, alongside Essex County Council, has requested a list of these non-material changes. It is disappointing that this has not been provided, and it undermines public confidence in the transparency and inclusiveness of the consultation process. We refer to the Planning Inspectorate's guidance on good design, which stresses the importance of an **intentional, transparent, and effective** design process. This principle should equally apply to the consultation process, and we would strongly argue that **intentional, transparent, and effective** design of such a large scale project is even more critical and the pre-submission consultation phase.

Conclusion

In summary:

- Section 42: TDC is satisfied that statutory consultees were correctly identified and consulted.
- Section 47: TDC considers that the consultation with the local community has been inadequate in terms of scope, clarity, and meaningful engagement.
- Section 48: TDC acknowledges that the duty to publicise appears to have been met.
- Other Concerns: The exclusion of certain changes from public consultation raises concerns about transparency, and risks undermining public trust in the process.

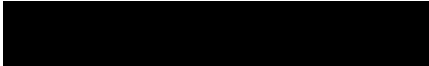
TDC remains committed to constructive engagement with National Grid and other stakeholders but emphasises the need for a more open and inclusive approach moving forward—particularly if trust and confidence are to be maintained throughout this NSIP process.

Yours faithfully,



Tendring District Council.

Enquiries to:
Policy Team



Appendix M2.14

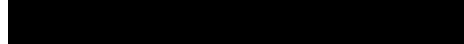
Feedback from Thurrock Council

Civic Offices, New Road, Grays
Essex, RM17 6SL

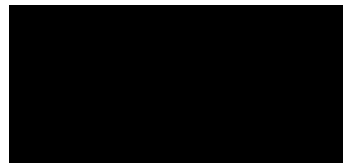
Development Management



National Grid Electricity Transmission



Our Ref:



E-Mail:

Date: 7th May 2025

Dear 

Thurrock Council's response to the Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, in relation to section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.

Thank you for inviting Thurrock Council to comment on the adequacy of consultation undertaken by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid) for the project titled Norwich to Tilbury. This letter comprises the council's comments on the consultation that has been undertaken so far.

1. Responding to the Statement of Community Consultation

- 1.1. National Grid has laid out its commitments to consultation in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), published in April 2024, including its process for advertising and encouraging engagement with the consultation.
- 1.2. At this milestone, National Grid has also laid out the actions it has taken to meet each of these commitments through the 2023 non-statutory consultation and the 2024 statutory consultation.
- 1.3. The council does not fundamentally object to the ways that the 2023 and 2024 consultations are described as complying with National Grid's commitments.
- 1.4. The way in which these and other consultations have been carried out has, however, presented some issues which have limited the extent to which the council has been able to meaningfully contribute to improving the project's outcomes. These issues are laid out in section 2 of this letter.
- 1.5. National Grid has not included at this milestone the ways in which the two rounds of targeted consultation (one statutory and one non-statutory) held in 2025 have followed these processes or contributed to meeting these commitments, other than item number 69:

6.3.1. If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.

and would like to see National Grid explain how it believes the targeted consultations have followed the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. These issues are laid out in section 3 of this letter.

2. Issues identified with consultation and engagement

- 2.1. The timelines for consultation laid out by National Grid have been overly demanding of council officers, who have frequently found it difficult to review and respond to the required documents in time to meet the set deadlines.
- 2.2. The narrow timeframes have also meant that the council has been unable to take its responses to the recent targeted consultations, for example, to Cabinet, resulting in the submission of responses which may not fully represent the council's views.
- 2.3. Narrow timeframes have also been exacerbated, at times, by poor responsiveness from National Grid or those acting on its behalf when asked for further information relevant to the council's response to consultation.
- 2.4. The volume of different documents being circulated at one time, often with similar content or titles, and on occasion with mistakes, has made it difficult for consultees to be clear on which documents relate to which elements of the project and must be responded to by which deadlines, and to do so accordingly. This has been especially true during the period of targeted consultation, alongside which a significant number of other documents have been shared with the council for comment. The council feels it would have been able to engage more usefully with the various consultations if there had been some attempt to space them out.
- 2.5. In general, there has been a lack of necessary or helpful information provided alongside requests for comments from the council, which has made it difficult for the council to engage with and contribute to proposals in a meaningful way. This is particularly true of the Environmental Statement and documents relating to it.
- 2.6. It appears that the pressure on National Grid to submit the application by a highly ambitious deadline has left and continues to leave little room for genuine discussion of different options or contribution to improving the outcomes of the project, which is disappointing to the council.

3. Issues identified with the targeted consultations

- 3.1. National Grid has made it clear that the proposed changes recently subject to targeted consultation (Thurrock 1, 2 and 3) have been informed by feedback received in the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. This feedback has not been shared with the council. This has left the council unable to fully understand the context of these targeted consultations, including the details of any feedback to which National Grid has decided does not warrant a change to the proposals.
- 3.2. The council is also concerned that residents have not been adequately notified of the full extent of changes to the design and alignment of the scheme since the statutory consultation on the basis that National Grid considers them to be non-material and has not included them in the targeted consultation.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The council agrees that the 2023 non-statutory consultation and 2024 statutory consultation have been carried out in line with the SoCC, as described by National Grid

at this adequacy of consultation milestone.

- 4.2. The council does not feel, however, that all of the consultation and engagement processes – and, in particular, the 2025 targeted consultations – have been undertaken so as to adequately support full and meaningful engagement from the council.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

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

Appendix M3

National Grid response letters to LPA
feedback

Appendix M3.1

National Grid response to Basildon
Borough Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Department: Planning Strategy & Implementation Team

[REDACTED]

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. National Grid notes that the response from Basildon Council should be viewed alongside the submission from Essex County Council and other host local authorities for the Project.

National Grid notes and welcomes the comment from Basildon Council that, to the best of the Council's knowledge, it is believed that National Grid has correctly identified the parties to be consulted, has complied with our duty to consult all relevant parties and carried out consultation events in line with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

The letter from Basildon Council contains some observations on the consultation undertaken: National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Absence of Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as Basildon Council and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Basildon Council is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Consultation

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with t

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant’s duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with Basildon Council to run through the type of changes made that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation.

National Grid looks forward to continuing the positive, collaborative relationship with Basildon Council and working together to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.2

National Grid response to Braintree
District Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Braintree District Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 5th June 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Braintree District Council's (BDC's) confirmation that, based on the information available and to the best of BDC's knowledge, the Council considers that the consultation for the Project has been conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with BDC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

In addition to confirmation that it is BDC's current opinion that National Grid has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, it is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within BDC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as BDC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

BDC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with BDC to run through the type of changes.

Bespoke Consultation Zones

In accordance with the guidance, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation was undertaken, which included bespoke consultation zones for each targeted consultation to include nearby properties which are likely to be affected. These were created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change. Where it was appropriate to do so, potential changes were grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.

The principle of using bespoke community consultation zones was discussed with all host authorities as part of discussions regarding the targeted consultation strategy and approach ahead of time, and feedback taken on board. It was not practicable to share the consultation zones with the host authorities in advance of the targeted consultations; they were published as an appendix to the targeted consultation strategy at the launch of each series of consultations and no feedback on the extent of the zones was received from the host local authorities in their responses to the targeted consultations.

In addition to sending a letter to each property that fell within the relevant consultation zone, National Grid sought to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by:

- notifying the local and regional media via press release
- notifying the local parish / parish council, and offering a briefing via Teams
- publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website
- notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter
- providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils
- running an advert in local media titles on / following consultation launch
- notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC

This approach and the bespoke consultation zones are considered to be proportionate and appropriate to the proposed changes and in line with government guidance.

Comments in respect of the Environmental Statement (ES)

National Grid notes and appreciates that BDC welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside BDC on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

At all stages National Grid has and continues to be open to extensions to suggested deadlines, all requests for extensions to time have been granted and the project team welcomes open dialogue on potential resource constraints, including the provision of additional resources through the planning performance agreement with BDC.

National Grid is also hopeful that most of the outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with BDC informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

Targeted consultation timeframe

The locations of the targeted community consultations were geographically focussed and built upon the information provided during the previous consultations. Given the nature of the changes and the consultations already undertaken in the areas affected, a 30-day consultation was appropriate and proportionate for the public to respond.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid welcomes that BDC supports many of the changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on the Project was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and 2024 consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

All of our consultations on the Project (non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, our statutory consultation in 2024 and the targeted consultations in 2025) were held at a formative stage where final decisions on the proposals are still to be made and we have taken and continue to take on board feedback on our proposals at each stage.

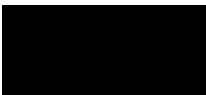
Following every consultation period, each piece of feedback received has been read (or is under consideration) and given due regard, and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes have been documented in the published 2022 and 2023 Feedback Reports, and will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with BDC and other stakeholders in relation to specific locations and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that BDC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the consultation and level of engagement to date is welcomed and appreciated. National Grid also looks forward to this positive relationship continuing and working alongside BDC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.3

National Grid response to Brentwood
Borough Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Brentwood Borough Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter of 8th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Brentwood Borough Council's (BBC's) opinion that National Grid has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

National Grid also welcomes the continued engagement with BBC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

The letter from BBC contains some observations on the consultation undertaken: National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as BBC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

BBC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Consultation

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with t

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant’s duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with BBC to run through the type of changes made that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid welcomes that BBC supports many of the changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on the Project which was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and

2024 consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

Noting the specific mention of Dunton Hills Garden Village and BCC's request for the route to be placed underground in this location, the 2024 Design Development Report (paragraphs 5.3.21 and 5.4.211) describes how the route for the overhead line alignment has been amended to adopt the existing gas pipeline corridor in this location. The presence of the gas pipeline creates a corridor free from built development, due to established safety requirements.

The route of any alternative underground cable connection in this location would likely lead to the loss of between 2 to 3 hectares of development land (as no development could occur above the cables). Given the absence of a clear basis in NPS EN-5 for the use of underground cable in this location, the ability for detailed masterplanning to reduce potential visual effects and the additional cost implications of the additional cable (of around a minimum 2 km), and the potential loss of development land, National Grid does not consider it appropriate to change from overhead line for the 2024 preferred draft alignment in this location.

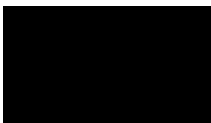
Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with BCC and other stakeholders in relation to Dunton Hills Garden Village and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that BBC considers that the consultation has met the legal requirements under Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations.

National Grid looks forward to continuing the positive, collaborative relationship with BBC and working together to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.4

National Grid response to
Chelmsford City Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Chelmsford City Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 8th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

Following the submission of our application for development consent Chelmsford City Council (CCC) will have an opportunity to provide feedback to the Planning Inspectorate in an Adequacy of Consultation response.

A Consultation Report prepared in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act will be submitted with the application for development consent and will provide a summary of the feedback received in response to the 2024 statutory consultation, and targeted community consultations in 2025, and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) compliance table was provided as part of our letter to you dated 14th April 2025. A compliance with commitments table for the targeted community consultations is being included in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and will also be included in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent.

The letter from CCC contains some observations on the consultation undertaken, National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Absence of Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as CCC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

CCC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Consultation - General

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant *"must have regard to any guidance issued under this section"*. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

"Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided."

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with CCC to run through the type of changes made that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation

Targeted Consultation – Great and Little Waltham

National Grid welcomes the ongoing engagement with CCC on the Project, including in relation to Great and Little Waltham, and will continue to undertake back checks and reviews as appropriate in light of any new information and ongoing surveys and assessments.

Environmental Statement (ES)

National Grid notes the appreciation of CCC that information has been shared by National Grid. The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside CCC on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

Where additional information has been requested and is available to share, the project team has sought to do so. Amendments to the proposed design of the Project have and continue to be considered, and will be reported within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.

National Grid is hopeful that many of the outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with CCC informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

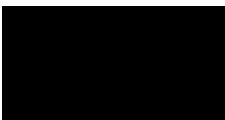
Submission Documents

National Grid also notes and welcomes the engagement undertaken so far with CCC, including in relation to the draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum and draft Requirements. Drafts of these documents are being worked up, alongside ongoing discussions with the host local authorities in relation to the associated management plans.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the acknowledgement from CCC of National Grid's engagement to date. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations. National Grid looks forward to this positive relationship continuing and working alongside CCC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.5

National Grid response to
Colchester City Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Colchester City Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email of 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Colchester City Council's (CCC's) confirmation that it is the council's current opinion that National Grid has carried out adequate pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with CCC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

It is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within CCC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as CCC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

CCC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with t

Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with CCC to run through the type of changes.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid notes that CCC welcomes the many changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on Norwich to Tilbury was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and 2024

consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

All of our consultations on the project (non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, our statutory consultation in 2024 and the targeted consultations in 2025) were held at a formative stage where final decisions on the proposals are still to be made and we have taken and continue to take on board feedback on our proposals at each stage.

Following every consultation period, each piece of feedback received has been read and given due regard, and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes have been documented in the published 2022 and 2023 Feedback Reports, and will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with CCC and other stakeholders in relation to specific locations and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

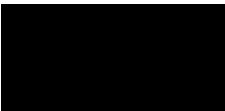
Webinars

For the statutory consultation, six webinars were held and 209 people attended. The webinars were recorded and were made available on the project website for those that were unable to attend. A range of experts were available for each webinar to answer questions. Where a question could not be answered on the webinar – for whatever reason – it was managed offline or people were encouraged to write in by email, post or by phone.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that CCC is of the opinion that the actions in respect of consultation have been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the consultation and level of engagement to date is welcomed and appreciated. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations. National Grid also looks forward to the positive relationship with CCC continuing and working alongside CCC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.6

National Grid response to Essex
County Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Essex County Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 7th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Essex County Council's (ECC's) confirmation that, based on the information available and to the best of ECC's knowledge, the Council is satisfied that the consultation for the Project has been conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In response to the request for a compliance with commitments table for the targeted community consultations, a table is being included in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and will also be contained within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent.

National Grid also welcomes the continued engagement with ECC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

In addition to confirmation that it is ECC's current opinion that National Grid has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, it is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within ECC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as ECC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled ‘What we are proposing to change in your area and why’.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant’s duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate

exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with ECC to run through the type of changes

Bespoke Consultation Zones

In accordance with the guidance, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation was undertaken, which included bespoke consultation zones for each targeted consultation to include nearby properties which are likely to be affected. These were created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change. Where it was appropriate to do so, potential changes were grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.

The principle of using bespoke community consultation zones was discussed with all host authorities as part of discussions regarding the targeted consultation strategy and approach ahead of time, and feedback taken on board. It was not practicable to share the consultation zones with the host authorities in advance of the targeted consultations, they were published as an appendix to the targeted consultation strategy at the launch of each series of consultations and no feedback on the extent of the zones was received from the host local authorities in their responses to the targeted consultations.

In addition to sending a letter to each property that fell within the relevant consultation zone, National Grid sought to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by:

- notifying the local and regional media via press release
- notifying the local parish / parish council, and offering a briefing via Teams
- publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website
- notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter
- providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils
- running an advert in local media titles on / following consultation launch
- notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC

This approach and the bespoke consultation zones are considered to be proportionate and appropriate to the proposed changes and in line with government guidance.

Comments in respect of the Environmental Statement (ES)

National Grid notes and appreciates that ECC welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside ECC on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

At all stages National Grid has and continues to be open to extensions to suggested deadlines, all requests for extensions to time have been granted and the project team welcomes open dialogue on potential resource constraints, including the provision of additional resources through the planning performance agreement with ECC.

National Grid is also hopeful that most of the outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with ECC informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

Targeted consultation timeframe

The locations of the targeted community consultations were geographically focussed and built upon the information provided during the previous consultations. Given the nature of the changes and the

consultations already undertaken in the areas affected, a 30-day consultation was appropriate and proportionate for the public to respond.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid welcomes that ECC supports many of the changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on the Project was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and 2024 consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

Noting the specific mention of Dunton Hills Garden Village and ECC's request for the route to be placed underground in this location, the 2024 Design Development Report (paragraphs 5.3.21 and 5.4.211) describes how the route for the overhead line alignment has been amended to adopt the existing gas pipeline corridor in this location. The presence of the gas pipeline creates a corridor free from built development, due to established safety requirements.

The route of any alternative underground cable connection in this location would likely lead to the loss of between 2 to 3 hectares of development land (as no development could occur above the cables). Given the absence of a clear basis in NPS EN-5 for the use of underground cable in this location, the ability for detailed masterplanning to reduce potential visual effects and the additional cost implications of the additional cable (of around a minimum 2 km), and the potential loss of development land, National Grid does not consider it necessary to change from overhead line for the 2024 preferred draft alignment in this location.

Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with ECC and other stakeholders in relation to Dunton Hills Garden Village and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

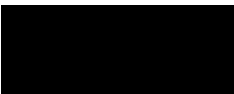
Webinars

For the statutory consultation, six webinars were held and 209 people attended. The webinars were recorded and were made available on the project website for those that were unable to attend. A range of experts were available for each webinar to answer questions. Where a question could not be answered on the webinar – for whatever reason – it was managed offline or people were encouraged to write in by email, post or by phone.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that ECC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the consultation and level of engagement to date is welcomed and appreciated. National Grid also looks forward to this positive relationship continuing and working alongside ECC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.7

National Grid response to King's Lynn and
West Norfolk Borough Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd April 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes that the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is satisfied that National Grid has met its obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix M3.8

National Grid response to London
Borough of Redbridge on AoCM

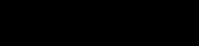
6th June 2025

London Borough of Redbridge

Sent via email to:



Dear



Planning Act 2008

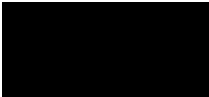
National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email of 16th April 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes that it is the view of the London Borough of Redbridge that the borough has been adequately consulted to date.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.9

National Grid response to Mid Suffolk
and Babergh District Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils

Sent via email to:



Dear 

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

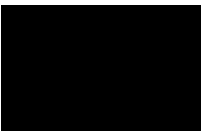
Thank you for your email of 29th April 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's (BMSDC's) confirmation that the Council is satisfied that the consultation for Norwich to Tilbury has been conducted in accordance with the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In relation to the question of an additional inspection point for the consultation documents at Endeavour House in Ipswich, the 2024 statutory consultation materials were not available at Endeavour House but were available at Ipswich Library.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with BMSDC on the Norwich to Tilbury project and looks forward to continuing to develop the SoCG.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.10

National Grid response to Norfolk
County Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Norfolk County Councils

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter of 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes the supportive and positive comments from Norfolk County Council (NCC) in relation to the level and quality of engagement and communication provided by the project team, and that the consultation requirements set out within the published Statement of Community Consultation have been met.

National Grid welcomes the positive relationship with NCC and looks forward to continued engagement on the Norwich to Tilbury project and development of a draft Statement of Common Ground.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix M3.11

National Grid response to South
Norfolk Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

South Norfolk Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email of 12th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes South Norfolk Council's confirmation that, to the best of the Council's knowledge, the consultations undertaken reflect those commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation as required by Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, specifically in relation to the delivery of the Statement of Community Consultation.

In relation to the two points raised by South Norfolk Council, these sections have been updated as requested.

National Grid welcomes the positive relationship with South Norfolk Council and looks forward to continued engagement on the Norwich to Tilbury project and development of a draft Statement of Common Ground.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix M3.12

National Grid response to Suffolk
County Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Suffolk County Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 21st May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Suffolk County Council's (SCC's) confirmation that, based on the information available and to the best of SCC's knowledge, the Council is satisfied that the consultation for the Project has been conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

With respect of the comments within SCC's response in relation to Raydon Airfield, the airfield has been consulted at every stage of consultation, beginning in 2022, and National Grid has met with the operator on a number of separate occasions since 2023. National Grid is confident that the consultation undertaken was fully compliant with the published Statement of Community Consultation and legislative requirements under the Planning Act 2008.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with SCC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

National Grid is committed to continue to work with SCC and the operator of Raydon Airfield to develop SoCGs and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix M3.13

National Grid response to Tendring District
Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Tendring District Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Tendring District Council's (TDC's) acceptance that, based on the information available, National Grid has met its statutory duty under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

The position of TDC with respect of Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 is also noted, specifically in relation to the rationale for siting the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation, the consideration of alternatives, the need for the Project, the choice of technology and strategic route options.

National Grid is confident that the consultation undertaken was fully compliant with the published Statement of Community Consultation and legislative requirements under Section 47.

All of our consultations on the project (non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, our statutory consultation in 2024 and the targeted consultations in 2025) were held at a formative stage where final decisions on the proposals are still to be made and we have taken and continue to take on board feedback on our proposals at each stage.

Following every consultation period, each piece of feedback received has been read and given due regard, and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes have been documented in the published 2022 and 2023 Feedback Reports, and will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as TDC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with TDC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

It is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within TDC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with TDC to run through the type of changes.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that TDC is satisfied that statutory consultees were correctly identified and consulted under Section 42 and that the duty to publicise appears to have been met under Section 48. National Grid is confident that the consultation undertaken was fully compliant with the published Statement of Community Consultation and legislative requirements under Section 47. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations.

National Grid looks forward to continuing to work alongside TDC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix M3.14

National Grid response to
Thurrock Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Planning Obligations and Major Infrastructure

Thurrock Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 7th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Thurrock Council's confirmation that the council does not fundamentally object to the ways that the 2023 and 2024 consultations are described as complying with National Grid's commitments.

In response to the request for a compliance with commitments table for the targeted community consultations, this will be included in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and will also be contained within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent.

National Grid also welcomes the continued engagement with Thurrock Council on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

It is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within Thurrock Council's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Issues identified with consultation and engagement

Timelines for Consultation

Our statutory consultation undertaken in 2024 ran for a period of 15 weeks, and this gave sufficient time for the public and to technical consultees to review the information provided and contact the Project team with any questions to enable them to provide an informed response. National Grid follows advice and guidance provided in relation to consultation for a Project of this nature and are confident we go over and above any statutory requirements to engage fully with all stakeholders.

The locations of the targeted community consultations were geographically focussed and built upon the information provided during the previous consultations. Given the nature of the changes and the consultations already undertaken in the areas affected, a 30-day consultation was appropriate and proportionate for the public and technical consultees to respond.

During and outside the consultation periods, National Grid has always sought to respond to technical queries from the host local authorities and other technical bodies in a timely manner, providing further information where it is available.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. Input to these documents from all host local authorities through the draft document reviews and regular, scheduled thematic groups is welcomed. Given this engagement, we would welcome further discussion with Thurrock Council on the specifics of the concerns raised in relation to the Environmental Statement and reiterate the open offer to discuss potential resource constraints, including the provision of additional resources through the planning performance agreement with Thurrock Council.

The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside Thurrock Council on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations.

Issues identified with the targeted consultations

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as Thurrock Council and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Thurrock Council is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled 'What we are proposing to change in your area and why'.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant "must have regard to any guidance issued under this section". Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

"Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further

consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided."

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with Thurrock Council to run through the type of changes.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that Thurrock Council agrees that the 2024 statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC, as described by National Grid at this adequacy of consultation milestone. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations, and looks forward to working alongside Thurrock Council to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



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

Appendix M4

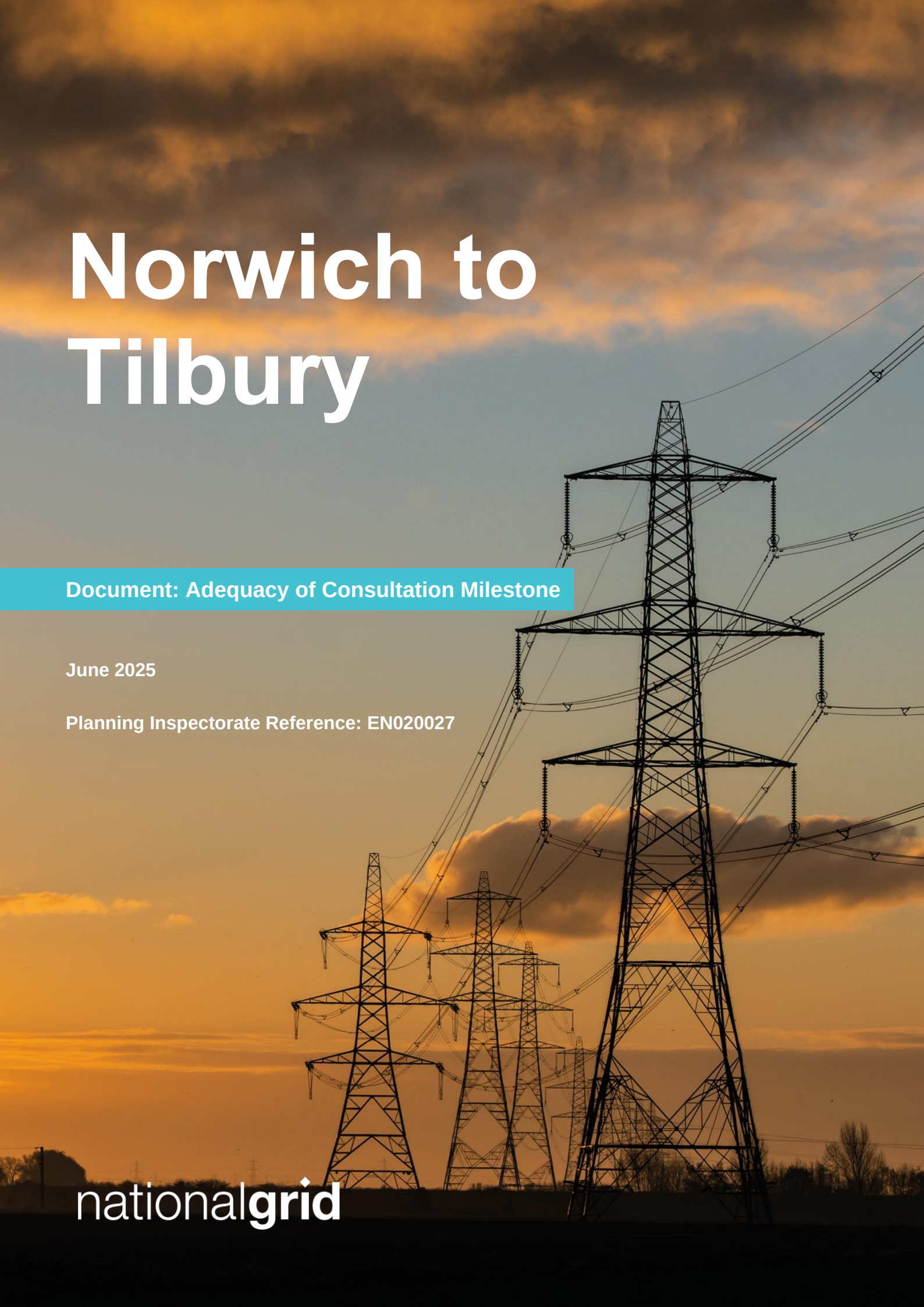
PINS feedback on Adequacy of Consultation

Topic	Feedback: 30 June 2025
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) Feedback	The applicant's AoCM statement has been prepared and submitted having had regard to the government's statutory pre-application stage guidance as well as the Inspectorate's non-statutory 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Having reviewed the applicant's AoCM statement, the Inspectorate considers that it clearly explains the applicant's consultation activities undertaken to date and the approaches set out in its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). As such, the Inspectorate does not consider the consultation to be seriously adrift (as described in guidance). The applicant should ensure that the Consultation Report clearly demonstrates how landowners, including Raydon Airfield, have been consulted. The report should also clearly explain the applicant's justification for undertaking targeted consultation, as opposed to multiple rounds of full consultation. The Consultation Report should also clearly explain how the applicant has complied with the 'Gunning' principles when undertaking consultation. It should also clearly respond to concerns raised by local authorities, which were included in the AoCM, such as Tendring District Council's concerns about the consultation not being meaningful or effective. The PA2008 does not require an applicant to share draft submission documents during consultation periods. However, the Consultation Report should explicitly set out what documents were available for review during the consultation periods. That said, it would be extremely helpful to any future examination of the application if draft documents (such as the dDCO) could be shared with key stakeholders ahead of the submission of the application. The Inspectorate's comments on the applicant's AoCM statement are made without prejudice to any decision on whether to accept the application for examination.

Appendix M5

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone report and appendices

Norwich to Tilbury

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several high-voltage electricity pylons and power lines. The pylons are silhouetted against a sky with warm, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The lines stretch across the frame, creating a sense of depth and scale.

Document: Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

June 2025

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

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Appendix A – How National Grid complied with Section 42, Section 47, Section 48, and Section 49 of the Planning Act (2008) and relevant guidance

Appendix B – Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Local Authorities letter

Appendix C – Feedback from Local Planning Authorities to Adequacy of Consultation Milestone letter

Appendix D – National Grid responses to feedback from Local Planning Authorities on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to describe how National Grid Electricity Transmission (referred to as 'National Grid' in this report), the Applicant, has undertaken the consultation to date on Norwich to Tilbury (referred to as the 'Project' in this report), during preparation of the application for development consent. The report also confirms the approach to statutory consultation set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and provides a summary of how responses to consultation have shaped the application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 In Spring 2024, the Government introduced new guidance:
- (1) PA 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects* ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
 - (2) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus* ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024)
- 1.1.3 Both the Guidance and the Prospectus outline the requirements and expectations for preparing an application for development consent, including the introduction of an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) report. In particular:
- The AoCM should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake additional engagement that may be required, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the consultation that has been undertaken. A suggested period is around 3 months prior to the intended submission date;
 - The applicant must submit a short statement on the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components sets out in the Programme Document and the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). It should include views and any supporting material from host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), if available; and
 - The AoCM is an informal, but important, milestone that gives the opportunity for the Planning Inspectorate to check in on the consultation that has been undertaken and identify any concerns that may delay acceptance of the application.
- 1.1.4 This AoCM report has been prepared by National Grid as part of the development of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Project. This document sets out:
- A general overview and approach for consultation and engagement undertaken for the Project (Chapter 2);
 - Details of the 2022 non-statutory consultation, including who National Grid consulted, the consultation activities undertaken, and how the feedback responses shaped the Project (Chapter 3);

- Details of the 2023 non-statutory consultation, including who National Grid consulted, the consultation activities undertaken, and how the feedback responses shaped the Project (Chapter 4);
- The development, consultation and publication of the SoCC, including how National Grid complied with the SoCC (Chapter 5);
- Details of the 2024 statutory consultation, including who National Grid consulted (in accordance with the Planning Act 2008), how National Grid consulted (in accordance with the Planning Act 2008), and how the feedback responses have and continue to be considered (Chapter 6);
- Details of the 2025 targeted consultations, including who National Grid consulted and the consultation activities undertaken (feedback responses currently being considered) (Chapter 7);
- Views and supporting material from host and neighbouring local planning authorities (LPAs) on the adequacy of consultation for the Project (Chapter 8); and
- Details of further engagement with persons with an interest in land (PILs) (Chapter 9).

1.1.5 Appendix A sets out how National Grid has complied with the requirements under section 42, section 47, section 48 and section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and relevant guidance.

1.1.6 Under section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities regarding the adequacy of consultation.

1.2 Project Overview

1.2.1 The Project is subject to ongoing consultation and design evolution and as currently proposed is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 14(1)(b) and Section 16 of the PA 2008 as it comprises new overhead electricity transmission connections of more than 2 kilometres (km) in length, with an operating voltage above 132 kilovolts (kV).

1.2.2 For the purpose of section 115 of the PA 2008, development consent may also be granted for associated development, which for this Project is likely to include two new 400 kV substations, Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds, underground cables, lower voltage diversions, and mitigation works.

1.2.3 A DCO is required to authorise the construction and operation of the Project. Consequently, an application for a DCO will be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero in accordance with the PA 2008.

1.3 Norwich to Tilbury

1.3.1 Norwich to Tilbury (referred to as the 'Project' in this report) is a proposal by National Grid to reinforce the high voltage power network in East Anglia. The reinforcement is needed because the existing transmission network, even with current upgrading, will not have sufficient capacity for the new renewable energy (a substantial proportion of which is generated by offshore wind) that is expected to connect to the network over the next ten years and beyond. Completion of the Project, together with other new

reinforcements across the country will meet this future energy transmission demand both in East Anglia and across the UK.

- 1.3.2 The Project proposes the reinforcement of the transmission network between the existing Norwich Main Substation in Norfolk and Tilbury Substation in Essex, via Bramford Substation, the new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation and the new Tilbury North substation.

2. Overview of Consultation and Engagement Undertaken

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 National Grid is committed to engaging with those communities considered to be affected by its activities. National Grid's Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy incorporates National Grid's Schedule 9 Statement relating to the preservation of amenity and makes the following commitments to consultation when undertaking electricity works:
- National Grid will promote genuine and meaningful stakeholder and community engagement;
 - National Grid will meet and, where appropriate, exceed the statutory requirements for consultation or engagement, and will adopt the following principles to help National Grid meet this commitment:
 - Seek to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may be affected by National Grid's works;
 - Provide opportunities for engagement from the early stages of the process where options and alternatives are being considered and there is the greatest scope to influence the design of the works;
 - Endeavour to enable constructive debate to take place, creating open and two-way communication processes;
 - Ensure that benefits, constraints and adverse impacts of proposed works are communicated openly for meaningful stakeholder and community comment and discussion. National Grid will be clear about any aspects of the works that cannot be altered;
 - Utilise appropriate methods and effort in engaging stakeholders and communities, proportionate to the scale and impact of the works; and
 - Provide feedback on how views expressed have been considered and the outcomes of any engagement process or activity.
- 2.1.2 These principles informed the approach to consultation/engagement at each stage of the Project, the SoCC and the way in which representations received have been dealt with by the Project team. During the development of new infrastructure in the UK, it has been necessary for National Grid to develop procedures and expertise in how to effectively communicate, engage and consult with stakeholders as part of Project development, in line with National Grid's commitments discussed above.
- 2.1.3 National Grid's consultation experience extends from its development of new gas and electricity transmission projects both prior to and since the introduction of the PA 2008. From this experience, the Project has been able to draw upon effective, tried and tested methods of consultation and engagement and has been able to adapt these to the local area.

- 2.1.4 National Grid developed and refined the consultation strategy for each round of consultation alongside productive dialogue with the LPAs. Engagement was held to ensure a collaborative approach was taken to planning the consultation.
- 2.1.5 Prior to the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations, National Grid undertook LPA briefings, sought feedback on the draft consultation strategies and undertook draft consultation strategy workshops. More information about this approach is detailed in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Report and 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report.
- 2.1.6 Similarly, prior to the 2024 statutory consultation, National Grid consulted with LPAs on the proposed content of the SoCC. Information about LPA consultation on the SoCC is detailed in Chapter 5 of this report.
- 2.1.7 National Grid also consulted LPAs on the draft targeted consultation strategies, detailed in Chapter 7 of this report.
- 2.1.8 In accordance with the AoCM guidance, National Grid consulted LPAs on the adequacy of consultation for the Project, which is detailed in Chapter 8 of this report.
- 2.1.9 Feedback on the adequacy of consultation was received from the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Action Group who appointed Charles Banner KC to provide his legal opinions on the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations, and again on the 2024 statutory consultation. These opinions raise legal points on the adequacy of consultation based on the application of the Gunning Principles. Parliament had the Gunning Principles well in mind in framing the statutory consultation requirements for DCO applications. National Grid have complied fully with the specific statutory requirements and the relevant guidance on consultation applicable to DCO applications which embody the Gunning Principles. These legal opinions will be appended to the Consultation Report together with our response in due course.
- 2.1.10 For the Project, National Grid has sought to engage thoroughly with affected stakeholders throughout Project development, whether these stakeholders are individuals, organisations or prescribed consultees. National Grid has built upon its own knowledge and experience of consultation by agreeing strategies and methods of engagement with affected LPAs in advance of formal consultation.
- 2.1.11 Consideration of the feedback received through consultation and wider stakeholder engagement has been a major contributing factor in the development of the Project. Consultation has been completed at an early stage in the development of proposals to allow consultees to have an opportunity to influence the Project



2.2 Approach to Community Consultation

- 2.2.1 Undertaking consultation at a series of Project stages ensured a balance between consulting early, whilst also having the necessary detail for consultees to provide meaningful feedback. To support this, at each stage of the consultation process, clear parameters were set out to explain to consultees the information presented and how feedback can influence the Project during each specific stage of consultation.
- 2.2.2 National Grid's approach to consultation in support of the Project has been to carry out non-statutory, statutory, and targeted consultation, according to the requirements of the PA 2008.

- 2.2.3 The first non-statutory consultation was held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022. This was followed by a second non-statutory consultation held between Tuesday 27 June 2023 and Monday 21 August 2023 and a statutory consultation between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024. National Grid held a series of further targeted consultations, as follows:
- Norfolk and Suffolk targeted non-statutory consultation was held between 30 January 2025 and 3 March 2025;
 - Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory consultation was held between 25 February 2025 and 27 March 2025; and
 - Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation was held between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025.
- 2.2.4 At the 2022 non-statutory consultation, National Grid presented information on how the Project was evolving from the evaluation of strategic options to a preliminary preferred graduated swathe within which new infrastructure (pylons and underground cables) could be located as well as a proposed new substation site on the Tendring Peninsula. Following the conclusion of this consultation, National Grid analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work, developed the Project design ahead of the 2023 non-statutory consultation.
- 2.2.5 At the 2023 non-statutory consultation, National Grid presented a preferred draft alignment showing potential pylon positions, underground cables, CSE compounds and connection substations. The feedback received at this consultation was considered alongside the findings of our ongoing environmental assessments and technical studies to help identify the proposals presented at statutory consultation.
- 2.2.6 At the 2024 statutory consultation, National Grid presented a preferred draft alignment showing potential pylon positions, underground cables, new CSE compounds and new connection substations. The feedback received at this consultation was considered alongside the findings of environmental and engineering studies to help identify the proposals presented at targeted consultation.
- 2.2.7 At the 2025 targeted consultations, National Grid presented proposed changes to the proposals in specific areas. At the Norfolk and Suffolk non-statutory targeted consultation, National Grid presented proposed changes to the location of temporary construction laydown areas, minor changes to the Order Limits, and a new temporary construction compound. At the Essex and Thurrock non-statutory targeted consultation, National Grid presented proposed minor changes to the Order Limits and changes to the location of temporary construction compounds and laydown areas. At the Thurrock 3 statutory targeted consultation, National Grid presented proposed changes to the substation connection point at the southern end of the route, including proposals to construct a new substation. Each round of targeted consultation included proportionate and appropriate information on the environmental implications of any changes. The feedback received during each targeted consultation is currently being considered to help refine the Project before submission. Changes made as a result of this feedback will be detailed in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
- 2.2.8 At the non-statutory, statutory, and targeted consultations National Grid sought to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may be affected by the proposed Project. National Grid consulted with stakeholders at an early stage to ensure technical advice and local knowledge was taken into account in the early development of the Project. These stakeholders included

local councils, elected representatives, local residents, landowners, hard-to-reach groups, and local interest groups.

- 2.2.9 National Grid gave the stakeholders and members of the public digital and non-digital opportunities to engage with the proposals through a dedicated website, public information events and webinar events as well as via email, phone and Freepost.
- 2.2.10 For both the non-statutory and statutory community consultations, National Grid identified a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) for the Project, which was based on a 1 km buffer from the scheme proposals. The PCZ was updated for each round of non-statutory and statutory consultation. At the launch of each stage of non-statutory and statutory consultation, National Grid wrote to all homes within the PCZ and placed adverts in local papers and on social media. For each round of non-statutory consultation, the PCZ contained approximately 50,000 addresses. For the statutory consultation, the PCZ was updated to reflect the Project's evolution and contained approximately 77,000 addresses. Paper copies of the key consultation documents were also placed at inspection points in publicly accessible venues – libraries and, where possible, council offices – along the route. Alternative formats of the documents were available on request.
- 2.2.11 National Grid also identified a Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) for the non-statutory and statutory consultations, which extended to 4 km from the edge of the proposals. The purpose of the SCZ was to identify stakeholders who were less likely to be directly affected by the proposed Project but may still be impacted, for instance by construction traffic and long-distance views. The SCZ was used to identify the relevant newspapers in circulation in the SCZ for the purpose of advertising the consultation. The SCZ was also used to identify MPs to consult, who all or part of their constituencies lay within the SCZ.
- 2.2.12 For the targeted non-statutory consultations, National Grid identified bespoke consultation zones for each targeted consultation location to include nearby properties likely to be affected. These were created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change. Where it was appropriate, potential changes were grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.
- 2.2.13 For each targeted statutory consultation, National Grid identified a consultation zone which included people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the proposed new substation location, permanent assets and changes to the overhead lines. The zone also included postcodes 250 m from the proposed Order Limits for the modifications to the existing overhead lines, and postcodes 250 m from primary access routes.

2.3 Consultation Components in the Programme Document

- 2.3.1 In accordance with the Guidance (see 1.1.2) and the Prospectus (1.1.2), National Grid must set out how elements of consultation have been carried out compared with components in the Programme Document.
- 2.3.2 National Grid prepared a Programme Document in accordance with the Guidance (see 1.1.2) which set out an anticipated timeline of activities proposed to ensure an effective pre-application process. The Programme Document was published on the Project website.

- 2.3.3 Table 2-1 sets out how National Grid undertook consultation in line with the components set out in the Programme Document.
- 2.3.4 A copy of the Programme Document is available in the Document Library on the Project website <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library>.

Table 2-1 Application submission timeframe (relating to consultation activities)

Activity in the Programme Document	Timeframe	Status	Detailed in this AoCM report
Non-statutory consultation	21 April 2022 to 16 June 2022	Complete	Chapter 3
Further non-statutory consultation	27 June 2023 to 21 August 2023	Complete	Chapter 4
Statutory Consultation	10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024	Complete	Chapter 6
Project Update Meetings with Local Planning Authorities (including key stakeholders) to discuss approach to Targeted Consultations	November 2024 – present date	Ongoing	Chapter 7
Further targeted consultations – a combination of statutory and non-statutory (community) consultations	30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025	Complete	Chapter 7
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Submission (AoCM)	June 2025	Planned	N/A

3. 2022 Non-statutory Consultation

3.1 Purpose of the Consultation

- 3.1.1 The first non-statutory consultation ran for eight weeks between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022. The purpose of this consultation was to:
- Introduce and provide an overview of the proposed Project to the public;
 - Explain the need to build the reinforcement;
 - Set out options considered and the reasons for preferring the corridor and graduated swathe;
 - Present and explain the graduated swathe and corridor which was preferred at that time;
 - Present and explain the substation site which was preferred at that time;
 - Ensure stakeholders and consultees had the opportunity to provide feedback in a meaningful and influential manner; and
 - Outline next steps and programme and how proposals would be developed further.

3.2 Who National Grid Consulted

- 3.2.1 The 2022 non-statutory consultation was open to anyone with an interest in the proposed Project. A consultation zone was developed to inform consultation activities.
- 3.2.2 National Grid established a PCZ, which extended 1km from the proposals, to capture stakeholders who may be most affected by the proposals. All relevant stakeholders within the PCZ were informed about the Project through a direct mailout of a Project Newsletter on the launch of the consultation.
- 3.2.3 National Grid identified a SCZ, which extended to 4 km from the edge of the proposals. The purpose of the SCZ was to identify stakeholders who were less likely to be directly affected by the Project but may be impacted by construction traffic and long-distance views. The SCZ was used to identify the relevant newspapers in circulation in the SCZ for the purpose of advertising the consultation. The SCZ was also used to identify MPs to consult, who all or part of their constituencies lay within the SCZ. All members of the public, including those within the SCZ could register to receive all Project information and engage as they wish.
- 3.2.4 During the 2022 non-statutory consultation, the following groups and stakeholders were notified about the consultation:
- Parish councils representing parishes within both consultation zones and in the immediate vicinity;
 - MPs representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones;
 - Elected representatives in local authorities where the Project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the 2022 non-statutory consultation period as requested;

- ‘Seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials; and
- Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife.

3.3 How National Grid Consulted

3.3.1 National Grid’s consultation activities for the 2022 non-statutory consultation included:

- Setting up a Project specific website, email, and dedicated telephone information line;
- Mailing a consultation newsletter directly to properties in the PCZ within 1 km of the proposals;
- Producing consultation materials, including the 2022 Project Background Document, Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS), Community Newsletter, exhibition banners, posters, maps of the proposal and feedback questionnaire;
- Holding online and in person events, including webinars, and offering telephone appointments;
- Making information and materials available at inspection locations in close proximity to the Project; and
- Media and social media promotional activity.

3.3.2 Table 3-1 provides an overview of the key activities conducted during the 2022 non-statutory consultation. Full details are provided in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report available on the Project website.

Table 3-1 Summary of Activities During the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation

Date	Activity	Attendance
28 April 2022 to 28 May 2022	12 in-person public information events were held at suitable locations along the proposed route. The events were held at various times and dates within this period.	In total 2,821 attendees joined the team at the public information events.
22 April 2022 to 9 June 2022	12 public webinars held at various times and dates within this period. Five general overview webinars were offered, and seven were held to offer information on the proposals in each of the geographic sections of the scheme.	In total 381 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars.
21 April 2022 to 16 June 2022	Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers and were placed on social media.	Advertisements were placed in ten different newspapers. Adverts on Facebook received 639,654 impressions and 6,150 advert clicks. Adverts on Twitter (now known as X) received 208,311 impressions and 750 advert clicks.

Date	Activity	Attendance
During the 2022 non-statutory consultation	Telephone / video appointments, on request, to provide the opportunity to speak one-to-one with technical experts across the Project.	In total 13 requests were made to speak with a member of the Project team on specific matters.
During the 2022 non-statutory consultation	Project documents were made available at 13 locations within the 2022 consultation zone at various points with stock levels regularly being checked and replenished during the consultation period.	N/A
During the 2022 non-statutory consultation	A website was set up to publish information on the Project along with consultation materials and historical Project information.	During the consultation period the Project website received 72,725 views from 54,975 unique users.
14 April 2022 to 5 July 2022*	Presentations to district/ county/ borough councils, parish councils and seven Members of Parliament (MPs)	26 sessions, attended by a total of 172 attendees, were held to explain the proposals, support stakeholder and consultee relationships and to promote the 2022 non-statutory consultation

*Three briefings had to be re-scheduled and were held after the close of the 2022 non-statutory consultation.

3.4 Feedback Received

- 3.4.1 A total of 3,787 responses were received during the consultation period from community stakeholders and consultees, along with members of the local community. This comprised of:
- 496 paper response forms;
 - 2,138 online response forms;
 - 1,085 emails submitted via the Project inbox; and
 - 68 letters.
- 3.4.2 Although some feedback was received after the close of consultation, all responses received have been considered and reported on in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report, which is available on the Project website.

3.5 Evolution of the Project Presented at 2022 Non-statutory Consultation

- 3.5.1 Feedback received in response to the 2022 non-statutory consultation helped to shape and guide the development of the proposed Project. As a result of consultation feedback and engagement with PILs, changes to the proposed Project were made which have been summarised (in broad terms) below.

Changes Outside the Preferred Corridor

- 3.5.2 The following broad summaries identifies some of the changes to the proposed Project shaped by consultation feedback.

Section A South Norfolk

- The corridor was diverted to the east of Worham Ling before re-joining the preferred corridor to the south-west of Diss. This change was referred to as 'East of Worham Ling'.

Section B Mid Suffolk

- The corridor was diverted to the east, south of Offton, and would then run alongside the existing 132 kV overhead line to the north and east of Flowton to Bramford Substation. This change was referred to as 'North of Flowton'.

Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester

- An amendment to the route was identified to the north and east of Notley Enterprise Park and at the northern edge of the Dedham Vale National Landscape (an AONB). This change was referred to as 'West of Great Wenham'.

Section F Chelmsford

- The draft alignment was straightened slightly to the west of Writtle. This change was referred to as 'West of Writtle'. This change was made to avoid a historic landfill site south-east of Newney Green and to avoid positioning the pylons on unsuitable ground.

Section G Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone)

- An amendment to the route was identified to the east of Ingatestone to reduce potential impacts on heritage assets. This change was referred to as 'Further east at Ingatestone'.

Changes Within the Preferred Corridor

Section B Mid Suffolk

- The route was amended to broadly parallel the existing 132 kV overhead line to the north-west of Barking and Barking Tye; and
- The alignment was moved further east within the corridor south of Bramford near Burstall.

Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester

- The route was altered to avoid oversailing properties and gardens at Aldham;
- The extent of underground cables was increased from south of the Dedham Vale AONB through to the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation. This also enabled an adjustment of the overhead line alignment near Ardleigh; and
- The proposed overhead line near Great Horkesley was changed to underground cables for a distance of approximately 4 km.

Section E Braintree

- The technology was changed in this area from overhead line to underground cable to cross under the existing 400 kV overhead line north of Fairstead.

Section F Chelmsford

- The draft alignment was amended to pass to the east of Bushy Wood to increase the distance from properties.

Section G Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone)

- The alignment was restricted to the eastern edge of the proposed corridor to reduce the interaction with the Dunton Hills Garden Village development.

Section H Thurrock

- The technology was amended from the north of the Lower Thames Crossing into Tilbury Substation from overhead line to underground cable.

4. 2023 Non-statutory Consultation

4.1 Purpose of the Consultation

4.1.1 National Grid held a second round of non-statutory consultation from 21 June 2023 to 21 August 2023. The purpose of this consultation was to:

- Provide an overview of the updated proposals to the public;
- Present the 2023 preferred draft alignment;
- Explain where changes were made to the proposals since the 2022 non-statutory consultation, including how the feedback received had informed the proposals;
- Provide a further opportunity for stakeholders and consultees to provide feedback on the work to date; and
- Outline the next steps and the programme and how the proposals will be further developed and how feedback has been taken into account.

4.2 Who National Grid Consulted

4.2.1 The 2023 non-statutory consultation was open to anyone with an interest in the Project. A consultation zone was developed to assist engagement with the local community.

4.2.2 National Grid established a PCZ, which extended 1 km from the proposals, to capture stakeholders who may be most affected by the proposals. All relevant stakeholders within the PCZ were informed about the Project through a direct mailout of a Project newsletter on the launch of the consultation.

4.2.3 National Grid identified a SCZ, which extended to 4 km from the edge of the proposals. The purpose of the SCZ was to identify stakeholders who were less likely to be directly affected by the Project but may be impacted by construction traffic and long-distance views. The SCZ was used to identify the relevant newspapers in circulation in the SCZ for the purpose of advertising the consultation. The SCZ was also used to identify MPs to consult, who all or part of their constituencies lay within the SCZ. All members of the public, including those within the SCZ could register to receive all Project information and engage as they wish.

4.2.4 During the 2023 non-statutory consultation, the following groups and stakeholders were notified about the consultation:

- Parish councils representing parishes within both consultation zones and in the immediate vicinity;
- MPs representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones;
- Elected representatives in local authorities where the Project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the 2022 non-statutory consultation period as requested;

- ‘Seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials; and
- Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife.

4.3 How National Grid Consulted

4.3.1 National Grid’s consultation activities for the 2023 non-statutory consultation included:

- Setting up a Project specific website including an interactive map, public consultation pages and consultation materials, as well as dedicated email and telephone information line;
- Mailing a consultation newsletter directly to properties in the PCZ within 1 km of the proposals;
- Producing materials to support consultation, including the 2023 Project Background Document, 2023 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review, maps of proposals showing the 2023 preferred draft alignment, 2023 Design Development Report, 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Community Newsletter, exhibition banners, feedback questionnaire, and 2023 Non-statutory Public Consultation Strategy;
- Holding in person events and offering remote sessions including webinars and telephone appointments;
- Making information and materials available at inspection locations in close proximity to the Project; and
- Media and social media promotional activity.

4.3.2 Table 4-1 provides an overview of the key activities conducted during the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Full details are provided in the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report available [here](#).

Table 4-1 Summary of Activities During the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation

Date	Activity	Attendance
6 July 2023 to 21 July 2023	12 public information events were held at suitable locations along the proposed route. The events were held at various times and dates within this period.	In total 1,803 attendees joined the team at the public information events.
5 July 2023 to 17 August 2023	4 public webinars held at various times and dates within this period.	In total 118 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars.
27 June 2023 to 21 August 2023	Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers and were placed on social media.	Advertisements were placed in nine different newspapers. Adverts on Facebook received 1,680,956 impressions and 6,980 advert clicks.

Date	Activity	Attendance
27 June 2023 to 21 August 2023	Project documents were made available at 13 locations within the 2023 consultation zone at various points with stock levels regularly being checked and replenished during the consultation period.	N/A
During the 2022 non-statutory consultation	A website was set up to publish information on the Project along with consultation materials and historical Project information.	During the consultation period the Project website received 84,801 views from 67,352 unique users.
27 June 2023 to 21 August 2023	Briefings to district/ county/ borough councils, parish councils and Members of Parliament (MPs)	Briefings were offered to 12 councils, 205 parish councils and 15 MPs to explain the proposals, support stakeholder and consultee relationships and to promote the 2023 non-statutory consultation.

4.4 Feedback Received

- 4.4.1 A total of 4,167 feedback submissions were received during the consultation period. This comprised of:
- 138 paper response forms;
 - 1,473 online response forms;
 - 2,498 emails sent to the Project inbox; and
 - 58 letters.
- 4.4.2 Although some feedback was received after the close of consultation, all responses received have been considered and reported on in the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report, which is available on the Project website.

4.5 Evolution of the Project Presented at 2023 Non-statutory Consultation

- 4.5.1 Feedback received from the 2023 non-statutory consultation helped to shape and guide the development of the proposed Project. As a result of consultation feedback and engagement with PILs changes to the proposed Project were made which have been summarised (in broad terms) below.

Changes Identified in Response to the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation

- 4.5.2 The following broad summaries identifies some of the changes to the proposed Project shaped by consultation feedback.

Section A South Norfolk

- An amendment to the route was identified to the east of Ingatestone to reduce impacts on heritage assets. This change was referred to as 'Further east at Ingatestone';

- The position of pylon RG12 (now RG13) was moved slightly north to avoid an archaeology site identified at this location;
- The location of pylon RG44 was amended to move it out of / to the edge of the open view to the north-west from Hoggs Barn. Pylon RG43 was also repositioned to benefit from further screening;
- A change was made between pylon RG46 and RG50 to move the preferred draft alignment further east away from woodland and private nature reserve at Brick Kiln Lane; and
- A change was made between pylon RG70 and RG73 which removed the single angle pylon at RG72 and replaced it with two angle pylons each with smaller direction changes. This change subsequently moved the 2023 preferred draft alignment further west in this area.

Section B Mid Suffolk

- The alignment was modified by approximately 2 km in the Waveney Valley between pylon RG84 and RG90. This created the potential for the use of underground cable on a slightly modified alignment, which was referred to as the Waveney Valley Alternative;
- The alignment was moved further east of Wortham near Brook Farm Airstrip between pylon RG90 and RG100. This moved pylons RG91, RG92, RG93 and RG94 further east;
- The alignment was moved to the west between pylons RG118 and RG123 to enable pylons to be positioned closer to field boundaries. The alignment also moved further east between RG123 and RG130, away from Hempnalls Hall;
- Pylon RG161 (amended to RG162) was moved to the south-west by approximately 50 m;
- Pylons RG173 and RG176 (amended to RG177) were repositioned to lower ground in order to reduce visual impacts. RG174 also moved to be closer to a field boundary; and
- The alignment was amended south of Offton between pylons RG191 to RG200 to reduce impacts on the equestrian business at RG196. This moved the alignment further away from residential properties along Ipswich Road.

Section C Babergh and Tendring

- Pylon JC16 was moved further west, increasing the separation between the pylon and the closest property from approximately 90 m to 180 m;
- The CSE compound was moved to the north of Raydon Airfield, which also moved the alignment from pylons JC26 to JC34 further north away from Little Wenham and Great Wenham; and
- Pylons JC21 and JC22 was moved further north-east to site further away from the public footpath and a farmer's field entry point.

Section D Colchester

- The split in the underground cable (east of Great Horkesley) was removed, which moved the alignment further south. This meant the Project no longer impacted Knowles Barn Farm; and
- There was a change to the alignment and pylon positions around TB54, TB55 and TB56, which moved the alignment further east and south-east from properties at the edge of Aldham.

Section E Braintree

- Changes were made between pylon TB89 (amended to TB88) and TB92 (amended to TB91) which moved them to the western edge of the field to reduce the visual impact. This also moved the alignment further towards the western edge of Ruffian's Wood to reduce impacts on a dog walking business;
- Pylon TB93 was moved out of direct views of a property to the north;
- The western CSE compound at Fairstead was moved to the east; and
- The alignment was moved further south between pylon TB103 in Section E and pylon TB132 in Section F (amended to TB131 and TB133).

Section F Chelmsford

- An amendment was made to the alignment between pylons TB147 and TB154 (amended to TB148 and TB155) to move it further away from properties; and
- Pylon TB174 was moved slightly further south and the alignment around pylon TB180 was moved towards the south field boundary.

Section G Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone)

- The alignment between pylon TB220 and TB221 was moved further west, adopting the existing gas pipeline corridor, to reduce effects on residential properties and listed buildings in the Dunton Wayletts area; and
- Pylon TB224 was moved slightly west.

Changes Made as a Result of New Information

- 4.5.3 Where it became available, new information was taken into consideration in the development of the Project. New information was obtained outside the 2023 non-statutory consultation through discussions with landowners and other engagement with technical stakeholders.
- 4.5.4 The following broad summaries identifies some of the changes to the proposed Project shaped by new information.

Section A South Norfolk

- An amendment was made to the alignment between pylon RG1 and RG7 (now RG8) south of Norwich Main Substation to reduce potential impacts on a proposed battery storage development. The alignment was moved west, requiring an additional pylon;

- Pylon RG30 was moved slightly further north, which also moved pylon RG29 slightly further north; and
- A minor realignment to the west increased the separation from South Norfolk Model Flying Club to approximately 200 m to reduce potential impacts.

Section B Mid Suffolk

- The alignment between pylons RG90 and RG100 was changed to reduce interaction with a solar farm development. This moved pylons RG93 and RG94 further east;
- The alignment of the existing 132 kV overhead line was adopted for approximately 2 km, between pylon RG103 (now RG102) and RG116 (now RG117), and then a realignment south to the west of Burgate Road was made to reduce potential impacts on nearby historical assets. This change also moved the alignment further away from Mellis Common;
- Pylon RG135 (now RG136) was moved slightly further south to reduce impact on agricultural operations; and
- The alignment was adjusted further east between pylon RG147 (now RG148) and RG152 (now RG153) to move the alignment out of a farmed field.

Section C Babergh and Tendring

- The underground cable construction swathe was restricted to avoid trees in the area around pylon TB11 and TB12;
- The alignment was moved slightly further south between TB4 and TB7 to the southern edge of the fishing lake; and
- The underground cable construction swathe was narrowed in order to retain woodland to the south of Boundlands Farm.

Section D Colchester

- An amendment was made to the alignment between TB41 (now TB40) and TB45 (now TB44) which moved it slightly further east to avoid a new private reservoir. This also removed pylon TB43, reducing the visual effects.

Section G Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone)

- An additional pylon was added in the vicinity of Thurrock Airfield to keep pylon heights to a minimum at this location.

5. Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

5.1 Development of the SoCC

- 5.1.1 In accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act, a draft SoCC was prepared, consulted on with host authorities, finalised and published ahead of commencing statutory consultation on the Project.

5.2 Consultation on the SoCC

- 5.2.1 In accordance with Section 47(2) of the PA 2008, National Grid consulted with each of the host authorities identified pursuant to Section 43(1) of the PA 2008 about the proposed content of the draft SoCC.
- 5.2.2 The following 13 host authorities were consulted with on the draft SoCC:
- Babergh District Council;
 - Basildon Borough Council;
 - Braintree District Council;
 - Brentwood Borough Council;
 - Chelmsford City Council;
 - Colchester City Council;
 - Essex County Council;
 - Mid Suffolk District Council;
 - Norfolk County Council;
 - South Norfolk Council;
 - Suffolk County Council;
 - Tendring District Council; and
 - Thurrock Council.
- 5.2.3 Prior to formal consultation under Section 42(2), National Grid engaged with the host authorities to ensure a productive and collaborative approach was taken to planning the statutory consultation. This included:
- Delivering a presentation on the draft SoCC on 23 November 2023; and
 - Providing an early draft SoCC on 1 December 2023. Officers were invited to review and comment on the draft SoCC during an 'informal' 35 day consultation period, between 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024.
- 5.2.4 Feedback on the early draft SoCC was received from eight host authorities including:

- Babergh District Council;
- Brentwood Borough Council;
- Chelmsford City Council;
- Colchester City Council;
- Mid Suffolk District Council;
- Norfolk County Council;
- South Norfolk Council; and
- Suffolk County Council.

5.2.5 Amongst the comments received, there was feedback from Brentwood Borough Council about the proposed timing of the consultation coinciding with the local elections in Spring/Summer 2024. Other comments related to the availability of the consultation materials and suggested making them available in libraries in hard copy format to increase accessibility. There were also additional requests for information events to run in Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk.

5.2.6 All comments were considered and changes to the initial draft of the SoCC were made. A summary of the feedback received and the changes that were made to the early draft SoCC will be presented in the Consultation Report.

5.2.7 Following the informal engagement and consultation on the early draft SoCC (December 2023), the host authorities were sent a formal consultation notification on 1 March 2024.

5.2.8 In accordance with Section 47(2) of the PA 2008, formal consultation on the updated draft SoCC took place between 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024. Officers were invited to review and comment on the draft SoCC during the 'formal' 32 day consultation period.

5.2.9 The draft SoCC (March 2024) reflected the changes incorporated following informal consultation on the early draft SoCC (December 2023).

5.2.10 Formal feedback on the draft SoCC was received from eleven host authorities including:

- Babergh District Council;
- Basildon Borough Council;
- Braintree District Council;
- Brentwood Borough Council;
- Chelmsford City Council;
- Colchester City Council;
- Essex County Council;
- Mid Suffolk District Council;
- Norfolk County Council;
- Tendring District Council; and
- Thurrock Council.

5.2.11 Amongst the comments received, there was feedback to:

- Ensure that the interactive mapping system is user-friendly, allowing postcode input for relevant information and provide detailed clear maps;
- Provide opportunities for meaningful interaction with National Grid online or via telephone, allowing residents to submit queries and receive responses; and
- Include where to find documents online, and clearly state locations and timings of community events with ample notice as well as a printable format of the questionnaire for public to send feedback by post.

5.2.12 The comments received were considered and several amendments were made to the draft SoCC. A summary of the feedback received and the changes that were made to the draft SoCC will be presented in the Consultation Report.

5.3 Publication of the SoCC

5.3.1 In accordance with Section 47(6)(za) of the PA 2008, the SoCC was made available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people likely to be impacted by the proposals. The SoCC was available for inspection:

- On the Project website for the start of consultation on 10 April 2024;
- As reference copies at the inspection points (as consulted and agreed with local authorities) along the route and at public information events as detailed in **Table 5-1 below**; and
- As a printed or alternative format copy upon request.

Table 5-1 Summary of Inspection Points and Public Information Events Where Printed Copies of the SoCC Were Available

Location		
Inspection points listed in the SoCC		
Long Stratton Library	Norwich Library	Prettygate Library
Tuckswood Library	Diss Library	Wivenhoe Library
Stowmarket Library	Capel St Mary Library	Stanway Library
Coggeshall Library	Chelmsford Central Library	Greenstead Library
Colchester Library	Tilbury Library	
Additional inspection points		
Manningtree Library	Basildon Library	Hatfield Peverel Library
Witham Library	Brentwood Library	Brentwood Town Council
Chadwell Library	Ingatestone Library	Writtle Library
Ipswich Library	East Tilbury Hub and Library	
Public information events		
Towngate Theatre	The Brentwood Centre	Chelmsford City Racecourse
Gislingham Village Hall	Copdock Village Hall	Needham Market Community Centre

Location		
Lawford Venture Centre 2000	The Civic Hall	Thorpe Hall
Tibenham Community Hall	Witham Public Hall	Diss Town Football Club
Langham Community Centre	Great Bromley Village Hall	

- 5.3.2 The SoCC Section 47 notice was published in three local newspapers with a circulation area within the PCZ and SCZ, in accordance with Section 47(6)(a) of the PA 2008. It was also published in a national newspaper and the London Gazette. Table 5-2 below summaries the newspapers in which the SoCC notice was published and the dates on which it was published.

Table 5-2 Newspapers where the SoCC Section 47 Notice was Published

Newspaper	Dates
East Anglia Daily Times	10 April 2024
Eastern Daily Press	10 April 2024
London Gazette	10 April 2024
The Guardian	17 April 2024
Essex Chronicle	11 April 2024

- 5.3.3 National Grid has therefore complied with all of the enacted requirements of Section 47(6).

5.4 Compliance with SoCC

- 5.4.1 **Table 5-3** outlines how the consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the SoCC.

Table 5-3 How the Statutory Consultation was Undertaken in Accordance with the SoCC

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
3.1.1	National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the proposed Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have been engaged throughout the development of this Project, since the first stage of non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and the second stage in 2023. This was followed by the statutory consultation in 2024 and targeted consultations in 2025. After each round of consultation, National Grid analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work developed the Project design.
3.1.2	National Grid's approach to engagement in support of the proposed Project is to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation	National Grid's approach to engagement contained both non-statutory and statutory consultations:

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	guided by the requirements of the Planning Act.	• Non-statutory 1: between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022; • Non-statutory 2: between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023; • Statutory: between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024; • Targeted (Norfolk and Suffolk): between 30 January 2025 and 3 March 2025; • Targeted (Essex and Thurrock): between 25 February 2025 and 27 March 2025; and • Targeted statutory: between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025.
3.1.8.	More information on both non-statutory consultations and how the feedback received at both non-statutory consultations helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report and the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report. These are available on the Project website.	The 2022 and 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Reports can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website.
5.1.1.	The statutory consultation (under Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008) will run for 10 weeks.	The statutory consultation started on 12:00 noon on Wednesday 10 April 2024 and was scheduled until 11:59pm on Tuesday 18 June 2024. The consultation period was extended for five weeks until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024 to give people additional time to have their say and provide feedback on our proposals after the General Elections. The consultation was open for a total of 15 weeks.
5.2.2	Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the proposed Project and will be provided during the statutory consultation, consistent with how the Project has previously been presented.	In the same way as previous consultations, the location plans were split into geographical sections. Sections were divided as follows: • Section A: South Norfolk • Section B: Mid Suffolk • Section C and D: Babergh, Tendring and Colchester • Section E: Braintree • Section F: Chelmsford • Section G: Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone) • Section H: Thurrock
5.2.3.	National Grid will consult on all aspects of the proposed development for the Project, including: • Approximately 159 km of new 400 kV overhead line supported on approximately 510 steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) some of which are gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed CSE compounds, or existing or proposed substations;	The feedback questionnaire included questions about each section of the route and there was also space to comment generally about the Project and this consultation, such as ' <i>Do you have any further comments on our proposals in this section?</i> '.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	- Approximately 25 km of 400 kV underground cabling some of which is located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape (formerly known as Dedham Vale AONB); - Six new CSE compounds, each with a permanent access, to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables; - A new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node ("EACN") substation, with a new permanent access, on the Tendring Peninsula. This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear ("AIS") substation; - Substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation to connect and support operation of the new transmission connection; - Temporary works associated with construction of the Project; and - An alternative design at the Waveney Valley (referred to as the Waveney Valley Alternative) is also being considered and is the subject of consultation and ongoing assessment. This design alternative, if taken forward, would result in changes to those elements of the Project set out below. This would instead comprise: - installation of approximately 157 km of new 400 kV overhead line; - installation of approximately 27 km of 400 kV underground cabling (some of which is located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape; and - eight new CSE compounds (each with a permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.	
5.2.4.	The Project as currently proposed is an EIA development and therefore we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this statutory consultation in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR"). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.	The PEIR is available in the document library on the Project website. The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR was available at the 14 inspection points listed in the SoCC. It was also made available at an additional 11 locations due to requests from the public and stakeholders. The full list of inspection points can be found in Table 6-2 of this report.
5.3.1.	The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project, and National Grid will have regard to all	National Grid has had regard to all the consultation responses received from anyone who was interested in the Project by the relevant deadline and any responses received post that deadline.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	consultation responses received by the relevant deadline.	
5.3.2.	Under Section 47 of the PA 2008, we have a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land, i.e., the local community. In consultation with the local authorities set out in Section 1.1.3 of the SoCC we have developed a PCZ for the distribution of our Community Newsletter, as shown in Appendix A (of the SoCC).	National Grid consulted the local community living in the vicinity of the Project. This was achieved by establishing a PCZ which consisted of people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project's draft Order Limits. A Community Newsletter was distributed to all properties within the PCZ.
5.3.3.	The PCZ includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the proposed Project's Order Limits (representing the anticipated extent of land in which the proposed Project may take place). The zone has changed since the last round of consultation as a result of feedback and environmental studies as well as the inclusion of information such as construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction. This latest zone amounts to approximately 77,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods.	The PCZ was established as a result of the feedback and environmental studies. The PCZ consisted of people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project's draft Order Limits, approximately 77,000 addresses.
5.3.4.	An additional wider Secondary Consultation Zone ("SCZ") has been developed, comprising a 4 km buffer around the Order Limits, whereby wider publicity of the proposed Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix A (of the SoCC).	The SCZ was established to publicise the Project within 4 km of the Projects' draft Order Limits.
5.3.5.	Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via methods outlined in Section 5.5 of the SoCC.	The local community was notified about the consultation within the PCZ and SCZ using the following consultation methods as outlined in Section 5.5 of the SoCC: • Direct mailout of a Community Newsletter with Project information to residential and business addresses in PCZ. A second mailout of a postcard was issued to the PCZ on 6 June 2024 to advise of the extension to the consultation; • Press release shared with 23 local and regional newspapers in circulation in PCZ and SCZ; • Newspaper advertisements in 3 local and regional newspapers in circulation in PCZ and SCZ, published between 10 April 2024 & 18 April 2024. Newspaper adverts were republished between 12 June 2024 & 20 June 2024 to advise of the consultation extension; • Social media advertisements targeting different demographics across Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) from 15 April 2024 –

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		26 April 2024. Social media adverts were republished on 2 July 2024 – 16 August 2024 to advise of the consultation extension; and Statutory notices (Section 48 notice) were published in 5 newspapers on 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024, and were republished on 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 to advise of the consultation extension.
5.3.6.	As well as properties and businesses within the PCZ, we will also consult with various groups and individuals including parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008.	The groups and individuals representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities were consulted within the PCZ and SCZ. - Emails and letters about the consultation were sent to local authorities, elected representatives and MPs on 10 April 2024. Emails and letters about the new consultation deadline was sent on 5 June 2024; and - Posters sent to each parish council within the PCZ.
5.3.7.	In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and Section 43 of the Planning Act. We will also consult persons who fall within Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008.	Prescribed Consultees and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a) and (b) were identified and consulted. A letter and email were sent to the Section 43 consultees on the 10 April 2024 with information about the Project, consultation dates, where to find documents, feedback questionnaire, and information about the events. A letter and an email detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 43 consultees on 5 June 2024.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Project Background Document: This document will provide a summary of the proposed Project including: - The background to the Project; - Information about design changes as a result of the 2023 non-statutory consultation; - Information about potential benefits and impacts of the proposed Project; - How we might propose to mitigate any significant effects; - Signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). This document will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 of the SoCC and at public information events.	The Project Background Document contained the following chapters: - The consultation - The need - Our proposals - Construction - Managing and mitigating effects - Other information - Next steps These chapters contained information to cover all bullet points listed in the SoCC. The Project Background document was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (92 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the 14 inspection locations listed in the SoCC and at the additional 11 locations. The full list of inspection points can be found in Table 6-2 of this report; and

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances	at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report. No requests for alternative formats of the Project Background Document were made.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Community Newsletter 2024: The newsletter will set out the proposed Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the proposed Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period. Target Audience: All residents and businesses with properties within the PCZ. The Community Newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. It will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 of the SoCC and at public information events. National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	A Community Newsletter was produced to communicate the Project proposals, the background and how to get involved in consultation. The Community Newsletter was posted to all properties within the PCZ. The Community Newsletter was also available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (27 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the 14 inspection locations listed in the SoCC and at the 11 additional locations. The full list can be found at Table 6-2 of this report; and - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report. No requests for alternative formats of the Community Newsletter were made.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	PEIR: The PEIR will contain a description of the proposed Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the benefits of the proposed Project. A non-technical summary ("NTS") of the PEIR will also be made available. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). The PEIR will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. The NTS will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request (subject to availability), at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 of the SoCC and at public information events. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	The PEIR was produced for the statutory consultation and contained information to cover all items listed in the SoCC. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) was also produced. The PEIR and NTS were available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (24 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period, including two full sets of the PEIR); - at the 14 inspection locations listed in the SoCC and at the 11 additional locations. The full list can be found in Table 6-2 of this report; and - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report. No requests for alternative formats of the PEIR or NTS were made.
Table 5.1.	2024 Design Development Report An in-depth technical document detailing the work we have undertaken to date, focusing on	The 2024 Design Development Report was available:

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
Consultation materials	the work since the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the Design Development Report 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	- to download in the document library of the Project website; - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report; and - as a paper copy upon request (19 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	2024 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	A 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review Document was produced as a technical report providing an overview description of the options that National Grid has identified and subsequently evaluated for reinforcement of the network in the East Anglian region. The 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review Document was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report; and - as a paper copy upon request (19 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report: Summarising the feedback, we received during the 2023 non-statutory consultation and how it has been considered. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	The 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report summarises the feedback National Grid received during the 2023 consultation, and it how has been considered. The 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report; and - as a paper copy upon request (four requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Project maps / Project area maps A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the proposed Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail).	. The Project maps were available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report; and

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy at public information events.	as a paper copy upon request (82 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Consultation banners A series of exhibition banners with information relating to the proposed Project that will be used at the public information events. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.	The consultation banners were available: - at the 14 public information events listed in 6-2 of this report; and - to download in the document library of the Project website.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Interactive Project map An interactive map of the proposed Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). The interactive Project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.	The interactive map was available: - on the Project website; and - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Consultation notices: We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 48 of the PA 2008. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy on request.	The consultation notices were provided to the statutory consultees. The consultation notices were also available: - on the Project website; and - as a paper copy upon request (no requests were made during the consultation period).
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	SoCC The SoCC sets out how National Grid intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). The SoCC will be published on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 of the SoCC and at public information events. As required under Section 47 of the Planning Act, notice of the SoCC will also be published in local newspapers.	The SoCC was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (two requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the 14 inspection locations listed in the SoCC and at the 11 additional locations. The full list can be found in Table 6-2 of this report; and - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report. The Section 47 notice of SoCC was published in the following newspapers: - East Anglia Daily Times – 10 April 2024; - Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024;

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		- London Gazette – 10 April 2024; - The Guardian –17 April 2024; and - Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Feedback questionnaire An online and paper feedback questionnaire to gather responses to the statutory consultation. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). The feedback questionnaire will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 of the SoCC and at public information events. Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T)	The feedback questionnaire was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (286 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the 14 inspection locations listed in the SoCC and at the 11 additional locations. The full list can be found at Table 6-2 of this report; and - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report. The Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T was available for the duration of consultation to receive hard-copy feedback.
Table 5.1. Consultation materials	Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans A guide outlining the consultation maps and plans, and how to use them. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 of the SoCC for detail). This document will be available on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at public information events.	A Guide to Interacting with Our Consultation Plans was produced to provide guidance on interacting with the latest consultation plans during the statutory consultation. The Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (no requests were made during the consultation period); and - at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report.
5.4.2.	National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in Table 5.1 of the SoCC in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	Document copies were available in alternative format upon request, however no requests were made.
5.4.3.	All consultation materials will also be available on the Project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements.	The Project website contained all the consultation materials for statutory consultation and Project materials relating to previous consultations.
Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available	Project website All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation period. We will provide the following local authorities with a link to all the consultation documents: - Norfolk County Council; - Suffolk County Council; - Essex County Council;	The Project website contained the following digital materials: - Project background document 2024; - Community Newsletter 2024; - Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and non-technical summary (NTS); 2024 Design Development Report; 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review;

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	- Thurrock Council; - South Norfolk District Council; - Mid Suffolk District Council; - Babergh District Council; - Tendring District Council; - Colchester City Council; - Braintree District Council; - Chelmsford City Council; - Brentwood Borough Council; and - Basildon Borough Council. Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report; - Project maps; - Consultation banners; - Consultation notices; - SoCC; - Feedback questionnaire; and - Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans. The Project website link was provided to the local authorities as described. Hard copy requests fulfilled include: - Project background documents – 92 requests; - Feedback questionnaires – 286 requests; - Strategic Options Backcheck and Review – 19 requests; - Design Development Report – 19 requests; - Community Newsletter – 27 requests; 2023 consultation documents – four requests; - Response to ESO Report – two requests; - PEIR documents – 24 requests – (including two requests for full printed copies of PEIR); - SoCC – two requests; and - Map – 82 requests.
Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available	Inspection points While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure the Community Newsletter, Project Background Document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire are available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period. - Long Stratton Library: The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ; - Norwich Library: Unit 3, The Forum Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW; - Tuckswood Library: Robin Hood Road, Eaton, NR4 6BX; - Diss Library: Church Street, Diss, IP22 4DD; - Stowmarket Library: Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX; - Capel St Mary Library: Village Hall, The Street, Capel St. Mary IP9 2EF; - Coggeshall Library: The Friends Meeting House, Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH;	The Project information, the Project background document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire, was also available to view in multiple inspection points accessible for the public. The documents were available to view at 14 inspection points throughout the consultation period, outlined below: - Long Stratton Library; - Norwich Library; - Tuckswood Library; - Diss Library; - Capel St Mary Library; - Coggeshall Library; - Chelmsford Central Library; - Colchester Library; - Tilbury Library; - Greenstead Library; - Stanway Library; - Stowmarket Library; - Prettygate Library; and - Wivenhoe Library.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	- Chelmsford Central Library: Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH; - Colchester Library: Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB; - Tilbury Library: Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD; - Greenstead Library: Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE; - Stanway Library: 10, Villa Road, Stanway CO3 0RH; - Prettygate Library: Prettygate Road, Colchester CO3 4EQ; and - Wivenhoe Library: 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB. Prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked. We will check that consultation documentation remains at the inspection points throughout the consultation period. We will also try to use local websites to act as public inspection points, by requesting they host a link to the Project website. These may include the following: - local authority websites - local library websites - parish websites - MP websites	In addition to the 14 inspection points outlined in the SoCC, the Project team made the documents available in an additional 11 other locations. This decision was made in response to requests from the public and stakeholders. The 11 other locations are outlined below: - Manningtree Library; - Basildon Library; - Hatfield Peverel Library; - Witham Library; - Brentwood Library; - Brentwood Town Council; - Chadwell Library; - Ingatestone Library; - Writtle Library; - Ipswich Library; and - East Tilbury Hub and Library. On 9 May 2024, contact was made with all the inspection points to ensure that stock levels of consultation documents were appropriate. The following requests were fulfilled by delivering additional consultation materials to the inspection points: - Stowmarket Library – 10 feedback questionnaires, 10 foldable maps, 10 Community Newsletters; - Chelmsford Central Library – six feedback questionnaires, six foldable maps, six Community Newsletters; - Ipswich Library – a full library consultation document pack; and - Brentwood Library – five Community Newsletters.
Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available	Document requests: Following the launch of the statutory consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request, free of charge will be: - Community Newsletter; - Project Background Document; - Feedback questionnaire; - NTS of the PEIR. Requests for paper copies of the technical documents forming the PEIR will be reviewed on a case by-case basis; and - SoCC. Paper copies of other consultation documents will also be available on request. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply,	Hard copy documents were available on request. All requests for posted documents were fulfilled, however, no requests to printing charge were made during consultation period. Hard copy requests fulfilled include: - Project background documents – 92 requests; - Feedback questionnaires – 286 requests; - Strategic Options Backcheck and Review – 19 requests; - Design Development Report – 19 requests; - Community Newsletter – 27 requests; 2023 consultation documents – four requests; - Response to ESO Report – two requests;

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents. Requests can be made by contacting us using the details provided in Section 6.1 of the SoCC. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents on a case by case basis.	• PEIR documents – 24 requests – (including two requests for full printed copies of PEIR); • SoCC Consultation – two requests; and • Map – 82 requests.
Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available	Public information events: Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review at the public information events. More detail on the public events is available in Section 5.6 of the SoCC.	Consultation documents were made available at the following public information events: • Wednesday 24 April, 12pm-5pm: Towngate Theatre, Basildon; • Thursday 25 April, 2pm-7pm: The Brentwood Centre, Brentwood; • Saturday 27 April, 11am-4pm: Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford; • Tuesday 30 April, 12pm-5pm: Gislingham Village Hall, Gislingham; • Wednesday 1 May, 11am-4pm: Copdock Village Hall, Copdock; • Friday 3 May, 1pm-6pm: Needham Market Community Centre, Ipswich; • Saturday 4 May, 11am-4pm: Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Manningtree; • Wednesday 8 May, 2pm-7pm: The Civic Hall, Grays; • Thursday 9 May, 1pm-6pm: Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe; • Friday 10 May, 1pm-6pm: Tibenham Community Hall, Norwich; • Tuesday 14 May, 11am-4pm: Witham Public Hall, Witham; • Wednesday 15 May, 1pm-6pm: Diss Town Football Club, Diss; • Thursday 16 May, 2pm-7pm: Langham Community Centre, Colchester; and • Friday 17 May, 1pm-6pm: Great Bromley Village Hall, Colchester.
5.5.1	Residents, local businesses and community organisations within the PCZ will be notified of the start of the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community Newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 (of the SoCC) above. A map showing the PCZ (approximately 77,000 addresses) can be found in Appendix A of the SoCC.	National Grid notified residents, local businesses and community organisations within PCZ through a Community Newsletter. A postcard was also issued to the PCZ on 6 June 2024 which provided details about the extension to the consultation.
Table 5.3: Promotion methods	A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list is likely to include the following media: • BBC Look East; • BBC Radio Essex;	A press release publicising the consultation was issued to: • BBC Look East; • BBC Radio Essex; • BBC Radio Norfolk; • BBC Radio Suffolk;

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	• BBC Radio Norfolk; • BBC Radio Suffolk; • Basildon Standard; • Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo; • Braintree and Witham Times; • Brentwood Gazette; • Brentwood Live; • Brentwood Weekly News; • Bury Free Press; • Bury Mercury; • Chelmsford Weekly News; • Dereham Times; • Diss Express; • Diss Mercury; • Dunmow Broadcast; • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; • Essex Chronicle; • Essex Focus; • Essex Live; and • Thurrock Advertiser. The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and the SCZ, as well as further afield.	• Basildon Standard; • Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo; • Braintree and Witham Times; • Brentwood Gazette; • Brentwood Live; • Brentwood Weekly News; • Bury Free Press; • Bury Mercury; • Chelmsford Weekly News; • Dereham Times; • Diss Express; • Diss Mercury; • Dunmow Broadcast; • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; • Essex Chronicle; • Essex Focus; • Essex Live; and • Thurrock Gazette (the Thurrock Advertiser is no longer in circulation so the Thurrock Gazette was chosen as a suitable alternative).
Table 5.3: Promotion methods	Newspaper advertisements: Two rounds of newspaper advertisements will be undertaken during the consultation. Advertisements will provide details of the consultation, where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the engagement activities. Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ. We will place adverts in the following titles: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle.	Two rounds of full-page newspaper adverts were placed between 10 and 18 April 2024. The adverts were placed in the following newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle. Two rounds of half-page newspaper adverts which provided details about the extension to the consultation were placed in the same newspapers between 12 and 20 June 2024.
Table 5.3: Promotion methods	Emails and letters: We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following: • MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; • Elected representatives within the PCZ at: – Norfolk County Council;	National Grid sent emails and distributed letters that included information about the consultation and how to get involved. These were sent to MPs within PCZ and SCZ, and elected representatives within PCZ. National Grid also sent notification emails to those who had registered for email updates. Each notification email was sent to approximately 2,641 email addresses.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	– Suffolk County Council; – Essex County Council; – Thurrock Council; – South Norfolk District Council; – Mid Suffolk District Council; – Babergh District Council; – Tendring District Council; – Colchester City Council; – Braintree District Council; – Chelmsford City Council; – Brentwood Borough Council; – Basildon Borough Council; and – Parish Councils within the PCZ.	
Table 5.3: Promotion methods	Statutory notices • We will publish statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers; and • We will publicise the consultation – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers.	The Section 48 notice was published twice in three local newspapers with a circulation area within PCZ and SCZ: • East Anglian Daily Times: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; • Eastern Daily Press: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; and • Essex Chronicle: 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024. The Section 48 notice was also published in a national newspaper and the London Gazette: • London Gazette: 10 April 2024; and • The Guardian: an incorrect version of the Section 48 notice was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024. The Section 47 notice was published in three local newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times, 10 April 2024; • Eastern Daily Press: 10 April 2024; and • Essex Chronicle: 11 April 2024. The Section 47 notice was also published in a national newspaper and the London Gazette: • London Gazette: 10 April 2024 • The Guardian: an incorrect version of the Section 47 notice was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024.
Table 5.3: Promotion methods	Information posters: Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to	National Grid produced a poster that included information about the Project and details of the consultation and how to get involved. These

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	get involved, will be sent to each parish council within the PCZ.	posters were sent to each parish council within PCZ.
Table 5.3: Promotion methods	Social media We will promote the consultation on National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook account, @NationalGridUK. We will also develop a social media guide for local authorities to use on their social media channels. This guide will include links for the Project website. We are unable to accept feedback through social media channels, however, we will monitor comments or questions we receive through our owned channels and respond where practicable. We will aim to point people towards sources of information, including the Project website, the interactive Project map and to formal feedback channels.	Social media adverts were placed to promote the consultation. These media adverts included links to the Project website. The social media adverts ran from 15 April 2024 to 26 April 2024 across Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) and were targeted as users living within the PCZ and SCZ and nearby communities. A social media guide was developed that contained key consultation information and links to the Project website. This guide was shared with the LPAs on the 9 April 2024. No feedback was captured and considered within social media channels.
5.6.1.	Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.	The Project information posters and feedback questionnaires were available in the public information events. Representatives of the Project team attended these events to talk and respond any query from the public. The list of the 14 public information events can be found in Table 6-2 of this report.
5.6.2.	Details of where and when the public information events will be held will be published on the Project website and in the Community Newsletter sent to all properties within the PCZ and available at inspection points.	The information about the public information events were published on the Project website and was shared in the Community Newsletter which was sent to all public and business postcodes with the PCZ (approximately 77,000 addresses) on the launch of the consultation.
5.6.3.	The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and at least one will be held on a weekend, where feasible.	The public information events were arranged to be held during afternoons, early evenings and one in the weekend, to give the consultees the opportunity to attend the events.
5.6.4.	Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each event. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.	A paper copy of the consultation materials was available in the public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report.
5.6.5.	Those attending the public information events will be encouraged to provide their feedback via the online or paper feedback questionnaire on the proposals.	Hard copies of the feedback questionnaire were available at the 14 public information events listed in Table 6-2 of this report. The Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T was available for the duration of consultation to receive hard-copy feedback. Feedback received via Freepost following the close of the statutory consultation were reviewed and considered. Details about the Project website were also available on all consultation materials at the public information events.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
5.6.6.	Should any events (in person or webinars) need to be altered or cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant LPAs.	Due to the general election the consultation was extended by a period of five weeks and five of the webinars were re-arranged. We contacted the LPA officers to discuss our approach before making the decision to move the dates of the webinars. On the 28 May 2024, an email notification was sent to approximately 150 members of the public who had signed up for the webinars to advise they would be re-scheduled. On the 3 June 2024, a follow-up email notification was sent to the same 150 members of the public with the new confirmed dates.
5.7.1.	We will try to hold six webinars during the consultation period. We will run two general overview webinars and four that are section specific. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1 of the SoCC.	Six webinars were held and 209 people attended. Due to General Elections, five webinars were rescheduled to allow time for the public to attend. These webinars were scheduled to the following dates: • Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One; • Wednesday 10 July, 6pm-7pm: Section A and B South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk; • Thursday 11 July, 6pm-7pm: Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester; • Tuesday 16 July, 6pm-7pm: Section E and F – Braintree and Chelmsford; • Wednesday 17 July, 6pm-7pm: Section G and H Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock; and • Thursday 18 July, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview Two.
5.7.2.	The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team.	The webinars gave the opportunity for the public to ask questions about the Project.
5.7.3.	National Grid will endeavour to make British Sign Language interpretation available for one of the general overview webinars which will be recorded and published on the Project website.	National Grid made British Sign Language interpretation available for the following webinar: Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One
5.8.1.	National Grid will offer briefings and / or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation: • MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; • Elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ; • Parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ; • Local authorities, including neighbouring authorities;	The proposed briefings and meetings took place with the stakeholders described. Briefings were arranged with 13 councils prior and during the consultation period. As the General Election took place during the consultation period, briefings were given to former and new (newly elected and re-elected) MPs. Briefings took place with local Boroughs, including Basildon Borough and Brentwood Borough.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	- Key prescribed consultees, such as National Landscapes (formerly known as AONB) conservation boards; and - Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008.	
5.8.2	National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.	There were no additional requests for meetings with organisations or individuals that were different to those listed in paragraph 5.8.1.
5.9.1.	National Grid wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason	Engagement and consultation were inclusive, ensuring the hard to reach and seldom heard groups were reached by utilising different engagement methods listed in Table 5.4 of the SoCC. More details about how National Grid reached seldom heard groups can be found in Table 6-3 of this report.
5.9.2.	To allow people to engage with the proposed Project and the consultation at their own convenience, we have taken a 'digital first' approach to consultation. This allows individuals and groups to take part even if they cannot make an event. The online webinar and Project website is open and accessible to anyone to attend and ask questions of the Project team. Information will be available on the website and people are encouraged to submit feedback using the online feedback questionnaire. Those engaging with the Project can also ask questions and find out more by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1 of the SoCC.	The public were able to sign up to an online webinar and see the Project website as part of the 'online approach'. The feedback questionnaire was also available online for the public to provide feedback and ask questions by contacting National Grid contact details.
5.9.3.	For those less able or less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed consultation 'in person' aspects to be as accessible as possible, with the focus on ensuring events are accessible and held over several days in different locations to encourage attendance. We will also seek to ensure there is adequate parking and venues are accessible via public transport.	The Project team offered an 'in-person' approach for those members of the public that preferred this format, ensuring the events were accessible and held over different days and times to ensure attendance.
5.9.4.	Inspection points have also been identified based on their accessibility and availability for people wanting to access Project information.	Inspection points have been identified based on accessibility and availability to the public. More information on the inspection points can be found in Table 6-2 of this report.
5.9.5.	We also recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulty taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. These organisations will be written to, via email, at the start of consultation. Requests for specific additional consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the	National Grid identified and engaged with several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. Section 5.9.7 of the SoCC included Table 5.4 which detailed how the Project would engage with hard to reach or seldom heard groups. More information about the engagement with hard to reach and seldom heard groups, can be found in Table 6-3 of this report.

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.	On 10 April 2024 a consultation letter was attached to an email sent to all identified organisations representing hard to reach or seldom hears groups. The letter provided details about the consultation, Project, and how to respond.
5.9.6.	On request, we will also consider providing materials in alternative formats. We will endeavour to provide British Sign Language signing at one of our webinars.	National Grid provided materials in alternative format if requested. All feedback received through writing via email, post or online feedback questionnaire. A BSL interpreter attended the webinar on Wednesday 17 April.
5.9.7.	Table 5.4 of the SoCC sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.	More information on the engagement with the hard to reach/seldom heard groups can be found in Table 6-3 of this report.
6.1.1.	People will be able to submit their feedback in the following ways: • Completing the feedback questionnaire online via the Project website: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury; • Providing feedback by email (contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com) or in writing (FREEPOST N TO T); • Completing a paper feedback questionnaire, which can be provided on request, at one of the designated inspection points, or completed in person at the face-to-face events; and • The questionnaire can be returned free-of-charge using the Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).	National Grid made available different options to submit consultation responses. These were online, by email, by post, or at inspection points and they were available throughout the consultation period.
6.1.2.	Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.	No social media feedback has been recorded as a formal consultation response.
6.1.3.	Responses given orally, such as via telephone or in a meeting, may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.	Conversations held over the phone or in meetings directed people to submit consultation responses online, by email, by post, or at inspection points. No oral feedback was recorded as a formal consultation response as there were no requests for this to be done.
6.1.5.	All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) .	National Grid are legally obligated to use personal information in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, see the full data privacy statement: nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy. Any personal information included in the feedback questionnaire will be handled, made available or used by the following recipients to record, analyse, and report on the feedback received:

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		• National Grid; • The Planning Inspectorate (which will administer our application for consent to build the Project – any details published as part of this process will be anonymised); • The Secretary of State (who will take the decision on our application); • Our legal advisers; and • Consultants working on the Project.
6.1.6.	More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the consultation feedback questionnaire and on the Project website during the consultation period.	National Grid included in the feedback questionnaire the purposes of how the data will collected be used. The purposes included: • <i>'To analyse your feedback to the consultation;</i> • <i>To produce a Consultation Feedback Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in that report.);</i> • <i>To write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments if you have provided consent for us to do so; and</i> • <i>To keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.'</i>
6.2.1	Following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where appropriate, refined in light of feedback.	After the consultation closed, all feedback was analysed will be presented in the Consultation Report. Responses will be thematically presented within the report with National Grid's response to those matters raised. Chapter 9 of the Consultation Report will also outline the changes made to the Project further to feedback received. Changes made to the Project as a result from feedback is also outlined in Sections 3.5, 4,5 and 6.5 of this report.
6.2.2	The proposed DCO application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act.	Chapter 9 of he Consultation Report will demonstrate the requirement to have regard to consultation responses (Section 49).
6.2.3.	A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for a DCO, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for a DCO.	The Consultation Report will be produced as required by Section 37 (3)(c) of the PA 2008 and will be submitted as part of the application. The report will comprise of a summary of the consultation process undertaken and how the feedback has shaped the proposals submitted within the application for a DCO.
6.2.4	Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.	National Grid are legally obligated to use personal information in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, see the

Where in SoCC	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		full data privacy statement: nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy. All responses have been fully redacted to ensure confidentiality of addresses and contact details.
6.2.5	Upon receipt of an application for a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.	Included for information completeness. National Grid will support stakeholders on their actions.
6.2.6.	The Consultation Report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for a DCO has been accepted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	The Consultation Report will be made available on the Planning Inspectorate website, as well as on the Project website. Paper copies of the report will be available upon request. For more information, including printing and postage fees, please contact the Project team at: • 0800 915 2497; • FREEPOST N TO T; and • contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
6.3.1	If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.	A period of targeted statutory consultation took place between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025. The targeted statutory consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the PA 2008 and in line with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. Chapter 7 of this report provides further details on the targeted statutory consultation.
Contact us	If you would like to contact the Community Relations team, please get in touch via: 0800 915 2497 FREEPOST N TO T contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury	National Grid made available the following options to submit the consultation response: telephone, post, email address and website for the consultation. The Project team were monitoring the phone calls and emails throughout the consultation period.

6. Statutory Consultation

6.1 Purpose of the Consultation

- 6.1.1 National Grid held a statutory consultation for a period of 15 weeks, from 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024. This includes a five-week extension to the consultation following the announcement of the General Election. The purpose of this consultation was to seek views and feedback on the proposed draft Project both taken as a whole and its elements including:
- The preferred draft alignment for a new 400 kV electricity transmission connection of around 184 km running from Norwich Main Substation to Tilbury Substation via Bramford Substation including approximately 159 km of new overhead line and approximately 25 km of underground cabling;
 - Six new CSE compounds (where high-voltage underground cables join onto an overhead line) and associated permanent accesses;
 - A new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation, which would connect clean energy from offshore wind generation to the energy network so the energy can reach homes and businesses where it's needed;
 - An alternative design at Waveney Valley, substituting approximately 2 km of pylons with underground cabling;
 - Substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation; and
 - Temporary works including access roads, tracks, compounds and associated with the Project's construction.
- 6.1.2 National Grid also consulted on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

6.2 Who National Grid Consulted

- 6.2.1 The statutory consultation was open to anyone who was interested in the Project. National Grid welcomed all views and has had regard to all comments and feedback when developing the Project proposals.
- 6.2.2 Under Section 47 of the PA 2008, National Grid has a duty to consult the local community. The SoCC detailed the approach to consultation. Two consultation zones were developed to assist engagement with the local community. These used the same buffers as the non-statutory consultations. The PCZ extended 1 km from the draft Order Limits and the SCZ extended to at least 4 km from the draft Order Limits (and included the PCZ).
- 6.2.3 In addition to the local community, National Grid consulted with prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the PA 2008. PILs, under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 were also consulted with.

Prescribed Consultees under Section 42(1)(a)

- 6.2.4 In accordance with Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, National Grid consulted with all applicable ‘prescribed’ bodies. Persons prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the “APFP Regulations”).
- 6.2.5 Section 42(1)(aa) requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). As this is an inland development the MMO were not consulted as part of the statutory consultation.
- 6.2.6 The following activities were undertaken to consult Section 42(1)(a) consultees:
- On 10 April 2024 a consultation letter was sent along with a copy of the Project Community Newsletter and Section 48 notice;
 - An email was also sent on 10 April 2024 containing the letter and Section 48 notice;
 - A letter was sent on 5 June 2024 detailing the five week extension and new consultation deadline. Along with the letter, consultees were also sent a copy of the updated Section 48 notice;
 - An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 5 June 2024; and
 - In April 2024 an updated list of persons prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) was published. The statutory consultation for the Project had already commenced when this list was introduced, and so the previous version of the list was used. On a precautionary basis, a letter was sent on the 26 June 2024 to the East of England ambulance service as a newly identified stakeholder.

Prescribed Consultees under Section 42(1)(b) and Section 43

- 6.2.7 In accordance with Section 42(1)(b), National Grid consulted with each local authority within Section 43. These are:
- A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority’s area;
 - A local authority (“A”) is within this section if: (a) the land is in the area of another local authority (“B”), (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of A’s area is also a part of the boundary of B’s area; and
 - If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council (“C”), a local authority (“D”) is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D’s area is also part of the boundary of C’s area.
- 6.2.8 Section 42(1)(b) local authorities are listed in **Table 6-1**.
- 6.2.9 The following activities were undertaken to consult Section 42(1)(b) consultees:
- On 10 April 2024 a consultation letter was sent along with a copy of the Project Community Newsletter and Section 48 notice;
 - An email was also sent on 10 April 2024 containing the letter and Section 48 notice;
 - A letter was sent on 5 June 2024 detailing the five week extension and new consultation deadline. Along with the letter, consultees were also sent a copy of the updated Section 48 notice; and

- An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 5 June 2024.

Table 6-1 Section 42(1)(b) Local Authorities

Type	Local Authority	
“A” Section 43 consultees (lower-tier local authority, national park, London borough, etc. that shared a boundary with a “B” (host) authority)	The Broads Authority (National Park)	London Borough of Bexley
	Greater London Assembly	Breckland Council
	London Borough of Havering	East Suffolk Council
	London Borough of Redbridge	West Suffolk Council
	Enfield London Borough Council	Norwich City Council
	London Borough of Waltham Forest	The Broads Authority
	Ebbsfleet Development Corporation	North Norfolk District Council
	Epping Forest District Council	East Cambridgeshire District
	South Cambridgeshire District	Ipswich Borough Council
	Gravesham Borough Council	Medway Council
	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Maldon District Council
	Southend on Sea Borough Council	Rochford District Council
	Castle Point Borough Council	Norwich City Council
	Broadland District Council	Uttlesford District Council
“B” Section 43 consultees (a lower-tier district council or a Unitary Council who is a host authority for the development and any associated development)	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Dartford Borough Council
	South Norfolk Council	Chelmsford City Council
	Mid Suffolk District Council	Thurrock Council
	Babergh District Council	Brentwood Borough Council
	Colchester City Council	Basildon Borough Council
“C” Section 43 consultees (an upper-tier County Council who is a host authority)	Tendring District Council	Braintree District Council
	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council
	Norfolk County Council	
“D” Section 43 consultees (an authority which is not a lower-tier district council -e.g. – a National park authority of a London borough – and which shared a boundary with a “C” authority)	Cambridgeshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council
	Lincolnshire County Council	Kent County Council

Prescribed Consultees under Section 42(1)(c)

- 6.2.10 Section 42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority (GLA) if the land is in Greater London. The Project is not within the GLA area and did not require consultation with the Section 42(1)(c) consultee.

Prescribed Consultees under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44

- 6.2.11 In accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008, National Grid consulted with PILs, as set out below:
- Category 1: an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land;
 - Category 2: a person interested in the land, or has the power to sell and convey the land, or to release the land; and
 - Category 3: a person who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim:
 - As a result of the implementing of the order;
 - As a result of the order having been implemented; or
 - As a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented.
- 6.2.12 National Grid carried out diligent inquiry to identify and consult with those with an interest in the affected land. This involved:
- Desktop referencing through extraction of Land Registry data, requests for land interest information from landowners and other desktop activities to identify open spaces and rights of way;
 - Posting land interest questionnaires (LIQs) to all parties identified as having an interest in the affected land; and
 - Site referencing through site visits to understand occupation details for properties.
- 6.2.13 Unknown land interests required further steps to be taken to establish ownership. This included the erection of site notices requesting information in prominent locations. The notices were kept on site and monitored regularly.
- 6.2.1 To identify Category 3 parties associated with Part 1 claims ahead of the Section 42 consultation, technical specialists involved in preparing the EIA advised on the anticipated impacts of relevant environmental factors to inform where properties might have an adverse effect as a result of the operation of the Project to check that those with a potential claim were included. At the point of statutory consultation, environmental assessments were still ongoing. Therefore, a precautionary approach was used to include all properties in the proximity of potential important noise effects based on previous project experience.
- 6.2.2 Where a PIL had contacted National Grid to advise they are to be represented by a land agent, their land agent was advised by email that the LIQ was recently issued to their client(s) and if requested provided with a copy of the LIQ document. Land agents were contacted to discuss the LIQ and request it be completed and returned unless their client had already provided the information.
- 6.2.3 The following activities were undertaken to consult Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees:

- A consultation letter was sent to Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees;
- Letters were issued to 5,016 PILs during the week commencing 8 April 2024;
- Any newly identified PILs were written to on a weekly basis;
- A letter was sent to 5,108 PILs on the week commencing 10 June 2024 detailing the five-week extension and new consultation deadline; and
- Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window.

Notifying the Secretary of State under Section 46

- 6.2.4 In accordance with Section 46 of the PA 2008, National Grid notified the Planning Inspectorate of the upcoming statutory consultation by email, formatted as a letter on 8 April 2024. Enclosed with the email was the following information:
- Letters sent to Section 42 consultees;
 - Section 48 notice; and
 - Consultation feedback questionnaire.
- 6.2.5 Formal acknowledgement of the receipt of the Section 46 letter was issued by email to National Grid on 9 April 2024, as published on the Inspectorate's website.

Consulting the Local Community under Section 47

- 6.2.6 In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, National Grid consulted the local community about the proposed application.
- 6.2.7 This was done in line with the SoCC, which was published on 10 April 2024. The Section 47 notice was published in three local newspapers on 10 April 2024 and 11 April 2024.
- 6.2.8 It could be accessed on the Project website at the start of statutory consultation on 10 April 2024.
- 6.2.9 Two consultation zones were developed to inform engagement with the local community:
- The PCZ, which included people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project's draft Order Limits (representing the anticipated extent of land in which the Project may take place). The PCZ amounted to approximately 77,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ was extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods; and
 - The SCZ, which comprised of a 4 km buffer around the draft Order Limits, whereby wider publicity of the Project took place.
- 6.2.10 National Grid also consulted the following groups and individuals, as committed in the SoCC:
- Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones;

- Elected representatives in local authorities where the Project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the statutory consultation period as requested; and
- ‘Seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials. National Grid undertook research to identify local seldom heard organisations and local with local authorities and other bodies as needed to identify additional groups.

6.3 How National Grid Consulted

- 6.3.1 In accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008 National Grid published the Section 48 notice in five newspapers at the launch of the consultation on 10 April 2024.
- 6.3.2 The Section 48 notice was republished on 12 June 2024 detailing the five-week consultation period extension.
- 6.3.3 Copies of the Section 48 notice were also placed at 46 locations along the route placed approximately 5 km from each other. Site notices were also placed on 605 parcels of un-registered land.
- 6.3.4 In accordance with Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) all prescribed Section 42(1)(a) consultees including environmental bodies were sent a copy of the Section 48 notice.
- 6.3.5 National Grid’s consultation activities for the statutory consultation included:
- Setting up a Project specific website including an interactive map, public consultation pages and consultation materials, as well as dedicated email and telephone information line;
 - Mailing a consultation pack directly to properties in the PCZ within 1 km of the draft Order Limits;
 - Sending a consultation letter to all identified non-prescribed consultees;
 - Providing monthly notifications to Project update subscribers;
 - Producing materials to support consultation, including a 2024 Project Background Document, Community Newsletter, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS), 2024 Design Development Report, 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review, 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Project maps, consultation banners, Interactive Map, consultation notices, SoCC, and feedback questionnaire;
 - Holding online and in person events- including webinars;
 - Making information and materials available at inspection locations in close proximity to the Project; and
 - Media and social media promotional activity.
- 6.3.6 Table 6-2 provides an overview of the key activities conducted during the statutory consultation. Full details will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application.

Table 6-2 Summary of Activities During the Statutory Consultation

Date	Activity	Detail
24 April 2024 to 17 May 2024	14 public information events were held at suitable locations along the proposed route. The events were held at various times and dates within this period.	In total 2,259 attendees joined the team at the following public information events: • Wednesday 24 April, 12pm-5pm: Towngate Theatre, Basildon; • Thursday 25 April, 2pm-7pm: The Brentwood Centre, Brentwood; • Saturday 27 April, 11am-4pm: Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford; • Tuesday 30 April, 12pm-5pm: Gislingham Village Hall, Gislingham; • Wednesday 1 May, 11am-4pm: Copdock Village Hall, Copdock; • Friday 3 May, 1pm-6pm: Needham Market Community Centre, Ipswich; • Saturday 4 May, 11am-4pm: Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Manningtree; • Wednesday 8 May, 2pm-7pm: The Civic Hall, Grays; • Thursday 9 May, 1pm-6pm: Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe; • Friday 10 May, 1pm-6pm: Tibenham Community Hall, Norwich; • Tuesday 14 May, 11am-4pm: Witham Public Hall, Witham; • Wednesday 15 May, 1pm-6pm: Diss Town Football Club, Diss; • Thursday 16 May, 2pm-7pm: Langham Community Centre, Colchester; and • Friday 17 May, 1pm-6pm: Great Bromley Village Hall, Colchester.
17 April 2024 to 18 July 2024	6 public webinars held at various times and dates within this period.	In total 209 stakeholders and members of the public attended the following webinars: • Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One: Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm; • Section A and B South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk: Wednesday 10 July, 6pm-7pm; • Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester: Thursday 11 July, 6pm-7pm; • Section E and F Braintree and Chelmsford: Tuesday 16 July, 6pm-7pm; • Section G and H Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock: Wednesday 17 July, 6pm-7pm; and • Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview Two: Thursday 18 July, 6pm-7pm.

Date	Activity	Detail
10 April 2024 to 16 August 2024	Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers between 10 April 2024 and 20 June 2024 and were placed on social media between 15 April 2024 and 16 August 2024.	Advertisements were placed in following 3 different newspapers: • East Anglia Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle. Advertisements were republished on 12 June 2024 detailing the five-week consultation extension period. Adverts on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) received 1,696,536 total impressions. Adverts on Facebook and Instagram were extended on 2 July 2024 and received 1,150,937 total impressions.
10 April 2024 to 15 July 2024	Project documents were made available at 25 locations within the 2024 consultation zone at various points with stock levels regularly being checked and replenished during the consultation period.	The documents were available to view at the inspection points throughout the consultation period, outlined below: • Long Stratton Library; • Norwich Library; • Tuckswood Library; • Diss Library; • Capel St Mary Library; • Coggeshall Library; • Chelmsford Central Library; • Colchester Library; • Tilbury Library; • Greenstead Library; • Stanway Library; • Prettygate Library; • Wivenhoe Library; • Manningtree Library; • Stowmarket Library; • Basildon Library; • Hatfield Peverel Library; • Witham Library; • Brentwood Library; • Brentwood Town Council; • Chadwell Library; • Ingatestone Library; • Writtle Library; • Ipswich Library; and • East Tilbury Hub Library On 9 May 2024, contact was made with all the inspection points and the following additional requests were made for information: • Stowmarket Library – 10 feedback questionnaires, 10 foldable maps, 10 Community Newsletters;

Date	Activity	Detail
		- Chelmsford Central Library – six feedback questionnaires, six foldable maps, six Community Newsletters; - Ipswich Library – a full library consultation document pack; and - Brentwood Library – five Community Newsletters.
During the 2024 statutory consultation	A website was set up to publish information on the Project along with consultation materials and historical Project information.	During the consultation period the Project website received 44,899 views.
April 2024 to August 2024	With the launch of the website, members of the public were invited to sign up with their email address to receive monthly Project updates.	Throughout the statutory consultation a monthly notification was sent to approximately 2,641 email addresses.
10 April 2024 to 20 June 2024	Briefings to district/ county/ borough councils, parish councils and Members of Parliament (MPs)	Briefings were arranged with 13 councils and 5 MPs to explain the proposals, support stakeholder and consultee relationships and to promote the 2024 statutory consultation.

Engaging Seldom Heard Groups and Key Stakeholders

- 6.3.7 Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason. National Grid undertook research to identify local seldom heard organisations and worked with local authorities and other bodies as needed to identify additional groups. The approach taken was defined as part of the development of the SoCC, giving LPAs the opportunity to influence this approach. The methods and tools as identified within the SoCC are included in **Table 6-3**.
- 6.3.8 To reach the majority of seldom heard groups, the Project website was available throughout the consultation period, and the online questionnaire was available at all times during the consultation period to allow consultees to respond at a time that suited them. In terms of publicity a mix of social media and traditional newspaper advertising was used to broaden the reach of the consultation.

Table 6-3 Seldom Heard Engagement Tools

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
Older people:	National Grid engaged with older people by mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents. The public was able to engage and submit their feedback through conventional communication channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary. Online engagement was also available through online webinars and the Project website provided information about the Project including maps and online feedback questionnaire. National Grid provided the consultation materials in alternative format on a case-by-case basis. In-person public information events were organised at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. Online webinars sessions were available for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs. The Project website was available throughout the consultation period provided opportunities for the public to provide feedback. Social

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
	media and newspaper advertising was published across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield. Paper copies of the consultation materials were available at inspection points locations along with contact details for the Project team, who were able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who were unable to access the material online.
People with visual impairments:	National Grid engaged with people with visual impairments by providing the consultation banners audio guide on request. Other consultation materials in alternative format were considered on a case by-case basis. In addition, the Project website was available with enlarged text if required.
People with hearing impairments:	National Grid engaged with people with hearing impairments by providing a British Sign Language interpreter in the online webinar on Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm, Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One. National Grid offered to provide the consultation materials in alternative font sizes upon reasonable request.
People with limited mobility / disability:	National Grid engaged with people with limited mobility by mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents. The public was able to engage and submit their feedback through conventional communication channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary. Online engagement was also available through online webinars and the Project website provided information about the Project including maps and online feedback questionnaire. National Grid provided the consultation materials in alternative format on a case-by-case basis. In-person public information events were organised at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the Project. Online webinars sessions were available for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which considered individual needs. The Project website was available throughout the consultation period and provided opportunities for the public to provide feedback through the online feedback questionnaire. Social media and newspaper advertising was published across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.
Youth groups:	National Grid aimed to reach young people to have their say and shape the plans. A young adult explainer document about the Project was produced and shared with all secondary school, sixth forms, colleges and universities within the consultation zone of the Project. National Grid emailed over 100 secondary schools, sixth form colleges and universities to raise awareness of the consultation, promote the youth webinar and provide a digital copy of youth explainer document. National Grid held two pop up events and one webinar to engage with young people. • The event at University of East Anglia involved a pop-up stall in the main square at the campus on Monday 13 May from 10:00 – 14:00 which engaged with 15 people; • At the University of Essex, National Grid took part in the weekly Thursday Market on 23 May at 10:00 – 14:00 and engaged with 18 people; and • A webinar was held on the evening of Tuesday 21 May from 18:00 – 19:00. This engaged with five people. Social media and newspaper advertising was part of the consultation publicity to reach the younger generation across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield. The Project website was also available during the consultation period for the youth to review and have their say.
Carers and families with young children:	National Grid posted the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ providing details of how to access the digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed. National Grid made available different options to engage through conventional and digital channels providing flexibility to

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
	the public. Public information events and webinars were organised at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. The Project website was available throughout the consultation period, and the online questionnaire was available at all times during the consultation period to allow consultees to respond at a time that suited them. In terms of publicity a mix of social media and traditional newspaper advertising was used to broaden the reach of the consultation.
Economically inactive individuals:	National Grid delivered online engagement through online webinars. The Project website allowed the public to access the Project information, including the interactive Project maps, and provide their feedback throughout the consultation period. National Grid made available other methods of engagement such as conventional engagement through post. Social media and newspaper advertising was delivered across PCZ, SCZ and further afield.
Geographically isolated individuals or communities:	National Grid engaged geographically isolated individuals and communities by mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ providing details of the consultation and how to access the digital and paper copies of other documents and feedback. Public information events and webinars sessions were organised at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. The Project website was available throughout the consultation period, and the online questionnaire was available at all times during the consultation period to allow consultees to respond at a time that suited them. In terms of publicity a mix of social media and traditional newspaper advertising was used to broaden the reach of the consultation.
Locally under-represented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity):	National Grid engaged with locally under-represented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity) through community groups representing minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities.
English as a Second Language (ESL):	National Grid provided the consultation materials in alternative language upon reasonable request.
Travellers:	National Grid worked with and notified groups representing travellers to let them know about the consultation and encourage participation amongst their networks.
Digitally isolated:	National Grid engaged with digitally isolated individuals by contacting community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities: • National Grid posted the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ providing details of how to access the digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed; • Newspaper advertising was published across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield; and • Paper copy of the consultation materials was available at inspection points locations along with contact details for the Project team, who were available to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online.

6.4 Feedback Received

- 6.4.1 A total of 12,996 feedback submissions were received during the 2024 statutory consultation period from community stakeholders and consultees, along with members of the local community. This comprised of:
- 433 paper response forms;
 - 1,877 online response forms;
 - 6,499 emails sent to the Project inbox; and
 - 4,187 letters (including 4,099 slips of the same feedback).
- 6.4.2 Responses were received from 91 Section 42(1)(a) consultees.
- 6.4.3 Responses were received from 24 Section 42(1)(b) consultees.
- 6.4.4 Responses were received from 37 non-prescribed consultees and key stakeholder organisations.
- 6.4.5 All responses received will be considered and reported on in the Consultation Report, which will be provided as part of the Application.
- 6.4.6

6.5 Evolution of the Project Presented at 2024 Statutory Consultation

- 6.5.1 Feedback received from the statutory consultation has and continues to shape the Project through proposed changes to the location and design of permanent and temporary infrastructure. This is demonstrated through carrying out a series of targeted consultations as detailed in Chapter 7. A summary of feedback received and how we had regard to feedback will be detailed in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

7. 2025 Targeted Consultations

7.1 Purpose of the Consultations

7.1.1 National Grid held further targeted consultations to provide stakeholders and the public the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to the proposals in specific areas.

7.1.2 As the proposed changes would not fundamentally change the Project as a whole, a targeted consultation approach was used in line with guidance in paragraph 20 of the PA 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects issued in April 2024 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) which states:

‘In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

‘For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

“Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.’

7.1.3 National Grid took a combined approach of statutory and non-statutory targeted consultations as follows:

- Norfolk and Suffolk targeted non-statutory community consultation: Thursday 30 January to Monday 3 March 2025;
- Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory community consultation: Tuesday 25 February to Thursday 27 March 2025; and
- Thurrock 3 targeted statutory community consultation: Tuesday 18 March to Thursday 17 April 2025.

7.1.4 A targeted statutory community consultation for Thurrock 3 was decided as the proposed changes to existing overhead lines and primary access routes in Tilbury could affect new communities, residents and landowners in the area.

- 7.1.5 The targeted consultations had the following aims:
- Provide an overview of the updated proposals to local communities and stakeholders in locations where changes are being considered to the proposal;
 - Explain why changes are being proposed to the proposals since the 2024 statutory consultation;
 - Outline the environmental implications of proposed changes (EIC);
 - Ensure all local stakeholders and consultees have the opportunity to provide feedback on the work to date; and
 - Outline the next steps and the programme and how the proposals will be further developed and how feedback would be taken into account.

7.2 ‘Targeted Consultation Strategy’ document

- 7.2.1 The approach to the Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory community consultations was set out in the draft Targeted Consultation Strategy document. This outlined why further targeted consultations were taking place, who and how National Grid were consulting and how to provide feedback.
- 7.2.2 LPAs in which National Grid was to hold targeted consultations were invited to briefing sessions on the strategy for the targeted community consultations. These briefing sessions took place on [18, 19, 20](#) and 27 November 2024. Further to these briefings, LPAs were provided with the draft Targeted Consultation Strategy document via email on 4 December 2024 and were asked to provide feedback on the strategy. All feedback was considered and where practicable taken on board by National Grid. A copy of the feedback received will be provided in the Consultation Report.
- 7.2.3 A final version of the Targeted Consultation Strategy document, including maps of the consultation zones in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Thurrock, was published on the Project website on 30 January 2025 and can be viewed on the Document Library <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library>.

7.3 Compliance with the Community ‘Targeted Consultation Strategy’ Document

- 7.3.1 **Table 7-1** outlines how the targeted non-statutory community consultations were undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the Targeted Consultation Strategy document.

Table 7-1 How the Targeted Non-statutory Community Consultations were Undertaken in Accordance with the Targeted Consultation Strategy Document

Commitment made in Strategy	Compliance with commitment
The consultations will be open for 30 days.	Each of our targeted consultations were open for at least 30 days: • Our first phase of targeted non-statutory consultations covering Norfolk and Suffolk

	opened at noon on Monday 30 January 2025 and closed at 11:59pm on Monday 3 March Our second phase of targeted non-statutory consultations covering Essex and Thurrock opened at noon on Tuesday 25 February and closed at 11:59pm on Thursday 27 March.
We will write to stakeholders to notify them of detailed timings and provide information on locations where we are consulting on proposed changes.	On the day each targeted non-statutory community consultation opened (30 January and 25 February), National Grid emailed MPs, county and district councillors, parish councils, prescribed consultees, and other interest and community groups. Those emails contained details of the consultations and directed where to find the locations of changes. The emails to MPs included the relevant consultation leaflets for changes within their constituency.
Dates and locations will also be published on the project website.	The dates of the consultations were published on the project website when the consultations were launched. Details of the proposed change locations were also published, along with the consultation leaflets and environmental implications of change documents. They remain available on the Project website.
We will send a letter to each property within the relevant consultation zone setting out information on the targeted consultation and inviting them to provide feedback. Residents will also receive a leaflet that explains what we are proposing in their area and why, a map showing the proposed change in their area (as well as what had been previously presented at statutory consultation where applicable), how people can take part and provide feedback, an Environmental Implication of Change document setting out appropriate and proportionate environmental information on the implications of the proposed change, and a feedback questionnaire and a freepost envelope.	National Grid sent a pack of consultation information to the properties and landowners within the relevant consultation zones. This included: a letter which provided information on the targeted consultations, invited them to provide feedback, and provided contact details, ways to provide feedback, and how to join the public webinars. The pack also included the EIC document, a feedback questionnaire and freepost envelope.
We will seek to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by: Notifying the local and regional media via press release	National Grid issued a press release to local media at the launch of each round of consultation.
Notifying the local parish / parish council, and offering a briefing via teams	National Grid sent an email to host parish councils (parish councils in Norfolk and Suffolk on 30 January and councils in Essex on 25 February) informing them of the beginning of consultation and inviting them to a briefing via Teams.
Publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website	Full details of the targeted consultation, including timings, descriptions of the proposed changes, and the consultation documents, were published on the Project website.

Notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter	At each round of the targeted consultations, National Grid issued a project update announcing the launch of consultations to those who had registered to keep in touch.
Providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils	Contact information for the community relations team was included in the emails which were sent to parish councils, local authorities, and other stakeholders. The contact details were also included in the letter, consultation leaflet, and feedback questionnaire which were posted within the consultation zones and were available online.
Running an advert in local media titles on/following consultation launch	On 30 January advertisements were placed in the following newspapers announcing the Norfolk and Suffolk targeted consultations: - Eastern Daily Press; and - East Anglian Daily Times. On 25 February advertisements were placed in the following newspapers announcing the Essex and Thurrock targeted consultations: - Eastern Daily Press; and - East Anglian Daily Times.
Notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC	National Grid issued notifications of the launch of consultations to their non-prescribed stakeholder database.
We will notify parish clerks where any proposed changes fall within their parish boundary and set out all the proposed changes within their parish. The parish councils will be invited to provide feedback on changes within their area.	National Grid sent an email to host parish councils (parish councils in Norfolk and Suffolk on 30 January and councils in Essex on 25 February) informing them of the beginning of the consultations and inviting their feedback.
The parish councillors will also be invited to attend digital briefings, to be held by county	National Grid sent an email to host parish councils (parish councils in Norfolk and Suffolk on 30 January and councils in Essex on 25 February) informing them of the beginning of the consultation and inviting them to a briefing via Teams. Three briefings took place with parish councils, as follows: - Norfolk - 6 February 2025; - Suffolk – 6 February 2025; and - Essex – 6 March 2025.
We will offer briefings, either online or in-person, to provide information about the targeted consultation and respond to any questions for stakeholders including Members of Parliament where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their constituencies.	MPs with changes in their constituency were contacted at the beginning of the consultations to invite them to a briefing. Briefings were held online and in-person.

Elected representatives where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their ward. Briefings will be carried out via Teams.	At the launch of the consultations, National Grid contacted the local councils to invite their officers and ward councillors to briefings, which were organised with the councils and held via Teams.
We will hold public webinars for residents living near to the proposed changes along the route of the project. People will be able to sign up via the website. We will tailor the webinars to cover the proposed changes on a county-by-county basis. The sessions will also include time for questions and answers.	National Grid held six public webinars for residents via Teams. Members of the public were able to sign up via the email. The webinar covering changes in Norfolk was held on 11 February 2025 at 6:00 pm, for Norfolk and Suffolk on 12 February at 12 noon, Suffolk on 13 February at 6:00 pm, Essex on 17 March at 6:00 pm, Essex and Thurrock on 18 March at 12 noon, and Thurrock on 18 March 2025 at 6:00 pm.
Each webinar presentation will be recorded and made available on the project website for playback by those who cannot attend the webinar sessions.	The public webinars were recorded and uploaded to the document library of the Project website.
We will make all consultation documents available on the project website, including: - a consultation leaflet for each location, including maps and potential environmental implications - an Environmental Implications of Change document - a downloadable feedback questionnaire - an online feedback questionnaire - contact details.	All the consultation documents, including the consultation leaflets, EICs, feedback questionnaire (hardcopy and online), and contact details were uploaded to the Project website. They remain available in the document library on the Project website.
Our project website is where all information relating to these targeted consultations and all previous consultations is located. The website will be updated to include all relevant information for the targeted consultation.	The Project website was updated when the consultations launched to include all the information relating to the targeted consultations.
Maps showing the proposed changes we are consulting on will be made available in the document library. We are not updating the interactive project map at this time, but it will remain available and include an explanation of what the map is showing and where the latest proposals can be viewed.	The consultation leaflets which were uploaded to the document library included maps showing the proposed change and the proposals presented at statutory consultation in 2024. The interactive map showing the proposals consulted on in 2024 remained on the website, with a note that this showed the 2024 preferred draft alignment and directed people to information on the proposed changes.
If people need consultation materials presented in different formats, we will consider this on request.	These were no requests received for materials in different formats.
Project website document library with access to the information	The document library on the Project website was updated to include all the documents related to the targeted consultations, including the non-statutory targeted consultation strategy, consultation leaflets,

• The library is our 'go to' deposit location for all project information. All information relating to the targeted consultations will be uploaded here. This includes the consultation leaflets being sent out to properties in the consultation zones. • People will also be able to continue to access information related to all previous consultations and interim updates and milestones via this library	EICs, feedback questionnaire, and a map showing the location of the changes on the route map. All the information related to the previous consultations and previous Project updates remained available in the document library.
Consultation pages to display all relevant information and material being presented for consultation • The location of each proposed change we are consulting on will be laid out in 'accordion' format on the consultation pages so people can navigate to the section and proposed change they are interested in. • Information will be laid out in a simple, visual and interactive format, with pointers and instructions throughout to aid easy navigation. This includes a link to the online feedback questionnaire. • We will also provide links and registration instructions for the public webinars we are holding.	The Project website was updated to include a page on the targeted consultations. This presented the location of each change using an 'accordion' change to allow people to find the section and proposed change they were looking for. The information was laid out simply, with instructions and links to relevant information. There was also a link to the online feedback questionnaire. The page also provided links and instructions for how to register for public webinars.
Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document • For each location we are consulting on, we will develop and publish an Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document. This will set out proportionate and appropriate information on the environmental implications of the proposed change in each location and how that may or may not differ to those effects laid out with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).	National Grid produced and published an EIC for each proposed change consulted on. These set out proportionate and appropriate information as stated in the strategy. The relevant EIC was included in each pack of consultation materials sent out to the consultation zones and were uploaded to the consultation page and document library on the Project website.
FAQs	The FAQs were updated to address questions relating to the targeted consultations.
Project update section • This section allows members of the public to stay updated on the project and provides an easily accessible place for all recent updates to be hosted.	The Project update section of the document library hosts all the project updates for easy reference.
Project contact details • This includes telephone, email and freepost details for the public to get in contact and request further details or ask questions.	The Project contact details remained available on the Project website.
Feedback questionnaire • The online questionnaire will enable members of the public to provide their feedback easily for	An online feedback questionnaire was available on the Project website for the submission of feedback. A PDF copy of the questionnaire was also uploaded to the document library which could be downloaded and

each location and submit to the project team. The document can also be downloaded from the website and returned by email or printed and sent back via Freepost. Paper copies will also be posted on request.	returned via email or Freepost. Paper copies of the feedback questionnaire were posted when requested by phone or email.
GDPR (Legal statement) All personal data will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area or used for purposes other than those outlined. The website will be made accessible for all users through the provision of audio guides, videos, other visual material and the ability to request translation. You can find more information about our privacy policy on our website here.	Complied with
Each location has been given a reference name and number and we will ask people to quote this when providing feedback. This will enable us to consider their feedback in relation to the specific location of the proposed change(s). Reference names and numbers will be identified in the consultation leaflets sent to addresses in the consultation zones and in relevant sections on the project website.	Each proposed change had a reference number and name (for example Norfolk 1). This reference was included in the letter, consultation leaflet, and EIC for each proposed change. The project website also included the reference name and number on the consultation page and in the document library. The website was later updated to include a nearby settlement name for each location (eg. Norfolk 1 – Swardeston), and a map which included the same.
We will review and consider all the feedback we receive following the close of the targeted consultations and this will be used to continue to inform the development and refinement of our proposals alongside further assessment and survey work.	All feedback received from the targeted consultations is currently being considered. Any changes made to the Project as a result of consultation feedback and engagement with PILs will be detailed in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
All the feedback we receive will be responded to in our Consultation Report, which will form part of our DCO application.	All feedback received from the targeted consultations will be responded to in the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application.
We may carry out further targeted consultation either with communities or landowners following feedback and our ongoing studies on a non-statutory or statutory basis. Where this is the case, we will carry out consultation so far as is relevant, practicable and proportionate in accordance with the principles and methods which are set out in this strategy and the SoCC as well as the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and relevant guidance.	Any further targeted consultations will be carried out so far as is relevant, practicable and proportionate in accordance with the principles and methods which are set out in this strategy and the SoCC as well as the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and relevant guidance.

7.4 ‘Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy’ Document

- 7.4.1 The approach to the targeted statutory consultation for Thurrock 3 was set out in the Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy document. This outlined why a targeted statutory consultation was taking place, with whom and how National Grid was

consulting and how to provide feedback. It also included a map of the targeted statutory consultation zone, as well as a copy of the SoCC and the consultation zone for 2024 statutory consultation.

- 7.4.2 On 6 March 2025, the draft Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy document was provided to Thurrock Council for feedback who later confirmed there were no comments.
- 7.4.3 A final version of the Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy document was published on the Project website as part of the 2025 Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation which can be viewed on the Document Library <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library>.

7.5 Compliance with the ‘Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy’ Document

- 7.5.1 **Table 7-2** outlines how the targeted statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy document.

Table 7-2 How Targeted Statutory Consultation was Undertaken in Accordance with the Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy Document.

Commitment made	Compliance with commitment
We will write to residents within a 1 km consultation zone of the proposed new substation location, permanent assets and changes to the overhead lines, 250 m from the proposed order limits for the modifications to the existing overhead lines, and 250 m from primary access routes. Where appropriate, the consultation zone has been extended to include whole streets rather than dissecting neighbourhoods.	The consultation zone was drawn to include properties within 1 km of the proposed new substation, permanent assets, and changes to the overhead line. It also included 250 m from the proposed order limits for the modifications to the existing overhead lines, and 250 m from the primary access routes. The zone was extended where appropriate to include additional properties and streets.
The consultation will be open for 30 days.	The targeted statutory consultation ran for 30 days, opening on 18 March 2025 and closing on 17 April 2025.
We will write to stakeholders to notify them of detailed timings, along with information on the locations where we are consulting on proposed changes.	At the launch of the targeted statutory consultation on 18 March, National Grid contacted the relevant stakeholders for the local area to share details of timings and proposed changes. This included councillors at parish, district, and county level alongside MPs.
Dates and how to take part will also be published on the project website.	At the launch of the targeted statutory consultation on 18 March, all the relevant information was available on the Project website, including dates of the consultation and information for how to leave feedback.
We will send a letter to each property that falls within the consultation zone setting out information on the targeted statutory consultation and inviting the recipient to provide feedback. Residents will also receive a consultation leaflet that explains what we are now proposing in their area and	Properties within the consultation zone received a pack of information, including a letter providing information about the targeted statutory consultation and how to take part and provide feedback, a leaflet explaining the proposed change with included maps

why, a map showing the proposed change in their area (as well as what had been previously presented at statutory consultation in summer 2024 where applicable), how people can take part and provide feedback, and a feedback questionnaire and a freepost envelope.	and information on providing feedback, and a feedback questionnaire and freepost envelope.
More information including a Consultation Summary Document, Design Development Report and Environmental Implication of Change document will be available on the project website and at the public information events.	The Consultation Summary Document, Design Development Report, and Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document are available in the document library on the Project website. They were also available at the public information events.
We will seek to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by: publishing full details of the targeted consultation on the project website	On 18 March the Project website was updated to include the full details of the targeted statutory consultation.
notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter	At the launch of targeted statutory consultation on 18 March a Project update email newsletter was sent to the contact database informing them of the details of the consultation. A copy of the project update was also uploaded to the Project website.
providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones and to local authorities	The letter, consultation leaflet, and feedback questionnaire contained contact information for the community relations team, including the freepost address (FREEPOST N TO T), the phoneline (0800 915 2497), and the project inbox (contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com). These were posted to properties within the consultation zone and to local authorities.
running an advert in local media titles on/following consultation launch	Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers: - Eastern Daily Press on 18 March; - East Anglian Daily Times on 18 March; and - Essex Chronicle on 20 March.
notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC	Hard-to-reach groups were contacted on 18 March informing them of the consultation and providing information on how to take part and provide feedback.
publishing statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers.	The s47 notice was published in the following newspapers: - East Anglian Daily Times on 18 March and 25 March; - Eastern Daily Press on 18 March and 25 March; and - Essex Chronicle on 20 March and 27 March.
We will also publicise the consultation in locally circulating newspapers.	National Grid published the s47 notice in the East Anglian Daily Times, Eastern Daily Press, and Essex Chronicle as listed in the above.
We will offer briefings, either online or in-person, to provide information about the targeted consultation and respond to any questions for stakeholders including:	The relevant MPs (Jen Craft MP and James McMurdock MP) were contacted in advance of the targeted consultations. An online briefing was held with James McMurdock on 14 March, which provided information on the targeted consultations and provided an opportunity for questions. When the

Members of Parliament where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their constituencies.	consultations launched, a briefing with Jen Craft MP was also offered.
Elected representatives where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their ward. Briefings will be carried out via Teams.	In advance of the start of consultation, Thurrock Council were contacted to offer a briefing to councillors. The meeting was held on 17 March for members of the council and ward councillors to receive information about the consultation and provide an opportunity for questions.
We will hold two public webinars for residents living near to the proposed changes. People will be able to sign up via the website. The session will also include time for questions and answers.	National Grid held two public webinars for residents on 2 April 2025 at 6pm and 8 April 2025 at 12 noon. People could sign up using a link on the website. After the presentation, there was time for questions and answers using the chat and q&a functions on Teams.
A recording of the webinars will be made available on the project website for playback by those who cannot attend the webinar session.	Recording of the webinars were uploaded to the Project website.
We will hold two public information events for the local community to find out information about the proposals and the consultation and talk to representatives from the project team. - The event will be held at a suitable, publicly accessible venue that is within or near to the PCZ. - Details of where and when the public information event will be held will be published on the project website and in materials sent to local residents.	Two public information events were held on 25 March 2025 at Chadwell St Mary Village Hall and on 27 March 2025 at West Tilbury Village Hall. Chadwell St Mary Village Hall is within the consultation zone and West Tilbury Village Hall is very near the consultation zone. Details of the locations and timings of the public information event were published on the Project website and in the letter and consultation leaflet sent to local residents.
Should any events (in person or webinars) need to be altered or cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authority.	No in person events or webinars were cancelled.
We will make all consultation documents available on the project website and at an inspection point, including: - a consultation leaflet - a Consultation Summary Document, including maps - Environmental implications of Change (EIC) document - a downloadable feedback questionnaire - an online feedback questionnaire - contact details.	All the consultation materials were made available in the document library on our Project website, and on the public consultation page of our Project website. This included the consultation leaflet, consultation summary document, EIC, online feedback questionnaire, contact details, and a downloadable feedback questionnaire. A copy of all the consultation materials were also sent to the inspection points.
In addition to the consultation materials being available online, we will seek to ensure that the consultation leaflet, Consultation Summary Document, Environmental Implications of Change document, and the feedback questionnaire as well as copies of the SoCC and this	Copies of the consultation materials (including the consultation leaflet, summary document, EIC, feedback questionnaire, SoCC, and targeted statutory consultation strategy) were sent to Tilbury Library, Chadwell Library, and East Tilbury Library. They were

strategy are available to view at the venues listed below throughout the consultation period.	available to view throughout the consultation period, and additional copies were delivered on 26 March.
• Tilbury Library • Chadwell Library • East Tilbury Library	
Our project website is where all information relating to our targeted consultations and all previous consultations is located. The website will be updated to include all relevant information for the targeted statutory consultation.	The Project website was updated to include all the information on the targeted statutory consultation. Information related to all previous consultations also remained available to view.
Maps showing the proposed changes we are consulting on will be made available in the document Library. The interactive project map will remain available and include an explanation of what the map is showing and where the latest proposals can be viewed.	A series of maps showing the proposed changes were uploaded to the Project website. The interactive map showing our proposals from statutory consultation in 2024 remains available, with a note that this does not include the latest proposed changes and directing people how to find that information.
Information included on project website. • Project website document library with access to the information. All information relating to our targeted consultations will be uploaded here. This includes the consultation leaflets being sent out to properties in the consultation zones.	The Project website document library contains all information related to the targeted statutory consultation.
• Consultation pages to display all relevant information and material being presented for consultation. Information about our proposals will be laid out in a simple, visual and interactive format, with pointers and instructions throughout to aid easy navigation. • This includes a link to the online feedback questionnaire. • We will also provide links and registration instructions for the public webinar we will hold.	The consultation page was updated to contain the information and materials presented for the targeted statutory consultation. It included a link to the online feedback questionnaire and instructions on how to register for the public webinars.
• We will publish proportionate and appropriate environmental information on the implications of the proposed change and how that may or may not differ to those effects laid out within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) presented in summer 2024.	The Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document was published on the Project website.
• FAQs	The FAQs were updated to provide information on the targeted consultations.
• Project update section. This section allows members of the public to stay updated on the project and provides an easily accessible place for all recent updates to be hosted.	The Project update section of the document library was updated to include the March 2025 update announcing the beginning of the targeted statutory consultation.

Project contact details. This includes telephone, email and freepost details for the public to get in contact and request further details or ask questions.	The Project contact details remain the same as during previous consultations and were available on the consultation page and the Get in touch page.
Feedback questionnaire. The online questionnaire will enable members of the public to provide their feedback easily for each location and submit to the project team. The document can also be downloaded from the website and returned by email or printed and sent back via Freepost. Paper copies will also be posted on request.	The online feedback questionnaire was live from the beginning of the targeted consultations. A downloadable copy was also available and paper copies were available for request.
All personal data will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area or used for purposes other than those outlined. The website will be made accessible for all users through the provision of audio guides, videos, other visual material and the ability to request translation.	Complied with
If people need consultation materials presented in different formats, we will consider this on request.	Hard copy documents were requested and issued. No other formats were requested during the consultations.
Paper copies of the feedback questionnaire, along with a Freepost envelope, will be mailed to addresses that fall within our consultation zone and available on request.	Properties within the consultation zone received a number of documents when the consultations launched, which included a feedback questionnaire and a Freepost envelope. They were also available to be posted to anyone who asked for paper copies.
Website visitors will be able to provide their feedback via our online feedback questionnaire or by downloading it to return by email or Freepost (address listed below).	People could submit feedback using the online feedback questionnaire or by downloading a copy of the feedback questionnaire and sending it either by email or Freepost to FREEPOST N TO T.
We will review and consider all the feedback we receive following the close of the targeted consultations and this will be used to continue to inform the development and refinement of our proposals alongside further assessment and survey work. All the feedback we receive will be responded to in our Consultation Report, which will form part of our DCO application.	All feedback received from the targeted statutory consultation is currently being considered. Any changes made to the Project as a result of consultation feedback and engagement with PILs will be detailed in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

7.6 Who National Grid Consulted

- 7.6.1 The targeted consultations were open to anyone with an interest in the Project. Bespoke consultation zones were developed to assist engagement with the local communities where proposed changes were being considered.
- 7.6.2 Consultation zones were created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of

the change. Where it was appropriate to do so, potential changes were grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.

- 7.6.3 For the Norfolk and Suffolk targeted consultations, four consultation zones were established in Norfolk and six consultation zones were created in Suffolk. For the Essex and Thurrock targeted consultations, 13 consultation zones were established in Essex and two consultation zones were created in Thurrock.
- 7.6.4 Consultation on Thurrock 3 was undertaken as targeted statutory consultation and therefore National Grid had a duty to consult the local community in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008. A two-tier consultation zone was developed to assist engagement with the local community where changes were being considered, consistent with the approach taken during 2024 statutory consultation. This involved a 1 km consultation zone around the proposed new substation location, permanent assets and changes to the overhead lines, a 250 m zone from the proposed Order Limits for the modifications to the existing overhead lines, and a 250 m zone from primary access routes.
- 7.6.5 During all targeted consultations, the following groups and stakeholders were notified about the consultations:
- Parish councils representing parishes where any proposed changes fell within their parish boundary;
 - MPs representing constituencies where the location of the proposed changes fell into all or part of the constituency;
 - Elected representatives in local authorities where the location of the proposed changes fell into all or part of their ward;
 - PILs within the order limits of the relevant consultation zones;
 - ‘Seldom heard groups’ within a relevant consultation zone, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials; and
 - Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife.
- 7.6.6 In addition to the local community and stakeholders, for the Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation National Grid also consulted with prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a) and (b) of the PA 2008. PILs, under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 were also consulted with.

Table 7-3 Prescribed Consultees for the Thurrock 3 Targeted Statutory Consultation

Consultee	Activity
Prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a)	In accordance with Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, National Grid consulted with all applicable ‘prescribed’ bodies. Persons prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the “APFP Regulations”). On 18 March 2025 a consultation letter was sent to Section 42(1)(a) consultees, along with a copy of the Project Community Newsletter. An email containing the letter was also sent to the Section 42(1)(a) on 18 March 2025.

Consultee	Activity
	A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42(1)(a) will be included in the Consultation Report. Copies of the consultation letter will also be included in the Consultation Report.
Prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(b) and Section 43	A consultation letter was sent to Section 42(1)(b) consultees on 18 March 2025. Along with the letter, consultees were also sent a copy of the Project Community Newsletter. An email containing the letter was also to the consultees on 18 March 2025. A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42(1)(b) will be included in the Consultation Report. Copies of the consultation letter will also be included in the Consultation Report.
Prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(c)	Section 42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority (GLA) if the land is in Greater London. The Project is not within the GLA area and did not require consultation with the Section 42(1)(c) consultee.
PILs under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44	A consultation letter was sent to Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees. 86 PILs were written to (informing them of the targeted consultation) in letters posted week commencing 14 March 2025. Details on how National Grid identified relevant PILs can be found in 6.2.13.
Notifying the Secretary of State under Section 46	Section 46 of the PA 2008 places a duty on an applicant to notify the Secretary of State on or before commencing consultation under Section 42. This duty was complied with ahead of statutory consultation in 2024.
Consulting non-prescribed consultees	An email containing a consultation letter was sent to all identified non-prescribed consultees on 18 March 2025. A list of non-prescribed consultees will be included in the Consultation Report.
Consulting the Local Community under Section 47	A Section 47 notice was published in three local newspapers between 18 March 2025 and 27 March 2025. Details can be found in Table 7-2. More information about how National Grid consulted the local community can be found in Table 7-2.
Publicising Pursuant to Section 48	Section 48 of the PA 2008 places a duty on an applicant to publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner, including a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity. This duty was complied with ahead of statutory consultation in 2024. Notwithstanding this, awareness of each targeted consultation, including start and end dates, was raised in accordance with the published targeted consultation strategies. This included notifying the local and regional media via press release, notifying the local parish / parish councils, publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website, running an advert in local media titles on / following consultation launch and notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC.

7.7 How National Grid Consulted

7.7.1 National Grid's consultation activities for all targeted consultations included:

- Setting up a Project specific website including public consultation pages and consultation materials, as well as dedicated email and telephone information line;
- Mailing a consultation pack directly to properties in the relevant consultation zones;

- Mailing the Community Newsletter to approximately 77,000 properties along the route to notify the wider community of the targeted consultations;
- Producing materials to support consultation, including Norwich to Tilbury – Targeted Consultation Strategy, consultation leaflets specific to each location reference including the relevant maps, Environmental Implication of Change (EIC) documents relevant to each location reference, and a feedback questionnaire;
- Holding webinars and telephone appointments;
- Notifying the contact database via the regular Project update email newsletter; and
- Local and regional media promotional activity.

7.7.2 For the Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation, additional consultation activities included:

- Producing additional materials including Targeted Statutory Consultation Strategy, Consultation Summary Document, Design Development Report, and exhibition banners;
- Holding in-person events; and
- Making information and materials available at inspection locations in close proximity to the proposed changes.

7.7.3 Table 7-4 provides an overview of the key activities conducted during the targeted consultations. Full details will be provided in the Consultation Report.

Table 7-4 Summary of Activities During the 2025 Targeted Consultations

Date	Activity	Details
Norfolk and Suffolk targeted non-statutory consultations		
28 January 2025 to 3 February 2025	A consultation pack was mailed to PILs to inform them of the targeted consultation. The pack included: • a letter which provided information on the targeted consultations, invited them to provide feedback, and provided contact details, ways to provide feedback, and how to join the public webinars; • a consultation leaflet which contained details of what we proposed in their area and why, a map showing the proposals presented in their area at our statutory consultation in summer 2024, an annotated map showing the proposed changes in their area, and information on how people could take part in the targeted consultation and provide feedback; • an EIC document setting out appropriate and proportionate environmental information on the implications of the proposed change; and	230 PILs were written to in letters posted in the week commencing 28 January 2025. 2 newly identified PILs were written to in the week commencing 10 February 2025 and 1 newly identified PIL was written to in the week commencing 24 February 2025. On 31 January National Grid noticed that on the Suffolk 1 map some of the detail showing the re-routed 132 kV line was missing. This was due to a desire to increase the scale of the map to zoom in on the bigger changes in the north of the route. The full change to the 132 kV was described in the text and detailed in the EIC. The Suffolk 1a leaflet and EIC document detailing the proposed change were produced with an amended map. The Suffolk 1a leaflet and EIC were sent to 16 people with addresses or land interests in the previously missing area, along with a letter detailing an amended deadline date of the 10 March to provide feedback.

Date	Activity	Details
	a feedback questionnaire and a freepost envelope.	
11 February 2025 to 13 February	Three public webinars held at various times within this period.	In total 49 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars.
30 January 2025	Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers to promote the targeted consultation.	Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers: - Eastern Daily Press; and - East Anglian Daily Times.
During the targeted consultation (30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025)	A website was set up to publish information on the Project along with consultation materials and historical Project information.	During the targeted consultation period the Project website received 17,319 views.
During the targeted consultation	Briefings were offered to all district and unitary councils affected by the Project.	Briefings took place with 5 councils and 3 parish councils. More details will be provided in the Consultation Report.
Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory consultation		
24 February 2025 to 10 March 2025	A consultation pack was mailed to PILs to inform them of the targeted consultation. The pack included: - a letter which provided information on the targeted consultations, invited them to provide feedback, and provided contact details, ways to provide feedback, and how to join the public webinars; - a consultation leaflet which contained details of what we proposed in their area and why, a map showing the proposals presented in their area at our statutory consultation in summer 2024, an annotated map showing the proposed changes in their area, and information on how people could take part in the targeted consultation and provide feedback; - an EIC document setting out appropriate and proportionate environmental information on the implications of the proposed change; and - a feedback questionnaire and a freepost envelope.	310 PILs were written to in letters posted in the week commencing 24 February 2025. 1 newly identified PIL was written to in the week commencing 3 March 2025.
17 March 2025 and 18 March 2025	Three public webinars held at various times within this period.	In total 46 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars.
12 March 2025 to 15 March 2025	Bookable in-person sessions were held to provide an opportunity to view 3D visualisations of proposed changes to pylons and the impact on	In total 77 stakeholders and members of the public attended the sessions.

Date	Activity	Details
	the landscape. Three sessions were held at various times within this period.	
25 February 2025	Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers to promote the targeted consultation.	Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers: • Eastern Daily Press; • East Anglian Daily Times.
During the targeted consultation (30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025)	A website was set up to publish information on the Project along with consultation materials and historical Project information.	During the targeted consultation period the Project website received 17,319 views.
During the targeted consultation	Briefings were offered to all district and unitary councils affected by the Project.	Briefings took place with 7 councils, and 1 parish council.
Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation		
14 March 2025	A consultation pack was mailed to PILs to inform them of the targeted statutory consultation. The pack included: • a letter which provided information on the targeted consultations, invited them to provide feedback, and provided contact details, ways to provide feedback, and how to join the public webinars; • a consultation leaflet which contained details of what we proposed in their area and why, a map showing the proposals presented in their area at our statutory consultation in summer 2024, an annotated map showing the proposed changes in their area, and information on how people could take part in the targeted consultation and provide feedback; • an EIC document setting out appropriate and proportionate environmental information on the implications of the proposed change; and • a feedback questionnaire and a freepost envelope.	86 PILs were written to in letters posted in the week commencing 14 March 2025.
2 April 2025 and 8 April 2025	Two public webinars held on these dates	In total 8 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars.
25 March 2025 and 27 March 2025	Two public information events were held on these dates, providing the opportunity to view materials and speak to members of the Project team.	In total 25 stakeholders and members of the public attended the public information events.
During the targeted consultation	Paper copies of the targeted consultation materials were made available at public inspection points.	Materials were made available at three public inspection points, including: • Tilbury Library; • Chadwell Library; and • East Tilbury Library.

Date	Activity	Details
18 March 2025 and 20 March 2025	Advertisements were placed in local and regional newspapers	Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers: • Eastern Daily Press; • East Anglian Daily Times; and • Essex Chronicle.
During the targeted consultation (30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025)	A website was set up to publish information on the Project along with consultation materials and historical Project information.	During the targeted consultation period the Project website received 17,319 views.
During the targeted consultation	Briefings were offered to district/ county/ borough councils, parish councils and Members of Parliament (MPs)	1 briefing took place with Thurrock Council on 24 March 2025.

7.8 Feedback Received

- 7.8.1 Feedback received from the targeted consultations is currently being considered. The total number of feedback submissions received during the targeted consultations from community stakeholders and consultees, along with members of the local community will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

7.9 Evolution of the Project Presented at Targeted Consultations

- 7.9.1 Feedback received from the targeted consultations is currently being considered. Any changes made to the proposed draft Project as a result of consultation feedback and engagement with PILs will be detailed in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

8. LPA Feedback on the Adequacy of Consultation

- 8.1.1 In accordance with the Guidance (see 1.1.2), National Grid consulted with the host and neighbouring LPAs about the adequacy of consultation undertaken by National Grid to date, as set out in the SoCC.
- 8.1.2 On 14 April 2025 National Grid sent a letter via email to the LPAs requesting their feedback on the adequacy of consultation, requesting receipt of this by 5 May 2025. The letter included a table which set out the commitments made in the SoCC and how National Grid had complied with them in the delivery of the statutory consultation and any subsequent consultation. The letter is available in Appendix B.
- 8.1.3 On 14 April 2025 a further email was sent to the LPAs detailing an extension to the feedback deadline, due to the May Bank Holiday (5 May). The new deadline date was 6 May 2025. A copy of the email sent is available in Appendix B.
- 8.1.4 The following host LPAs were consulted with on the adequacy of consultation:
- Basildon Borough Council;
 - Braintree District Council;
 - Brentwood Borough Council;
 - Chelmsford City Council;
 - Colchester City Council;
 - Essex County Council;
 - Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council;
 - Norfolk County Council;
 - South Norfolk Council;
 - Suffolk County Council;
 - Tendring District Council; and
 - Thurrock Council.
- 8.1.5 The following neighbouring LPAs were consulted with on the adequacy of consultation:
- Breckland Council;
 - Broadland District Council;
 - Cambridgeshire County Council;
 - Castle Point Borough Council;
 - Dartford Borough Council;
 - East Suffolk Council;

- Ebbsfleet Development Corporation;
- Enfield Council;
- Epping Forest District Council;
- Gravesham Borough Council;
- Greater London Authority;
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council;
- Hertfordshire County Council;
- Ipswich Borough Council;
- Kent County Council;
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- London Borough of Bexley;
- London Borough of Havering;
- London Borough of Redbridge;
- Maldon District Council;
- Medway Council;
- North Norfolk Council;
- Norwich City Council;
- Rochford District Council;
- Southend-on-Sea City Council;
- The Broads Authority;
- Waltham Forest;
- West Suffolk Council; and
- Uttlesford District Council.

8.1.6 Feedback on the adequacy of consultation undertaken by National Grid to date was received from all host LPAs and two neighbouring LPAs:

- Basildon Borough Council;
- Braintree District Council;
- Brentwood Borough Council;
- Chelmsford City Council;
- Colchester City Council;
- Essex County Council;
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (neighbouring LPA);
- London Borough of Redbridge (neighbouring LPA);

- Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council;
- Norfolk County Council;
- South Norfolk Council;
- Suffolk County Council;
- Tendring District Council; and
- Thurrock Council.

- 8.1.7 Table 8-1 summarises the feedback received from LPAs with regards to National Grid's compliance with the statutory section provisions of the PA 2008, namely Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48, and in accordance with the agreed SoCC. Other comments raised by LPAs are presented in Appendix C.
- 8.1.8 National Grid responded to the feedback received from LPAs on the adequacy of consultation. Letters were sent on 6 June 2025 to all LPAs who had provided feedback (see 8.1.5). Copies of the letters are available in Appendix D.

Table 8-1 LPA feedback with regards to National Grid's compliance with the statutory provisions of the PA 2008.

LPA	Response received (Y/N)	Comments on legislative compliance	National Grid response
Basildon Borough Council	Yes	Basildon Borough Council believed that National Grid had correctly identified the parties to be consulted, complied with their duty to consult all relevant parties and carried out consultation events in line with the SoCC.	Noted
Braintree District Council	Yes	Braintree District Council was satisfied that National Grid has complied with the duties required by Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.	Noted
Brentwood Borough Council	Yes	Brentwood Borough Council stated that it considered that National Grid had carried out sufficient pre-application consultation in accordance with the SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.	Noted
Chelmsford City Council	Yes	Chelmsford City Council said it was aware that National Grid have a duty to comply with the following sections under the Planning Act 2008 – Section 42, Section 47, Section 48. Chelmsford City Council stated it will provide a full response as to whether NG has complied with these sections of the Planning Act in its Adequacy of Consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.	Noted

LPA	Response received (Y/N)	Comments on legislative compliance	National Grid response
Colchester City Council	Yes	Colchester City Council stated that National Grid had carried out adequate pre-application consultation on the Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.	Noted
Essex County Council	Yes	Essex County Council confirmed, subject to the review of the Consultation Report, that National Grid carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Section 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.	Noted
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	Yes	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council stated it was satisfied that National Grid had met its obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date.	Noted
London Borough of Redbridge	Yes	London Borough of Redbridge confirmed it had been adequately consulted to date and had not commented on the proposals as the Project is too far away to impact them.	Noted
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council	Yes	Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council confirmed it was satisfied that consultation had been carried out in accordance with the SoCC.	Noted
Norfolk County Council	Yes	Norfolk County Council said it was content that the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid have met their consultation requirements for the SoCC.	Noted
South Norfolk Council	Yes	South Norfolk Council confirmed that consultations undertaken reflect the commitments set out in the SoCC as required by Section 42, 47 and 48, specifically in relation to the delivery of the SoCC.	Noted
Suffolk County Council	Yes	Suffolk County Council stated it was satisfied that National Grid had correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and had complied with the duty to consult those parties. The Council stated it was satisfied that consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC and complied with duties set out in Section 47 of the PA 2008. The Council also said it had "no reason to doubt" that National Grid had published the required notices and complied with Section 48 of the PA 2008.	Noted. See National Grid's response in Appendix D.

LPA	Response received (Y/N)	Comments on legislative compliance	National Grid response
Tendring District Council	Yes	Tendring District Council was satisfied that the statutory duty under Section 42 had been met. It also accepted that National Grid complied with the duty to publicise the consultation under Section 48. The Council considered that while National Grid asserted it had fulfilled its obligations under Section 47, the Council remains concerned that consultation failed to deliver effective and meaningful engagement.	Noted. See National Grid's response in Appendix D.
Thurrock Council	Yes	Thurrock Council agreed that the 2023 and 2024 consultations had been carried out in line with the SoCC, as described by National Grid.	Noted. See National Grid's response in Appendix D.

9. Consultation and Engagement after Targeted Consultations

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 This chapter sets out the additional consultation and engagement which took place in the period between the close of the targeted consultation and submission of the AoCM.
- 9.1.2 The additional consultation and engagement was undertaken following certain localised amendments made to the design of the Project and also in light of ongoing diligent inquiry.
- 9.1.3 Land referencing had been carried out to identify changes in land ownership and other interests in land following the close of targeted consultation. Updates were requested from Land Registry and newly identified PILs were issued with a land interest questionnaire (LIQ). These were followed up using contact details where available and site visits.

9.2 Additional Section 42 Consultation with Section 44 Parties-PILs

- 9.2.1 Additional consultation and engagement is ongoing with PILs.
- 9.2.2 The ongoing additional consultation and engagement is in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 9.2.3 This additional consultation and engagement includes:
 - Consultation with PILs that have been previously consulted but are now impacted differently; and
 - Consultation under section 42(1)(d) of the Act with new PILs identified after the close of the targeted consultations, which may have arisen from design changes having introduced new land parcels into the Order Limits; from changes in land ownership within the previous Order Limits; or from ongoing diligent inquiry identifying new interests.
- 9.2.4 Further information about the additional consultation and engagement after the targeted consultations, including responses to issues raised and a summary of changes made, will be included in the Consultation Report at DCO submission.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1.1 At each stage of pre-application consultation National Grid has undertaken consultation in accordance with the approach identified and in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, including Section 42, 47, and 48, as demonstrated in Appendix A.
- 10.1.2 National Grid has at all times during pre-application consultation given due consideration to all responses received at consultation and whilst it is not always possible to amend the design in response to such comments, a significant number of changes have been made and the Project has developed accordingly.
- 10.1.3 National Grid shared its approach to consultation during the statutory consultation within the SoCC. National Grid refined the engagement strategies and the SoCC alongside productive dialogue with host authorities, which included both informal and formal consultation on the draft document. National Grid complied with commitments outlined in the SoCC.
- 10.1.4 In accordance with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008, National Grid will prepare a Consultation Report which will provide details of each stage of consultation undertaken received as part of the pre application process and a summary of the responses received.
- 10.1.5 In light of the above, National Grid considers that the consultation of the Project has met the test of adequacy.

Appendix A

**How National Grid complied with Section 42, Section 47, Section 48,
and Section 49 of the Planning Act (2008) and relevant guidance**

June 2025

Contents

A1: Compliance with the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the Pre-Application Process

A2: Compliance with PA 2008 Pre-Application Stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)

A3: Compliance with the Statutory Section Provisions of the PA 2008

A4: Compliance with The Infrastructure Planning (APFP) Regulations 2009 (as amended)

A5: Compliance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Appendix A1

Compliance with the Planning Act (PA) 2008: Guidance on the Pre-Application Process

Compliance with the Planning Act (PA) 2008: Guidance on the Pre-Application Process

Table 1--1 How National Grid has Complied with the Guidance set out by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the Pre-Application Process

Para	Guidance	Comment
The pre-application consultation process		
17	When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.	The materials produced for the purposes of statutory consultation consisted of: • Project Background Document; • Community newsletter; • Design Development Report; • Consultation banners; • Consultation notices; • SoCC; and • Feedback Questionnaire. Each of these documents provided details about the consultation and stated the closing date when responses were required by. Other materials produced for statutory consultation include the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), Strategic Options Backcheck and Review, 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Project maps, interactive Project map, and Guide to interacting with our consultation plans. To make it clear about a documents' status, all those listed above were located in the 'Statutory consultation 2024 documents' section within the document library of the Project website. A copy of the consultation materials can be found in the Document library on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
18	Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have been engaged throughout the development of this project, since the first stage of non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and second in 2023. Further details about the engagement with communities during the statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 6 of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) report.
19	The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the	The consultation was undertaken (two non-statutory, one statutory, and targeted consultation described in Chapters 3, 4, 6, and 7 of this AoCM report) during the pre-application stage

Para	Guidance	Comment
	major infrastructure consenting regime. A thorough process can give the Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the six-month examination period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues. Without adequate consultation, the subsequent application will not be accepted when it is submitted. If the Secretary of State determines that the consultation is inadequate, he or she can recommend that the applicant carries out further consultation activity before the application can be accepted.	to ensure that issues arising were considered and taken into account. The LPAs have been engaged throughout the pre-application period and were consulted on the SoCC. National Grid developed a Host Authority Engagement Plan which was circulated by the project team to the host authorities on 1 December 2023 and iterations have been issued as the project progressed.
20	Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be: • based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options; • shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and • engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views.	The consultation banners, Project Background Document, feedback questionnaire, interactive Project map, infographics website set out the Project proposals to give consultees a clear view of what was proposed including any optionality. The feedback questionnaire reflected the Project Background Document to help consultees in providing feedback to National Grid. Copies of the consultation materials can be found in the Document Library on the Project website. The statutory consultation undertaken between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024 allowed consultees to engage face-to-face with National Grid, through public information events in June 2024 and attend webinars. The statutory consultation took place early enough to allow for the Project to be influenced by consultee feedback. The Project website contained the consultation documentation and the ability to submit feedback via the online feedback questionnaire. Responses could also be sent as hard copy feedback questionnaires, letters, and emails to dedicated project addresses. All materials were produced to be accessible and easy to understand. The Project website was compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation.
21	Where an applicant has not been able to follow this guidance they should set out why this is the case, in the consultation report.	National Grid complied with the guidance in the undertaking of the statutory consultation.

Para	Guidance	Comment
23	In brief, during the pre-application stage applicants are required to:	
	notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application;	The Section 46 letter was issued on 8 April 2024. A copy of the letter can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate website Documents Norwich to https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents Tilbury.
	identify whether the project requires an environmental impact assessment;	National Grid identified that the project requires an EIA during the pre-application stage and submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on 4 November 2022. A scoping opinion for the Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on 14 December 2022. A copy of the Scoping Report and scoping opinion can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website Documents Norwich to https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents Tilbury. Paragraph 5.2.4 of the SoCC also confirms that the project is an EIA development and confirms publicity and consultation activities regarding the Preliminary Environmental Information.
	where it does, confirm that they will be submitting an environmental statement along with the application, or that they will be seeking a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application;	An ES will be provided as part of the DCO application
	produce a Statement of Community Consultation, in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that Statement;	A draft SoCC was provided to 13 LPAs on 1 December for informal review. The informal period of consultation on the SoCC started on 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024. And the formal period from 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024. The statutory consultation was compliant with the SoCC. A copy of the SoCC is available in the Document library on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library.
	make the Statement of Community Consultation available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the	A hard copy of the SoCC was available at 24 inspection points located throughout of the proposed route. A list of inspection points can be found in Table 5.2 in the SoCC and in Chapter 5 of this AoCM report.

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	vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, as required by Section 47 of the PA 2008 and Regulations;	
	identify and consult statutory consultees as required by Section 42 of the PA 2008 and Regulations;	National Grid identified and consulted as required by Section 42 of the PA 2008.
	publicise the proposed application in accordance with Regulations;	The Section 48 notice was published in three local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, a national paper for one week and the London Gazette for one week. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers. See Chapter 6 for details.
	set a deadline for consultation responses of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt/last publication;	Statutory consultation was held between 10 April 2024 until 26 July 2024 for a period of 15 weeks. During the General Election, the consultation period was extended five weeks (to 26 July) to allow the public to have time to respond to the consultation.
	have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation; and	National Grid's response to publicity and consultation for the 2022 non-statutory consultation can be found in the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report which is available on the Project website. National Grid's response to publicity and consultation for the 2023 non-statutory consultation can be found in the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report which is available on the Project website. National Grid's response to publicity and consultation for the statutory consultation will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application. National Grid's response to publicity and consultation for the targeted consultation will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application.
	prepare a consultation report and submit it to the Secretary of State.	The Consultation Report will be provided as part of the application for development consent.
24	The aim should be to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale and nature of the project and where its impacts will be experienced.	National Grid provided a range of engagement methods and communication channels to promote the project and ensure that consultation was appropriate to the scale and nature of the Project and where its impacts will be experienced. These included the Project website, online webinars, public information events, inspection points and targeted stakeholder meetings to support and promote the consultation along the proposed route. Further details of these methods can be found in Chapter 6 of the AoCM report.

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25	Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate.	National Grid conducted a thorough, effective and proportionate consultation. The period provided to comment for consultation under Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008 was greater than the required 28 calendar days. The 2022 non-statutory consultation ran for eight weeks between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022. The 2023 non-statutory consultation ran for eight weeks between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023. The statutory consultation ran for 15 weeks between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024 to provide a sufficient period of time for responses. This were all in excess of the 28 day minimum consultation period. This allowed; • Consultees to engage with National Grid one or more times; • Consultees to visit a information event (face-to-face or webinar); • Facilitation of invitation requests to attend community events; and • Consultees time to complete the response form Targeted consultation took place over three rounds, as follows: Norfolk and Suffolk targeted non-statutory consultation ran for 32 days between 30 January and 3 March 2025. Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory consultation ran for 30 days between 25 February and 27 March 2025. Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation ran for 30 days between 18 March and 17 April 2025. The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the PA 2008 and in accordance with the SoCC and PA 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024).
Who should be consulted?		
26	The PA 2008 requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself.	National Grid engaged with all parties during the statutory consultation, as required by the PA 2008. In addition, National Grid consulted the local community within the vicinity of the Project, as set out under Section 47 of the PA 2008. More information of the PCZ and SCZ can be found in Chapter 6 of this AoCM report.
27	The PA 2008 and Regulations set out the statutory consultees and prescribed people who must be consulted during the pre-application process. ...In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could make an important	The full list of prescribed consultees as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application. Chapter 6 of this report also details consultation with the relevant local authorities, as statutory consultees.

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	contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.	National Grid also consulted with a range of stakeholders with national and other interest groups- more information can be found in Chapter 6 . The feedback received during statutory consultation and the explanation of how National Grid has regard to it, will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application.
28	From time to time a body may cease to exist but, for legislative timetabling reasons, may still be listed as a statutory consultee. In such situations the Secretary of State will not expect strict compliance with the statutory requirements. Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	The list of prescribed consultees as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application.
29	Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid necessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with	The Project proposals have developed through consultation with local communities, landowners and businesses. National Grid sought technical input from relevant expert bodies throughout pre-consultation and consultation stages. Engagement with expert bodies to seek their technical input supported National Grid in the development of the design of the Project. The Consultation Report will detail key activities for engagement outside of the formal consultation periods. Chapter 3 of this report provides a summary of the 2022 non-statutory consultation. Section 3.5 of this chapter highlight the changes made following this consultation. Chapter 4 of this report provides a summary of the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Section 4.5 of this chapter highlight the changes made following this consultation. Chapter 6 of this report provides a summary of the statutory consultation undertaken. The Consultation Report will detail any changes made following this consultation and National Grid's responses to the issues raised at statutory consultation. Chapter 7 of this report provides a summary of the 2025 targeted consultations. The Consultation Report will detail any

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	consultees for the provision of such inputs.	changes made following this consultation and National Grid's responses to the issues raised at the targeted consultations.
35	The applicant has a duty under Section 47 of the PA 2008 to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. Before doing so, the applicant must consult on its Statement of Community Consultation with each local authority in whose area the proposed development is situated.	National Grid consulted the SoCC with 13 host authorities • Babergh District Council; • Basildon Borough Council; • Braintree District Council; • Brentwood Borough Council; • Chelmsford City Council; • Colchester City Council; • Essex County Council; • Mid Suffolk District Council; • Norfolk County Council; • South Norfolk District Council; • Suffolk County Council; • Tendring District Council; and • Thurrock Council. An informal SoCC consultation notification was sent on the 1 December 2023 along with a copy of the draft SoCC. The period to respond was between 2 of December 2023 until Friday 5 January 2024. A formal SoCC consultation notification was sent on 1 March 2024 along with a draft copy of the SoCC. The period to respond was between 2 March 2024 until 2 April 2024.
36	Where an applicant decides to consult people living in a wider area who could be affected by the project (e.g., through visual or environmental impacts, or through increased traffic flow), that intention should be reflected in the SoCC.	National Grid decided to consult people living in a wider area who could be directly affected by the project through the use of two different consultation mailing zones. These zones are referred as the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ): • The PCZ, which extended 1 km from the proposals, captured stakeholders who may be most affected by the Project; and • The SCZ, which extended to 4 km from the edge of the proposals, included stakeholders who were less likely to be directly affected Further details about these consultation zones can be found in Chapter 6 and Section 5.3 of the SoCC: 'Who will be consulted?' provides an overview of the range of groups and organisations consulted, including the PCZ and SCZ. The SoCC can be found in the Document Library on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library.
Local authorities		
37	Prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may	National Grid entered informal consultation on the SoCC with the 13 host authorities on the 2 December 2023, ahead of

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	wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the PA 2008.	formal consultation that started on the 2 March 2024. See Chapter 5 of this report for details.
41	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.	National Grid entered informal consultation on the SoCC with the 13 host authorities on the 2 December 2023, ahead of formal consultation that started on the 2 March 2024. National Grid were able to address all issues and concerns that were raised from both informal and formal consultations on the SoCC. Chapter 5 of this report provides details about how the SoCC was developed. Amendments to the SoCC further to informal and formal consultations are recorded in documents titled 'Regard had to informal/formal comments on proposed SoCC'
42	Where a local authority decides that it does not wish to respond to a consultation request on the Statement of Community Consultation, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to ensure that all affected communities are consulted.	All 13 host authorities were consulted and 11 responded with comments. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitted a joint response. South Norfolk Council and Suffolk County Council did not respond to the formal SoCC consultation however did provide feedback to the informal SoCC consultation. A variety of techniques were used to ensure a reasonable approach to consultation on the Project. These are as follows: • Materials produced: Project Background Document, Community Newsletter 2024, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), 2024 Design Development Report, 2024 Strategic options Backcheck and Review, 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Interactive Project Map, Consultation notices, Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), Feedback Questionnaire; • Project website; • Online webinars and in person events; • Inspection points; • Primary Consultation Zone and Secondary Consultation Zone; • Advertising in Local Newspaper and National Newspaper; and • Social Media advertising.
43	Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with them as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on	Prior to the first non-statutory consultation during 2022, National Grid undertook: • a series of local planning authority (LPA) briefings in September and December 2021; • launched the Project website in January 2022; • provided a draft consultation strategy in February 2022; and

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	the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.	undertook further LPA briefings and draft consultation strategy workshops in March 2022. National Grid then engaged with local authorities during and after the non-statutory consultations and the statutory consultation. National Grid has continued this ongoing engagement, commencing in 2022 and including non-statutory and statutory consultations. More information in Chapters 3, 4, 6 and 7 of this report.
48	Agreements reached between an applicant and relevant local authorities can be documented in a statement of common ground. This will contain agreed factual information about the application and can accompany the application. The statement of common ground can also set out matters where agreement has not been reached.	The draft Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG) have been prepared with the key interested parties, including individual SoCGs for each LPA. More information about the SoCG will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the application.
Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs)		
49	Applicants will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or who could be affected by a project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation.	Section 42(1)(d) consultees were identified through diligent inquiry as having interest following the land referencing methodology which will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the Application.
50	It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is up to date at the time of submission.	National Grid ensured due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. All known land interests were consulted under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 and National Grid has made all reasonable effort to ensure the Book of Reference (to be submitted with the Application) up to date at the point of submission. Further details on how National Grid has demonstrated diligent inquiry is included in the Statement of Reasons (to be submitted with the Application).
51	However, it is understood that land interests change over time and that new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with	After the conclusion of the statutory consultation in July 2024, National Grid continued to engage with PILs through targeted consultation and engagement activities. Chapter 7 highlights the engagement with PILs for the three targeted consultations undertaken in 2025. Chapter 9 highlights the additional PIL consultation undertaken after the targeted consultations had concluded. National Grid will continue to be proactive and helpful in ensuring PILs identified in the very latter stages prior to DCO submission may understand how they can, if they so wish,

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	a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.	engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination. Any newly identified or affected PILs will be written to with: • details of the project; • where further information could be found; • how to get in touch with National Grid, and • to explain how there would be an opportunity to provide comments to the Planning Inspectorate once the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been submitted.
52	Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	Alongside, or independently of, the work carried out to identify new PILs as a result of minor amendments to the draft Order Limits described above, National Grid are and continue to take steps to ensure that the Book of Reference as a whole will be up to date at the time of submission in accordance with Government guidance (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Pre-application Process, March 2015). Additional targeted consultations were held over three rounds from 30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025. This provided an opportunity for PILs to submit further feedback. The PILs consulted will be summarised in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. Detail on the targeted consultations is in Chapter 7 of this report. National Grid will continue to undertake due diligence to identify new interests.. National Grid will continue to be proactive and helpful in ensuring PILs identified in the very latter stages prior to DCO submission may understand how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination. To the extent there are any, any newly identified or affected PILs will be written to with: • details of the project; • where further information could be found; • how to get in touch with National Grid; • and to explain how there would be an opportunity to provide comments to the Planning Inspectorate once the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been submitted.

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Local communities		
53	Local people have a vital role to play at the pre-application stage. People should have as much influence as is realistic and possible over decisions which shape their lives and communities. It is therefore critical that they are engaged with project proposals at an early stage.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have all been engaged in the Project since the first stage of non-statutory consultation in 2022. More details about the engagement with communities during the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations can be found in Chapters 3 and 4 of this report. Information about statutory consultation activities can be found in Chapter 6 and information about targeted consultation activities can be found in Chapter 7.
54	In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local authorities will be able to provide advice on what works best in terms of consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultations in their area.	A variety of techniques were used to ensure an inclusive approach to consultation on the Project. These are as follows: • Materials produced: Project Background Document, Community Newsletter 2024, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), 2024 Design Development Report, 2024 Strategic options Backcheck and Review, 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Interactive Project Map, Consultation notices, SoCC, Feedback Questionnaire; • Project website; • Online webinars and in person events; • Inspection points; • Primary Consultation Zone and Secondary Consultation Zone; • Advertising in Local Newspaper and National Newspaper; and • Social Media advertising.
55	Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of	The consultation banners which were used on the website and at the public information events, provided a comprehensive overview of the Project proposals, describing the core elements of the project and potential benefits. The feedback questionnaire was designed to help consultees focus on the section areas they wish to focus on. The response form comprised of open questions to allow the consultee to use free form text. A copy of feedback questionnaire can be found in the Document Library on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library. A Project Background Document providing a comprehensive overview of the project details was also included as part of the public consultation materials. Information events provided a comprehensive overview of the Project proposals, describing the core elements of the project and potential benefits. National Grid made available the materials in additional formats on request and one online webinar was available in British sign Language interpretation which was recorded and published on the Project website.

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	people with disabilities if requested.	
56	Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals.	Section 5.5 of the SoCC provides information on promoting the consultation to those residents, local businesses and community organisation within the Primary Consultation Zone. This promotion included press release, newspaper advertisements, emails and letters, statutory notices, information posters and social media. A copy of the SoCC can be found in the Document Library on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library.
57	The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local inspection points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.	The SoCC included dates and location details for the six public webinar events. The SoCC was available both online and at the exhibitions. The SoCC remains available on the Project website. The SoCC listed, and was displayed at, 14 inspection points that were located within or in close proximity to the preferred corridor of the Project. In addition to the 14 inspection points outlined in the SoCC, the Project team made the documents available in an additional 10 other locations. This decision was made in response to requests from the public and stakeholders. A list of inspection points can be found in Chapter 5. The SoCC was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • as a paper copy upon request; • at the inspection locations listed in Chapter 5 of this report; and • at public information events listed in Chapter 5 of this report.
58	Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements (Section 48 notices) should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities.	National Grid advertised the proposed application under Section 48 of the PA 2008 to coincide with the start of Section 42 and Section 47 consultations. Details of the published notices can be found in Chapter 6 of this report. Copies of the newspaper notices will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted with the Application.
When should consultation take place and how much is enough?		
68	To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.	Chapter 2 of this report provides an overview of the pre-application consultations. Throughout the lifetime of the project, our proposals have developed through consultation with local communities, landowners and businesses and stakeholders. Consultations commenced well in advance of the proposed DCO application date, allowing time for consultees to understand and meaningfully contribute to the design of the Project. The four stages held between 2022 and 2025 provided consultees with the opportunity to influence the Project. Commencing consultation early has allowed the Project to be informed by the public and all consultees throughout the design process, while being sufficiently developed to provide some

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		detail on what is being proposed. More details of the consultation process can be found in Chapter 2. At statutory consultation, project information was available online and in hard copy to support the consultation (information is still available on the project website in the document library). These included the Project Background Document, Community Newsletter 2024, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), 2024 Design Development Report, 2024 Strategic options Backcheck and Review, 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Interactive Project Map, Consultation notices, SoCC, Feedback Questionnaire, Section 47 and Section 48 notices.
69	Applicants will often also require detailed technical advice from consultees and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore, applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.	Consultation with key stakeholders began at an early stage of Project development including during the 2022 non-statutory consultation on the then proposed draft Project where information on the proposed Project's evolution was presented. The published material was extensive and allowed consultees to understand the evolution of the proposed Project and to provide feedback to help shape it before any decisions were taken. Stakeholders were also engaged at an early stage of the process to discuss points raised in the Scoping Opinion and to reach an agreement on these matters and further comments received. Local communities, local authorities, statutory consultees and other stakeholders were engaged throughout the development of this Project. Since the first staged non-statutory consultation held in 2022, a second non-statutory consultation was held in 2023 which demonstrated how the Project had developed and shaped by feedback received as well as ongoing assessments. More information about the non-statutory consultations can be found in Chapters 3 and 4 of this report. Further details about the engagement with communities during the 2024 statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 6 of this report, and information about engagement with communities during targeted consultation can be found in Chapter 7. A full list of the consultation carried out with key stakeholders to date and a summary of the matters discussed in relation to the ES will be provided in the ES Appendix which will be submitted as part of the Application.
70	To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods.	National Grid held a non-statutory consultation between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022. A summary of the 2022 non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 3. The 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Report is available in the Document Library on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library. National Grid held another non-statutory consultation between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023. A summary of the 2023 non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 4. The 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Report is available in the Document Library on the Project website

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		https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library. Statutory consultation was held between 10 April and 26 July 2024. A summary of the 2024 statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 6. The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application. Targeted consultations took place over three rounds, as follows: Norfolk and Suffolk targeted consultations from 30 January 2025 to 3 March 2025, Essex and Thurrock targeted consultations from 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025, and Thurrock 3 targeted consultations from 18 March 2025 to 17 April 2025. A summary of the 2025 targeted consultations can be found in Chapter 7. More details about the targeted consultations will be included in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
71	Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.	Following the conclusion of each consultation National Grid continued to develop the project and identify amendments to the draft Order Limits. National Grid undertook targeted consultation with affected Section 42(1)(d) consultees as required due to the changes to the draft Order Limits. See Chapter 7 for more details.
72	Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project.	The statutory consultation ran for 15 weeks from 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024, allowing adequate time for consultees to respond to the statutory consultation.
73	Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially.	The Project did not change very substantially following the statutory consultation so, it was not necessary to repeat the community wide statutory consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 and as set out in the statutory consultation SoCC. Chapter 7 of this report describes targeted consultation that took place between January and April 2025.
75	If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a full re-consultation. Instead, the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes.	
74	Where a proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new	This is not applicable..

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	application, the legitimacy of the consultation already carried out could be questioned.	
76	In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the pre-application consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included.	The SoCC included the following statement in Section 6.3.1 Further Consultation; <i>'If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.'</i>
77	Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.	Prior to each non-statutory and statutory consultation periods, a consultation zone was agreed with the relevant local authorities, to ensure that the consultation process was proportionate to potential impacts of the project in the relevant areas. Bespoke consultation zones were also established for the targeted consultation. National Grid made communities aware of the statutory consultation through methods detailed in Chapter 6 of this report. The variety of methods carried out were proportionate and were able to accommodate anticipated levels of interest in the project. Chapter 6 of this report also details consultation with the relevant local authorities, as statutory consultees. All feedback received to the consultation, including that from the local authorities, has been analysed and will be presented in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
The consultation report and responding to consultees		
78	Applicants are required under Section 37 of the PA 2008 to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the PA 2008.	The Consultation Report has been prepared in fulfilment of s37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 and will be submitted as part of the Application. The 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Report and 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Report is available on the Project website.
80	The consultation report should:	Chapter 2 provides the overview of the process for consultation, including the timeline.

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	provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline;	
	set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate;	Appendix A of this report provide details of compliance with legislation, guidance and relevant policies.
	set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's Statement of Community Consultation;	How National Grid has taken account of responses to comments on the SoCC will be summarised within the Consultation Report.
	set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);	Responses will be summarised within the Consultation Report with National Grid's response to those matters raised. The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application.
	provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed;	Chapters 3 and 4 describe how the Project developed following the non-statutory consultations and how these were taken into consideration for statutory consultation.
	provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts;	The Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application, will outline how the Project has developed including changes made following statutory and targeted consultations and how these were taken into consideration. The Consultation Report will provide an overview of National Grid's response to issues raised as part of the statutory and targeted consultations. It will detail all change requests including reasons why changes have, or have not, been made.
	where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and	National Grid complied with the advice of the local authorities in the development of the SoCC and that of the relevant Advice Note.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.	The Consultation Report will detail how consultations (non-statutory and statutory) and engagement have shaped the Project pre-submission.
81	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate.	Following the 2022 non-statutory consultation, National Grid sent a Project update newsletter in February 2023 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Project update newsletter is available on the Project website. Following the 2023 non-statutory consultation, National Grid published a Post Consultation Update in December 2023 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Post Consultation Update is available on the Project website. Following the 2024 statutory consultation, National Grid sent a Community Newsletter in January 2025 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Community Newsletter is available on the Project website. A consultation feedback report was also published for each of the non-statutory consultation. The reports are available on the Project website.
82	As with the consultation itself, it is likely that different audiences will require different levels of information. The local community may be particularly interested in what the collective view of the community is and how this has been taken into account. Consultees with highly technical interests may seek more detailed information on what impacts and risks have been mitigated or managed.	The consultation materials were produced to reflect the audiences with whom National Grid was consulting. A number of documents were published at the launch of the statutory consultation, including technical reports (describing the process undertaken and decision made during the design of the project), and consultation materials. National Grid ensured that the content of the materials was sufficient information available to ensure people and organisations to understand and comment on any aspect of the project's development and design. For consultees requiring more technical information the PEIR and NTS provided a snapshot of the environmental survey work and assessment work that had taken place to date. The Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application, will report on the feedback received from the community and statutory stakeholders.
83	The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full	Following the 2022 non-statutory consultation, National Grid sent a Project update newsletter in February 2023 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Project update newsletter is available on the Project website. Following the 2023 non-statutory consultation, National Grid published a Post Consultation Update in December 2023 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Post Consultation Update is available on the Project website. Following the 2024 statutory consultation, National Grid sent a Community Newsletter in January 2025 setting out headline

Para	Guidance	Comment
	consultation report for those interested. If helpful, this could be supplemented by events in the local area.	findings from the consultation. The Community Newsletter is available on the Project website. A consultation feedback report was also published for each of the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations. Both reports are available in the Document Library on the Project website. The Consultation Report for DCO submission has been designed to enable the local community and consultees to find the headlines within each geographical section of the Project, and how they have been addressed. Responses to feedback from the Statutory Consultation will be divided into sub-appendices (Appendix K1, K2, etc), which group feedback into locations along the Project. Each row of feedback and response will contain a unique reference number, 'X' marks to indicate which stakeholder type the feedback came from, a 'Y'/'N' box that clearly demonstrates whether a change to the design has been made and reasons why changes have, or have not, been made.
84	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant impacts, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate. Applicants are also likely to have identified a number of key additional bodies for consultation and may need to continue engagement with these bodies on an individual basis.	As part of the design process and assessment of effects, all feedback received during the consultation stages will have been carefully considered. Where feedback has been technical in nature, additional engagement has been undertaken and has informed the project design and content of the Environmental Statement (ES) (or other documents as appropriate). The Consultation Report (which will be submitted as part of the Application) will explain how feedback received has been taken into account, cross-referring to further information contained in other documents such as the ES (which will be provided as part of the Application) where appropriate. The consultee responses which have been received do not identify any bodies or organisations that were not already consulted during the statutory consultation.
Environmental Impact Assessment		
90	At an early stage the applicant needs to either inform the Secretary of State of their intention to submit an environmental statement along with its application, or where the developer is unsure whether an environmental statement is needed, that they intend to seek a screening opinion.	The Project is an 'EIA Development'. On 4 November 2022, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to inform the EIA for the Project. Within the Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal written notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017 that it considers the Project will require (and that National Grid will in due course provide) an Environmental Statement in respect of the Project and it is considered to be an 'EIA Development'. A scoping opinion for the Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State S) on 14 December 2022 having consulted with the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017. The Section 48 notice (included with the Section 46 notification) confirms an ES will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent.

Para	Guidance	Comment
		The Planning Inspectorate were aware at an early stage that National Grid intended to submit an ES along with the DCO application.
91	The applicable EIA regulations prescribe as follows: - Regulation 10 requires that the applicant's Statement of Community Consultation must state whether the project falls within the scope of the Directive, and, if it does, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information (see paragraphs 93 and 94) for requirements in relation to preliminary environmental information); and - Regulation 11 requires that publicity of project proposals under Section 48 of the PA 2008 must also encompass the requirements of the EIA process and at the time of publishing the proposed application, applicants must notify all environmental consultation bodies.	Paragraph 1.1.2 of the SoCC states: <i>'National Grid expects the proposed Project to be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero via a Development Consent Order ("DCO"). This document has been prepared in line with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Planning Act"), which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be located, from here called "the local community" about the proposed application, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement. As the proposed Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development, this SoCC therefore also sets out how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with regulation12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("the EIA Regulations").'</i> National Grid consulted environmental consultees as required by Section 42(1)(a). In line with Advice Note Seven (Planning Inspectorate) National Grid published a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report alongside the consultation material. This presented the likely important effects of the Project to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project and its effects so that they could provide detailed comments on the design and mitigation of the Project.
92	To ensure consultation is meaningful, the pre-application consultation process for major infrastructure projects encourages applicants to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the proposed project. However, it may not be possible for applicants to share their environmental statements during the consultation process. It may also not be the most appropriate way to present the potential environmental impacts and mitigation steps.	National Grid included a PEIR and NTS (Non-technical Summary of the PEIR) in the documents published for the purposes of the statutory consultation to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the Project.

Para	Guidance	Comment
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)		
93	For the pre-application consultation process, applicants are advised to include sufficient preliminary environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project. The information required may be different for different types and sizes of projects. It may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation. The preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement. However, if the applicant considers this to be appropriate (and more cost-effective), it can be presented in this way. The key issue is that the information presented must provide clarity to all consultees. Applicants should be careful not to assume that non-specialist consultees would not be interested in any technical environmental information. It is therefore advisable to ensure access to such information is provided during all consultations.	National Grid produced a PEI Report which was prepared in accordance with The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (Planning Inspectorate, 2020). The purpose of the PEIR was to give consultees an understanding of the potential likely significant effects (positive or negative) to enable them to prepare well-informed responses to the statutory consultation. The PEIR details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely important environmental effects of the project. Each technical chapter has a section called Preliminary Assessment Key Parameters and Assumptions which sets out the assumptions. It is then followed by Further Assessment which says what else will be done as part of the ES. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR was also produced. The PEIR and NTS were available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • as a paper copy upon request; • at the inspection locations listed in Chapter 6; and • at public information events listed in Chapter 6.
95	When considering whether a project has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of certain European protected wildlife sites, the applicant must provide a report which should include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment.	National Grid will prepare a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report which will be included within the application for development consent. This will provide the information required for the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment.
96	It is the applicant's responsibility to consult with the relevant statutory bodies and, if they consider it necessary, with any relevant non-statutory nature	National Grid has consulted with Natural England on the preparation of the HRA Report. The HRA Report will identify the other organisations that were consulted when gathering data and evidence to produce the assessment.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	conservation bodies, in order to gather evidence for such a report (to support a Habitats Regulations Assessment). This consultation should take place as early as possible in the pre-application process. One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan. The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft report in advance of formal submission of the application if it is provided in good time. Further advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments for major infrastructure projects is available from the Inspectorate's Advice Note 10.	

Appendix A2

Compliance with PA 2008 Pre-Application
Stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure
Projects (April 2024)

Compliance with PA 2008 Pre-Application Stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)

New guidance was published on 30 April 2024, however as statutory consultation had commenced on 10 April prior to the new guidance coming into force, National Grid complied with the 2024 amendments where possible. Table 1-2 sets out how National Grid has complied with the guidance PA 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024).

Table 1--2 How National Grid has Complied with PA 2008 pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)

Para	Guidance	Comment
What is the purpose of the pre-application stage?		
004	The overriding objective of this guidance is to encourage a pre-application process which is effective and proportionate to the nature of the proposed project. This must ensure that the legal requirements of the Planning Act and the EIA Regulations 2017 are met, particularly involving consultation stages and the early consideration of alternatives. At the same time, pre-application processes should not be unnecessarily time-consuming and burdensome for the applicant, consultees and communities affected by the proposal.	National Grid provided a range of engagement methods and communication channels to promote the proposed Project and ensure that consultation was proportionate and appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposed Project and where its impacts will be experienced. These included the Project website, online webinars, public information events, inspection points and targeted stakeholder meetings to support and promote the consultation along the proposed route. Further details of these methods can be found in Chapter 6. National Grid conducted a thorough, effective and proportionate consultation. The period provided to comment for consultation under Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008 was greater than the required 28 calendar days. The 2022 non-statutory consultation ran for eight weeks between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022. The 2023 non-statutory consultation ran for eight weeks between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023. The statutory consultation ran for 15 weeks between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024 to provide a sufficient period of time for responses.

Para Guidance	Comment
	Targeted consultations took place over three rounds, as follows: Norfolk and Suffolk targeted non-statutory consultations ran for 32 days between 30 January and 3 March 2025. Essex and Thurrock targeted non-statutory consultations ran for 30 days between 25 February and 27 March 2025. Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation ran for 30 days between 18 March and 17 April 2025. The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the PA 2008 and in accordance with the SoCC and PA 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024); Each round of consultation was in excess of the 28day minimum consultation period. This allowed; • Consultees to engage with National Grid one or more times; • Consultees to visit an information event (face-to-face or webinar); • Facilitation of invitation requests to attend community events (where applicable); and • Consultees time to complete the response form.
How is the pre-application stage structured?	
005 The pre-application stage includes work that an applicant will undertake to prepare their application through to its submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Key statutory milestones during pre-application include: • consultation on, and publication of, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC); • where applicable, preparation of a screening opinion, scoping opinion and preliminary environmental information associated with any Environmental Statement to be submitted as part of the application; • notification of the proposed application to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State; • statutory consultation with specified bodies, any persons with interests in the affected land, and communities;	National Grid prepared, consulted on, and published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which set out how it proposed to consult the community in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. Local authorities were consulted on the SoCC during an informal consultation period from 2 December 2024 and 5 January 2024 and during a formal consultation period between 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024. The final SoCC was made available online on the project website at the start of statutory consultation on 10 April 2024. National Grid prepared a scoping opinion, which was adopted by the Secretary of State on 14 December 2022, a preliminary environmental information report (PEIR) which was consulted on as part of the 2024 statutory consultation, and an Environmental Statement (ES).

Para	Guidance	Comment
	- preparation of a consultation report; and - submission of the application documentation to the Planning Inspectorate.	National Grid notified the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the PA 2008 of the proposed application. Statutory consultation took place between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024. Specified bodies, persons with an interest in land (PILs) and communities were consulted in accordance with Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008. National Grid will prepare a consultation report under Section 37(7) of the PA 2008. The report provides details of: - How the Applicant carried out consultation in compliance with Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008 in relation to the proposed application; - Any relevant responses (within the meaning of Section 49(3) of the PA 2008; and - How the Applicant has had regard to any relevant responses (as per Section 49(3) of the PA 2008. National Grid will submit all application documentation to the Planning Inspectorate.

The pre-application consultation process

006 During the pre-application stage an applicant must:

notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of the proposed application on or before commencing statutorily required consultation under section 46 of the Planning Act, principally with statutory bodies, local authorities and persons with interests in the land;	The Section 46 letter was issued on 8 April 2024 and a copy can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website.
notify the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development, or that they will be asking the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application (Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017); this should be informed by early engagement with interested parties before formal consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act;	National Grid identified that the project requires an EIA during the pre-application stage and submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on 4 November 2022. A scoping opinion for the Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on 14 December 2022. See the Planning Inspectorate website. Paragraph 5.2.4 of the SoCC also confirms that the project is an EIA development and confirms publicity and consultation activities regarding the Preliminary Environmental Information. An ES will be provided as part of the DCO application.

Para Guidance	Comment
prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, commonly termed the Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"), which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that statement, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017;	National Grid prepared a Statement of Community Consultation in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017. A draft SoCC was provided to 13 LPAs on 1 December for informal review. The informal period of consultation on the SoCC started on 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024. And the formal period from 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024. The statutory consultation was compliant with the SoCC. Chapter 5 details how statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC.
make the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, publishing the statement and a newspaper notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act;	In accordance with Section 47(6)(a) the SoCC was made available online on the project website, in line with the changes to certain publicity requirements introduced by the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, at the start of the statutory consultation period on 10 April 2024. Reference copies were available at 24 inspection points along the route and at public events. A list of inspection points can be found in Chapter 6. Printed or alternative format copies were available on request. In accordance with Section 47(6)(b) the SoCC Section 47 notice was published in the following newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Project: - East Anglia Daily Times – 10 April 2024 - Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024 - Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024 The SoCC Section 47 notice was also published in the following newspapers: - London Gazette – 10 April 2024 - The Guardian – (an incorrect version was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024) A copy of the newspaper notices will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests as required by section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications:	National Grid identified and consulted as required by Section 42 of the PA 2008.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (“the APFP Regulations 2009”);	
	publicise the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the Planning Act, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009;	The Section 48 notice was published in three local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, a national paper for one week and the London Gazette for one week. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers. A copy of the newspaper notices will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	set a deadline for consultation responses required by section 42 of the Planning Act of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents as required by section 45 of the Planning Act;	Statutory consultation was held between 10 April 2024 until 26 July 2024 for a period of 15 weeks. During the General Election, the consultation period was extended five weeks to allow the public to have time to respond to the consultation.
	have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation required by section 49 of the Planning Act;	National Grid’s response to publicity and consultation for the 2022 non-statutory consultation can be found in the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Report on the Project website. National Grid’s response to publicity and consultation for the 2023 non-statutory consultation can be found in the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Report on the Project website. National Grid’s response to publicity and consultation for the statutory consultation will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. National Grid’s response to publicity and consultation for the targeted consultations will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	prepare a consultation report showing how the applicant has met the consultation requirements of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been amended to take account of the relevant responses;	The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.
	meet the requirements of section 37 of the Planning Act by submitting this consultation report to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State with the application	

Para	Guidance	Comment
	for development consent for consideration in the decision whether the application is accepted for examination; and	
	have regard to this guidance as required by section 50 of the Planning Act.	National Grid has complied with Section 50 of the PA 2008 guidance on pre-application consultation, evidenced in this table.

What is the timescale for pre-application and when does it start?

007	Applicants will normally carry out preparatory work of project development, including informal early engagement with local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees prior to the formal start of the pre-application stage of the NSIP consenting process. There is no prescribed period of time for the pre-application stage. The amount of work involved in preparation and consultation will vary, driven by the complexity of the proposed NSIP, the time necessary to address issues raised in the preparation of the application, and other factors including any surveys necessary for an environmental impact assessment.	Chapters 3 and 4 of this report provides an overview of the pre-application consultations. Throughout the lifetime of the Project, our proposals have developed through consultation with local communities, landowners and businesses and stakeholders. Consultations commenced well in advance of the proposed DCO application date, allowing time for consultees to understand and meaningfully contribute to the design of the Project. The four stages held between 2022 and 2024 provided consultees with the opportunity to influence the Project. Commencing consultation early has allowed the Project to be informed by the public and all consultees throughout the design process, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed. More details of the consultation process can be found in Chapter 2. At statutory consultation, project information was available online and in hard copy to support the consultation (information is still available on the project website in the document library). These included the Project Background Document, Community Newsletter 2024, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), 2024 Design Development Report, 2024 Strategic options Backcheck and Review, 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report, Interactive Project Map, Consultation notices, SoCC, Feedback Questionnaire, Section 47 and Section 48 notices.

Environmental Impact Assessment

011	Major infrastructure projects will normally be of a size, scale and nature that they will constitute Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development described within the terms of the EIA Regulations 2017. An applicant cannot begin to carry out statutory consultation	The Project is an 'EIA Development'. On 4 November 2022, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to inform the EIA for the Project.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	under section 42 of the Planning Act until they have taken the necessary steps under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to establish whether an EIA is required. Where the proposed development is determined to be EIA development, an applicant will need to submit an Environmental Statement along with their application. Although it is not mandatory, an applicant can request the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to provide an opinion on the scope of the Environmental Statement (the 'scoping opinion') i.e. what the assessment does, and does not, need to consider. Such a request must be accompanied by the information provided by the applicant required by Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017 in order that the Planning Inspectorate can make a fully informed view and respond within 42 days	Within the Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal written notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017 that it considers the Project will require (and that National Grid will in due course provide) an Environmental Statement in respect of the Project and it is considered to be an 'EIA Development'. A scoping opinion for the Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 14 December 2022 having consulted with the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017. The Section 48 notice (included with the Section 46 notification) confirms an ES will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent. The Planning Inspectorate were aware at an early stage that National Grid intended to submit an ES along with the DCO application.
011	Regulations 11 to 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 set out the pre-application publicity and consultation requirements for the EIA process pursuant to sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. Where there are obligations upon the Secretary of State, these are carried out by the Planning Inspectorate:	Noted – comments on regulations 11 to 13 in rows that follow.
	Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires the Secretary of State to notify the prescribed consultation bodies of their duty to consult with the applicant and make any information relevant to the preparation of the Environmental Statement available to the applicant (if requested to do so by the applicant). It also requires the Secretary of State to provide the applicant with a list of those notified consultation bodies;	National Grid was provided with a list of those notified consultation bodies. The full list will be included in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that the applicant's SoCC must state whether the project constitutes EIA development and, if it does, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information (PEI); and	Paragraph 1.1.2 of the SoCC states: <i>'National Grid expects the proposed Project to be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the "SoS") via a Development Consent Order ("DCO"). This document has been prepared in line with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Planning Act"), which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be</i>

Para	Guidance	Comment
		<i>located, from here called “the local community” about the proposed application, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement. As the proposed Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development, this SoCC therefore also sets out how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with regulation12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).’</i>
	Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that publicity of project proposals under section 48 of the Planning Act must also encompass the requirements of the EIA process and at the time of publishing the proposed application, applicants must notify all the notified consultation bodies.	National Grid consulted environmental consultees as required by Section 42(1)(a). In line with Advice Note Seven (Planning Inspectorate), National Grid published a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report alongside the consultation material. This presented the likely important effects of the project to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project and its effects so that they could provide detailed comments on the design and mitigation of the project.
	Applicants need to give consultation bodies sufficient information about the characteristics of the proposed NSIP in order to enable them to respond in an effective and timely way about the likely environmental effects and avoid unnecessary delay. Applicants should discuss providing digital material where possible with relevant statutory consultees. Part 6 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 contains provisions to replace the current Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and EIA requirements with a new regime of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR). Until the EOR regulations are in place to commence this new regime, the existing arrangements for environmental assessment remain in place and this guidance should be followed accordingly.	National Grid included a PEIR and NTS (Non-technical Summary of the PEIR) in the documents published for the purposes of the statutory consultation to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the project. The PEI Report details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely important environmental effects of the project. Each technical chapter has a section called Preliminary Assessment Key Parameters and Assumptions which sets out the assumptions. It is then followed by Further Assessment which says what else will be done as part of the ES. The PEI Report was available to download from the project website, to view at the inspection locations and available on request.
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)		
012	Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 the applicant is required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the	National Grid produced a PEI Report which was prepared in accordance with The Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (Planning Inspectorate, 2020). The purpose of the PEIR was to give consultees an understanding of

Para	Guidance	Comment
	proposed development. The information required will be different for different types and sizes of projects and it may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation. Applicants are advised to consult any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information, in the first instance to get an idea of what environmental effects could arise. The key issue is that the information presented must be clear to all consultees, even if it is of specialised technical nature. As required by Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 any difficulties or areas of uncertainty such as in data collection, forecasting methods or scientific knowledge must be identified and acknowledged. There is no prescribed format for PEI. However, depending on the availability of material, applicants are encouraged to prepare this as an early draft of the Environmental Statement and include it as such as part of the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. If applicants decide to take a different approach, they should be clear with consultees about the status of the PEI. In any event, applicants will need to maintain close dialogue with statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period. The provision of PEI can help statutory consultees to understand the environmental effects of the development and may assist in the identification and addressing of potential issues at an early stage in the pre-application process.	the potential likely significant effects (positive or negative) to enable them to prepare well-informed responses to the statutory consultation. The PEIR provides the available environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely important environmental effects of the Project. Each technical chapter has a section called Preliminary Assessment Key Parameters and Assumptions which sets out the assumptions. It is then followed by Further Assessment which says what else will be done as part of the ES. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR was also produced. The PEIR and NTS were available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • as a paper copy upon request; • at the inspection locations listed in Chapter 6; and • at public information events listed in Chapter 6.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

013	The Habitats Regulations provide for the designation of sites for the protection of certain species and habitats. When considering whether a proposed NSIP has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of such sites, the applicant must provide a report as required by Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations 2009. This must include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the relevant Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required under the Habitats Regulations, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment.	National Grid will prepare a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report which will be included within the application for development consent. This will provide the information required for the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment.

Para	Guidance	Comment
013	As NPSs reiterate, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide all the material and evidence as part of the application to enable the Secretary of State to carry out their statutory obligations. Where the applicant is of the view that there are no likely significant effects, this is best presented in the form of a report which contains all the material necessary to justify the conclusions reached, and evidence of the extent of agreement with statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs). One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan with the SNCBs to support a HRA where there are extensive or complex issues. The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft HRA report if agreed as part of the pre-application service in advance of formal submission of the application. Applicants must therefore build in sufficient time during the pre-application stage to consult with the SNCBs and, if they consider it appropriate, with any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather the necessary evidence and material.	National Grid has consulted with Natural England on the preparation of the HRA Report. The HRA Report will identify the other organisations that were consulted when gathering data and evidence to produce the assessment.
016	The strong expectation is that applicants of proposed NSIPs will act reasonably in engaging with landowners, and likewise landowners will cooperate with applicants to provide them with the information that they need and facilitate access to their land as required, even if they object to the principle of the development. Such cooperation does not preclude, remove or reduce any of the landowner's rights to participate in the consultation on an application or make representations about it during the examination.	National Grid consulted with landowners and all persons identified under Section 44, being persons with a relevant interest in land (PILs) affected by the Project. The Applicant sent a letter informing of the consultation to the Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees. The letter was sent to 5,016 PILs in the week commencing 8 April 2024. Any newly identified PILs were written to weekly. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A letter detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees on the week commencing 10 June 2024. The letter was sent to 5,108 PILs Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window. A summary of the numbers of PILs consulted overall and how many fell into each of the categories set out in Section 44 will be included in the Consultation Report which will be provided as part of the Application.

Para	Guidance	Comment
018	Section 149A of the Planning Act provides that a DCO may include a marine licence deemed to have been issued under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Such marine licences are issued by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and where an applicant intends to seek such a licence as part of the DCO it is essential that the MMO is consulted at the earliest opportunity to agree the content of the deemed marine licence (DML) and the range of conditions which will be applied. The MMO is responsible for enforcing these conditions, post-consent monitoring, and varying, suspending, or revoking any DML(s) included as part of a made DCO.	The Proposed Development does not require a marine licence. National Grid did not consult with the Marine Management Organisation.

How can pre-application consultation shape proposals and help prepare applications that are accepted for examination?

019	Applicants are responsible for consulting on proposed applications for DCOs. Applicants are specifically required to undertake statutory pre-application consultation activities as stipulated in the following legislation: section 42 of the Planning Act, together with the provisions of sections 43 and 44 of the Planning Act, requires applicants to consult certain persons, including statutory consultees, local authorities, and others with a relevant interest in the land to which the proposed application relates, prior to the submission of an application. The prescribed list of statutory consultees for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act is set out in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024;	<u>Section 42(1)(a)</u> The Applicant consulted all persons prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008. On 10 April 2024, the Applicant sent a consultation letter to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees, along with a copy of the community newsletter and Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees on 10 April 2024. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A letter detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees on 5 June 2024, along with a copy of the updated Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 5 June 2024. A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42 (1)(a), as identified through Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations will be included in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. <u>Section 42(1)(aa)</u> The Proposed Development is an inland development so would not affect, nor would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in Section 42(2) of the PA 2008. Therefore, the Applicant did not consult with the Marine Management Organisation. <u>Section 42(1)(b) under Section 43</u>

Para Guidance	Comment
	The Applicant consulted with each local authority identified in Section 43. The Applicant sent a consultation letter to Section 42(1)(b) consultees, along with a copy of the project community newsletter and the Section 48 notice on 10 April 2024. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent to the Section 42(1)(b) consultees on 10 April 2024. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A letter detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 42(1)(b) consultees on 5 June 2024, along with a copy of the updated Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 5 June 2024. A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42 (1)(b), as identified in Section 43 will be included in the Consultation Report which will be provided as part of the Application. <u>Section 42(1)(c)</u> The Proposed Development is not within the Greater London Area and therefore did not require consultation with the Section 42(1)(c) consultee. <u>Section 42(1)(d)</u> The Applicant consulted all persons identified under Section 44, being persons with a relevant interest in land (PILs) affected by the Project. The Applicant sent a letter informing of the consultation to the Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees. The letter was sent to 5,016 PILs in the week commencing 8 April 2024. Any newly identified PILs were written to weekly. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A letter detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 consultees on the week commencing 10 June 2024. The letter was sent to 5,108 PILs. Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window. A summary of the numbers of PILs consulted overall and how many fell into each of the categories set out in Section 44 will be

Para	Guidance	Comment
		included in the Consultation Report which will be provided as part of the Application.
	section 47 of the Planning Act requires applicants to consult relevant local authorities on what is to be in their SoCC setting out how applicants intend to consult the local community on the proposed DCO application, and then carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC;	The Applicant prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which set out how the Applicant proposed to consult the community. In compliance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, it explained how the Applicant would consult the local community on the Project, when and where the consultation would be held, the information that would be available during the consultation and who would be consulted. The Applicant's consultation process was carried out in accordance with the SoCC. Section 5.4 of this report sets out how the statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC. Further details on the process for preparing the SoCC can be found in Chapter 5. The final published SoCC is provided on the Project website.
	section 48 of the Planning Act requires applicants to publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner as set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009; and	The Applicant prepared and published a Section 48 notice in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations in the following newspapers: - East Anglian Daily Times – 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 - Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 - London Gazette – 10 April 2024 - The Guardian – 10 April 2024 (an incorrect version). The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024 - Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024 Due to the General Election period, the consultation was extended by a period of five weeks. The Section 48 notice was republished in the following newspapers: - East Anglian Daily Times – 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 - Eastern Daily Press – 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 - London Gazette – 12 June 2024 - The Guardian – 12 June 2024 - Essex Chronicle – 13 June 2024 and 20 June 2024

Para Guidance	Comment
	A copy of the newspaper notices will be included in the Consultation Report which will be provided as part of the Application. The Section 48 notice included the consultation deadline of 11:59pm Tuesday 18 June 2024. The republished Section 48 notice (detailing the five week extension due to the General Election) included the new consultation deadline of 11:59pm Friday 26 July.
the EIA Regulations 2017 set out requirements for preparing Environmental Statements prior to the submission of a DCO application, including engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities prior to formal pre-application activities under section 42 of the Planning Act.	The SoCC made clear that it was produced pursuant to Section 47(1) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017. It also makes clear that likely significant environmental effects of the project will be consulted on, alongside potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant environmental effects. The SoCC states that an ES would be prepared as part of the application for development consent. The SoCC further stated that preliminary environmental information (in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report)) will form part of the consultation materials, stating that the full PEI Report will be made available including on the project website and in paper form, and that the PEI Report will also outline any limitations to the current assessments. The SoCC is therefore clear that a PEI Report is to be prepared and consulted on, and how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on this document. A copy of the SoCC can be found on the Project website. The PEI Report was produced and consulted on during the statutory consultation between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024. The PEI Report provided a snapshot of the environmental information available at the relevant time.
Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees during the pre-application stage, both through consultation and other forms of engagement, can bring about significant benefits for all parties	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have been engaged throughout the development of this Project, since the first stage non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and second in 2023. Further details about the engagement with communities during the statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 6 of this report.
Without adequate pre-application consultation in line with the legislation, the subsequent application when it is submitted to the Planning	The consultation was undertaken (two non-statutory, one statutory, and subsequent targeted consultations described in Chapters

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	Inspectorate will not be accepted to proceed to examination. The Planning Inspectorate takes into account the responses received from local authorities during the acceptance period to determine on behalf of the Secretary of State whether the consultation is adequate. The Planning Inspectorate can either accept or decline to accept the application for examination. Where during the acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate considers that the application is not satisfactory, it may advise the applicant to withdraw the application, and if appropriate can also recommend that the applicant carries out further consultation activity or engagement before the application is resubmitted.	3, 4, 6, and 7 of this report) during the pre-application stage to ensure that issues arising were considered and taken into account. The LPAs have been engaged throughout the pre-application period and were consulted on the SoCC. National Grid developed a Host Authority Engagement Plan which was circulated by the project team to the host authorities on 1 December 2023 and iterations have been issued as the project progressed.
	Effective pre-application consultation is key to developing well-prepared applications that are understood by the public. Consultation on development proposals allows consultees and local communities to influence how infrastructure that meets a national need can be accommodated in their area, and enables applicants to more effectively shape proposals. From a consultee's perspective, engaging in pre-application consultation, including for example offering constructive mitigations to reduce a scheme's impact on the local community and environment, does not undermine any submission on the principle of whether or not development consent should be granted.	Consultation with key stakeholders began in 2022 and has been ongoing. Stakeholders have been engaged at an early stage of the process to discuss points raised in the Scoping Opinion and to reach an agreement on these matters and further comments received. Local communities, local authorities, statutory consultees and other stakeholders have also been engaged throughout the development of this project, since the first stage non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and second in 2023. Further details about the engagement with communities during the statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 6 of this report. A full list of the consultation carried out with key stakeholders to date and a summary of the matters discussed in relation to the ES will be provided within the ES Appendix which will be submitted as part of the Application.
How can applicants ensure consultation is proportionate?		
020	The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may	National Grid held a non-statutory consultation between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022, the report is provided on the Project website. National Grid held another non-statutory consultation between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023, the report is provided on the Project website. Statutory consultation was held between 10 April and 26 July 2024. Targeted (Norfolk and Suffolk): between 30 January 2025 and 3 March 2025

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	choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process.	Targeted (Essex and Thurrock): between 25 February 2025 and 27 March 2025 Targeted statutory (Thurrock 3): between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025. The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application.
	Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response. The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the effects. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project.	The statutory consultation ran for 15 weeks from 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024, allowing adequate time for consultees to respond to the statutory consultation.
	Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.	The Project did not change very substantially as a whole following the statutory consultation so, it was not necessary to repeat the community wide statutory consultation for the project as a whole . Chapter 7 of this report describes targeted consultations that took place in three rounds between January and April 2025.
	Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered. In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors: - the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole; - the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to	This is not applicable.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	what has been the subject of previous consultations; and the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.	
	For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately. Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.	The SoCC included the following statement in Section 6.3.1 Further Consultation; <i>‘If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.’</i>
Who should be consulted?		
021	Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation where appropriate, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant’s statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project. The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 amended the APFP Regulations 2009 by substituting a new table of persons prescribed for the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act (duty to consult) and also section 56(2) of the Planning Act (notifying persons of an accepted applications) which is covered in the acceptance guidance. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure all relevant prescribed	National Grid engaged with all parties during the statutory consultation, as required by the PA 2008. In addition, National Grid consulted the local community within the vicinity of the proposals, as set out under Section 47 of the PA 2008. More information of the PCZ and SCZ can be found in Chapter 2 of this report. The full list of prescribed consultees as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. Chapter 6 of this report also details consultation with the relevant local authorities, as statutory consultees. National Grid also consulted with a range of stakeholders with national and other interest groups.

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	consultees are consulted about a proposed application.	The feedback received during statutory consultation and the explanation of how National Grid has regard to it, will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	The list of prescribed consultees as set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) will be included in the Consultation Report which will be provided as part of the Application.
Local communities		
022	It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have all been engaged in the Project since the first stage of non-statutory consultation in 2022. More details about the engagement with communities during the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations can be found in Chapters 3 and 4 of this report, as well as in the 2022 and 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Reports on the Project website. Summarised information about statutory consultation activities can be found in Chapter 6, and a summary of activities for targeted consultationthe targeted consultations can be found in Chapter 7. More details will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.	Section 5.5 of the SoCC provides information on promoting the consultation to those residents, local businesses and community organisation within the Primary Consultation Zone. This promotion included press release, newspaper advertisements, emails and letters, statutory notices, information posters and social media. A copy of the SoCC can be found on the Project website.

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	Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC.	Whilst independent community liaison chairs or forums were not set up, National Grid was, and is, committed to ensuring that any consultation process and associated communication is made accessible to as many parts of the community as possible. National Grid's consultation activities included: • Setting up a project specific website, email, and dedicated telephone information line; • Mailing a consultation pack directly to properties in the primary consultation zone (PCZ) within 1 km of the proposals; • Producing materials to support consultation; • Holding online and in person events- including webinars and telephone appointments; • Making information and materials available at inspection locations in close proximity to the Project; and • Media and social media promotional activity. Chapter 6 of the AoCM report summarises Section 47 consultation with the local community (including non-prescribed organisations).

How should applicants engage statutory consultees and other relevant groups?

023	Applicants must: • consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as well as the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Planning Act, giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond;	The Applicant consulted all persons prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008. A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42 (1)(a), as identified through Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. The Proposed Development does not require a marine licence. National Grid did not consult with the Marine Management Organisation. The Applicant consulted with each local authority identified in Section 43 under Section 42(1)(b). A full list of the bodies consulted under Section 42 (1)(b), as identified in Section 43 will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

Para Guidance	Comment
	The Proposed Development is not within the Greater London Area and therefore did not require consultation with the Section 42(1)(c) consultee. The Applicant consulted all persons identified in Section 44 under Section 42(1)(d), being persons with a relevant interest in land (PILs) affected by the Project. A summary of the numbers of PILs consulted overall and how many fell into each of the categories set out in Section 44 will be included in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. All consultees under Section 42 were informed of the deadline for responses in a letter sent on 10 April 2024 notifying the commencement of the consultation. The deadline was also clearly stated in consultation materials, including the community newsletter, consultation banners, newspaper and social media advertisements and online material. Consultees were asked to provide comments by 11:59pm Tuesday 18 June 2024. Due to the General Election, the consultation was extended by five weeks. A letter detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to all Section 42 consultees on the week commencing 10 June 2024. The new consultation deadline was also clearly stated in online material and newspaper and social media advertisements. Consultees were asked to provide comments by the new deadline of 11:59pm Friday 26 July 2024.
publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act, and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and	The Applicant prepared and published a Section 48 notice in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations in the following newspapers: - East Anglian Daily Times – 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 - Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 - London Gazette – 10 April 2024 - The Guardian – 10 April 2024 (an incorrect version). The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024 - Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024

Para	Guidance	Comment
		Due to the General Election period, the consultation was extended by a period of five weeks. The Section 48 notice was republished in the following newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times – 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 • Eastern Daily Press – 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 • London Gazette – 12 June 2024 • The Guardian – 12 June 2024 • Essex Chronicle – 13 June 2024 and 20 June 2024 A copy of the newspaper notices will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	• by section 49 of the Planning Act have regard to any relevant consultation responses from either statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act, local communities under section 47 of the Planning Act, or wider publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act.	The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses to consultation and publicity in accordance with Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48. The Consultation Report will detail how the Applicant had regard to the responses received during the statutory consultation.
	Applicants will often need detailed technical input from statutory consultees as expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the impacts of projects, and other important matters. In many cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others before the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Some statutory consultees have cost recovery arrangements in place for the advice they provide. The ability for statutory consultees to respond effectively to pre-application requests for advice means they have the information they need from applicants to do so. It is essential therefore that applicants arrange early engagement with statutory consultees to avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the consenting process.	The Project proposals have developed through consultation with local communities, landowners and businesses. Engagement with expert bodies to seek their technical input supported National Grid in the development of the design of the proposals. National Grid sought technical input from relevant expert bodies throughout pre-consultation and consultation stages. Chapters 3 (2022 non-statutory consultation), 4 (2023 non-statutory consultation), 6 (statutory consultation) and 7 (targeted consultation) of this report provide details on activities during consultation.
Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs)		
024	Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own,	Section 42(1)(d) consultees were identified through diligent inquiry as having interest following the land referencing methodology which will be included in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

Para Guidance	Comment
occupy or have another interest in the land in question.	
It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.	National Grid ensured due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. All known land interests were consulted under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 and National Grid has made all reasonable effort to ensure the Book of Reference (which will be submitted as part of the Application) is up to date at the point of submission. Further details on how National Grid has demonstrated diligent inquiry will be included in the Statement of Reasons (which will be submitted as part of the Application).
Where appropriate, the Book of Reference should be supplemented by a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker, submitted by the applicant and updated during the examination, setting out the status of negotiations with landowners, Crown bodies and statutory undertakers affected by proposals for compulsory acquisition of land or rights and temporary possession. It should be noted that for an accepted application, the situation concerning compilation of land interests can continue to evolve during the examination as new information becomes available, and it is not uncommon for the Book of Reference to be revised and resubmitted more than once. This is usually a substantial undertaking and applicants should dedicate sufficient time and resource, particularly as in many cases there may be parcels of land where there is little information available. With this in mind, applicants are advised to make maximum use of electronic data bases when compiling the Book of Reference to enable such changes to be made easily. In addition, land interests can change over time and new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process, it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new	National Grid will continue to be proactive and helpful in ensuring PILs identified in the very latter stages prior to DCO submission may understand how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination. Any newly identified or affected PILs were written to with: • details of the project; • where further information could be found; • how to get in touch with National Grid, and • to explain how there would be an opportunity to provide comments to the Planning Inspectorate once the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been submitted.

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	interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.	
	Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	Alongside, or independently of, the work carried out to identify new PILs as a result of minor amendments to the draft Order Limits described above, National Grid have taken steps to ensure that the Book of Reference as a whole will be up to date at the time of submission in accordance with Government guidance (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Pre-application Process, March 2015). An additional targeted consultation was held over three rounds from 30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025. This provided an opportunity for PILs to submit further feedback. The PILs consulted will be summarised in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. Details on targeted consultation is in Chapter 7 of this report. National Grid will continue to undertake due diligence to identify new interests. National Grid will continue to be proactive and helpful in ensuring PILs identified in the very latter stages prior to DCO submission may understand how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination. To the extent there are any, any newly identified or affected PILs were written to with: • details of the project; • where further information could be found; • how to get in touch with National Grid; and • to explain how there would be an opportunity to provide comments to the Planning Inspectorate once the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been submitted.
Adequacy of consultation milestone		
025	This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months	The Applicant has prepared this Adequacy of Consultation Milestone report. The report has been prepared after the Applicant undertook the following consultations: • Non-statutory consultation 2022 • Non-statutory consultation 2023 • Statutory consultation 2024

Para	Guidance	Comment
	before the intended date of submission of the application.	Targeted consultations January to April 2025
	The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.	The Applicant has prepared this Adequacy of Consultation Milestone report which details the elements of consultation which have been carried out and this compares to the components set out in the Programme Document and SoCC.

The consultation report and responding to consultees

026	Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been shaped as a result.	The Consultation Report is being prepared in fulfilment of s37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. The Report will be submitted as part of the Application.
	This report should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:	Multiple rounds of consultation have been undertaken. The Consultation Report will detail the changes made following feedback received at every consultation. Chapter 3 of this report provides a summary of the 2022 non-statutory consultation. Details on how National Grid had regard to feedback raised at the 2022 non-statutory consultation is detailed in the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, which is available on the Project website. Chapter 4 of this report provides a summary of the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Details on how National Grid had regard to feedback raised at the 2023 non-statutory consultation is detailed in the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, which is available on the Project website. Chapter 6 of this report provides a summary of the 2024 statutory consultation undertaken. Details on how National Grid had regard to feedback raised at the 2024 statutory consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application. Chapter 7 of this report provides a summary of the 2025 targeted consultations. Details on how National Grid had regard to feedback raised at the 2025 targeted consultations will be detailed in the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;	Chapter 2 of this report provides the overview of the process for consultation, including the timeline.
	set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;	This Appendix provides details of compliance with legislation, guidance and relevant policies.
	set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;	Chapter 5 of this report outlines how National Grid carried out consultation in accordance with the SoCC
	set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);	Responses will be grouped within the Consultation Report with National Grid's response to those matters raised. The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application.
	provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result;	Chapters 3 and 4 of this report briefly summarise how the Project developed following the non-statutory consultations and how these were taken into consideration for statutory consultation. More details will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and	Chapter 6 summarises how the Project undertook statutory consultation. Details including how National Grid developed the project following statutory consultation and any changes made will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.	The Consultation Report will detail how consultations (non-statutory, statutory and targeted) and engagement have shaped the Project pre-submission. The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the Application.
	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.	Following the 2022 non-statutory consultation, National Grid sent a Project update newsletter in February 2023 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Project update newsletter is available on the Project website. Following the 2023 non-statutory consultation, National Grid published a Post Consultation Update in December 2023 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Post Consultation Update is available on the Project website. Following the 2024 statutory consultation, National Grid sent a Community Newsletter in

Para	Guidance	Comment
		January 2025 setting out headline findings from the consultation. The Community Newsletter is available on the Project website. National Grid also published a consultation feedback report for each of the non-statutory consultations. The 2022 and 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Reports are available on the Project website. The consultation materials were produced to reflect the audiences with whom National Grid was consulting. A number of documents were published at the launch of the statutory consultation, including technical reports (describing the process undertaken and decision made during the design of the Project), and consultation materials. National Grid ensured that the content of the materials was sufficient information available to ensure people and organisations to understand and comment on any aspect of the project's development and design. For consultees requiring more technical information the PEIR and NTS provided a snapshot of the environmental survey work and assessment work that had taken place to date. Feedback from the community and statutory stakeholders has been grouped into the geographical sections (from the feedback questionnaire) and will be reported on that basis in the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application.
	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant effects, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate.	As part of the design process and assessment of effects, all feedback received during the consultation stages has been carefully considered. Where feedback has been technical in nature, additional engagement has been undertaken and has informed the project design and content of the ES (or other documents as appropriate). The report will explain how feedback received has been taken into account, cross-referring to further information contained in other documents such as the ES (which will be submitted as part of the Application) where appropriate. The consultee responses received did not identify any bodies or organisations that were not already consulted during the statutory consultation.
030	Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) can support this by providing a written statement	Draft Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG) are being prepared with the key interested

Para	Guidance	Comment
	(prepared by the applicant and another party or parties), setting out matters on which they agree or disagree. Applicants are encouraged to submit SoCGs as part of the application documents, even if they are of a provisional or draft nature to be developed during the examination. It is therefore important that these are prepared during the pre-application period wherever possible, particularly with statutory consultees and affected local authorities.	parties, including individual SoCGs for each LPA. More information about the SoCGs will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
032	Applicants are required to consult the local authority in whose area a proposed NSIP project lies (the 'host' local authority). They are also required to identify and consult the neighbouring local authorities under the requirements of section 43(2) and (2A) of the Planning Act. If the boundaries of the proposed applications change, applicants will need to consider whether there are any changes to the local authorities they need to consult. Where a combined authority or combined county authority is in place, applicants are recommended to review whether the relevant legislation which established those authorities brings them within scope of the consultation requirements under the Planning Act.	National Grid consulted on the SoCC with 13 host authorities • Babergh District Council; • Basildon Borough Council; • Braintree District Council; • Brentwood Borough Council; • Chelmsford City Council; • Colchester City Council; • Essex County Council; • Mid Suffolk District Council; • Norfolk County Council; • South Norfolk District Council; • Suffolk County Council; • Tendring District Council; and • Thurrock Council.
034	In preparing a SoCC under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants may need to consult with a number of different local authorities. This may particularly be the case for long, linear projects.	An informal SoCC consultation notification was sent on the 1 December 2023 along with a copy of the draft SoCC. The period to respond was between 2 of December 2023 until Friday 5 January 2024. See Chapter 5 for more information. A formal SoCC consultation notification was sent on 1 March 2024 along with a draft copy of the SoCC. The period to respond was between 2 March 2024 until 2 April 2024. See Chapter 5 for more information.
036	Applicants have a statutory duty to consult any local authority in whose land a project is sited. So, where an offshore project also features land-based development such as an onshore cable route and substation, the applicant should treat the local authority where the land-based development is located as the main consultee for the SoCC. The applicant is also advised to consider seeking views on the SoCC from local authorities whose communities may be affected by the project, for example visually or through construction traffic, even if the project is in fact some	National Grid entered informal consultation on the SoCC with the 13 host authorities on the 2 December 2023, ahead of formal consultation that started on the 2 March 2024. Chapter 5 of this report provides details about how the SoCC was developed.

Para	Guidance	Comment
	distance from the area in question. In addition, applicants may find it beneficial to discuss their SoCC with any local authorities in the vicinity where there could be an effect on harbour facilities. Where a local authority raises an issue or concern about the draft SoCC which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to work with the authority to find an appropriate way forward. Where this is not possible, they should explain the reasons for this and rationale for their course of action in the consultation report submitted as part of their application.	

Appendix A3

Compliance with the Statutory Section
Provisions of the PA 2008

Compliance with the Statutory Section Provisions of the PA 2008

Table 1-3 sets out how National Grid has complied with the statutory section provisions of the Planning Act 2008, namely:

- Section 42: Duty to consult;
- Section 45: Timetable for consultation under section 42;
- Section 46: Duty to notify of proposed application;
- Section 47: Duty to consult local community;
- Section 48: Duty to publicise;
- Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity; and
- Section 50: Guidance about pre-application procedure.

Table 1--3 How National Grid Has Complied with the Statutory Requirements of the Planning Act 2008

Statutory Regulation	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
Section 42: Duty to consult		
The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application:		
Section 42(1)(a) such persons as may be prescribed.	Meetings were held with key statutory bodies affected throughout the pre-submission period of the DCO. All relevant prescribed consultees were notified of the commencement of the statutory consultation by letter along with a copy of the Community Newsletter and Section 48 notice. Details are contained in Chapter 6 of this report. A copy of the letter will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.	The Consultation Report will provide details and dates of meetings held with key statutory bodies throughout the pre-submission period of the DCO. The statutory consultation period ran from 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024. Consultation launch letter issued 10 April 2024. Consultation extension letter issued 5 June 2024
Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2)	Section 42(1)(aa) consultees are not applicable for this project as detailed in Chapter 6 of this report.	Not applicable

Section 42(1)(b) each local authority that is within Section 43.	Meetings were held with local authorities affected throughout the pre-submission period of the DCO. All local authorities falling within the scope of Section 43 of the PA 2008 were notified of the commencement of the statutory consultation by letter. Details are contained in Chapter 6 of this report and a copy of the letter will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.	The letter was sent to all Section 42(1)(b) consultees on 10 April 2024
Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London.	The Project is not within the GLA and did not require consultation with the Section 42(1)(c) consultee.)	
Section 42(1)(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.	Using diligent inquiry, National Grid identified 5,016 Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs). PILs were written to week commencing 8 April 2024 of the commencement of the consultation. Any newly identified PILs were written to weekly.. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A total of 5,108 PILs were written to (informing them of the new consultation deadline) in letters posted week commencing 10 June 2024. Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window. Duplicate sets of consultation materials were also provided to land agents instructed to act on behalf of identified PILs, with the addition of a cover letter to reference information sent to their client. More details will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. All letters that were returned to sender were re-issued to alternative addresses. More details will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application. The Book of Reference will be submitted as part of the Application. National Grid will continue to engage with existing PILs and also identify any new and additional interests within referencing limits throughout. .	Initial consultation letters were issued week commencing 8 April. Any newly identified PILs were written to weekly.. Letters detailing the consultation deadline extension were issued week commencing 10 June. Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window.

Section 45: Timetable for Section 42 consultation

(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under Section 42, notify the person of the deadline	Statutory consultation was a 15 week period, commencing on the 10 April 2024;	Consultation letters were issued week commencing 8 April. Newly identified

for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	the consultation deadline was the 26 July 2024. 5,016 Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) were written to (informing them of the consultation) in letters posted week commencing 8 April 2024. Any newly identified PILs were written to weekly. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. 5,108 PILs were written to (informing them of the new consultation deadline) in letters posted week commencing 10 June 2024. Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window. See Chapter 6 for details.	PILs were written to weekly. Letters detailing the consultation deadline extension were issued week commencing 10 June. Any newly identified PILs were written to when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window.
(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	The 2024 statutory consultation took place from 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024, providing a period of 107 days for responses. This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation specified by the PA 2008. The consultation deadline was extended for an additional five weeks (from 18 June 2024 to 26 July 2024) due to the General Election period.	10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024
3) In subsection (2) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	The consultation documents provided for the Section 42 consultation were published at the launch of the consultation. The consultation materials included: • Project Background document • Community Newsletter 2024 • Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and non-technical summary (NTS) • 2024 Design Development Report • 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review • 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report • Project maps • Consultation banners • Interactive Project map • Consultation notices • Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) • Feedback questionnaire • Guide to Interacting with our consultation plans	Consultation documents were made available from the start of consultation on 10 April 2024.

Paper copies of consultation documents were also made available at public information events and inspection points.

Section 46: Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application

(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the PA 2008 of the upcoming statutory consultation. The Applicant provided the following information: • Letter sent to Section 42 consultees • Section 48 notice • Consultation feedback questionnaire	8 April 2024

(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the PA 2008 of the upcoming statutory consultation on 8 April 2024, before the date of the commencement of the statutory consultation under Section 42 on 10 April 2024.	8 April 2024

Section 47: Duty to consult local community

(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	A SoCC was published as part of the consultation documentation.	The SoCC was published 10 April 2024

(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	Norfolk County Council; South Norfolk Council; Suffolk County Council; Mid Suffolk District Council; Babergh District Council; Essex County Council; Colchester City Council; Tendring District Council; Braintree District Council; Chelmsford City Council; Brentwood Borough Council; Thurrock Council; and Basildon Borough Council were all provided with a draft copy of the SoCC and were formally invited to comment.	Initial discussions took place to inform drafting of the SoCC. Informal consultation took place from 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024. Formal consultation on the SoCC took place between the 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024.
(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.		

(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	The consultation documents supplied to the local authorities comprised of the draft SoCC and cover email.	Informal consultation took place from 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024. Formal consultation on the SoCC took place between the 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024.
(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	Comments were received from all 13 LPAs as consulted on the draft SoCCs and National Grid responded to the comments received (with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitting a joint response). The draft SoCC was amended as appropriate prior to the formal SoCC being published.	Informal consultation took place from 2 December 2023 until 5 January 2024. Formal consultation on the SoCC took place between the 2 March 2024 and 2 April 2024.
(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must— (a)make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land, (b) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (c) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.	The SoCC was made available for inspection free of charge at 24 inspection points in the vicinity of the Project for the duration of the statutory consultation. The list of inspection locations can be found in Chapter 5 of this report. The SoCC was made available on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library . The Section 47 notice was placed in the following three local newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle.	The Section 47 notice was published between 10 and 17 April 2024.
(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	National Grid promoted the consultation in line with the SoCC. Chapter 5 of this report provides further detail on how compliance was met.	SoCC compliant statutory consultation held between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024.
Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application		
(1)The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	The Applicant prepared and published a Section 48 notice in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations in the following newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times – 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 • Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 • London Gazette – 10 April 2024	Between 10 April 2024 and 20 June 2024

- The Guardian – 10 April 2024 (an incorrect version). The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024
- Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024

Due to the General Election period, the consultation was extended by a period of five weeks. The Section 48 notice was republished in the following newspapers:

- East Anglian Daily Times – 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024
- Eastern Daily Press – 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024
- London Gazette – 12 June 2024
- The Guardian – 12 June 2024
- Essex Chronicle – 13 June 2024 and 20 June 2024

A copy of the newspaper notices will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.

(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.

The Section 48 notice included the consultation deadline of 11:59pm Tuesday 18 June 2024.

The republished Section 48 notice (detailing the five week extension due to the General Election) included the new consultation deadline of 11:59pm Friday 26 July.

Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant—
(a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and
(b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).

The Consultation Report will detail how the Applicant has had regard to responses received to consultation.

The Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application, will detail how National Grid has taken into account non-statutory consultation/engagement stages and how National Grid has taken account of responses received during the statutory and targeted consultations as well as additional Section 42(1)(d) engagement.

Non-statutory 1: between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022.

Non-statutory 2: between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023.

Statutory: between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024.

Targeted consultations:

- Norfolk and Suffolk between 30 January 2025 until 3 March 2025;
- Essex and Thurrock between 25 February until 27 March 2025; and
- Thurrock 3 between 18 March until 17 April 2025.

(2)The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.	The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses to consultation and publicity. The Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application, will detail how the Applicant had regard to all responses.
(3)In subsection (2) “relevant response” means— (a)a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case, (b)a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or (c)a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.	Section 42, 47 and 48 responses are considered in the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the Application.
Section 50: Guidance about pre-application procedure	
(1)Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Chapter. (2)Guidance under this section may be issued by the Secretary of State. (3)The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.	National Grid considers it has complied with the guidance as detailed in the AoCM report. Compliance with the guidance will also be detailed in the Consultation Report. Ongoing

Appendix A4

Compliance with The Infrastructure
Planning (APFP) Regulations 2009 (as
amended)

Compliance with The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) (APFP) Regulations 2009 (as amended)

Table 1-4 sets out how National Grid has complied with The Infrastructure Planning (APFP) Regulations 2009 (as amended), namely:

- Regulation 3: Prescribed Consultees
- Regulation 4: Publicising a proposed application

Table 1--4 How National Grid Has Complied with The Infrastructure Planning (APFP) Regulations 2009 (as amended)

Regulation	Activity	Dates
Regulation 3 Prescribed consultees		
The persons prescribed for the purposes of section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to these Regulations, who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each such person in column 2 of that table.	The Applicant consulted all persons prescribed under the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 who were deemed to be relevant to this applicant by the descriptions set out in column 2 of that table.	
Regulation 4 Publicising a proposed application		
(2) The applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of this regulation, of the proposed application—	A copy of the Section 48 notice and publications will be provided in the Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.	The initial Section 48 notice was published in various newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.

(a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	The Section 48 notice was placed in the following local newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times (10 and 17 April 2024; and 12 and 19 June 2024) • Eastern Daily Press (10 and 17 April 2024; and 12 and 19 June 2024) • Essex Chronicle (11 and 18 April 2024; and 13 and 20 June 2024)	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(b) once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	The initial Section 48 notice was published on 10 April 2024, but with an error. A corrected version of the Section 48 notice was re-published on 17 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension on 12 June 2024.
(c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	The London Gazette	The initial Section 48 notice was published 10 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension on 12 June 2024.

(d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –	Not applicable	Not applicable
(i) once in Lloyds List; and		
(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.		
(3) The matters which the notice must include are:		
(a) the name and address of the applicant;	The Section 48 notice included the following: <i>‘Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“National Grid”) of National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA...’</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks as detailed due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State;	The Section 48 notice included the following: <i>‘...intends to apply to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) to authorise the construction of Norwich to Tilbury.’</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;	The Section 48 notice included the following: <i>‘The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development, as defined</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in

	<i>by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended). An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the Project.'</i>	newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development;	The Section 48 notice included a description of the project and the principal elements.	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Proposed Development) and times set out in the notice;	The republished Section 48 notice included the following: • <i>'All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development, including the preliminary environmental information, will be available to download free of charge from 12:00 noon on 10 April 2024 until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024 on http://www.nationalgrid.com/n-t (via the document library page).'</i> • <i>'Reference copies of certain documents showing the nature and location of the proposed development will also be available to view free of charge from 12:00 noon on 10 April 2024 at the following inspection points in the vicinity of the Project for the duration of the</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers

	<i>consultation (until Friday 26 July 2024)...'</i> followed by a table of 14 locations, addresses and opening times.	between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(f) the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection;	The republished Section 48 notice included the following: • <i>'All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development, including the preliminary environmental information, will be available to download free of charge from 12:00 noon on 10 April 2024 until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024...'</i> • <i>'Reference copies of certain documents showing the nature and location of the proposed development will also be available to view free of charge from 12:00 noon on 10 April 2024 at the following inspection points in the vicinity of the Project for the duration of the consultation (until Friday 26 July 2024) ...'</i> • <i>'The consultation is running between 12:00 noon on 10 April 2024 and 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024.'</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;	The Section 48 notice included the following: <i>'Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up-to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents.'</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and	The Section 48 notice included the following: <i>'Responses to the consultation can be submitted in the following ways:</i> • <i>online via the Project website (http://www.nationalgrid.com/n-t)</i> • <i>scanning a paper copy of the Feedback questionnaire or submitting a free text letter or email</i> • <i>by post at Freepost N TO T</i> • <i>by email (contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com).'</i>	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General

		Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	The republished Section 48 notice included the following: <i>'National Grid must receive all responses by 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024 to ensure their consideration.'</i> 26 July 2024 was more than 28 days after the date on which the last newspaper notice was published.	The initial Section 48 notice was published in newspapers between 10 April 2024 to 18 April 2024. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.
Are there any observations in respect of the Section 48 notice provided above?	The Section 48 notice was incorrectly published by the newspaper team in the Guardian. This was corrected in later versions. The correct versions of these notices were published in all other newspapers and have been available on the project website since the launch of the statutory consultation.	First published on 10 April 2024, corrected on 17 April.

Appendix A5

Compliance with The Infrastructure
Planning (Environmental Impact Assess-
ment) Regulations 2017

Compliance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Table 1-5 sets out how National Grid has complied with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, namely:

- Regulation 6: Procedure for establishing whether environmental impact assessment is required
- Regulation 12: Consultation statement requirements
- Regulation 13: Pre-application publicity under section 48 (duty to publicise)

Table 1-5 How National Grid Has Complied with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Regulation	Activity	Date Undertaken
Regulation 8: Procedure for establishing whether environmental impact assessment is required		
(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent must, before carrying out consultation under section 42 (duty to consult) either— (a) request the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or (b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.	The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate) on 4 November 2022 in accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017. The Scoping Report was prepared in accordance with Advice Note Seven (Planning Inspectorate, 2020). The Applicant submitted a Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017 notification to the Secretary of State for Energy and Security and Net Zero and confirmed that the Applicant intended to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.	4 November 2022
3) A request or notification under paragraph (1) must be accompanied by— (a) a plan sufficient to identify the land; (b) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment; (c) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make	The Scoping Report included a plan sufficient to identify the land, a description of the Project, and an explanation of the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment.	
Regulation 12 (EIA Regulations 2017): Consultation statement requirements		
The consultation statement prepared under section 47 (duty to consult local community) must set out — (a) whether the development	Paragraph 5.2.4 of the SoCC confirms that the Project is an EIA development and confirms	The SoCC was published 10 April 2024

for which the applicant proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and	publicity and consultation activities regarding the Preliminary Environmental Information.
(b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.	

Regulation 13 (EIA Regulations 2017): Pre-application publicity under section 48 (duty to publicise)

Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 9(1)(c).	A copy of the Section 48 notice was sent to all EIA consultation bodies along with a consultation notification letter. The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and the Section 48 notice was resent to all EIA consultation bodies.	The initial Section 48 notice was sent 10 April 2024. The Section 48 notice detailing the consultation extension was sent 5 June 2024.

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

Appendix B

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Local Authorities letter
June 2025

Contents

B1: Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Local Authorities letter

B2: Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Local Authorities amended email

Appendix B1

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone
Local Authorities letter

<LOCAL AUTHORITY>

14 April 2025

Planning Inspectorate's Reference EN020027

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Planning Act 2008
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

I am writing to you regarding Norwich to Tilbury and the adequacy of the consultation carried out to date, as we prepare our application for development consent.

Once the application for development consent is submitted, the Planning Inspectorate will assess whether we have complied with the pre-application procedure. As part of this process, under section 55(4)(b) of the PA2008, the Inspectorate will ask local authorities to submit an Adequacy of Consultation Representation to assist in deciding whether to accept the application for examination.

At the pre-application stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning process, the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects guidance and The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-Application Prospectus introduced the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM).

The AoCM is a written submission to the Inspectorate to allow for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation carried out by the applicant at pre-application stage. The Guidance recommends the AoCM to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.

The Norwich to Tilbury AoCM will address the following aspects:

- the consultation undertaken to date;
- how the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been met; and
- the way in which the consultation responses are shaping the application.

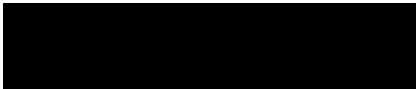
Both the Guidance and Prospectus state that the submission should also include, if available, the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities.

As you may recall, we consulted you on the draft SoCC in March 2024. The SoCC was then finalised and published in April 2024, having regard to the responses received. The table at the end of this letter sets out the commitments made in the SoCC and how we complied with them.

I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether your Council is satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) compliance table

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
1	3.1.1. National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the proposed Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have been engaged throughout the development of this Project, since the first staged non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and second in 2023. This was followed by the statutory consultation in 2024 and targeted consultations in 2025. After each round of consultation, National Grid analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work developed the Project design.
2	3.1.2. National Grid's approach to engagement in support of the proposed Project is to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation guided by the requirements of the Planning Act.	National Grid's approach to engagement contained both non-statutory and statutory consultations which were guided by the requirements of the Planning Act (PA) 2008: • Non-statutory 1: between 21 April 2022 until 16 June 2022. • Non-statutory 2: between 27 June 2023 until 21 August 2023. • Statutory: between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024. • Targeted (Norfolk and Suffolk): between 30 January 2025 and 3 March 2025 • Targeted (Essex and Thurrock): between 25 February 2025 and 27 March 2025 • Targeted statutory: between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025.
3	3.1.8. More information on both non-statutory consultations and how the feedback received at both non-statutory consultations helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report and the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report. These are available on the Project website.	The 2022 and 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Reports can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website Norwic https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library h to Tilbury Document library National Grid ET

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
4	<u>5.1.1.</u> The statutory consultation (under Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008) will run for 10 weeks.	The statutory consultation started on 12:00 noon on Wednesday 10 April 2024 and was scheduled until 11:59pm on Tuesday 18 June 2024, but the consultation period was extended for five weeks until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024 to give people additional time to have their say and provide feedback on our proposals after the General Elections. The consultation was open for a total of 15 weeks.
5	<u>5.2.2.</u> Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the proposed Project and will be provided during the statutory consultation, consistent with how the Project has previously been presented.	In the same way as previous consultations, the location plans were split into geographical sections. Sections were divided as follows: • Section A: South Norfolk • Section B: Mid Suffolk • Section C and D: Babergh, Tendring and Colchester • Section E: Braintree • Section F: Chelmsford • Section G: Basildon and Brentwood (and Chelmsford east of Ingatestone) • Section H: Thurrock Copies of the consultation plans can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
6	<u>5.2.3.</u> National Grid will consult on all aspects of the proposed development for the Project, including: • Approximately 159 km of new 400 kV overhead line supported on approximately 510 steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) some of which are gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed CSE compounds, or existing or proposed substations; • Approximately 25 km of 400 kV underground cabling some of which is	The feedback questionnaire included questions about each section of the route and there was also space to comment generally about the Project and the consultation, such as '<i>Do you have any further comments on our proposals in this section?</i>'. The feedback questionnaire can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape (formerly known as Dedham Vale AONB); • Six new CSE compounds, each with a permanent access, to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables; • A new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node (“EACN”) substation, with a new permanent access, on the Tendring Peninsula. This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (“AIS”) substation; • Substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation to connect and support operation of the new transmission connection; • Temporary works associated with construction of the Project; and • An alternative design at the Waveney Valley (referred to as the Waveney Valley Alternative) is also being considered and is the subject of consultation and ongoing assessment. This design alternative, if taken forward, would result in changes to those elements of the Project set out below. This would instead comprise: – installation of approximately 157 km of new 400 kV overhead line; – installation of approximately 27 km of 400 kV underground cabling (some of which is located through	

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	the Dedham Vale National Landscape; and – eight new CSE compounds (each with a permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.	
7	<u>5.2.4.</u> The Project as currently proposed is an EIA development and therefore we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this statutory consultation in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.	The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was made available in the document library on the Project website. The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PIER was also available at the inspection points. A copy of the PEIR and the NTS can be found in the ‘Document Library’ section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
8	<u>5.3.1.</u> The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project, and National Grid will have regard to all consultation responses received by the relevant deadline.	National Grid have had regard all the consultation responses received from anyone who was interested in the Project by the relevant deadline. A summary of consultation responses will be presented in a Consultation Report at DCO submission. Consultation responses received at the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations can be found in the feedback reports in the ‘Document Library’ section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
9	<u>5.3.2.</u> Under Section 47 of the PA 2008, we have a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land, i.e., the local community. In consultation with the local authorities set out in Section 1.1.3 we have developed a PCZ for the distribution of our Community Newsletter, as shown in Appendix A.	National Grid consulted the local community living in the vicinity of the Project. More information of the consultees and methods used is noted below.
10	<u>5.3.3.</u> The PCZ includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km	The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) was established as a result of the feedback and environmental studies. The PCZ consisted of people and

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	of the proposed Project's Order Limits (representing the anticipated extent of land in which the proposed Project may take place). The zone has changed since the last round of consultation as a result of feedback and environmental studies as well as the inclusion of information such as construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction. This latest zone amounts to approximately 77,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods.	businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project's draft Order Limits, approximately 77,000 addresses.
11	5.3.4. An additional wider Secondary Consultation Zone ("SCZ") has been developed, comprising a 4 km buffer around the Order Limits, whereby wider publicity of the proposed Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix A.	The Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) was established to publicise the Project within 4 km of the Projects' draft Order Limits.
12	5.3.5. Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via methods outlined in Section 5.5.	The local community was notified about the consultation within the PCZ and SCZ using the following consultation methods as outlined in Section 5.5 of the SoCC: • Direct mailout of a community newsletter with Project information to residential and business addresses in PCZ. A second mailout of a postcard was issued to the PCZ on 6 June 2024 to advise of the extension to the consultation; • Press release shared with 24 local and regional newspapers in circulation in PCZ and SCZ; • Newspaper advertisements in 3 local and regional newspapers in circulation in PCZ and SCZ, published between 10 April 2024 & 18 April 2024. Newspaper adverts were republished between 12 June 2024 & 20 June 2024 to advise of the consultation extension;

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		• Social media advertisements targeting different demographics across Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) from 15 April 2024 – 26 April 2024. Social media adverts were republished on 2 July 2024 – 16 August 2024 to advise of the consultation extension; and • Statutory notices (Section 48 notice) were published in 5 newspapers on 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024, and were republished on 12 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 to advise of the consultation extension.
13	<u>5.3.6.</u> As well as properties and businesses within the PCZ, we will also consult with various groups and individuals including parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008.	The groups and individuals representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities were consulted within the PCZ and SCZ. The local authorities defined under Section 43 that were consulted include: • The Broads Authority (National Park) • London Borough of Bexley • Greater London Assembly • Breckland Council • London Borough of Havering • East Suffolk Council • London Borough of Redbridge • West Suffolk Council • Enfield London Borough Council • Norwich City Council • London Borough of Waltham Forest • The Broads Authority • Ebbsfleet Development Corporation • North Norfolk District Council • Epping Forest District Council • East Cambridgeshire District • South Cambridgeshire District • Ipswich Borough Council • Gravesham Borough Council • Medway Council • Great Yarmouth Borough Council • Maldon District Council • Southend on Sea Borough Council

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		• Rochford District Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Norwich City Council • Broadland District Council • Uttlesford District Council • King's Lynn and West Norfolk • Dartford Borough Council • South Norfolk and Broadland District Council • Chelmsford City Council • Mid Suffolk District Council • Thurrock Council • Babergh District Council • Brentwood Borough Council • Colchester City Council • Basildon Borough Council • Tendring District Council • Braintree District Council • Essex County Council • Suffolk County Council • Norfolk County Council • Cambridgeshire County Council • Hertfordshire County Council • Lincolnshire County Council • Kent County Council
14	5.3.7. In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and Section 43 of the Planning Act. We will also consult persons who fall within Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008.	Prescribed Consultees and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b), (d), Section 43 and Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 were identified and consulted. On 10 April 2024, National Grid sent a consultation letter to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees and Section 42(1)(b) consultees defined under Section 43, along with a copy of the community newsletter and Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 10 April 2024. The consultation was extended by five weeks due to the General Election. A letter

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
		detailing the extension, including the new consultation deadline was sent to the Section 42(1)(a) consultees and Section 42(1)(b) consultees defined under Section 43 on 5 June 2024, along with a copy of the updated Section 48 notice. An email containing the letter and Section 48 notice was also sent on 5 June 2024. National Grid also consulted all persons identified under Section 44, being persons with a relevant interest in land (PILs) affected by the Project. A letter informing of the consultation was sent to Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 (consultees) during the week of 8 April 2024. A second letter detailing the extension was sent during the week of 19 June 2024.
15	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Project Background Document: This document will provide a summary of the proposed Project including: • The background to the Project; • Information about design changes as a result of the 2023 non-statutory consultation; • Information about potential benefits and impacts of the proposed Project; • How we might propose to mitigate any significant effects; • Signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request	The Project Background Document contained the following chapters: 1. The consultation 2. The need 3. Our proposals 4. Construction 5. Managing and mitigating effects 6. Other information 7. Next steps These chapters contained information to cover all bullet points listed in the SoCC. The Project Background Document can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The Project Background document was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • as a paper copy upon request (92 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); • at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table; and • at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table.

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances	No requests for alternative formats of the Project Background Document were made.
16	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Community Newsletter 2024: The newsletter will set out the proposed Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the proposed Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period. Target Audience: All residents and businesses with properties within the PCZ. The Community Newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. It will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	The Community Newsletter was produced to communicate the Project proposals, the background and how to get involved in consultation. The Community Newsletter 2024 can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The Community Newsletter was posted to all properties within the PCZ. The Community Newsletter was also available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (27 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table; and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. No requests for alternative formats of the Community Newsletter were made.
17	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR): The PEIR will contain a description of the proposed Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project	The PEIR was produced for the statutory consultation and contained information to cover all items listed in the SoCC. A non-technical summary (NTS) was also produced. The PEIR and NTS were available: to download in the document library of the Project website;

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the benefits of the proposed Project. A non-technical summary (“NTS”) of the PEIR will also be made available. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The PEIR will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. The NTS will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request (subject to availability), at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	- as a paper copy upon request (24 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period, including two full sets of the PEIR); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table; and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. No requests for alternative formats of the PEIR or NTS were made.
18	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> 2024 Design Development Report An in-depth technical document detailing the work we have undertaken to date, focusing on the work since the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.	The 2024 Design Development Report can be found in the ‘Document Library’ section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The 2024 Design Development Report was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at public information events listed Item 33 of this table; and - as a paper copy upon request (19 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	Paper copies of the Design Development Report 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	
19	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> 2024 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	A 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review Document was produced as a technical report providing an overview description of the options that National Grid has identified and subsequently evaluated for reinforcement of the network in the East Anglian region. A copy of the document can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review Document was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website; • at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table; and • as a paper copy upon request (19 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
20	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report: Summarising the feedback, we received during the 2023 non-statutory consultation and how it has been considered. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail).	The 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report summarises the feedback National Grid received during the 2023 consultation, and it how has been considered. The 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The 2024 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report was available: • to download in the document library of the Project website;

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events. Paper copies of the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees	- at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table and - as a paper copy upon request (four requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
21	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Project maps / Project area maps A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the proposed Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy at public information events.	The Project maps were available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table; and - as a paper copy upon request (82 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period).
22	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Consultation banners A series of exhibition banners with information relating to the proposed Project that will be used at the public information events. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.	The consultation banners were available: - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table; and - to download in the document library of the Project website.
23	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Interactive Project map An interactive map of the proposed Project.	The interactive map was available: - on the Project website; and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table.

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The interactive Project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.	
24	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Consultation notices: We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 48 of the PA 2008. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy on request.	The consultation notices were provided to the statutory consultees and the evidence of these notices can be found in can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The consultation notices were also available: - on the Project website; and - as a paper copy upon request (no requests were made during the consultation period).
25	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> SoCC The SoCC sets out how National Grid intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Project. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The SoCC will be published on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events.	The SoCC can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The SoCC was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (two requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. The Section 47 notice of SoCC was published in the following local newspapers: - East Anglia Daily Times – 10 April 2024 - Eastern Daily Press – 10 April 2024 - London Gazette – 10 April 2024

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	As required under Section 47 of the Planning Act, notice of the SoCC will also be published in local newspapers.	- The Guardian – (an incorrect version was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024) - Essex Chronicle – 11 April 2024 The Section 47 notice can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
26	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Feedback questionnaire An online and paper feedback questionnaire to gather responses to the statutory consultation. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). The feedback questionnaire will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events. Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T)	The feedback questionnaire can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The feedback questionnaire was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (286 requests were fulfilled during the consultation period); - at the inspection locations listed in Item 31 of this table and - at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. The Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T was available for the duration of consultation to receive hard-copy feedback.
27	<u>Table 5.1. Consultation Materials</u> Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans A guide outlining the consultation maps and plans, and how to use them. Target Audience: All those interested in the consultation (see Section 5.3 for detail). This document will be available on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at public information events.	A Guide to Interacting with Our Consultation Plans was produced to provide guidance on interacting with the latest consultation plans during the statutory consultation. The Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plan can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library The Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans was available: - to download in the document library of the Project website; - as a paper copy upon request (no requests were made during the consultation period); and

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		at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table.
28	5.4.2. National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in Table 5.1 in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	Document copies were available in alternative format upon request, no requests were made.
29	5.4.3. All consultation materials will also be available on the Project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements.	The Project website contained all the consultation materials for statutory consultation and Project materials relating to previous consultations.
30	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Project website All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation period. We will provide the following local authorities with a link to all the consultation documents: - Norfolk County Council; - Suffolk County Council; - Essex County Council; - Thurrock Council; - South Norfolk District Council; - Mid Suffolk District Council; - Babergh District Council; - Tendring District Council; - Colchester City Council; - Braintree District Council; - Chelmsford City Council;	The Project website contained the following digital materials. More information can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library - Project background document 2024; - Community newsletter 2024; - Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and non-technical summary (NTS); 2024 Design Development Report; 2024 Strategic Options Back Check and Review; 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report; - Project maps; - Consultation banners; - Consultation notices; - SoCC; - Feedback questionnaire; and - Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans. The Project website link was provided to the local authorities as described. Hard copy requests fulfilled include:

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	- Brentwood Borough Council; and - Basildon Borough Council. Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	- Project background documents – 92; - Feedback questionnaires – 286; - Strategic Options Backcheck and Review – 19; - Design Development Report – 19; - Community newsletter – 27; 2023 consultation documents – four; - Response to ESO Report – two; - PEIR documents – 24 – (including two requests for full printed copies of PEIR); - Statement of Community Consultation – two; and - Map requests– 82.
31	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Inspection points While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure the Community Newsletter, Project Background Document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire are available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period. - Long Stratton Library: The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ; - Norwich Library: Unit 3, The Forum Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW; - Tuckswood Library: Robin Hood Road, Eaton, NR4 6BX; - Diss Library: Church Street, Diss, IP22 4DD;	The Project information, the Project background document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire, was also available to view in multiple inspection points accessible for the public. The documents were available to view at 14 inspection points throughout the consultation period, outlined below: - Long Stratton Library - Norwich Library - Tuckswood Library - Diss Library - Capel St Mary Library - Coggeshall Library - Chelmsford Central Library - Colchester Library - Tilbury Library - Greenstead Library - Stanway Library - Prettygate Library - Wivenhoe Library

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	- Stowmarket Library: Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX; - Capel St Mary Library: Village Hall, The Street, Capel St. Mary IP9 2EF; - Coggeshall Library: The Friends Meeting House, Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH; - Chelmsford Central Library: Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH; - Colchester Library: Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB; - Tilbury Library: Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD; - Greenstead Library: Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE; - Stanway Library: 10, Villa Road, Stanway CO3 0RH; - Prettygate Library: Prettygate Road, Colchester CO3 4EQ; and - Wivenhoe Library: 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB. Prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked. We will check that consultation documentation remains at the inspection points throughout the consultation period. We will also try to use local websites to act as public inspection points, by requesting they host a link to the Project website. These may include the following: - local authority websites - local library websites	In addition to the 14 inspection points outlined in the SoCC, the Project team made the documents available in an additional 11 other locations. This decision was made in response to requests from the public and stakeholders. The 11 other locations are outlined below: - Manningtree Library - Basildon Library - Hatfield Peverel Library - Witham Library - Brentwood Library - Brentwood Town Council - Chadwell Library - Ingatestone Library - Writtle Library - Ipswich Library - East Tilbury Hub and Library On 9 May 2024, contact was made with all the inspection points to ensure that stock levels of consultation documents were appropriate. The following requests were fulfilled by delivering additional consultation materials to the inspection points: - Stowmarket Library – 10 feedback questionnaires, 10 foldable maps, 10 community newsletters; - Chelmsford Central Library – six feedback questionnaires, six foldable maps, six community newsletters; - Ipswich Library – a full library consultation document pack; and - Brentwood Library – five community newsletters.

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	• parish websites • MP websites	
32	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Document requests: Following the launch of the statutory consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request, free of charge will be: • Community Newsletter; • Project Background Document; • Feedback questionnaire; • NTS of the PEIR. Requests for paper copies of the technical documents forming the PEIR will be reviewed on a case by-case basis; and • SoCC. Paper copies of other consultation documents will also be available on request. To cover	Hard copy documents were available on request. All requests for posted documents were fulfilled, however, no requests that involved a printing charge were made during consultation period. Hard copy requests fulfilled include: • Project background documents – 92; • Feedback questionnaires – 286; • Strategic Options Backcheck and Review – 19; • Design Development Report – 19; • Community newsletter – 27; • 2023 consultation documents – four; • Response to ESO Report – two; • PEIR documents – 24 – (including two requests for full printed copies of PEIR); • Statement of Community Consultation – two; and • Map requests– 82.

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	printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents. Requests can be made by contacting us using the details provided in Section 6.1. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents on a case by case basis.	
33	<u>Table 5.2. Methods to make consultation documents available</u> Public information events: Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review at the public information events. More detail on the public events is available in Section 5.6.	Consultation documents were made available at the following public information events: • Wednesday 24 April, 12pm-5pm: Towngate Theatre, Basildon. • Thursday 25 April, 2pm-7pm: The Brentwood Centre, Brentwood. • Saturday 27 April, 11am-4pm: Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford. • Tuesday 30 April, 12pm-5pm: Gislingham Village Hall, Gislingham. • Wednesday 1 May, 11am-4pm: Copdock Village Hall, Copdock. • Friday 3 May, 1pm-6pm: Needham Market Community Centre, Ipswich. • Saturday 4 May, 11am-4pm: Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Manningtree. • Wednesday 8 May, 2pm-7pm: The Civic Hall, Grays. • Thursday 9 May, 1pm-6pm: Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe. • Friday 10 May, 1pm-6pm: Tibenham Community Hall, Norwich. • Tuesday 14 May, 11am-4pm: Witham Public Hall, Witham. • Wednesday 15 May, 1pm-6pm: Diss Town Football Club, Diss. • Thursday 16 May, 2pm-7pm: Langham Community Centre, Colchester. • Friday 17 May, 1pm-6pm: Great Bromley Village Hall, Colchester.
34	<u>5.5.1.</u> Residents, local businesses and community organisations within the PCZ will be notified of the start of the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community Newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 above. A	National Grid notified residents, local businesses and community organisations within PCZ through a community newsletter, and a copy of the community Newsletter can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library

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	map showing the PCZ (approximately 77,000 addresses) can be found in Appendix A	A postcard was also issued to the PCZ on 6 June 2024 which provided details about the extension to the consultation (described in Section Error! Reference source not found.). A copy of the postcard can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
35	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list is likely to include the following media: • BBC Look East; • BBC Radio Essex; • BBC Radio Norfolk; • BBC Radio Suffolk; • Basildon Standard; • Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo; • Braintree and Witham Times; • Brentwood Gazette; • Brentwood Live; • Brentwood Weekly News; • Bury Free Press; • Bury Mercury; • Chelmsford Weekly News; • Dereham Times; • Diss Express; • Diss Mercury; • Dunmow Broadcast;	A press release publicising the consultation was issued to: • ITV Anglia; • BBC Look East; • BBC Radio Suffolk; • BBC Radio Norfolk; • BBC Radio Essex; • BBC Politics East; • Colchester Gazette; • Eastern Daily Press; • East Anglican Daily Times; • Ipswich Star; and • Suffolk News. The press release was issued under embargo for launch date.

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	• East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; • Essex Chronicle; • Essex Focus; • Essex Live; and • Thurrock Advertiser. The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and the SCZ, as well as further afield.	
36	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Newspaper advertisements: Two rounds of newspaper advertisements will be undertaken during the consultation. Advertisements will provide details of the consultation, where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the engagement activities. Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ. We will place adverts in the following titles: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle.	Two rounds of full-page newspaper adverts were placed between 10 and 18 April 2024. The adverts were placed in the following newspapers: • East Anglian Daily Times; • Eastern Daily Press; and • Essex Chronicle. Two rounds of half-page newspaper adverts which provided details about the extension to the consultation due to the General Election were placed in the same newspapers between 12 and 20 June 2024.
37	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Emails and letters: We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:	National Grid sent emails and distributed letters that included information about the consultation and how to get involved. These were sent to MPs within PCZ and SCZ, and elected representatives within PCZ. National Grid also sent notification emails to those who had registered for email updates. Each notification email was sent to approximately 2,641 email addresses.

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	• MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; • Elected representatives within the PCZ at: – Norfolk County Council; – Suffolk County Council; – Essex County Council; – Thurrock Council; – South Norfolk District Council; – Mid Suffolk District Council; – Babergh District Council; – Tendring District Council; – Colchester City Council; – Braintree District Council; – Chelmsford City Council; – Brentwood Borough Council; – Basildon Borough Council; and – Parish Councils within the PCZ.	A copy of emails and letters will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Statutory notices • We will publish statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers; and We will publicise the consultation – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers.	The initial Section 48 notice was published twice in three local newspapers with a circulation area within PCZ and SCZ: • East Anglican Daily Times: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; • Eastern Daily Press: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; and • Essex Chronicle: 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024. The initial Section 48 notice was also published in a national newspaper and the London Gazette: • London Gazette: 10 April 2024 • Guardian: an incorrect version of the Section 48 notice was published on 10 April 2024. The corrected version was published on 17 April 2024.

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		The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024. The Section 47 notice was published in three local newspapers between 10 and 17 April 2024: • East Anglia Daily Times, 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024; • Eastern Daily Press: 10 April 2024 and 17 April 2024. • Essex Chronicle: 11 April 2024 and 18 April 2024. The consultation extension was republished in the same newspapers between 12 June 2024 and 30 June 2024. Evidence of the publication of the Section 47 and Section 48 notices in newspapers will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
38	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Information posters: Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be sent to each parish council within the PCZ.	National Grid produced a poster that included information about the Project and details of the consultation and how to get involved. These posters were sent to each parish council within PCZ. The information poster will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
39	<u>Table 5.3. Promotion methods</u> Social media We will promote the consultation on National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook account, @NationalGridUK. We will also develop a social media guide for local authorities to use on their social media channels. This guide will include links for the Project website. We are unable to accept feedback through social media channels, however, we will monitor comments or questions we receive through our owned channels and respond	Social media adverts were placed to promote the consultation. These media adverts included links to the Project website. More information about social media posts will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission. A social media guide was developed that contained key consultation information and links to the Project website. This guide was shared with the Local Planning Authorities on the 9 April 2024 and will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission. No feedback was captured and considered within social media channels.

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	where practicable. We will aim to point people towards sources of information, including the Project website, the interactive Project map and to formal feedback channels.	
40	<u>5.6.1.</u> Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.	The Project information posters and feedback questionnaires were available in the public information events. Representatives of the Project team attended these events to talk and respond any query from the public. The list of the public information events can be found in Item 33 of this table.
41	<u>5.6.2.</u> Details of where and when the public information events will be held will be published on the Project website and in the Community Newsletter sent to all properties within the PCZ and available at inspection points.	The information about the public events were published on the Project website and was shared in the Community Newsletter.
42	<u>5.6.3.</u> The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and at least one will be held on a weekend, where feasible.	The public information events were arranged to be held during afternoons, early evenings and one in the weekend, to give the consultees the opportunity to attend the events. More information of the public information events can be found in Item 33 of this table.
43	<u>5.6.4.</u> Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each event. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.	A paper copy of the consultation materials was available in the public information events.
44	<u>5.6.5.</u> Those attending the public information events will be encouraged to provide their feedback via the online or paper feedback questionnaire on the proposals.	Hard copies of the feedback questionnaire were available at public information events listed in Item 33 of this table. The Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T was available for the duration of consultation to receive hard-copy feedback. Details about the Project website were also available on all consultation materials at the public information events.
45	<u>5.6.6.</u> Should any events (in person or webinars) need to be altered or cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation	The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks due to the General Election and five of the webinars were re-arranged.

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	would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authority(ies)	We contacted the LPA officers to discuss our approach before making the decision to move the dates of the webinars. On the 28 May 2024, an email notification was sent to approximately 150 members of the public who had signed up for the webinars to advise they would be re-scheduled. On the 3 June 2024, a follow-up email notification was sent to the same 150 members of the public with the new confirmed dates. Further details of the webinars can be found in Item 46 of this table.
46	<u>5.7.1.</u> We will try to hold six webinars during the consultation period. We will run two general overview webinars and four that are section specific. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1.	Six webinars were held and 209 people attended, further detailed information will be provided in the Consultation Report at DCO submission. Due to General Elections, five webinars were rescheduled to allow time for the public to attend. These webinars were scheduled to the following dates: • Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One; • Wednesday 10 July, 6pm-7pm: Section A and B South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk; • Thursday 11 July, 6pm-7pm: Section C and D Babergh, Tendring and Colchester; • Tuesday 16 July, 6pm-7pm: Section E and F – Braintree and Chelmsford; • Wednesday 17 July, 6pm-7pm: Section G and H Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock; and • Thursday 18 July, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview Two.
47	<u>5.7.2.</u> The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team.	The webinars gave the opportunity for the public to ask questions about the Project.
48	<u>5.7.3.</u> National Grid will endeavour to make British Sign Language interpretation available for one of the general overview webinars which will be recorded and published on the Project website.	National Grid made available British Sign Language interpretation for the following webinar: • Wednesday 17 April, 6pm-7pm: Norwich to Tilbury Project Overview One

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49	<u>5.8.1.</u> National Grid will offer briefings and / or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation: • MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; • Elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ; • Parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ; • Local authorities, including neighbouring authorities; • Key prescribed consultees, such as National Landscapes (formerly known as AONB) conservation boards; and Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008.	The proposed briefings and meetings took place with the stakeholders described. Briefings were arranged with 13 councils prior and during the consultation period. As the General Election took place during the consultation period, briefings were given to former and new (newly elected and re-elected) MPs. Briefings took place with local Boroughs, including Basildon Borough and Brentwood Borough.
50	<u>5.8.2.</u> National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.	There were no additional requests for meetings with organisations or individuals that were different to those listed in paragraph 5.8.1
51	<u>5.9.1.</u> National Grid wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason	Engagement and consultation were inclusive, ensuring the hard to reach and seldom heard groups were reached by utilising different engagement methods listed in Table 5.4 of the SoCC. More details about how National Grid reached seldom heard groups will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
52	<u>5.9.2.</u> To allow people to engage with the proposed Project and the consultation at their own convenience, we have taken a 'digital first' approach to consultation. This allows individuals and groups to take part even if they cannot make an event. The online webinar and	The public were able to sign up to an online webinar and see the Project website as part of the 'online approach'. The feedback questionnaire was also available online for the public to provide feedback and ask questions by contacting National Grid contact details.

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	Project website is open and accessible to anyone to attend and ask questions of the Project team. Information will be available on the website and people are encouraged to submit feedback using the online feedback questionnaire. Those engaging with the Project can also ask questions and find out more by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1.	
53	<u>5.9.3.</u> For those less able or less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed consultation 'in person' aspects to be as accessible as possible, with the focus on ensuring events are accessible and held over several days in different locations to encourage attendance. We will also seek to ensure there is adequate parking and venues are accessible via public transport.	The Project team offered an 'in-person' approach for those members of the public that preferred this format, ensuring the events were accessible and held over different days and times to ensure attendance. Full details of in-person events can be found in Item 33 of this table.
54	<u>5.9.4.</u> Inspection points have also been identified based on their accessibility and availability for people wanting to access Project information.	Inspection points were identified based on accessibility and availability to the public. More information on the inspection points can be found in Item 31 of this table.
55	<u>5.9.5.</u> We also recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulty taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. These organisations will be written to, via email, at the start of consultation. Requests for specific additional consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.	National Grid identified and engaged with several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. Section 5.9.7 of the SoCC included Table 5.4 which detailed how the Project would engage with hard to reach or seldom heard groups. On 10 April 2024 a consultation letter was attached to an email sent to all identified organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. The letter provided details about the consultation, Project, and how to respond. A copy of the letter will be provided with the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
56	<u>5.9.6.</u> On request, we will also consider providing materials in alternative formats. We	National Grid provided materials in alternative format if requested. All feedback received through writing via email, post or online feedback questionnaire.

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	will endeavour to provide British Sign Language signing at one of our webinars.	A BSL interpreter attended the webinar on Wednesday 17 April.
57	<u>5.9.7.</u> Table 5.4 sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.	National Grid identified and engaged with several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups as set out in Table 5.4 of the SoCC. More information will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO submission.
58	<u>6.1.1.</u> People will be able to submit their feedback in the following ways: • Completing the feedback questionnaire online via the Project website: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury; • Providing feedback by email (contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com) or in writing (FREEPOST N TO T); • Completing a paper feedback questionnaire, which can be provided on request, at one of the designated inspection points, or completed in person at the face-to-face events; and The questionnaire can be returned free-of-charge using the Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).	National Grid made available different options to submit consultation responses. These were online, by email, by post, or at inspection points and they were available throughout the consultation period.
59	<u>6.1.2.</u> Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.	No social media feedback has been recorded as a formal consultation response.
60	<u>6.1.3.</u> Responses given orally, such as via telephone or in a meeting, may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.	Conversations held over the phone or in meetings directed people to submit consultation responses online, by email, by post, or at inspection points. No oral feedback has been recorded as a formal consultation response as there were no requests for this to be done.
61	<u>6.1.5.</u> All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning	National Grid are legally obligated to use personal information in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK

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	the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) .	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, see the full data privacy statement: nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy. Any personal information included in the feedback questionnaire will be handled, made available or used by the following recipients to record, analyse, and report on the feedback received: • National Grid; • The Planning Inspectorate (which will administer our application for consent to build the Project – any details published as part of this process will be anonymised); • The Secretary of State (who will take the decision on our application); • Our legal advisers; and • Consultants working on the Project.
62	<u>6.1.6.</u> More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the consultation feedback questionnaire and on the Project website during the consultation period.	National Grid included in the feedback questionnaire the purposes of how the data will collected be used. The purposes included: • <i>'To analyse your feedback to the consultation;</i> • <i>To produce a Consultation Feedback Report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in that report.);</i> • <i>To write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments if you have provided consent for us to do so; and</i> <i>To keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.'</i>
63	<u>6.2.1.</u> Following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where appropriate, refined in light of feedback.	After the consultation closed, all feedback was analysed, and themes will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO submission. Responses will be thematically presented within this report with National Grid's response to those matters raised as well as changes made to the Project further to feedback received. Consultation responses received at the 2022 and 2023 non-statutory consultations were analysed and themes were presented in the relevant consultation feedback reports, which can be found in the 'Document Library' section on the Project website https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-

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		transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/document-library
64	6.2.2. The proposed DCO application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act.	The Consultation Report at DCO submission will demonstrate the requirement to have regard to consultation responses (Section 49).
65	6.2.3. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for a DCO, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for a DCO.	The Consultation Report will be produced as required by Section 37 (3)(c) of the PA 2008. This report will comprise of a summary of the consultation process undertaken and how the feedback has shaped the proposals submitted within the application for a DCO.
66	6.2.4. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.	National Grid are legally obligated to use personal information in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, see the full data privacy statement: nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy . All responses will be fully redacted to ensure confidentiality of addresses and contact details.
67	6.2.5. Upon receipt of an application for a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.	Local authorities are being invited for comment through this letter as per new adequacy of consultation milestone guidance published in August 2024.
68	6.2.6. The Consultation Report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for a DCO has been accepted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and may be	The Consultation Report will be available at DCO submission on Planning Inspectorate website, as well as in the Project website. Paper copies of the report will be available upon request. For more information, including printing and postage fees, please contact the Project team at:

Item number	Commitment within SoCC	Compliance with commitment
	subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.	• 0800 915 2497; • FREEPOST N TO T; and • contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
69	6.3.1. If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.	A period of targeted statutory consultation is scheduled to take place between 18 March 2025 and 17 April 2025. The targeted consultation will be conducted in accordance with the principles of the PA 2008 and in line with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.
70	<u>Contact us</u> If you would like to contact the Community Relations team, please get in touch via: 0800 915 2497 FREEPOST N TO T contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury	National Grid made available the following options to submit the consultation response: telephone, post, email address and website for the consultation. The Project team were monitoring the phone calls and emails throughout the consultation period.

Appendix B2

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Local Authorities amended email

Subject: RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 14/04/2025, 17:00:10
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the oversight - 5 May is a Bank Holiday! Appreciate any feedback by 6 May but do let us know if you require more time.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC. While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague Bart (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

nationalgrid
[REDACTED]

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

Appendix C

**Feedback from Local Planning Authorities to Adequacy of Consultation
Milestone letter**

June 2025

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Appendix C1

Feedback from Basildon Borough Council

Date: 6 May 2025
Department: Planning Strategy & Implementation Team
Tel. No: 01268 533333 (Option 5)
E-mail: planningpolicy@basildon.gov.uk

Sent via email to:



Dear 

RE: ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Thank you for providing Basildon Borough Council with the opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process for the Norwich to Tilbury scheme to date. This response should be viewed alongside the submission from ECC and other host local authorities for the project.

To the best of the Council's knowledge, it is believed that National Grid has correctly identified the parties to be consulted, has complied with their duty to consult all relevant parties and carried out consultation events in line with its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

However, the Council does have some observations on the process, as set out below.

The Council had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April 2025, which gave 21 days to issue a response on the adequacy of consultation. Although this was useful in terms of assessing compliance with commitments in the SoCC, it is considered that this does not comprehensively reflect the actions carried out in connection with the targeted consultation exercises in the first quarter of 2025.

The Council understands that formal stakeholder responses to the 2024 statutory consultation were appraised, and that these subsequently informed the range of localised changes proposed to the scheme's design. In turn, those proposed changes were then subject to a round of consultation (the various targeted localised consultations) in early 2025.

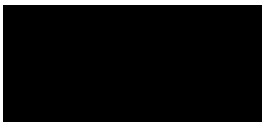
This is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and to the design evolution of the project. Although the changes proposed through the targeted consultation within Basildon borough were relatively minor and raised no concerns, this may not be the case elsewhere on the route.

The Council understands that, in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on during the targeted consultation periods, there are other changes to the scheme design which were not included in the process, and, subsequently, were not subject to consultation. The Council understands this is because, in National Grid's view, some of these changes were considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development. However, any concentration of non-material changes can be aggregated to have a bearing on their materiality, and how these would be experienced by residents of the area.

Transparency is important in the planning process, and National Grid must acknowledge the importance of feedback from residents and community representatives to ensure that the final proposal is the most appropriate. As such, all stakeholders must be provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties and assets, or their general business operations where this is relevant.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Basildon Borough Council

Appendix C2

Feedback from Braintree District Council

Our ref: 24/70021/PPA
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
Ask for: [REDACTED]
Date: 05/06/2025

[REDACTED]
National Grid
By email to [REDACTED]

Development Management
Causeway House, Braintree,
Essex, CM7 9HB
Tel: 01376 557779
Email: planning@braintree.gov.uk

PURPOSE OF LETTER: The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) regarding the Norwich to Tilbury electricity network reinforcement project.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Braintree District Council (BDC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

1. Purpose of The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)

- 1.1. The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk at the acceptance stage, of the application progressing to examination. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.
- 1.2. Consultation with the public and other key stakeholders is not only a statutory requirement but is also fundamental to securing public confidence in the process. It is therefore important that as a minimum, consultation is conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 1.3. In providing this response, we have had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April and although useful in terms of assessing compliance with commitments in the SoCC, it is considered it fails to comprehensively reflect what actions have been carried out in connection with the targeted consultation undertaken earlier this year. This is set out in more detail within this response.

2. Summary of Pre-Application Consultation

- 2.1. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which BDC has responded as part of its ongoing engagement with ECC and local residents and stakeholders.
 - i. Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.

- ii. Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- iii. Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26 July 2024).
- iv. Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26 July 2024).
- v. Targeted Consultation for Essex – held between Tuesday 25 February until Thursday 27 March 2025.

3. Statutory Requirements

- 3.1. BDC's comments are centred around the pre-application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives BDC's opinion as to whether National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

4. Section 42 – Duty to Consult

- 4.1. Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- a) *such persons as may be prescribed,*
 - a. *the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- b) *each local authority that is within section 43,*
- c) *the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- d) *each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to 'such persons as may be prescribed'. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

- 4.2. BDC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of BDC's knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.

5. Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

- 5.1. Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

- 1. The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.
- 2. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

3. The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.
4. In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).
5. In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).
6. Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—
 - (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,
 - (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and
 - (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.
7. The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.

- a. Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

- 5.2. The statutory consultation was subsequently held between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024 with the targeted consultation for Essex taking place between 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025.
- 5.3. BDC 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.
- 5.4. It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended to acknowledge the general election held on 4 July. This extension was welcomed by BDC.

6. Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

- 6.1. Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.
 1. The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.
 2. Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.
- 6.2. BDC 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. BDC therefore considers NGET has to the best of our knowledge and subject to the review of Consultation Report, complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the Planning Act 2008.

7. Position regarding Statutory Requirements

- 7.1. Taking the above comments into account and subject to the review of the Consultation Report, it is BDC's current opinion that NGET has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 7.2. While BDC recognises the challenges a project of this scale and complexity presents, and notwithstanding our current opinion of the minimum statutory tests being complied with, there are several observations on the consultation process and how it could be enhanced which we have set out below. These comments have been provided in the interest of ensuring that consultation on this NSIP is carried out effectively and positively, allowing communities and stakeholders to fully engage, and have their comments properly recorded and considered in a transparent process of design iteration.

8. Observations on Consultation (to date)

Consultation Feedback

- 8.1. Unfortunately, unlike for the non-statutory consultation, no feedback has been published in response to the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. Moreover, it is understood that responses from this statutory consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the targeted consultation. However, without sight of any feedback on the issues raised by the public/stakeholders in their responses, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind or the merits of the changes proposed, when compared to those issues also raised by residents/stakeholders that it was felt did not warrant any change to the scheme and therefore, were not addressed.
- 8.2. It is considered this is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and design evolution of the Project. BDC would encourage NGET to be more transparent in their publication of feedback drawing upon best practice examples on how to effectively communicate this at pre-application stage in a clear and transparent way, possibly making greater use of the community newsletter and project updates.
- 8.3. BDC would also welcome early sight of the draft consultation report so we can understand better the matters which have been raised and work collaboratively to address issues where we can.

Targeted Consultation

- 8.4. As per our Targeted Consultation response (dated 27 March 2025), BDC understands that in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on through the targeted consultation, there are other changes to the scheme design that were not included in this process. It is understood this is because some are considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development as experienced by residents.
- 8.5. The importance of feedback from residents and community representatives in developing the most appropriate proposal is clearly recognised, and it is therefore important that residents are provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties.
- 8.6. While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, BDC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them their significance may be greater,

and they should therefore have been given an opportunity to comment on them. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents.

- 8.7. BDC is also concerned about the impact on confidence in the process if residents subsequently identify these changes and raise concerns about their effects. It would also refer to Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which highlights the importance of transparency in the process and emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process".
- 8.8. Officers have previously and repeatedly, requested a list of these non-material changes, and it is extremely disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those currently being consulted on.
- 8.9. Overall, it is considered this decision could mean it is difficult for stakeholders to fully comprehend the impacts of the scheme at particular locations.

Bespoke Consultation Zones

- 8.10. In our response to the draft SoCC provided by NGET in respect of the targeted consultation, it was noted that only those in the consultation zones would receive direct notifications. BDC highlighted the importance of community engagement around these proposed changes and the likely negative perception of the wider stakeholder group should specific re-consultation be carried out. While it is acknowledged that notification of changes for some areas was published in the community newsletter, this in BDC's opinion didn't go far enough to address the likely negative perception issues (as above).

9. Comments in respect of ES

- 9.1. BDC recognises that this is a large and complex project and welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. However, it is felt that progress on the SoCG is being hampered by the lack of available detailed information to enable matters to be agreed early in the process. This makes it difficult for BDC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the project at this time.
- 9.2. BDC remains committed to front loading the resolution of issues through the pre-application phase and this situation is likely to create additional pressures at examination. This is compounded by the focus on progressing towards a fixed submission date for the DCO which is likely to impact on the time available to consider options and comments received. Additional time for the public to comment on the targeted consultation (an increase from 4 weeks to 6 weeks) was also requested in BDC's response to the draft SOCC but not agreed.
- 9.3. It is important to note that there is no suggestion of any intent by NGET to delay providing information or deliberately make understanding the full extent of the scheme's impacts difficult, but to achieve a good understanding of the scheme and its impacts requires a substantial amount of work and resources including time. It is therefore important that parties continue to work together, and that proportionate time is made available to consider and respond to the information as it is made available.
- 9.4. BDC remains hopeful that many of these outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with NGET informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

10. Scheme Revisions

- 10.1. As would be expected for a scheme of this scale and complexity, there are numerous examples where changes have been made to the proposed scheme since the first non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022. The fact that changes have been made as a result of consultation is of course welcomed, and BDC supports many of the changes made. We do consider however that in many cases the changes proposed do not go far enough to address the issue in question, especially across Essex more generally. Moreover, we believe that predominantly, the changes made are relatively minor in nature and to date there has not been agreement to any of the more substantive changes that have been requested by BDC and other stakeholders.
- 10.2. There remains a concern therefore that NGET have not addressed legitimate concerns held by BDC and other stakeholders on aspects of the scheme that are most in need of change whether it be because of cost or impact on programme and have not weighted the effect on new developments and communities sufficiently. It follows that if the DCO application is accepted, BDC intend to support other stakeholders to continue making representations to NGET and if necessary to the examination on changes necessary to make the scheme acceptable locally.

11. Summary & Conclusion

- 11.1. With reference to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, BDC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 11.2. BDC welcomes and appreciates the consultation and level of engagement to date and looks forward to this positive relationship continuing. It is though considered that the project is being progressed to the extent that some of the potential changes which could have significant and obvious benefit have not been fully considered. As a result, whilst BDC and other stakeholders are working closely with NGET to develop the Statements of Common Ground, many issues remain.
- 11.3. For these reasons we believe it will be particularly important for NGET to continue meaningful engagement with stakeholders over the coming months in an effort to resolve as many of the outstanding issues as possible prior to the submission of the DCO.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the representative.

Appendix C3

Feedback from Brentwood Borough Council

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

BBC is of the understanding that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) allows early assessment of whether the applicant's consultation efforts meet the required standards, reducing the risk of delays at the application acceptance stage. It helps the Planning Inspectorate determine if the consultation was appropriate for the project's complexity.

Public and stakeholder consultation is both a legal requirement and essential for building trust in the process. At a minimum, it must comply with Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act and align with the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

BBC note National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which the Council has responded as part of its ongoing engagement:

- I. Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- II. Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- III. Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024). iv)
- IV. Targeted Consultation for Essex – held between Tuesday 25 February until Thursday 27 March 2025

In preparing this response, we considered the table included with your letter dated 14 April. Our comments are centered around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives BBC's opinion as to whether NGET, has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal. BBC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by

Section 42 and to the best of BBC's knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

BBC acknowledges that NGET conducted the consultation in accordance with the published SoCC and fulfilled its obligations under Section 47 of the Planning Act. The extension of the statutory consultation to accommodate the 4th July general election was noted and welcomed by BBC.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

BBC acknowledges that NGET published the required notices in compliance with regulatory content standards. BBC therefore considers that NGET has met its duty to publicise under the Planning Act 2008.

Position regarding Statutory Requirements

Given the above, it is BBC's opinion that NGET has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. While BBC considers that the minimum statutory requirements have been met, the Council wishes to take this opportunity to formally record the following concerns.

Consultation Feedback

Unlike the non-statutory consultation, no feedback has been published following the 2024 statutory consultation. While it is understood that responses informed the localised changes presented in the targeted consultation, the absence of published feedback makes extremely difficult to assess the rationale behind these changes. It also raises questions about why some issues prompted revisions while others did not. It is believed this lack of transparency undermines confidence in the consultation process and the project's design evolution.

Moving forward BBC would greatly welcome early access to the draft Consultation Report to better understand the issues raised and to collaborate on addressing them where possible.

Targeted Consultation

BBC understands that, beyond the changes consulted on during the targeted consultation, additional design changes have been made to the scheme. These were not included in the consultation, reportedly due to their minor nature and perceived lack of material impact on residents.

While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, BBC emphasises the importance of providing residents and community representatives with clear, comprehensive information to help them understand and respond to any localised changes affecting their properties.

Even minor changes can have a significant impact on those living nearby, and residents should have been given the opportunity to comment. It is disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those consulted on.

Scheme Revisions

Given the scale and complexity of the scheme, it is understandable that numerous changes have been made since the initial non-statutory consultation in 2022. BBC welcomes the fact that consultation has led to some revisions and supports many of the changes introduced. However, we believe that in many instances, the adjustments do not sufficiently address the underlying concerns. Most of the changes appear to be relatively minor, and to date, none of the more significant modifications requested by BBC and other stakeholders - particularly those relating to the potential impact on the viability of Dunton Hills Garden Village - have been agreed to.

This raises ongoing concerns that NGET has not adequately responded to the legitimate issues raised by BBC and others, especially where changes are most needed. These may have been overlooked due to cost implications or potential delays to the programme. Furthermore, the impact on emerging developments and new communities does not appear to have been given appropriate weight.

Should the DCO application be accepted, BBC intends to continue engaging with NGET and, if necessary, raise these matters during the examination process to advocate for the changes we believe are essential to ensure the scheme is locally acceptable.

Closing remarks

In response to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation during the pre-application stage, BBC considers that the consultation has met the legal requirements under Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

However, we are concerned that the project has progressed in a way that may have limited consideration of certain potential changes that could offer clear and significant benefits. While BBC continues to work closely with NGET on the Statements of Common Ground, key issues remain unresolved.

It is therefore essential that NGET maintains meaningful engagement with stakeholders, including BBC, in the coming months to address as many of these outstanding matters as possible ahead of the DCO submission.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the representative of Brentwood Borough Council.

Brentwood Borough Council

Appendix C4

Feedback from Chelmsford City Council

National Grid

BY EMAIL

Planning and Development Management
P.O. Box 7544, Civic Centre,
Duke Street, Chelmsford,
Essex, CM1 1XP

Your ref:
My ref: [REDACTED]
Telephone: 01245 606826
Date: 8th May 2025

Dear National Grid

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) - Section 55

Application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Proposal

Response to Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email dated 14 April 2025 asking Chelmsford City Council (CCC) for representations on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM).

Purpose of AoCM

The purpose of the AoCM is to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk of the application not being accepted at the acceptance stage. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.

Scope of CCC's comments

For the avoidance of doubt, these comments are made without prejudice to CCC's Adequacy of Consultation Response which will be made to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process and give CCC's consideration of whether the consultation arrangements proposed by National Grid (NG) to date are adequate for the level of the complexity of the proposed project.

Statutory requirements

CCC is aware that National Grid have a duty to comply with the following sections under the Planning Act 2008.

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

CCC will provide a full response as to whether NG has complied with these sections of the Planning Act in its Adequacy of Consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.

Pre-application consultation

The following pre-application consultation has been undertaken so far:

- Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April 2024 and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024).
- Targeted Consultation – held between Tuesday 25 February 2025 until Thursday 27 March 2025.

Statement of Community Consultation

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

NG sent CCC a draft SoCC on 1st December 2023 and we responded on 5th January 2024. The SoCC was then published for consultation in March 2024 and CCC sent a formal response on 2nd April 2024. A further draft SoCC in respect of the proposed Targeted Consultation was issued on 4th December 2024 with CCC submitting comments on 18th December 2024.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) compliance table has been submitted as part of this Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. It details National Grids commitments within the SoCC and explains how NG have complied with it, but it does not explain how NG has considered CCC's comments, nor those of other stakeholders and Members of the Public. Neither does it refer to the Targeted Consultation dated February to March this year.

It is understood that a Consultation Report; prepared in accordance with Section 37(c) of the Planning Act, will be submitted upon submission of the application and will address these concerns. In the absence of this report, it is not possible to determine whether the consultation has sufficiently considered the relevant parties concerns or whether further changes to the scheme; that would warrant additional consultation, are necessary.

Observations on Consultation

In the interests of engaging with the process, CCC has several observations on the consultation undertaken to date which are set out below.

Absence of feedback

No feedback has been published in response to the Statutory Consultation undertaken in 2024. This is concerning because it is understood that responses from the Statutory Consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the Targeted Consultation. Without first seeing any feedback on the issues raised in the responses received from the public / stakeholders, it is difficult for CCC to understand the rationale behind or the merits of the changes proposed under the Targeted Consultation. and Statement of Community Consultation For example, what prompted these changes, what were they in response to and why were they necessary? Further, there is silence on what other

changes were proposed by interested parties and stakeholders but were discounted by NG. For example, what did not warrant a change to the scheme and why?

The lack of information makes it difficult to determine whether additional consultation is required and is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and the design evolution of the proposal.

Targeted Consultation - General

CCC is aware that NG are seeking to undertake further changes to the proposal without consultation. It is understood this is because some changes are considered by NG to be of a minor nature such that they would have no material impact on the proposal.

The lack of transparency on this matter is concerning as the concept of materiality is enshrined in planning law. In the absence of details of the proposed changes, it is impossible to form a view as to whether the changes are material or not and to determine the appropriate level of consultation required.

The importance of consultation and feedback from residents and other stakeholders is central to planning. It is important that they are provided with comprehensive information to enable them to respond to the effect of the proposed localised changes and that changes are made clearly and transparently.

The results and outcomes of the consultation should be published as soon as they are available and should be communicated clearly to help residents and stakeholders understand the outcomes of the consultation and what the next steps will be.

This need for transparency is highlighted in the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process". It is important that residents and stakeholders understand how their comments have informed the design review of the process.

Although a change may appear to be of a minor nature to NG, a resident / stakeholder may take a differing view, and the significance of these changes may be perceived by them to be greater. For example, the movement of a pylon closer / further along the proposed alignment could materially affect a resident's perception of outlook and living conditions. Should the DCO be granted, residents/stakeholders residing near to the pylons would have to live with them in perpetuity. It is thus critical that residents and stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment on all changes affecting them and for their concerns to be considered, before moving onto the next step of the process.

CCC is further concerned that a high amount of non-material changes could lead to a cumulative change in the nature of the proposal; such that the proposal submitted for examination is materially different to the proposal presented at Statutory Consultation stage. Should this be the case, it is likely that additional Statutory Consultation may be required before the examination can commence.

Officers have previously and repeatedly requested a list of non-material changes, but these have not been forthcoming and it is extremely disappointing that this information has not been provided.

Targeted Consultation – Great and Little Waltham

At the time of writing, CCC, has raised substantive concerns to the Targeted Consultation proposals affecting Great Waltham and Little Waltham and has proposed three alternative options, If agreed by NG, they would require further consultation prior to the submission of the proposal for examination.

CCC and NG are now seeking to work together in attempt to understand and where possible resolve these concerns before examination, but it is clear that more meaningful and responsive engagement with CCC, residents and stakeholders is needed to address these concerns.

Environmental Statement (ES)

Since the Statutory Consultation, CCC appreciate that information that has been shared by NG over this period. However, CCC and other stakeholders have consistently requested additional information / amendments to the proposal in relation to the ES which has not been forthcoming.

The lack of information makes it difficult for CCC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the project as the key evidence base informing the ES is still under preparation. This affects the ability of CCC and stakeholders to inform and have meaningful discussions in attempt to resolve outstanding issues relating to the ES. This includes, but is not limited to, full identification of the level of harm that may or may not be caused by the proposal in ES terms and the need for mitigation and its effect on harm.

Submission documents

CCC recognises this is a large and complex project and welcomes the engagement undertaken so far, but to date, CCC has not seen any of the draft submission documents, including the draft DCO itself. CCC has repeatedly been requesting this information since January 2025; reiterating the need to consider the terms and content of the DCO.

CCC is particularly concerned about the timescales for discharging the requirements; as CCC will be responsible for these discharging in the event that the DCO is granted and wants to ensure that the proposed timeframes are reasonable and deliverable. CCC now understand that this information will not be shared until June 2025 at the earliest meaning the timeframe to consider and obtain legal advice in respect of the DCO prior to submission of the proposal is limited.

CCC is keen to frontload the resolution of concerns at pre-submission stage and as it is aware of the pressures of the examination process. With the submission timetable being set for late August, CCC is concerned that it will have insufficient time to interpret and productively respond to the different technical elements of the examination.

In relation to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), this is being hampered by the lack of available detailed information to enable matters to be agreed/disagreed. This makes it difficult for CCC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the proposal at this time.

Conclusion

CCC acknowledges and welcomes NG's involvement to date and reiterates that it remains committed to working closely with NG. CCC appreciates National Grids desire to submit the proposal in late August, but is concerned that in the interests of programme, aspects of the proposal are being fast tracked. CCC is concerned that NG have not addressed legitimate concerns held by CCC and other stakeholders because of cost or impact on the programme and have not weighted these concerns appropriately.

Accordingly CCC considers that a late August submission is likely to be premature and implores NG to undertake more active and meaningful engagement with CCC, stakeholders and residents.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.A solid black rectangular box used to redact text, likely a name or title.

Appendix C5

Feedback from Colchester City Council

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 06/05/2025, 15:13:21
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Dear [REDACTED]

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55
Norwich to Tilbury Project Proposals by National Grid Electricity Transmission
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

Statutory Requirements

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives CCC's informal opinion as to whether National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- (a) *such persons as may be prescribed,*
- (aa) *the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- (b) *each local authority that is within section 43,*
- (c) *the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- (d) *each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to 'such persons as may be prescribed'. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

- (1) *The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.*
- (2) *Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.*
- (3) *The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.*
- (4) *In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).*
- (5) *In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).*
- (6) *Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—*
 - (za) *make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,*
 - (a) *publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and*
 - (b) *publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (7) *The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.*

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.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

- (1) *The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.*
- (2) *Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.*

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.

Position regarding Statutory Requirements

Taking the above comments into account, it is CCC's current opinion that NGET has carried out adequate pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, noting that in practice the legal requirements are a low bar.

Notwithstanding this CCC does have several observations on the consultation process thus far as follows and questions if the consultation has met the *Gunning* principles and in particular question if consultation (both stat and non-stat) has taken place when the scheme was at a sufficiently formative stage.

Feedback (or lack of)

Unfortunately, no feedback has been published in response to the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. It is understood that responses from this statutory consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the targeted consultation. However, without first seeing any feedback on the issues raised in the responses received from the public / stakeholders, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind or the merits of, the changes proposed when compared with those issues raised by residents / stakeholders that it was felt did not warrant any change to the scheme and therefore, were not addressed. This is considered this is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and design evolution of the Project.

Targeted Consultation

CCC understands that in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on through the targeted consultation, there are other changes to the scheme design that were not included in this process. It is understood this is because some are considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development as experienced by residents. The importance of feedback from residents and community representatives in developing the most appropriate proposal is clearly recognised and it is therefore important, that residents are provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties. While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, CCC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore have been given an opportunity to comment on them. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents. CCC is also concerned about the impact on confidence in the process if residents subsequently identify these changes and raise concerns about their effects. It would also refer to Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which highlight the importance of transparency in the process and emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process". It is disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those currently being consulted on. Overall, it is considered this decision could mean it is difficult for stakeholders to fully comprehend the impacts of the scheme at particular locations.

Scheme Revisions

As would be expected for a scheme of this scale and complexity, there are numerous examples where changes have been made to the proposed scheme since the first non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022. The fact that changes have been made as a result of consultation is of course welcomed but CCC consider that in many cases the changes proposed do not go far enough to address the issue in question and in some cases - for example Langham, the changes are more damaging than previous iteration. Moreover, we believe that predominantly, the changes made are relatively minor in nature and to date there hasn't been agreement to any of the more substantive changes that have been requested by CCC or other LPAs and other stakeholders especially with regards to alternatives to OHLs. There remains a concern therefore that NGET have not addressed legitimate concerns held by CCC and other stakeholders on aspects of the scheme that are most in need of change whether it be because of cost or impact on programme and have not weighted the effect on new developments and communities sufficiently. It follows that if the DCO application is accepted, CCC intend to continue making representations to NGET and if necessary to the examination on changes that we think are required to the scheme to make it acceptable locally.

Webinars

The webinars held in connection with the statutory consultation were welcome, but attendance may have been limited by the fact that they were held at the same time albeit, on different days. It would have been better if the webinars were offered at a variety of times to reflect the different life patterns for local communities.

Conclusion

With reference to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, CCC is of the opinion that actions in respect of consultation have been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the PA 2008.

CCC of course, welcomes and appreciates the consultation and level of engagement to date, and looks forward to this positive relationship continuing. However, it is considered that the process is being progressed to the extent that some of the potential changes to the project which could have significant and obvious benefit have not been fully considered. As a result, whilst CCC and other stakeholders are working closely with NGET to develop the Statements of Common Ground, many issues remain.

Many thanks

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Development Management | Place and Client | Colchester City Council | 33 Sheepen Road | Colchester | Essex | CO3 3WG

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:43
To: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

This message originated **Externally**. Do **not** click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender, were expecting it and know that the content is safe.

Dear [Redacted]

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague [Redacted] (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
[Redacted]

E
nationalgrid

[Redacted]

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Appendix C6

Feedback from Essex County Council

National Grid Electricity Transmission

[REDACTED]

Response sent via email:

[REDACTED]

Our Ref: [REDACTED]
Date: 7 May 2025
Telephone: 03330 139505

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55 (4)

Norwich to Tilbury Project Proposals by National Grid Electricity Transmission

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Essex County Council (ECC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

Purpose of AoCM

The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk at the acceptance stage, of the application progressing to examination. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.

Consultation with the public and other key stakeholders is not only a statutory requirement but is also fundamental to securing public confidence in the process. It is therefore important that as a minimum, consultation is conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In providing this response, we have had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April and although useful in terms of assessing compliance with commitments in the SoCC, it is considered it fails to comprehensively reflect what actions have been carried out in connection with the targeted consultation undertaken earlier this year.

Summary of Pre-Application Consultation

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which the County Council has responded as part of its ongoing engagement with ECC and local residents and stakeholders.

- i) Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- ii) Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.

- iii) Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024).
- iv) Targeted Consultation for Essex – held between Tuesday 25 February until Thursday 27 March 2025 (period for comments to be made extended at the outset until Friday 11th March due to timing of consultation and availability of staff)

Statutory Requirements

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives ECC’s opinion as to whether National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- (a) such persons as may be prescribed,*
- (aa) the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- (b) each local authority that is within section 43,*
- (c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- (d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to ‘such persons as may be prescribed’. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

ECC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of ECC’s knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

- (1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.*
- (2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.*
- (3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.*

- (4) *In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).*
- (5) *In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).*
- (6) *Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—*
 - (za) *make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,*
 - (a) *publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and*
 - (b) *publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (7) *The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.*

ECC received a draft SoCC on 1st March 2024 and we responded with comments on 27th March 2024. The SOCC was then published 10th April 2024. A further draft SOCC in respect of the proposed targeted consultation was issued on 4th December 2024 with ECC submitting comments on 18th December 2024.

The statutory consultation was subsequently held between 10th April 2024 and 26th July 2024 with the targeted consultation for Essex taking place between 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025.

ECC 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.

It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended to acknowledge the general election held on 4th July. This extension was welcomed by ECC.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

- (1) *The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.*
- (2) *Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.*

ECC 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. ECC therefore considers NGET has to the best of our knowledge and subject to the review of Consultation Report, complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the Planning Act 2008.

Position regarding Statutory Requirements

Taking the above comments into account and subject to the review of the Consultation Report, it is ECC’s current opinion that NGET has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

While ECC recognises the challenges a project of this scale and complexity presents, and notwithstanding our current opinion the minimum statutory tests being complied with, there are several observations on the consultation process and how it could be enhanced which we have set out below. These comments have been provided in the interest of ensuring that consultation on this NSIP is carried out effectively and positively, allowing communities and stakeholders to fully engage, and have their comments properly recorded and considered in a transparent process of design iteration.

Observations on Consultation.

Consultation Feedback

Unfortunately, unlike that for the non-statutory consultation, no feedback has been published in response to the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. Moreover, it is understood that responses from this statutory consultation have informed the localised changes proposed to the scheme under the targeted consultation. However, without sight of any feedback on the issues raised by the public / stakeholders in their responses, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind or the merits of, the changes proposed, when compared to those issues also raised by residents / stakeholders that it was felt did not warrant any change to the scheme and therefore, were not addressed.

It is considered this is detrimental to the transparency of the overall process and design evolution of the Project. ECC would encourage NGET to be more transparent in their publication of feedback drawing upon best practice examples on how to effectively communicate this at pre application stage in a clear and transparent way, possibly making greater use of the community newsletter and project updates.

ECC would also welcome early sight of the draft consultation report so we can understand better the matters which have been raised and work collaboratively to address issues where we can.

Targeted Consultation

ECC understands that in addition to the changes that were publicised and consulted on through the targeted consultation, there are other changes to the scheme design that were not included in this process. It is understood this is because some are considered to be of such a minor nature that they have no material impact on the proposed development as experienced by residents.

The importance of feedback from residents and community representatives in developing the most appropriate proposal is clearly recognised and it is therefore important, that residents are provided with comprehensive information in order that they can fully understand (and thus comment on), the effect of the proposed localised changes on their properties.

While it is acknowledged these changes may not be the most significant, ECC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should therefore have been given an opportunity to comment on them. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents.

ECC is also concerned about the impact on confidence in the process if residents subsequently identify these changes and raise concerns about their effects. It would also refer to Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design which highlights the importance of transparency in the process and emphasises that a good design process includes an "effective, intentional, transparent and deliverable process".

Officers have previously and repeatedly, requested a list of these non-material changes, and it is extremely disappointing that residents are not being made aware of these non-material changes as well as those currently being consulted on.

Overall, it is considered this decision could mean it is difficult for stakeholders to fully comprehend the impacts of the scheme at particular locations.

Bespoke Consultation Zones

In our response to the draft SoCC provided by NGET in respect of the targeted consultation, it was noted that only those in the consultation zones would receive direct notifications. ECC highlighted the importance of community engagement around these proposed changes and in the absence of full details around the consultation zones and the extent of neighbour notification, queried how the boundaries to the consultation zones were to be drawn given the potential for excluding many who may be interested in the project.

ECC therefore requested that it be consulted on the bespoke consultation zones to help validate the extent of the consultation zones but received no feedback on this request. While the need to progress with the targeted consultation was noted, notwithstanding the subsequent delays to the commencement of the targeted consultation, it is considered taking the Council up on its offer would have assisted with the transparency and robustness of the approach to targeted consultation.

Comments in respect of ES

ECC recognises this is a large and complex project and welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. However, it is felt progress on the SoCG is being hampered by the lack of available detailed information to enable matters to be agreed early in the process. This makes it difficult for ECC to reach an informed position on various aspects of the project at this time.

ECC remains committed to front loading the resolution of issues through the pre application phase and this situation is likely to create additional pressures at examination. This is compounded by the focus on progressing towards a fixed submission date for the DCO which is likely to impact on the time available to consider options and comments received. An example being that for the draft SoCG sent to District Council's where only 21 days was given for comments. Additional time for the public to comment on the targeted consultation (an increase from 4 weeks to 6 weeks) was also requested in ECC's response to the draft SOCC but not agreed .

It is important to note that there is no suggestion of any intent by NGET to delay providing information or deliberately make understanding the full extent of the scheme's impacts difficult, but to achieve a good understanding of the scheme and its impacts, this requires a substantial amount of work and resources including time. It is therefore important that parties continue to work together, and that proportionate time is made available to consider and respond to the information as it is made available.

ECC remains hopeful that many of these outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with NGET informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

Scheme Revisions

As would be expected for a scheme of this scale and complexity, there are numerous examples where changes have been made to the proposed scheme since the first non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022. The fact that changes have been made as a result of consultation is of course welcomed, and ECC supports many of the changes made. We do consider however that in many cases the changes proposed do not go far enough to address the issue in question. Moreover, we believe that predominantly, the changes made are relatively minor in nature and to date there has not been agreement to any of the more substantive changes that have been requested by ECC and other stakeholders especially in connection with the concerns around the impact on the viability of Dunton Hills Garden Village.

There remains a concern therefore that NGET have not addressed legitimate concerns held by ECC and other stakeholders on aspects of the scheme that are most in need of change whether it be because of cost or impact on programme, and have not weighted the effect on new developments and communities sufficiently. It follows that if the DCO application is accepted, ECC intend to continue making representations to NGET and if necessary to the examination on changes that we think are required to the scheme to make it acceptable locally.

Webinars

The webinars held in connection with the statutory consultation were welcome, but attendance may have been limited by the fact that they were held at the same time albeit, on different days. It would have been better if the webinars were offered at a variety of times to reflect the different life patterns for local communities.

It is also felt that on occasion webinars were not always attended by representatives from NGET with sufficient detailed knowledge of the issues to enable questions to be comprehensively responded to. For example, during an Essex event for the targeted consultation attended by officers, the NGET representatives were unable to answer questions around Dunton Hills Garden Village.

Conclusion

With reference to your request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, ECC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the PA 2008.

ECC of course, welcomes and appreciates the consultation and level of engagement to date, and looks forward to this positive relationship continuing. It is though considered that the project is being progressed to the extent that some of the potential changes which could have significant and obvious benefit have not been fully considered. As a result, whilst ECC and other stakeholders are working closely with NGET to develop the Statements of Common Ground, many issues remain.

For these reasons we believe it will be particularly important for NGET to continue meaningful engagement with stakeholders including ECC over the coming months in an effort to resolve as many of the outstanding issues as possible prior to the submission of the DCO.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of



Appendix C7

Feedback from King's Lynn and West
Norfolk Borough Council

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
Service: Planning Control
Email: [REDACTED]
Direct dial [REDACTED]

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



22 April 2025

**RE: Planning Act 2008
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

Dear Sir

I refer to your letter dated 14 April 2025 regarding the above and I also refer to previous correspondence of the Borough Council dated 26 June 2024 and 14 March 2025.

The Council raises no additional comments other than the Council is satisfied that National Grid has met its obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Appendix C8

Feedback from London Borough of Redbridge

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 16/04/2025, 09:44:07
From: DPD (Planning Service Area)<DPD@redbridge.gov.uk>
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [TWIMC AoCM LAs lettertable V1.pdf](#)

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter and email regarding adequacy of consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury project.

I can confirm on behalf of the London Borough of Redbridge, that we have been adequately consulted to date. We have not commented on the proposals as it is too far away to impact us.

Thank you very much,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Planning Policy
Regeneration and Culture Directorate
London Borough of Redbridge
5th Floor Front, Lynton House, 255-259 High Road, Ilford, IG1 1NY
Tel: 020 8708 2844

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: www.redbridge.gov.uk

Twitter: [@RedbridgeLive](#)

Facebook: [@RedbridgeCouncilOfficial](#)

Instagram: [@redbridgecouncil](#)

TikTok: [@redbridgecouncil](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 17:04

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]
Apologies for the oversight [REDACTED] updated letter.

Appreciate any feedback by 6 May but do let us know if you require more time.

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:52
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

We are reaching out to provide you, as a neighbouring authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury.

Please see the attached letter which provides all the necessary information for you to respond.

We kindly ask that you submit your response by 05 May 2025, to allow us to consider your feedback as we move forward.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss further

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid

[REDACTED]

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For the registered information on the UK operating companies within the National Grid group please use the attached link: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/corporate-registrations>

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Appendix C9

Feedback from Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 29/04/2025, 15:27:35
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you suspect this email is malicious, please use the 'Report Phish' button.

Hi [REDACTED] thank you for your email and the attached AoCM letter.

[REDACTED] have reviewed this and have the following comments to make:

- I think we had agreed that there would be an additional inspection point for the consultation documents at Endeavour House in Ipswich and I believe Grid did this. Please could you confirm?
- We note the text at rows 51, 55 and 57 that “More details about how National Grid reached seldom heard groups will be presented in the Consultation Report at DCO” and look forward to seeing these details.
- Otherwise, I can confirm that BMSDC are satisfied that the consultation has been carried out in accordance with the SoCC.

submission.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**** Mondays, Tuesdays,**

Sustainable Communities
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils - Working Together

Pronouns: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For general enquiries email: planningadmin@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Websites: www.babergh.gov.uk or www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
[Click Here](#) for the latest planning news and changes to the service coming up this year.

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Planning fees are increasing from the 1st April 2025 – please [REDACTED] to review the new fees.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 April 2025 15:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL: Don't click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Click [redacted] for more information or help from Suffolk IT**

Dear [redacted]

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague [redacted] (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
[redacted]

Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid

[redacted]

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For the registered information on the UK operating companies within the National Grid group please use the attached link: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/corporate-registrations>
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requested, or fulfil a request for information. Any information about you that we pass to a third party will be held securely by that party, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and used only to provide the services or information you have requested.

For more information on how we do this and your rights in regards to your personal information and how to access it, visit our website.

Appendix C10

Feedback from Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council response to the National Grid Consultation on:

Norwich to Tilbury – Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement of Community Consultation

May 2025

Thank you for consulting Norfolk County Council on the above consultation.

Norfolk County Council have been pleased with the level and quality of engagement strategy provided by the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid. Communication, both on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and on other areas of the project, is always clear and timely, and we have been kept well informed of project updates throughout the process. The County Council use the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid, as an exemplar for how to provide good, effective communications for NSIPs.

The County Council received an informal draft SoCC consultation ahead of the formal submission, and comments made at the first stage were fed into the formal consultation. All comments provided for the formal SoCC consultation were either enacted or responses provided for why they could not be. The County Council requested an extension for the statutory consultation period, to allow adequate time to prepare responses and consult members, and the team did extend the consultation period, one of the few projects to do so.

Overall, the County Council is content that the Norwich to Tilbury team at National Grid have met their consultation requirements for the SoCC.

If you have any queries with any of the above comments, please contact the NSIP team NSIPs@norfolk.gov.uk

Appendix C11

Feedback from South Norfolk Council

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback
Sent: 12/05/2025, 16:46:22
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: AoCM

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Good afternoon, [REDACTED]
Firstly, thank you for agreeing an extension to comment until today.
Please find below South Norfolk Council’s consultation feedback.
Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Planning Inspectorate’s Reference EN020027

Dear Sir/Madam,
**Planning Act 2008 National Grid Electricity Transmission
Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

We note that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone was introduced it 2024 and it is a written submission to the Planning Inspectorate to allow for early consideration of the adequacy of consultation carried out at pre-application stage to whether the applicant has complied with, in relation to its proposed application, the applicants duties under sections 42 consult with prescribed consultees, 47 consult with the community and 48 publicise the proposed application.

National Grid have requested that South Norfolk Council as Host Local Authority reviews the table provided which sets out the commitments made in the Statement of Community Consultation and how they have been complied with, in relation to the consultations undertaken to date.

There are two points we would wish to raise are Section 6 refers to the alternative design scheme at Waveney Valley however National Grid have advised us on 7 January 2025 that they would no longer be considering undergrounding and would be taking forward an overhead line in this area. To accurately reflect this change, we would suggest that the section is updated, and it be noted that no formal consultation seeking our views was undertaken following this decision. Section 13 refers to South Norfolk and Broadland District Council which is incorrect, South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council are two independent Councils, please can this be corrected.

We would comment that to the best our knowledge as a Council, that the consultations undertaken reflect those commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation as required by sections 42, 47 and 48, specifically in relation to the delivery of the Statement of Community Consultation.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our Broadland and South Norfolk Councils offices are now based at Broadland Business Park in the [REDACTED] Find out how you can access our services by visiting our website or by calling us on 01508 533633

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 April 2025 15:36

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Norwich to Tilbury adequacy of consultation feedback

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you're well.

As mentioned previously, we are reaching out to provide you, as a host authority, with an opportunity to respond regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken to date on Norwich to Tilbury. Your feedback is important, and we want to ensure you have the chance to share your views/comments.

Please see the attached letter which sets out some background to this exercise, along with evidence tables showing how we have complied with the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). I would be grateful if you would please respond by **05 May 2025** whether you are satisfied that National Grid has met the obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date, as set out in the SoCC.

While this feedback focuses specifically on the delivery of the SoCC, we are keen to capture any other comments relating to consultation through Statements of Common Ground (which will be with you in the coming weeks, if not already).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or my colleague [REDACTED] (copied) if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Electricity Transmission
nationalgrid

[REDACTED]

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Appendix C12

Feedback from Suffolk County Council

Our Ref: N2T

Date: 21 May 2025

Enquiries to: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

BY EMAIL

For the attention of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NORWICH TO TILBURY DCO APPLICATION ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE

Thank you for your letter dated 14th April 2025 in which you ask Suffolk County Council (SCC) for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on this project during the pre-application stage, prior to the formal requirements of Section 55(4) at the acceptance stage of the DCO process.

Purpose of AoCM

The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant, to minimise any risk at the acceptance stage, of the application progressing to examination. It will help inform the Planning Inspectorate's decision on whether the consultation arrangements have been sufficient for the level of complexity of the proposed project.

Consultation with the public and other key stakeholders is not only a statutory requirement but is also fundamental to securing public confidence in the process. It is therefore important that as a minimum, consultation is conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In providing this response, we have had regard to the information contained in the table accompanying your letter of 14th April.

Summary of Pre-Application Consultation

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have carried out the following consultations to which the SCC has responded.

- i) Non-Statutory Consultation (First) – held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
- ii) Non-Statutory Consultation (Second) – held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
- iii) Statutory Consultation – held between Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (extended until 26th July 2024).
- iv) Targeted Consultation for Suffolk – held between Thursday 30 January until Monday 3 March 2025.

Statutory Requirements

Our comments are centred around the pre application stage of the DCO process and as requested, this response gives SCC's opinion as to whether NGET, has to date complied with the following duties under the Planning Act 2008:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise

Section 42 – Duty to Consult

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 prescribes who should be consulted on the proposal.

The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application –

- (a) such persons as may be prescribed,*
- (aa) the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),*
- (b) each local authority that is within section 43,*
- (c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and*
- (d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.*

Subsection a) refers to 'such persons as may be prescribed'. These persons are listed in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

SCC is generally satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as required by Section 42 and to the best of ECC's knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties. **However, the operator of Raydon Airfield has made it known to National Grid Electricity Generation and SCC that they have not been consulted throughout all of the pre-application consultation stages.**

Section 47 – Duty to Consult Local Community

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in consultation with the relevant Local Authorities, publish that SoCC and then undertake statutory consultation in conformity with that statement.

(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.

(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.

(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).

(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).

(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must— (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land, (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.

(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.

SCC received a draft SoCC on 1st March 2024 and we responded with comments on the 2nd April 2024. The SOCC was then published 10th April 2024.

The statutory consultation was subsequently held between 10th April 2024 and 26th July 2024 with a further non-statutory consultation for Suffolk taking place between 25 February 2025 to 27 March 2025. It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended to acknowledge the general election held on 4th July. This extension was welcomed by SCC.

SCC is generally satisfied 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. **However, Section 5.3 of the SoCC includes reference to Primary Consultation Zone which includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1km of the project's red line boundary including Raydon Airfield.**

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

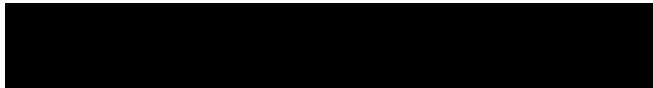
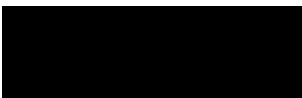
Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 obliges developers to publicise their proposals by means of notices in local and national newspapers.

(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.

(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.

SCC 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. SCC therefore considers NGET has to the best of our knowledge and subject to the review of Consultation Report, complied with their duty to publicise under this section of the Planning Act 2008.

Yours sincerely,



Growth, Highways & Infrastructure
Suffolk County Council

Appendix C13

Feedback from Tendring District Council

06 May 2025

Email: [REDACTED]
contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Dear [REDACTED]

Norwich to Tilbury Project Proposals by National Grid Electricity Transmission

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Sections 42, 47, 48 and 55

I refer to your letter dated 14 April 2025, inviting Tendring District Council (TDC) to comment on the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date by National Grid in relation to the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage.

The adequacy of consultation for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) is an important consideration and should be viewed in the context of ensuring that all relevant parties have had a fair and meaningful opportunity to engage with the proposals. In particular, for a project of this scale and complexity, effective consultation is not only a statutory requirement but also fundamental to securing public confidence and informed participation. Our response has been prepared with reference to the summary table accompanying your letter of 14 April, as well as National Grid's Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

We include a summary of the relevant sections of the legislation outlining the statutory requirements and our understanding of its purpose, followed by TDCs position after each section.

Section 42 – Duty to Consult Prescribed Bodies and Land Interests

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out the duty on applicants to consult prescribed consultees prior to submitting a Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This includes:

- **Local Authorities:** Those within or near the proposed development area.
- **Prescribed Bodies:** As defined under secondary legislation, including statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.
- **Land Interests:** Including landowners, tenants, and others with interests in affected land.
- **The Greater London Authority** (where applicable).

The purpose of this section is to ensure consultation is conducted in the prescribed manner and at a sufficiently early stage to allow prescribed consultees to engage with the project (and the consultation phase) and respond effectively.

TDC's Position on Section 42

TDC finds no reason to dispute that National Grid correctly identified and consulted the parties required under Section 42. On this basis, we are satisfied that the statutory duty under this section has been met.

Section 47 – Duty to Consult the Local Community

Section 47 requires the applicant to prepare a SoCC and consult local authorities on its content before conducting community consultation. Specifically, it requires the applicant to:

1. Prepare and consult on the SoCC.
2. Consider local authority feedback on the SoCC.
3. Publicise the final SoCC.
4. Undertake consultation in accordance with it.

The purpose of this section is to enable early and effective engagement with people living in the area likely to be affected, and to gather local views and identify potential issues before submission of the application.

TDC's Position on Section 47

While National Grid assert that it has fulfilled its obligations under Section 47, TDC remains concerned that the consultation failed to deliver effective and meaningful engagement. Despite numerous efforts to engage with National Grid, particularly concerning the site selection methodology, the rationale for siting the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) in the Tendring peninsula, and the exclusion of alternative routes, we have received limited or unsatisfactory responses, hindering our ability to engage constructively.

The SoCC states that consultation should cover “all aspects of the proposed development.” However, its focus has been too narrowly confined to refining a preferred route without adequate explanation of the alternatives or the reasons for their exclusion. Moreover, fundamental questions—such as the need for the project, choice of technology, and strategic route options—appear to have been treated as closed matters, with the consultation process centred on adjusting minor elements of a pre-determined scheme.

TDC understands that alternative options have been internally reviewed and discounted without meaningful public engagement. There is no published rationale or supporting evidence that clearly explains why all other potentially viable options were not considered or shared publicly.

The lack of published feedback following the 2024 statutory consultation makes it difficult to assess how National Grid has considered stakeholder responses or justified its decisions, and therefore TDC is not convinced that the consultation process has managed to capture or reflect the concerns of communities most directly affected, especially those in north-western Tendring.

Section 48 – Duty to Publicise

Section 48 requires the applicant to publicise the proposed application before submission. This includes:

- Publication in at least one national and one local newspaper.

- A brief description of the development.
- Details of document inspection locations.
- Instructions on how to respond.
- A deadline (minimum 28 days from publication).

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure the wider public is informed and able to engage in the process.

TDC's Position on Section 48

TDC has no evidence to suggest National Grid failed to meet the public notification requirements under Section 48. Based on available information, we accept that National Grid has complied with its duty to publicise the project appropriately.

For completeness, **Section 55 (Acceptance of Applications)** of the Planning Act 2008 outlines the criteria that the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, must apply when deciding whether to accept a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for examination.

The key requirements are as follows:

1. Form and Content of the Application:

The application must be submitted in the prescribed form and comply with the relevant regulations, notably the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

2. Accompanying Documents:

The application must include all necessary supporting documentation, such as:

- An Environmental Statement (where required),
- A Consultation Report (outlining how consultation duties have been fulfilled),
- A draft DCO,
- Land and Works Plans, among others.

3. Compliance with Consultation Duties:

The applicant must demonstrate that it has met the statutory consultation requirements set out in:

- Section 42 – Duty to consult prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land,
- Section 47 – Duty to consult the local community,
- Section 48 – Duty to publicise the proposed application.

4. Adequacy of Consultation:

The Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that the consultation has been carried out effectively and in accordance with the statutory requirements, based on the evidence provided in the Consultation Report.

5. Suitability for Examination:

The application must not be frivolous or vexatious and must appear, on its face, to be capable of resulting in the grant of development consent.

This section is included for information only, to support the completeness and clarity of our response. Tendring District Council does not propose to comment on the adequacy of National Grid's compliance with Section 55 because this section merely contains the overview of what is required to ensure acceptance of a DCO application.

Other Matters

Targeted Consultation and Non-Material Changes

TDC understands that certain design changes were not included in the latest (now completed) targeted consultation, on the grounds that National Grid considers them to be of minor significance. While they may be minor in engineering terms, these changes may have significant perceived or actual impacts for residents living close to the affected areas.

It is vital that communities are fully informed of **all** changes—whether material or not—so they can understand how the development may affect them and respond accordingly. The cumulative impact of numerous “non-material” changes can be significant and should not be progressed without public consultation.

TDC, alongside Essex County Council, has requested a list of these non-material changes. It is disappointing that this has not been provided, and it undermines public confidence in the transparency and inclusiveness of the consultation process. We refer to the Planning Inspectorate's guidance on good design, which stresses the importance of an **intentional, transparent, and effective** design process. This principle should equally apply to the consultation process, and we would strongly argue that **intentional, transparent, and effective** design of such a large scale project is even more critical and the pre-submission consultation phase.

Conclusion

In summary:

- Section 42: TDC is satisfied that statutory consultees were correctly identified and consulted.
- Section 47: TDC considers that the consultation with the local community has been inadequate in terms of scope, clarity, and meaningful engagement.
- Section 48: TDC acknowledges that the duty to publicise appears to have been met.
- Other Concerns: The exclusion of certain changes from public consultation raises concerns about transparency, and risks undermining public trust in the process.

TDC remains committed to constructive engagement with National Grid and other stakeholders but emphasises the need for a more open and inclusive approach moving forward—particularly if trust and confidence are to be maintained throughout this NSIP process.

Yours faithfully,



Tendring District Council.

Enquiries to: 
Policy Team



Appendix C14

Feedback from Thurrock Council

Civic Offices, New Road, Grays
Essex, RM17 6SL

Development Management

[REDACTED]
National Grid Electricity Transmission
[REDACTED]

Our Ref:

[REDACTED]

E-Mail:

[REDACTED]

Date:

7th May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thurrock Council's response to the Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, in relation to section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.

Thank you for inviting Thurrock Council to comment on the adequacy of consultation undertaken by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid) for the project titled Norwich to Tilbury. This letter comprises the council's comments on the consultation that has been undertaken so far.

1. Responding to the Statement of Community Consultation

- 1.1. National Grid has laid out its commitments to consultation in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), published in April 2024, including its process for advertising and encouraging engagement with the consultation.
- 1.2. At this milestone, National Grid has also laid out the actions it has taken to meet each of these commitments through the 2023 non-statutory consultation and the 2024 statutory consultation.
- 1.3. The council does not fundamentally object to the ways that the 2023 and 2024 consultations are described as complying with National Grid's commitments.
- 1.4. The way in which these and other consultations have been carried out has, however, presented some issues which have limited the extent to which the council has been able to meaningfully contribute to improving the project's outcomes. These issues are laid out in section 2 of this letter.
- 1.5. National Grid has not included at this milestone the ways in which the two rounds of targeted consultation (one statutory and one non-statutory) held in 2025 have followed these processes or contributed to meeting these commitments, other than item number 69:

6.3.1. If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.

and would like to see National Grid explain how it believes the targeted consultations have followed the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. These issues are laid out in section 3 of this letter.

2. Issues identified with consultation and engagement

- 2.1. The timelines for consultation laid out by National Grid have been overly demanding of council officers, who have frequently found it difficult to review and respond to the required documents in time to meet the set deadlines.
- 2.2. The narrow timeframes have also meant that the council has been unable to take its responses to the recent targeted consultations, for example, to Cabinet, resulting in the submission of responses which may not fully represent the council's views.
- 2.3. Narrow timeframes have also been exacerbated, at times, by poor responsiveness from National Grid or those acting on its behalf when asked for further information relevant to the council's response to consultation.
- 2.4. The volume of different documents being circulated at one time, often with similar content or titles, and on occasion with mistakes, has made it difficult for consultees to be clear on which documents relate to which elements of the project and must be responded to by which deadlines, and to do so accordingly. This has been especially true during the period of targeted consultation, alongside which a significant number of other documents have been shared with the council for comment. The council feels it would have been able to engage more usefully with the various consultations if there had been some attempt to space them out.
- 2.5. In general, there has been a lack of necessary or helpful information provided alongside requests for comments from the council, which has made it difficult for the council to engage with and contribute to proposals in a meaningful way. This is particularly true of the Environmental Statement and documents relating to it.
- 2.6. It appears that the pressure on National Grid to submit the application by a highly ambitious deadline has left and continues to leave little room for genuine discussion of different options or contribution to improving the outcomes of the project, which is disappointing to the council.

3. Issues identified with the targeted consultations

- 3.1. National Grid has made it clear that the proposed changes recently subject to targeted consultation (Thurrock 1, 2 and 3) have been informed by feedback received in the statutory consultation undertaken in 2024. This feedback has not been shared with the council. This has left the council unable to fully understand the context of these targeted consultations, including the details of any feedback to which National Grid has decided does not warrant a change to the proposals.
- 3.2. The council is also concerned that residents have not been adequately notified of the full extent of changes to the design and alignment of the scheme since the statutory consultation on the basis that National Grid considers them to be non-material and has not included them in the targeted consultation.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The council agrees that the 2023 non-statutory consultation and 2024 statutory consultation have been carried out in line with the SoCC, as described by National Grid

at this adequacy of consultation milestone.

- 4.2. The council does not feel, however, that all of the consultation and engagement processes – and, in particular, the 2025 targeted consultations – have been undertaken so as to adequately support full and meaningful engagement from the council.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.A long black rectangular box redacting the contact information of the sender.

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

Appendix D

**National Grid responses to feedback from Local Planning Authorities
on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)**

June 2025

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Appendix D1

National Grid response to Basildon
Borough Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Department: Planning Strategy & Implementation Team

[REDACTED]

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. National Grid notes that the response from Basildon Council should be viewed alongside the submission from Essex County Council and other host local authorities for the Project.

National Grid notes and welcomes the comment from Basildon Council that, to the best of the Council's knowledge, it is believed that National Grid has correctly identified the parties to be consulted, has complied with our duty to consult all relevant parties and carried out consultation events in line with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

The letter from Basildon Council contains some observations on the consultation undertaken: National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Absence of Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as Basildon Council and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Basildon Council is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Consultation

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with t

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant’s duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with Basildon Council to run through the type of changes made that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation.

National Grid looks forward to continuing the positive, collaborative relationship with Basildon Council and working together to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D2

National Grid response to Braintree
District Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Braintree District Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 5th June 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Braintree District Council's (BDC's) confirmation that, based on the information available and to the best of BDC's knowledge, the Council considers that the consultation for the Project has been conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with BDC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

In addition to confirmation that it is BDC's current opinion that National Grid has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, it is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within BDC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as BDC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

BDC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with BDC to run through the type of changes.

Bespoke Consultation Zones

In accordance with the guidance, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation was undertaken, which included bespoke consultation zones for each targeted consultation to include nearby properties which are likely to be affected. These were created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change. Where it was appropriate to do so, potential changes were grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.

The principle of using bespoke community consultation zones was discussed with all host authorities as part of discussions regarding the targeted consultation strategy and approach ahead of time, and feedback taken on board. It was not practicable to share the consultation zones with the host authorities in advance of the targeted consultations; they were published as an appendix to the targeted consultation strategy at the launch of each series of consultations and no feedback on the extent of the zones was received from the host local authorities in their responses to the targeted consultations.

In addition to sending a letter to each property that fell within the relevant consultation zone, National Grid sought to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by:

- notifying the local and regional media via press release
- notifying the local parish / parish council, and offering a briefing via Teams
- publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website
- notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter
- providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils
- running an advert in local media titles on / following consultation launch
- notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC

This approach and the bespoke consultation zones are considered to be proportionate and appropriate to the proposed changes and in line with government guidance.

Comments in respect of the Environmental Statement (ES)

National Grid notes and appreciates that BDC welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside BDC on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

At all stages National Grid has and continues to be open to extensions to suggested deadlines, all requests for extensions to time have been granted and the project team welcomes open dialogue on potential resource constraints, including the provision of additional resources through the planning performance agreement with BDC.

National Grid is also hopeful that most of the outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with BDC informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

Targeted consultation timeframe

The locations of the targeted community consultations were geographically focussed and built upon the information provided during the previous consultations. Given the nature of the changes and the consultations already undertaken in the areas affected, a 30-day consultation was appropriate and proportionate for the public to respond.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid welcomes that BDC supports many of the changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on the Project was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and 2024 consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

All of our consultations on the Project (non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, our statutory consultation in 2024 and the targeted consultations in 2025) were held at a formative stage where final decisions on the proposals are still to be made and we have taken and continue to take on board feedback on our proposals at each stage.

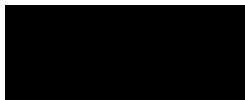
Following every consultation period, each piece of feedback received has been read (or is under consideration) and given due regard, and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes have been documented in the published 2022 and 2023 Feedback Reports, and will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with BDC and other stakeholders in relation to specific locations and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that BDC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the consultation and level of engagement to date is welcomed and appreciated. National Grid also looks forward to this positive relationship continuing and working alongside BDC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D3

National Grid response to Brentwood
Borough Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Brentwood Borough Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter of 8th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Brentwood Borough Council's (BBC's) opinion that National Grid has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

National Grid also welcomes the continued engagement with BBC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

The letter from BBC contains some observations on the consultation undertaken: National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as BBC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

BBC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Consultation

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with t

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant’s duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with BBC to run through the type of changes made that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid welcomes that BBC supports many of the changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on the Project which was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and

2024 consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

Noting the specific mention of Dunton Hills Garden Village and BCC's request for the route to be placed underground in this location, the 2024 Design Development Report (paragraphs 5.3.21 and 5.4.211) describes how the route for the overhead line alignment has been amended to adopt the existing gas pipeline corridor in this location. The presence of the gas pipeline creates a corridor free from built development, due to established safety requirements.

The route of any alternative underground cable connection in this location would likely lead to the loss of between 2 to 3 hectares of development land (as no development could occur above the cables). Given the absence of a clear basis in NPS EN-5 for the use of underground cable in this location, the ability for detailed masterplanning to reduce potential visual effects and the additional cost implications of the additional cable (of around a minimum 2 km), and the potential loss of development land, National Grid does not consider it appropriate to change from overhead line for the 2024 preferred draft alignment in this location.

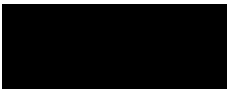
Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with BCC and other stakeholders in relation to Dunton Hills Garden Village and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that BBC considers that the consultation has met the legal requirements under Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations.

National Grid looks forward to continuing the positive, collaborative relationship with BBC and working together to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D4

National Grid response to
Chelmsford City Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Chelmsford City Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 8th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

Following the submission of our application for development consent Chelmsford City Council (CCC) will have an opportunity to provide feedback to the Planning Inspectorate in an Adequacy of Consultation response.

A Consultation Report prepared in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act will be submitted with the application for development consent and will provide a summary of the feedback received in response to the 2024 statutory consultation, and targeted community consultations in 2025, and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) compliance table was provided as part of our letter to you dated 14th April 2025. A compliance with commitments table for the targeted community consultations is being included in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and will also be included in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent.

The letter from CCC contains some observations on the consultation undertaken, National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Absence of Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as CCC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

CCC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Consultation - General

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with CCC to run through the type of changes made that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation

Targeted Consultation – Great and Little Waltham

National Grid welcomes the ongoing engagement with CCC on the Project, including in relation to Great and Little Waltham, and will continue to undertake back checks and reviews as appropriate in light of any new information and ongoing surveys and assessments.

Environmental Statement (ES)

National Grid notes the appreciation of CCC that information has been shared by National Grid. The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside CCC on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

Where additional information has been requested and is available to share, the project team has sought to do so. Amendments to the proposed design of the Project have and continue to be considered, and will be reported within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.

National Grid is hopeful that many of the outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with CCC informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

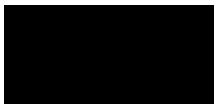
Submission Documents

National Grid also notes and welcomes the engagement undertaken so far with CCC, including in relation to the draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum and draft Requirements. Drafts of these documents are being worked up, alongside ongoing discussions with the host local authorities in relation to the associated management plans.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the acknowledgement from CCC of National Grid's engagement to date. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations. National Grid looks forward to this positive relationship continuing and working alongside CCC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D5

National Grid response to
Colchester City Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Colchester City Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dea [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email of 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Colchester City Council's (CCC's) confirmation that it is the council's current opinion that National Grid has carried out adequate pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with CCC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

It is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within CCC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as CCC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

CCC is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled '*What we are proposing to change in your area and why*'.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with t

Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with CCC to run through the type of changes.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid notes that CCC welcomes the many changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on Norwich to Tilbury was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and 2024

consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

All of our consultations on the project (non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, our statutory consultation in 2024 and the targeted consultations in 2025) were held at a formative stage where final decisions on the proposals are still to be made and we have taken and continue to take on board feedback on our proposals at each stage.

Following every consultation period, each piece of feedback received has been read and given due regard, and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes have been documented in the published 2022 and 2023 Feedback Reports, and will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with CCC and other stakeholders in relation to specific locations and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

Webinars

For the statutory consultation, six webinars were held and 209 people attended. The webinars were recorded and were made available on the project website for those that were unable to attend. A range of experts were available for each webinar to answer questions. Where a question could not be answered on the webinar – for whatever reason – it was managed offline or people were encouraged to write in by email, post or by phone.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that CCC is of the opinion that the actions in respect of consultation have been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the consultation and level of engagement to date is welcomed and appreciated. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations. National Grid also looks forward to the positive relationship with CCC continuing and working alongside CCC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D6

National Grid response to Essex
County Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Essex County Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 7th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Essex County Council's (ECC's) confirmation that, based on the information available and to the best of ECC's knowledge, the Council is satisfied that the consultation for the Project has been conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In response to the request for a compliance with commitments table for the targeted community consultations, a table is being included in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and will also be contained within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent.

National Grid also welcomes the continued engagement with ECC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

In addition to confirmation that it is ECC's current opinion that National Grid has carried out sufficient pre-application consultation on the proposed Project in accordance with the agreed SoCC and in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, it is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within ECC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as ECC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled ‘What we are proposing to change in your area and why’.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant’s duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate

exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with ECC to run through the type of changes

Bespoke Consultation Zones

In accordance with the guidance, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation was undertaken, which included bespoke consultation zones for each targeted consultation to include nearby properties which are likely to be affected. These were created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change. Where it was appropriate to do so, potential changes were grouped with a single consultation zone covering the grouped changes.

The principle of using bespoke community consultation zones was discussed with all host authorities as part of discussions regarding the targeted consultation strategy and approach ahead of time, and feedback taken on board. It was not practicable to share the consultation zones with the host authorities in advance of the targeted consultations, they were published as an appendix to the targeted consultation strategy at the launch of each series of consultations and no feedback on the extent of the zones was received from the host local authorities in their responses to the targeted consultations.

In addition to sending a letter to each property that fell within the relevant consultation zone, National Grid sought to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by:

- notifying the local and regional media via press release
- notifying the local parish / parish council, and offering a briefing via Teams
- publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website
- notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter
- providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils
- running an advert in local media titles on / following consultation launch
- notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC

This approach and the bespoke consultation zones are considered to be proportionate and appropriate to the proposed changes and in line with government guidance.

Comments in respect of the Environmental Statement (ES)

National Grid notes and appreciates that ECC welcomes the extensive engagement to date across a range of technical subjects that are informing the ES. The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside ECC on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

At all stages National Grid has and continues to be open to extensions to suggested deadlines, all requests for extensions to time have been granted and the project team welcomes open dialogue on potential resource constraints, including the provision of additional resources through the planning performance agreement with ECC.

National Grid is also hopeful that most of the outstanding matters can be satisfactorily addressed through our ongoing engagement with ECC informing the SoCG prior to the examination.

Targeted consultation timeframe

The locations of the targeted community consultations were geographically focussed and built upon the information provided during the previous consultations. Given the nature of the changes and the

consultations already undertaken in the areas affected, a 30-day consultation was appropriate and proportionate for the public to respond.

Scheme Revisions

National Grid welcomes that ECC supports many of the changes made as a result of consultation since the first non-statutory consultation on the Project was undertaken in 2022. Alongside the 2023 and 2024 consultations, a Design Development Report has been published which presents the substantive changes that have been made to the Project since the previous consultation, describing how the Project has evolved in response to feedback and further environmental and engineering studies.

Noting the specific mention of Dunton Hills Garden Village and ECC's request for the route to be placed underground in this location, the 2024 Design Development Report (paragraphs 5.3.21 and 5.4.211) describes how the route for the overhead line alignment has been amended to adopt the existing gas pipeline corridor in this location. The presence of the gas pipeline creates a corridor free from built development, due to established safety requirements.

The route of any alternative underground cable connection in this location would likely lead to the loss of between 2 to 3 hectares of development land (as no development could occur above the cables). Given the absence of a clear basis in NPS EN-5 for the use of underground cable in this location, the ability for detailed masterplanning to reduce potential visual effects and the additional cost implications of the additional cable (of around a minimum 2 km), and the potential loss of development land, National Grid does not consider it necessary to change from overhead line for the 2024 preferred draft alignment in this location.

Further back check and reviews of the Project are being undertaken in response to feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation, and in the light of ongoing surveys and assessments, and the continuing engagement with ECC and other stakeholders in relation to Dunton Hills Garden Village and the Norwich to Tilbury route as a whole is welcomed.

Webinars

For the statutory consultation, six webinars were held and 209 people attended. The webinars were recorded and were made available on the project website for those that were unable to attend. A range of experts were available for each webinar to answer questions. Where a question could not be answered on the webinar – for whatever reason – it was managed offline or people were encouraged to write in by email, post or by phone.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that ECC is of the opinion that the consultation conducted has been sufficient to meet the legal tests at S42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and that the consultation and level of engagement to date is welcomed and appreciated. National Grid also looks forward to this positive relationship continuing and working alongside ECC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D7

National Grid response to King's Lynn and
West Norfolk Borough Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd April 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes that the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is satisfied that National Grid has met its obligations in relation to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix D8

National Grid response to London
Borough of Redbridge on AoCM

6th June 2025

London Borough of Redbridge

Sent via email to:



Dear



Planning Act 2008

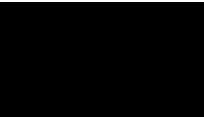
National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email of 16th April 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes that it is the view of the London Borough of Redbridge that the borough has been adequately consulted to date.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D9

National Grid response to Mid Suffolk
and Babergh District Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your email of 29th April 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's (BMSDC's) confirmation that the Council is satisfied that the consultation for Norwich to Tilbury has been conducted in accordance with the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

In relation to the question of an additional inspection point for the consultation documents at Endeavour House in Ipswich, the 2024 statutory consultation materials were not available at Endeavour House but were available at Ipswich Library.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with BMSDC on the Norwich to Tilbury project and looks forward to continuing to develop the SoCG.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix D10

National Grid response to Norfolk
County Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Norfolk County Councils

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter of 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes the supportive and positive comments from Norfolk County Council (NCC) in relation to the level and quality of engagement and communication provided by the project team, and that the consultation requirements set out within the published Statement of Community Consultation have been met.

National Grid welcomes the positive relationship with NCC and looks forward to continued engagement on the Norwich to Tilbury project and development of a draft Statement of Common Ground.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix D11

National Grid response to South
Norfolk Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

South Norfolk Council

Sent via email to:



Dear



Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

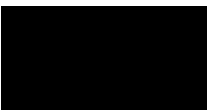
Thank you for your email of 12th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the Norwich to Tilbury project during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes South Norfolk Council's confirmation that, to the best of the Council's knowledge, the consultations undertaken reflect those commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation as required by Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, specifically in relation to the delivery of the Statement of Community Consultation.

In relation to the two points raised by South Norfolk Council, these sections have been updated as requested.

National Grid welcomes the positive relationship with South Norfolk Council and looks forward to continued engagement on the Norwich to Tilbury project and development of a draft Statement of Common Ground.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D12

National Grid response to Suffolk
County Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Suffolk County Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 21st May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Suffolk County Council's (SCC's) confirmation that, based on the information available and to the best of SCC's knowledge, the Council is satisfied that the consultation for the Project has been conducted in accordance with Sections 42, 47 & 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

With respect of the comments within SCC's response in relation to Raydon Airfield, the airfield has been consulted at every stage of consultation, beginning in 2022, and National Grid has met with the operator on a number of separate occasions since 2023. National Grid is confident that the consultation undertaken was fully compliant with the published Statement of Community Consultation and legislative requirements under the Planning Act 2008.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with SCC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

National Grid is committed to continue to work with SCC and the operator of Raydon Airfield to develop SoCGs and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Appendix D13

National Grid response to Tendring District
Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Tendring District Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 6th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Tendring District Council's (TDC's) acceptance that, based on the information available, National Grid has met its statutory duty under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

The position of TDC with respect of Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 is also noted, specifically in relation to the rationale for siting the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation, the consideration of alternatives, the need for the Project, the choice of technology and strategic route options.

National Grid is confident that the consultation undertaken was fully compliant with the published Statement of Community Consultation and legislative requirements under Section 47.

All of our consultations on the project (non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, our statutory consultation in 2024 and the targeted consultations in 2025) were held at a formative stage where final decisions on the proposals are still to be made and we have taken and continue to take on board feedback on our proposals at each stage.

Following every consultation period, each piece of feedback received has been read and given due regard, and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes have been documented in the published 2022 and 2023 Feedback Reports, and will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as TDC and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

National Grid welcomes the continued engagement with TDC on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

It is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within TDC's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant “*must have regard to any guidance issued under this section*”. Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

“Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.”

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with TDC to run through the type of changes.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that TDC is satisfied that statutory consultees were correctly identified and consulted under Section 42 and that the duty to publicise appears to have been met under Section 48. National Grid is confident that the consultation undertaken was fully compliant with the published Statement of Community Consultation and legislative requirements under Section 47. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations.

National Grid looks forward to continuing to work alongside TDC to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



Appendix D14

National Grid response to
Thurrock Council on AoCM

6th June 2025

Planning Obligations and Major Infrastructure

Thurrock Council

Sent via email to:

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Act 2008

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Norwich to Tilbury Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Thank you for your letter dated 7th May 2025 provided in response to our request for comments on the adequacy of consultation carried out to date on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the Project) during the pre-application stage, part of the Planning Inspectorate's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone.

National Grid notes and welcomes Thurrock Council's confirmation that the council does not fundamentally object to the ways that the 2023 and 2024 consultations are described as complying with National Grid's commitments.

In response to the request for a compliance with commitments table for the targeted community consultations, this will be included in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report and will also be contained within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent.

National Grid also welcomes the continued engagement with Thurrock Council on the Project under the pre-application planning performance agreement, through regular monthly project and topic specific meetings and ad hoc workshops as required.

It is noted that further observations on consultation were provided within Thurrock Council's response. National Grid has sought to respond to the points raised below and would welcome further discussion during our regular scheduled meetings.

Issues identified with consultation and engagement

Timelines for Consultation

Our statutory consultation undertaken in 2024 ran for a period of 15 weeks, and this gave sufficient time for the public and to technical consultees to review the information provided and contact the Project team with any questions to enable them to provide an informed response. National Grid follows advice and guidance provided in relation to consultation for a Project of this nature and are confident we go over and above any statutory requirements to engage fully with all stakeholders.

The locations of the targeted community consultations were geographically focussed and built upon the information provided during the previous consultations. Given the nature of the changes and the consultations already undertaken in the areas affected, a 30-day consultation was appropriate and proportionate for the public and technical consultees to respond.

During and outside the consultation periods, National Grid has always sought to respond to technical queries from the host local authorities and other technical bodies in a timely manner, providing further information where it is available.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The focus of the discussions to date has been on the scope of the ES, the methodologies used and the baseline data collected, together with draft management plans and outline mitigation strategies. Input to these documents from all host local authorities through the draft document reviews and regular, scheduled thematic groups is welcomed. Given this engagement, we would welcome further discussion with Thurrock Council on the specifics of the concerns raised in relation to the Environmental Statement and reiterate the open offer to discuss potential resource constraints, including the provision of additional resources through the planning performance agreement with Thurrock Council.

The ES is currently being drafted and therefore National Grid look forward to sharing it with the host local authorities when available, as well as continuing to work alongside Thurrock Council on progressing the draft statement of common ground (SoCG), frontloading the resolution of matters where possible.

National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations.

Issues identified with the targeted consultations

Consultation Feedback

A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to that feedback will be provided within the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application for development consent, in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. National Grid is happy to discuss making the application available to technical consultees such as Thurrock Council and the other host local authorities digitally shortly after it is submitted.

Responses received to the statutory consultation carried out in 2024 have informed and continue to inform the developing design of the Project. Each piece of feedback has been read and where a change to the design was requested, this has been and continues to be considered by the project team. This process and the outcomes will be documented within the Consultation Report, including those changes requested that have not been taken forward and why.

Thurrock Council is correct that feedback has informed the series of targeted consultations undertaken earlier this year. The feedback received, if relevant to the potential changes being presented for consultation, was set out in the Consultation Leaflets for the targeted consultations within the section titled 'What we are proposing to change in your area and why'.

Targeted Community Consultations

The process National Grid has followed for undertaking the targeted community consultations is appropriate and proportionate in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance issued pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance published in April 2024 titled 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an applicant "must have regard to any guidance issued under this section". Paragraph 020 of the guidance states:

"Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further

consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.

Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.

In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.*

For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.

Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/42>) have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided."

National Grid has and continues to review each change to the design against the wording of the guidance, in isolation and collectively. This has led to a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation, with each targeted community consultation accompanied by an Environment Implications of the Change document, in line with the applicant's duty to have regard to the guidance issued. These targeted community consultations are in addition to the ongoing landowner engagement and working with statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Given the nature and volume of the minor changes which have been made (and/or are still under consideration) that have not been the subject of targeted community consultation, it is not a proportionate exercise to produce a comprehensive list of every single amendment (nor is it required by the guidance). However, National Grid has summarised in discussions previously the type of changes made and is happy to hold another workshop with Thurrock Council to run through the type of changes.

Conclusion

National Grid notes and welcomes the confirmation that Thurrock Council agrees that the 2024 statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC, as described by National Grid at this adequacy of consultation milestone. National Grid continues to progress the Norwich to Tilbury Project in line with the relevant legislation and guidance, including our licence obligations, and looks forward to working alongside Thurrock Council to develop the SoCG and resolve issues where possible.

Yours sincerely



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

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

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nationalgrid.com