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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.8 Signed Statement of Common Ground - Colchester City Council - Tracked Changes Version

Final Issue E

July 2026

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nationalgrid

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B	26 February 2026	Deadline 1
C	12 May 2026	Deadline 4
D	10 June 2026	Deadline 5
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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This ~~draft~~final Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared relating to the application for development consent for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (the 'Project') made by National Grid Electricity Transmission pic (referred to as 'The Applicant' within this document). It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015).

1.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared by National Grid as the Applicant and Colchester City Council (CCC). CCC is a prescribed consultee under Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) as a Host Authority.

1.1.3 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the application documents and submissions into the examination. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.

1.1.4 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties. It identifies areas of the Project within the Development Consent Order (DCO) application ('the Application'), where matters are agreed, under discussion or not agreed between the parties.

1.1.5 The engagement between the parties across the breadth of matters ~~is ongoing. The SoCG is an evolving document and detailed wording within it is still being discussed between the parties.~~has been extensive and is summarised in Chapter 2.

1.1.6 This ~~draft~~final SoCG has been prepared for ~~Deadline 5. It is intended to be a live and working document which will be updated as the Project progresses and shared with CCC at key points for discussion~~deadline 7, in accordance with the Rule 8 letter **[PD-011]**.

~~1.1.7 Future iterations will evolve from this point and all parties reserve the right to supplement the matters identified as we progress the discussions to ensure it is comprehensive. There are many items within it that although not currently agreed have the potential to be resolved. A final SoCG will be prepared ahead of the close of the DCO Examination. Unlike a final SoCG, this draft SoCG has not been officially signed by either party.~~

1.1.7 ~~1.1.8~~ The parties will continue to work together beyond deadline 7, seeking further resolution where appropriate ~~to ensure this SoCG is a reliable and up to date document which can inform the examination~~.

1.1.8 ~~1.1.9~~ This SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the Application which are relevant to CCC. The applicable matters considered within this SoCG apply to CCC's statutory remit. The following bullet points present the topics included in this SoCG (they are also presented in Section 3):

- Project development, description and design
- Ecology and Biodiversity

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

CCC will have regard to any points raised by statutory bodies and other relevant Interested Parties in respect of the matters covered in the SoCG. ~~Therefore, this version reflects the current position of CCC but may be subject to change during the examination. A final position will be recorded in the final SoCG to be submitted close to the examination.~~

1.2 Summary of Matters Under Discussion

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

SoCG ID	Summary of matter under discussion	Deadline for resolution
~~**Ecology and Biodiversity**~~**Project development, description and design**		
~~3.3.4 – Data sources (bats)~~ ~~3.3.7 – Survey methodology (bats)~~ ~~3.3.10 – Baseline conditions and receptors (bats)~~ ~~3.3.13 – Standard mitigation (bats)~~ ~~3.3.15 - Construction effects~~3.2.13 – Legal agreements	The Applicant ~~disagrees with CCC's comments that insufficient bat surveys have been undertaken. Further survey information from the 2025 season was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025. The Applicant considers the surveys approach to bat roost surveys pragmatic and appropriate. The Applicant has agreed the bat roost surveys approach with Natural England and is set out in **5.9.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Natural England [REP4-081]**~~will secure any offsite BNG required and identified by the Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme, and delivery of any offsite tree planting by requirement.	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~ ~~CCC comment – following a meeting with Place Ecology and applicant this appear to be moving forward~~Engagement on this matter will continue with CCC post DCO Examination.
~~3.3.8 – Key parameters and assumptions~~	~~CCC recommends replacement planting failure percentage should be factored into the compensation requirement. The Applicant has committed to a 5-year aftercare period for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting and a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas. CCC is reviewing sections relating to habitat reinstatement and~~	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~

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	~~will provide the Applicant with an update once complete. The Applicant will liaise with CCC once feedback is received.~~	
~~3.3.17 – Outline CoCP~~ 3.2.14 - Landscape Compensation	~~CCC seeks further assurance around the Ecological Clerk of Works. The Applicant maintains that this role will not be undertaken by one individual, but by multiple ecologists with a range of relevant experience and any protected species licences necessary for the specific task to be undertaken. Further details on the number and type of ECoWs required across the Project will be included within the Final Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (post-DCO consent)~~National Grid is proposing a commitment to secure landscape compensation/offsetting measures. This would be submitted on a "blue pencil" basis and without prejudice to National Grid's position that it does not consider the compensation measures are required by policy and therefore do not meet the relevant policy and legal tests.	~~Matter unlikely to be agreed during Examination.~~ Discussions will conclude after finalisation of this SoCG through the draft DCO wording.
~~3.3.22 – Arboriculture Impact Assessment – veteran tree removal~~	~~CCC requests justification for the removal of one veteran tree. The Applicant notes the removal is due to the proximity to existing infrastructure and working area. Prior to construction, relevant surveys would be undertaken to reduce removal of trees/hedgerows as far as practicable.~~	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~
~~**Health and Wellbeing**~~		
~~3.6.5 – Key parameters and assumptions~~ ~~3.6.7 – Embedded mitigation~~ ~~3.6.8 – Standard mitigation~~	~~CCC is reviewing these sections relating to the health and wellbeing and will provide the Applicant with an update once complete. The Applicant will liaise with CCC once feedback is received.~~	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~
~~3.6.12 – Outline CoCP~~	~~CCC is reviewing the updated **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-164]** and will provide the Applicant with an update once complete. The Applicant will liaise with CCC once feedback is received.~~	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~
~~**Historic Environment**~~		
~~3.7.13 – Embedded mitigation~~	~~CCC note the fieldwork proposed prior to application has not been completed.~~	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~

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	~~The Applicant maintains that sufficient data has been collected to inform assessment, but notes that survey work is ongoing with results~~ likely in ~~August 2026.~~	
~~Development Consent Order~~		
~~3.11.1 draft DCO wording~~	~~Discussions are ongoing in relation to detailed drafting points on:~~ ~~• Definition of 'maintain';~~ ~~• Definition of 'provisional advance authorisation';~~ ~~• Limits of deviation;~~ ~~• Decision-making and approval timescales;~~ ~~• Application of permit schemes;~~ ~~• Discharge of water;~~ ~~• Traffic regulation;~~ ~~• Felling or lopping;~~ ~~• Safeguarding;~~ ~~• Service of notices;~~ ~~• Draft protective provisions; and~~ ~~• Certified documents.~~	~~Resolution likely by Deadline 7~~

1.3 Project Description

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

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

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- A new 400 kV substation to the south of Orsett Golf Course in Essex, referred to as the Tilbury North Substation (with a new permanent access). This is proposed to be a Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation
- Modifications to the existing National Grid Electricity Transmission overhead lines to facilitate the connection of the existing network into the new Tilbury North Substation to provide connection to the Tilbury Substation
- Ancillary and/or temporary works associated with the construction of the Project.

1.3.2 In addition, third party utilities diversions and/or modifications would be required to facilitate the construction of the Project. There would also be land required for environmental mitigation and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

1.3.3 As well as the permanent infrastructure, land would also be required temporarily for construction activities including, for example, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and temporary construction access.

1.3.4 The Project would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable health and safety legislation. The Project will need to comply with design safety standards including the Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS), which sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). This informs a suite of National Grid policies and processes, which contain details on design standards required to be met when designing, constructing and operating assets such as those proposed for the Project.

1.4 Format and Structure of this Document

1.4.1 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** provides a summary of the key engagement undertaken to date with CCC
- **Section 3** summarises the key matters and captures the status of each issue / matter
- **Section 4** includes the sign off sheet

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2. Record of Key Engagement

2.1 Introduction

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

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

2.1.2 Further details on the Applicant's engagement with stakeholders is provided in the Consultation Report and the Environmental Statement.

2.2 Summary of Key Engagement

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

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

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

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

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

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the 2nd iteration draft versions of the Outline CoCP and Outline LEMP to all host authorities for comment.
January 2025	Meeting	The Applicant held a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on the 2nd iteration draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.
March 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Meeting	Meeting to discuss duty to further the purposes of the National Landscape
May 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the next iteration of the Outline CoCP including Appendix H – Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction strategy.
May 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the ES Appendix 17.1: Long List of Other Developments
June 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued draft DCO, explanatory memorandum and draft requirements
July 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
August 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued draft Heads of Terms for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and off-site tree provision
August 2025	Meeting	Meeting to provide project and design update
September 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
November 2025	Meeting	All host authority workshop
January 2026	Meeting	All host authority workshop
February 2026	Meeting	Meeting to progress Statement of Common Ground
March 2026	Email	Email to agree approach for Statement of Common Ground deadline 4 submission
March 2026	Meeting	All host authority workshop
April 2026	Email	The Applicant shared the Statement of Common Ground and associated summary tables.
May 2026	Email	The Applicant shared the Statement of Common Ground following Deadline 4.
July 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the Statement of Common Ground

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
Ecology and Biodiversity		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and Arboriculture Assessment Methodology for review ahead of the Thematic Group meeting.
July 2022	Meeting	Ecology and Biodiversity Thematic Group meeting - The Applicant presented on the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology and Arboriculture Assessment Methodology and sought feedback from CCC and other authorities.
September 2023	Meeting	The Applicant discussed the potential off-site scheme/initiatives for BNG.
March 2024	Meeting	Biodiversity Thematic Group to discuss the methodology and scope of ecology surveys outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2024	Technical Note	The Applicant issued a technical note to all host authorities outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Thematic Group call.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the Outline LEMP
October 2024	Meeting	The Applicant hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on draft versions of the Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the Protected Species Proposed Mitigation Measures to stakeholders including CCC.
January 2025	Meeting	The Applicant hosted a meeting to discuss comments from stakeholders on proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy.
January 2025	Meeting	The Applicant hosted a meeting to discuss comments received on the draft Biodiversity Net Gain Report.
January 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the second iteration of the Outline LEMP

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
May 2025	Meeting	The Applicant hosted a meeting to discuss comments from the updated proposed mitigation for species outside the remit of Natural England.
May 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the next iteration of the Outline LEMP including Appendix D – Outline Landscape Proposals
September 2025	Meeting	Option thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the ecology section of the Environmental Statement.
January 2026	Meeting	Joint meeting attended by LPA's who are represented by Essex Place Service for ecology to discuss the Statement of Common Ground.
February 2026	Meeting	Meeting to progress Statement of Common Ground
March 2026	Email	Email to agree approach for Statement of Common Ground deadline 4 submission
March 2026	Meeting	All host authority workshop
May 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the Statement of Common Ground with Essex Place Services.
May 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss draft bat licences with Essex Place Services.
June 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss draft bat licences, ECoW and BNG with Essex Place Services.
Air Quality		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Air Quality assessment for review and comment.
Noise and Vibration		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the proposed methodology and scope of the Noise and Vibration assessment for review and comment.
Health and Wellbeing		
September 2022	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the Health and Wellbeing Assessment Methodology to all host authorities.
September 2023	Technical Note	The Applicant issued a Health and Wellbeing technical note on the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including guidance, study area, scope, and assessment methodology.

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
September 2024	Meeting	The Applicant held a meeting to discuss and agree the proposed assessment scope and methodology for the Health and Wellbeing chapter of the ES.
October 2024	Technical note	The Applicant issued a refreshed Health and Wellbeing technical note on the proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including guidance, study area, scope, and assessment methodology.
October 2025	Meeting	Optional thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the Health and Wellbeing section of the Environmental Statement.
June 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the Statement of Common Ground
Historic Environment		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued a document detailing the scope and methodology for the Historic Environment assessment and baseline to all host authorities and Historic England.
July 2022	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group to discuss the proposed approach for the EIA assessment.
September 2022	Meeting	The Applicant presented an updated approach to defining study areas, scoping of walkover and scoping of historic buildings to consider in the assessment, in response to feedback received.
January 2023	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the plans showing the proposed viewpoint locations for landscape and heritage ahead of the Thematic Group meeting in February 2023 to all host authorities.
February 2023	Meeting	The Applicant held a meeting with all host authorities to discuss landscape and heritage viewpoints.
June 2023	Technical Note	The Applicant issued a technical note to Historic England and host authorities to agree methodology for the selection of viewpoints for the Historic Environment assessment.
September 2023	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group meeting to discuss the proposed heritage viewpoint methodology with all host authorities and Historic England.
November 2023	Meeting	Historic Environment Thematic Group meeting to discuss the proposed locations of heritage viewpoints with host authorities and Historic

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

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
October 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the setting survey locations with stakeholders.
February 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the draft Historic Baseline Report with Annex C & D.
February 2025	Meeting	Thematic group meeting to discuss the Historic Environment Viewpoints.
February 2025	Meeting	The Applicant hosted a meeting to discuss the Heritage Baseline report.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued updated the Historic Environment Viewpoints information to stakeholders including CCC.
April 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the Draft Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Draft Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for post-consent stage of the project.
May 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
June 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
June 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared additional trench plans for Site 009, Area 26.
June 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared updated trench plans for Site 009, Area 26
June 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared an Archaeological fieldwork summary for comment.
July 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
August 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
August 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared SSWSIs - Site 011
September 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
September 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared updated SSWSI sites 11
October 2025	Meeting	Optional thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the heritage section of the Environmental Statement
October 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
October 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared Trial Trench plans for review and approval for site 009 and site 011.

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
October 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared updated Trial trench plans for site 009 site 011.
November 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared shapefile for the phase 2 survey along with the priority area survey.
November 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
December 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the WSI for the Phase 2 geophysical survey.
December 2025	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting to begin discussing Essex Place Services (EPS), working on behalf of CCC, comments on the Statement of Common Ground
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss matters relating to Archaeology in the Statements of Common Ground being covered by EPS.
January 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss matters relating to built heritage in the Colchester Statement of Common Ground
January 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
February 2026	Meeting	The Applicant shared the Supplementary Environmental Information submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching completed to date with the Archaeology Working Group Stakeholders.
February 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group meeting
March 2026	Email	The Applicant issued the trench plan for geophysical surveys for Area 59 in site 009 for review and approval.
March 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting
April 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
April 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss mitigation areas for trial trenching.
May 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
May 2026	Email	The Applicant shared the Outline AMS and OWSI for further comment.
May 2026	Email	The Applicant shared the Geoarchaeological Monitoring of GI WSI for comment.

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
June 2026	Meeting	Meeting with EPS Archaeology to discuss the Statement of Common Ground
June 2026	Meeting	Meeting with EPS Built Heritage to discuss the Statement of Common Ground
June 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
July 2026	Meeting	Archaeology Working Group Meeting.
July 2026	Email	Updated draft of Geoarchaeological monitoring of GI WSI Shared.
Landscape and Visual		
July 2022	Technical note	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) methodology and arboricultural assessment methodology shared for review and discussion at the Thematic Group Meeting
July 2022	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting. The Applicant shared the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Methodology and Arboricultural Assessment Methodology for review.
January 2023	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued plans showing proposed viewpoint locations for review and comment to all host authorities.
February 2023	Meeting	The Applicant held a Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting to discuss proposed viewpoint locations in Essex. The Applicant sought agreement on the viewpoint locations to include in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the ES.
May 2023	Meeting	The Applicant held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2023 – March 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared information, responded to further feedback on viewpoint locations received from the May 2023 meeting, and reviewed subsequent feedback received up to March 2024 with the aim to agree viewpoint locations for the PEIR and ES (based on the information available at this date).
August 2023	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued wirelines and photomontages and proposed the approach to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping for comment.

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
January 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the updated landscape viewpoints (and the ZTV) and sought feedback from all host authorities.
March 2024	Meeting	The Applicant held a meeting to discuss stakeholder's feedback on EIA viewpoints previously shared.
May 2024	Meeting	Optional Statutory Consultation Thematic Group call.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the Draft Landscape and Visual Methodology, Proposed LVIA Viewpoints (excel spreadsheet) and Proposed LVIA Viewpoints (map) ahead of the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
September 2024	Meeting	The Applicant held a Landscape Thematic Group Meeting to find agreement on the LVIA methodology and the format/presentation of photomontages and/or wirelines which will form part of the development consent application.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the shapefiles for the landscape viewpoints and order limits with CCC and other stakeholders following the Landscape Thematic Group Meeting.
September 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the draft Outline LEMP and Sample Mitigation Drawings ahead of the draft Outline LEMP and Outline CoCP discussion.
September 2024	Meeting	Landscape and Visual Thematic Group Meeting – LVIA Viewpoints within Essex North
October 2024	Meeting	The Applicant held a focus meeting to discuss the National Landscape.
October 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the Draft mitigation drawings to accompany the Outline LEMP with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the National landscape setting study with stakeholders
October 2024	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared updated viewpoint information data following from the landscape thematic workshops
November 2024	Meeting	The Applicant held a meeting to confirm agreement on VPs and photomontages
January 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the second iteration of the Outline LEMP.

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
March 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued an update on LVIA Viewpoints and Methodology.
March 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the draft Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
May 2025	Email Correspondence	The Applicant shared the next iteration of the Outline LEMP including Appendix D – Outline Landscape Proposals.
October 2025	Meeting	Optional thematic group meeting to discuss feedback on the Landscape section of the Environmental Statement.
January 2026	Meeting	Joint meeting attended by LPA's who are represented by Essex Place Service for Landscape to discuss the Statement of Common Ground.
March 2026	Meeting	Joint meeting attended by LPA's who are represented by Essex Place Service for Landscape to discuss the Statement of Common Ground.
March 2026	Email Correspondence	The Applicant sent an e-mail to seek further clarification and detail in relation to the requests for additional landscape and visual measures in CCC's Local Impact Report
May 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the Statement of Common Ground with Essex Place Services.
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism		
July 2022	Email Correspondence	The Applicant issued the assessment methodology to stakeholders for review ahead of the Thematic Group Meeting in July 2022.
July 2022	Meeting	The Applicant held a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Thematic Group Meeting to seek feedback on the proposed approach to the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment prior to formal submission of the Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. This meeting was attended by several stakeholders, including CCC.
June 2023	Technical Note	The Applicant issued a Technical Note setting out the study area and methodology for assessing businesses where visual impacts are a potential operational consideration, and Public Right of Way (PRoW) during construction and operation.
August 2023	Meeting	The Applicant held a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Thematic Group Meeting to discuss the study area and methodology for assessing businesses.

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Date	Format	Topic/Description
April 2024	Technical Note	The Applicant shared an updated technical note with all host authorities to demonstrate how their feedback had been considered in developing the PEIR.
September 2024	Meeting	Meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical Note on the ES Chapter.
September 2024	Technical Note	The Applicant shared the Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Technical Note with stakeholders.
November 2024	Meeting	The Applicant held a follow up meeting to discuss and agree the Scope and Methodology for the updated Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical Note on the ES Chapter.
March 2025	Email	The Applicant shared a 3rd Technical note to agree the study area and assessment criteria for comment.

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3. Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 This chapter details the matters relevant to CCC which have been agreed, not agreed or are under discussion between the parties. Matters are arranged by topic (using broad headings, or EIA chapter headings where appropriate) and each matter is given a unique reference number to aid identification.

3.1.2 The red, amber, green status shows the level of agreement with CCC. Descriptions of the different levels are summarised in Table 3.1

Table 3.1 Agreement status for matters presented in Section 3

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

3.1.3 Engagement will continue as the Project develops and progresses through the various stages of the DCO process, including through detailed design.

3.1.4 Table 3.2 to Table 3.11 provides the matters agreed, not agreed or under discussion in relation to the various topics.

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3.2 Project development, description and design

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
Strategic options/needs case				
3.2.1	Needs case	Norwich to Tilbury is being proposed because the existing network in East Anglia doesn't have sufficient capacity to manage the expected (and in some cases, contracted) increase in offshore wind farms (and interconnectors) needing to connect to the grid as part of the Government's target of reaching net zero by 2050. The project sits alongside other work to reinforce and upgrade the existing network in East Anglia. Norwich to Tilbury is listed as a key project in Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report. The Applicant's position on needs case, please refer to Section 3.2 'Needs Case and Timing' in **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030].** The Applicant ~~considers~~ it is ~~unlikely that the two parties will find~~recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved torecorded~~ as Not Agreed.	CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): CCC acknowledge that the grid capacity offered by the Norwich to Tilbury project is needed. CCC note the NESO Clean Power 2030 report highlights the importance of Norwich to Tilbury and other projects to be delivered by 2030 to transmit clean power from East Anglia. While the NESO Clean Power report is only guidance, the need for Norwich to Tilbury was also reaffirmed by the Hiorns report (dated September 2023) which independently reviewed the need for network reinforcement in East Anglia. CCC note however that the ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts than the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. As set out in the T-con response CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure across Colchester and Essex should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed by the Council and the communities it represents. As set out in CCC Local Impact Report, this matter will not be agreed.	
3.2.2	Project timing	Timing for the project is driven by the needs case - when offshore wind farms are contracted to connect to the UK network - the first of which are contracted to connect in 2030. National Grid is legally obliged (under our Transmission Owner License) to provide capacity at the dates formally agreed in contracts with energy generators (or customers) by NESO. Appendix 2 of the NESO Clean Power 2030 Report shows that the constraint costs associated with a delay to the project timing as being between £2.7 and £2.8 billion. For the Applicant's position on project timing, please refer to Section 3.2 'Needs Case and Timing' in **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030].** The Applicant ~~considers~~ it ~~is unlikely that the two parties will find~~recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved to recorded~~ as Not Agreed.	CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): CCC note the NESO Clean Power 2030 report highlights the importance of Norwich to Tilbury and other projects to be delivered by 2030 to transmit clean power from East Anglia. Notwithstanding this, CCC considers that a further review of the contracted electricity generation is needed ahead of final submission of the DCO to ensure the timing proposed is robust noting that a longer period for delivery would allow greater potential for alternative solutions, noting the Hirons report findings as set out in CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024). As set out in CCC Local Impact Report, this matter will not be agreed.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.2.3	Onshore route	An onshore route allows for greater energy capacity and connectivity to feed into the grid. In assessing offshore options to deliver the same capacity as an onshore overhead line, we would need to build three subsea cables and associated infrastructure, which would add significant cost and not meet the needs case for Norwich to Tilbury. Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including offshore alternatives. For the Applicant's position on the onshore route, please refer to Section 3.3 Alternatives - Offshore Alternatives' in **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030].** The Applicant ~~considers~~ it ~~is unlikely that the two parties will find~~recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved torecorded~~ as Not Agreed.	CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): The ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts that the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. As such, CCC considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or HVDC undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed as it would be materially less harmful (in many aspects) than the proposed development. As set out in CCC Local Impact Report, this matter will not be agreed.	Not agreed
3.2.4	Predominantly overhead line route	Norwich to Tilbury has been designed in line with policy statement EN-5 (which covers the development of new energy infrastructure) which concludes that in most cases, the government expects that overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid.	CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): The ESO's East Anglia Network Study highlighted that there were a multitude of other grid reinforcement options to achieve the same capacity, with potentially less significant environmental impacts that the Norwick to Tilbury proposals. As such, CCC	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Updated Strategic Options and Backcheck Review documents published at each consultation compare the environmental, technical, socioeconomic and financial implications for alternative routes, including underground alternatives. The work undertaken shows that undergrounding, including using HVDC cables, would be significantly more expensive and have environmental impacts and present engineering challenges. Due to the higher price that would be involved in an underground alternative, we do not believe that this would be the most suitable option as all costs ultimately go onto domestic energy bills. For the Applicant's position on the predominantly overhead line route, please refer to Section 3.4 'Alternatives - Technology Choice - Overhead Line and Underground Cables' in **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030L** The Applicant ~~considers~~ it ~~is unlikely that the two parties will findrecoqnises~~ that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved torecorded~~ as Not Agreed.	considers that credible alternatives such as an offshore centred approach or HVDC undergrounding, delivered at pace, to minimise onshore infrastructure should be explored fully. If this approach can deliver an alternative to Norwich to Tilbury in a timely manner, without risking wider Net Zero, renewable generation, and decarbonisation targets, it would be welcomed as it would be materially less harmful (in many aspects) than the proposed development. As set out in CCC Local Impact Report, this matter will not be agreed,	
Project development process - Design				
3.2.5	East Anglian Connection Node (EACN) substation	The Applicant has previously considered a number of alternative sites for the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation during the initial siting work as set out in **7.18 2022 - Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting**	CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024): CCC supports an option that removes the EACN as it is the EACN that results in an	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Study [APP-356], 7.20 2023 Design Development Report [APP-358] and **7.21 2024 Design Development Report [APP-359].** The decision making about siting considers the potential effects within the context of relevant policy, notably National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1, EN-5 and the Electricity Act 1989. We have kept our preliminary decisions under review and continue to consider the EACN substation as proposed to be the preferred location on the basis that an alternative further west presents greater uncertainty on deliverability and increased construction risk and is not compatible with our duties. For the Applicant's position on the EACN substation, please refer to Section 3.6 'Alternatives - East Anglia Connection Nose Substation Siting and Connection routeing at Ardleigh' in **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030]** The Applicant ~~considers it is unlikely that the two parties will find~~recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved torecorded~~ as Not Agreed.	alignment that is materially harmful to the Dedham Vale National Landscape. CCC notes a number of options that did not contain the EACN in the 2024 ESO East Anglia Network Study. In the event that the EACN remains, CCC strongly recommends the undergrounding of the section between the EACN and the Great Horkesley CSE removing the need to use OHLs over an already undergrounded section and hence removing the need for the Great Horkesley CSE its entirety. CCC position December 2025: Unchanged. Although not mentioned in our relevant representation, we would support the delivery of the project that removed the need for the EACN. As set out in CCC Local Impact Report, this matter will not be agreed.	
3.2.6	Colne Valley	In line with NPS EN-5, the starting design technology for this area is overhead line because the Colne Valley is both outside and not within a setting of a National Landscape. In line with the NPS guidance we have also considered whether widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts in other locations may also justify the use of	CCC Response to Statutory Consultation (24/07/2024): CCC's position is that the area from West Bergholt, past Fordham and Aidham and into Marks Tey and Great Tey must be undergrounded for landscape reasons across the Colne Valley and neighbouring amenity reasons in Aidham, in particular. CCC's	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		undergrounding. We have taken into account the Secretary of State's decision making criteria and do not consider that in this case the level of effects justify the level of cost. ~~Further discussion around mitigation will be discussed~~ in ~~appropriate thematic group meetings and has been presented~~ in ~~the Environmental Statement.~~ Paragraph 13.4.9 and Table A13.1.4 of **6.13.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 - Landscape and Visual Methodology [APP-227]** set out the approach to consideration of landscape value. The Applicant's position regarding the concerns raised regarding the approach to landscape value is set out in response **ID** 7.5.1 in Table 4.20 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports (Final Issue A) [REP2-030],** The Applicant has further set out its position in response to the CCC position in **8.5.12 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions** and **Response to Action Points for Issue Specific Hearing 4** submitted at Deadline 6. The Applicant considers it is unlikely that the two parties will find a mutually agreed position, and therefore suggest this matter is moved to Not Agreed.	position is that the Colne Valley is a landscape of exceptional guality and value. CCC consider that the submission must be accompanied by a Valued Landscape Assessment as the Colne Valley clearly meets the criteria for a Valued Landscape. CCC position December 2025: Still retain this position. The impacts on landscape and view are significant, particularly near Fordham and Aidham. The Council still wishes to see the alignment altered to move the alignment further away from Fordham/Aldham or undergrounded as a preference.	
3.2.7	Dedham Vale National Landscape	The landscape and visual effects of the Project on the National Landscape during construction and operation (and maintenance) have been set out in **6.13.A5 Environmental Statement**	CCC consider that the section of the alignment that passes through the northernmost section of Langham into Dedham is materially harmful to the National	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Appendix 13.5 - National Landscape Assessment Study [APP-235]. The Project has been designed to reduce as far as practicable, the potential adverse effects on the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Underground cabling is being provided through the National Landscape and within its setting in line with NPS EN-5 which makes it clear that the starting presumption of overhead lines for new electricity transmission projects is reversed in National Landscapes. The Applicant has set out the approach to the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape in accordance with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 in ~~5.10National5.10~~ National **Landscapes - Duty to Seek to Further the Purposes Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120].** The approach follows the Defra guidance (Guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes) with the additional measures proposed to be secured by a legal agreement. Engagement with the Dedham Vale National Landscape Partnership and relevant stakeholders is ongoing. For the Applicant's position on furthering the purposes of the National Landscape, please refer to Section 3.11 'Furthering the Purposes of the National Landscape' in **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030].** See also row 3.2.13 below regarding legal agreements.	Landscape. It therefore fails to meet the legal duty to 'further the purpose' of the NL which requires the proposed development to actively provide demonstrable improvement. CCC submits that the scheme cannot meet this legal test. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. However, CCC does not retain the point about NG failure to meet the legal duty to 'further the purpose' of the NL. CCC acknowledges that NGET have made positive steps with the Dedham Vale National Landscape Team to discuss ways to meet the Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. We await to see further information on the establishment of the Dedham Vale National Landscape Fund and the exploration of other steps to mitigate impacts such as through removing the existing UKPN 132 kV overhead line.	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant considers it is unlikely that the two parties will find a mutually agreed position, and therefore suggest this matter is moved to Not Agreed.		
Project development process - Consultation				
3.2.8	2022 non-statutory consultation	Non-statutory consultation took place between 21 April 2022 - 16 June 2022. Details of this consultation are outlined in the Consultation Strategy, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in **5.1 Consultation Report - Appendix B: 2022 non-statutory consultation [APP-068J.** The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed	Agreed
3.2.9	2023 non-statutory consultation	Non-statutory consultation took place between 27 June 2023 - 21 August 2023. Details of this consultation are outlined in the Consultation Strategy, and responses to feedback received during consultation are included in the **5.1 Consultation Report - Appendix C: 2023 non-statutory consultation [APP-069J.** The non-statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published Consultation Strategy.	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed	Agreed
3.2.10	2024 statutory consultation	Statutory Consultation took place from Wednesday 10 April 2024 to 26 July 2024 (the end date was extended from 18 June 2024 due to the general election.) Details of this consultation are outlined in the Statement of	CCC Adeguacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) response: CCC is satisfied that NGET has correctly identified the parties to be consulted as reguired by Section 42 and to the best of our	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Community Consultation (SoCC). Responses to feedback received during statutory consultation are contained within the **5.1 Consultation Report [APP-066].** The statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC.	knowledge, has complied with their duty to consult those parties. 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. It should be noted that the statutory consultation was extended due to the advent of a general election. 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. CCC position December 2025: Now agreed	
3.2.11	2025 targeted consultation	Targeted consultations for Essex took place from 25 February 2025 - 27 March 2025. Details of these consultations are outlined in the Targeted Consultation Strategy and associated targeted consultation leaflets and environmental implications of change documents. Responses to feedback received during targeted consultation are contained within the **5.1 Consultation Report [APP-066].** The targeted consultations were undertaken in accordance with the published Targeted Consultation Strategy. The approach to targeted consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 50 of the	CCC highlighted in its response to the targeted consultation and AoCM a number of areas where the consultation process including the lack of feedback to the statutory consultation undertaken in summer 2024 and which informed the scope of the targeted consultation, was considered harmful to the transparency and legitimacy of the process. It is also felt whilst NG consider that some changes to the scheme that may not be the most significant and are considered to be non-material, CCC considers that to local residents who may reside close to them, their significance may be greater, and they should	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance: Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024). The Applicant considers it is unlikely that the two parties will find a mutually agreed position, and therefore suggest this matter is moved to Not Agreed.	therefore be given an opportunity to comment on them through the targeted consultation carried out earlier this year. The concentration of non-material changes may also have a bearing on their materiality and how they are experienced by local residents. As CCC has not seen these changes to date is it not possible to comment on them. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as we stand by these points and don't think they have been satisfactorily addressed.	
Other matters as required				
3.2.12	Community Benefits	The Applicant is preparing a community funds package in line with the 'Guidance: Community funds for transmission infrastructure' (DESNZ, 2025). In line with this guidance, the community funds will be delivered outside the development consent process, as they are not a material consideration in the decision on the proposed Project nor a matter to be secured as part of the Development Consent Order. ~~Later~~ in ~~spring~~ ~~2026, the~~The Applicant will begin consulting in July 2026 on how the community funds should be used for Norwich to Tilbury, subject to the Project receiving consent and construction starting. Throughout that consultation, we will engage with local communities and elected representatives to understand local priorities and where community funds could deliver long-lasting benefits.	CCC Response to Targeted Consultations (27/03/2025): CCC would strongly encourage NGET to positively engage on the issue of social value and community benefits, particularly having regard to the Governments recently published Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure. CCC consider Norwich to Tilbury will have extensive residual impacts that adversely affect the local economy and environment, as well as the health and wellbeing of communities in the CCC area, and which cannot be sufficiently mitigated or compensated through the planning regime. Also, the national benefits will not offset the harm at a local level.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant considers it is unlikely that the two parties will find a mutually agreed position, and therefore suggest this matter is moved to Not Agreed.	As set out in CCC Local Impact Report, this matter will not be agreed.	
3.2.13	Legal agreements	National Grid will secure measures to support the discharge of the statutory duty under section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (the 'furthering the purposes' duty) through a bilateral obligation with Suffolk CC under section 106 TCPA 1990. An updated unsigned agreement was submitted at Deadline 6 in **8.25 National Landscape - DRAFT - Agreement pursuant to section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Revision B).** Following review, the Applicant is now to secure any offsite BNG required and identified by the Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme, and delivery of any offsite tree planting resulting from the commitment to replace individual trees and individual trees in small groups at a ratio of 3:1, by requirement and not by a unilateral s106 agreement. The Applicant is committed to continue discussions with CCC, which will likely conclude after finalisation of this SoCG. On this basis this matter is retained as Under Discussion.	CCC is committed to continue discussions with the Applicant, which will likely conclude after finalisation of this SoCG. On this basis this matter is retained as Under Discussion.	Under Discussion
3.2.14	Landscape compensation	As explained by Counsel for National Grid at ISH4, National Grid is also proposing a commitment to secure landscape compensation/offsetting measures. This would be submitted on a "blue pencil" basis and without	CCC consider compensation/offsetting measures to be critically important to compensate for the harm that the scheme would cause, and as the Applicant do not	Not Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		prejudice to National Grid's position that it does not consider the compensation measures are required by policy and therefore do not meet the relevant policy and legal tests. Further details are set out in the oral summary of case for ISH4 (Revision A), should the Secretary of State consider the measures necessary there is a mechanism to secure these.	agree with this position this matter is Not Agreed.	

3.3 Ecology and Biodiversity

Table 3.3 Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under Discussion in relation to Ecology and Biodiversity

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.3.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment is presented in **6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context ~~[APP-126](Revision~~ B)** and Section 8.2 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity ~~rAS-0261(Revision~~ C)**. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance have been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: Position is agreed.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.3.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the 6.19 **Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate, CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: CCC position December 2025: "The scope of the survey effort is acceptable across the suite of ecological impact receptors within the Essex LPA areas"	Agreed
3.3.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 8.4 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~[AS-026]j(Revision~~ £1-** Further survey information from the 2025 season was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025, achieving coverage of 97% of the Order Limits.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as we note that there is still some areas undergoing ecological surveys. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to bat survey data which requires further information and is noted in ID3.3.4.	Agreed
3.3.4	Data sources (bats)	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 8.4 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~rAS-0261(Revision~~ CJ.** Further survey information from the 2025 season was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025, achieving coverage of 97% of the Order Limits.	As for the survey data, circa 12.5% of the Order Limits are still undergoing ecological survey. There are also certain protected species surveys where the results are more incomplete (for otter and water vole only 65% reported; see also ES Chapter 8, Table 8.4). This missing information in the dataset is anticipated to be provided in November 2025; CCC position pending.	~~Under discussion~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant has agreed a bat box compensation strategy to resolve this issue, wording for which had been agreed with Colchester City Council and has been added to **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management (Revision G).** The Applicant considers ~~that through the ongoing~~ engagement ~~between the parties, and suggests~~ this matter ~~can be moved to~~ Agreed	CCC comment May 2026: Following a meeting with Place Ecology and applicant this appear to be moving forward. This Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to the agreed wording on bat compensation that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6.	
3.3.5	Assessment Methodology	The assessment methodology was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296] and 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The assessment methodology was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate. CCC position December 2025: Unchanged	Agreed
3.3.6	Survey Methodology	The Applicant issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment. In response to CCC's Statutory Consultation responses: Consultation with Essex and Suffolk Dormouse group has been undertaken; however, the detailed scope has been agreed with Natural England as the licensing authority. The best practice measures for mobile species such as Priority amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog will-beare detailed ~~within the~~ 7r2within7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~(REP4-164~~ KRevision G)** which will includeincludes sensitive vegetation clearance measures.	National Grid issued a Technical Note in May 2024 outlining survey methods and the scope of surveys for species outside the remit of Natural England for agreement / comment CCC Statutory Consultation responses: *We recommend that the Essex & Suffolk Dormouse Group should be involved in consultations on survey methodology.* *CCC support the methodology outlined for Otter.* *CCC welcome confirmation that National Grid has agreed with Natural England to apply to the District Level Licensing scheme for Great Crested Newt (GCN) instead of surveys. CCC acknowledge that GCN are therefore now scoped out from*	Agreed

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			further assessment in the ES. However, it is expected that best practice methodology will be used during the construction phase to mitigate for potential impacts on other mobile species such as Priority amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog. *CCC support the methodology outlined for Water Vole. CCC would like to see clarification of the method used (i.e., habitat parameters) for determining the Water Vole habitat suitability of a watercourse, and more detail as to how the issue of dense vegetation was resolved so that it did not present a significant survey constraint.* CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to survey methodology for bats which requires further information (see ID3.3.7).	
3.3.7	Survey Methodology (Bats)	The bat roost survey scope was agreed with Natural England, as evidenced within **5.9.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Natural England ~~rREP4-081](Revision~~ D),** as the primary statutory advisor and competent authority on roosting bats. The Applicant disagrees with comments that insufficient bat surveys have been undertaken. Ground level tree assessments ~~to~~ identify ~~potentialto~~ identify potential bat roosting features have been undertaken on 97% of the land within the Order Limits, giving	CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • Whilst bat roost climbing inspections for every PRF-M and FAR tree at risk of impact is perhaps not a practical expectation, CCC believes further survey effort prior to DCO consent is feasible. Enough at-height inspection surveys should be possible to facilitate a data-based estimation of the percentage of the PRF-M and FAR trees that will	~~Under discussionAgreed~~

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		a detailed understanding of the natural potential roost resource. **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~[AS-026](Revision~~ C)** includes a reasonable worst-case assessment of impacts on potential roost features. The survey approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale. Full aerial/emergence surveys will be undertaken on trees due to be lost during detailed design. Any roost affected will be covered under a Natural England licence following pre-agreed mitigation measures. The Applicant has provided further details regarding the approach to bat tree roost surveys in response to BIO 1.5 in **8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions [REP3-074],** Natural England advice related to bats is provided in **8.9.1.1 Addendum to ExQ1 BIO 1.6 - Advice Letter on bats and letters of no impediment from Natural England [REP4-307].** This letter states Natural England support for our bat survey approach and confirms that broad principles of bat mitigation have been agreed. The Applicant has agreed a bat box compensation strategy to resolve this issue wording for which had been agreed with Colchester City Council and has been added	support non-minor bat roosting and will be lost to the project. This would lead to a better supported estimation of impact and the design of a more confidently proportionate mitigation/compensation scheme. • CCC comment May 2026: Following a meeting with Place Ecology and applicant this appear to be moving forward. •-This Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to the agreed wording on bat compensation that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6.	

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		to **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management (Revision G).** The Applicant considers this matter Agreed.		
3.3.8	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Ecology and Biodiversity assessment are summarised in Section 8.4 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~[AS-0261(Revision C).~~** The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. The Applicant has committed to a ~~5-yearfive-~~year aftercare period for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting (excluding the Environmental Areas), which is considered sufficient and standard for development consent projects of this scale. This is further strengthened by embedded commitments to high-quality planting specifications, ongoing monitoring, and adaptive management, including replacement of failed planting where necessary, as set out within the **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Revision G).** The Applicant has also committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within **the 7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report ~~[APP-~~2W4Revision B).** The Applicant does not agree that an assumed failure rate or additional compensation provision is necessary or justified, as the secured approach already provides a robust,	CCC position January 2026: The Key Parameters of Assessment and Assumptions stated in section 8.4.28 of the ES are acknowledged. The assumption regarding habitat reinstatement, "*Reinstatement: Habitat removed during construction would be reinstated (with the exception of planting restrictions associated with operational requirements as identified within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4))",* is considered tenuous to apply for all situations along the construction corridor, given the minimal 5-year post completion time limit for habitat reinstatement. A mutually agreed replacement planting failure percentage should be factored into the compensation requirement. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under further review and that CCC will provide further comment following consideration around reinstatement.	Not Agreed

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		flexible and responsive framework to ensure successful establishment. Taken together, these measures provide confidence that habitat reinstatement will be effectively delivered and maintained, and that the proposed approach represents a proportionate, policy-aligned and deliverable solution. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.3.9	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Biodiversity are presented in Section 8.5 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity fAS-0264(Revision C).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. Further survey information from the 2025 season was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025, achieving coverage of 97% of the Order Limits.	CCC position December 2025: Still unchanged as awaiting completion of final ecological surveys. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to baseline conditions and receptors for bats which requires further information (see ID3.3.10).	Agreed
3.3.10	Baseline conditions and receptors (Bats)	The baseline conditions and receptors for Ecology and Biodiversity are presented in Section 8.5 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity [AS-0261(Revision C).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that the baseline conditions and receptors for roosting bats requires further information and review. CCC comment May 2026: Following a meeting with Place Ecology and applicant this appear to be moving forward. This	~~Under discussion~~Agreed

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		The survey approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England (under the Protected Species Licences section) see **5.9.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Natural England ~~[REP4-081](Revision~~ D)** and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale (see ID3.3.7) The Applicant has agreed a bat box compensation strategy to resolve this issue wording for which had been agreed with Colchester City Council and has been added to **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management (Revision G).** The Applicant considers this matter Agreed.	Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to the agreed wording on bat compensation that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6. Agreed as per ID3.3.4.	
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.3.11	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Ecology and Biodiversity effects, are set out in Section 8.6 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity {AS-0261(Revision C).** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: • We do agree that the planned mitigation measures are thorough and apply good practice. However, this should still be under discussion as greater confidence required about the enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation steps taken. Use of language such as 'where practicable' introduces opportunity for subjective interpretation. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.	Agreed
3.3.12	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Ecology and Biodiversity effects during construction are summarised in Section	Comments received from CCC on the 'Summary of Proposed Protected Species Mitigation' document - 6th February 2025.	Agreed

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		8.6 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity {AS-0261(Revision C)** and set out in the-7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G)** and **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-0301(Revision~~ G).** The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. Compliance with the final CoCP and LEMP is secured by Requirement 4 of **the-3.1 Draft ~~Development Consent Order [REP4-~~O374DCQ (Revision G)** and therefore non-compliance with the documents would be a criminal offence.	Comments related to: • badger pre-construction surveys and further precautionary work • potential for objections to reptile mitigation work • consideration of mitigation for any newly created haul road sections • further clarification of the mitigation measures to be employed where hedgehog and brown hare are encountered CCC position December 2025: We do agree that the planned mitigation measures are thorough and apply good practice. However, this line should still be under discussion as greater confidence required about the enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation steps taken. Use of language such as 'where practicable' introduces opportunity for subjective interpretation. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed for all areas apart from in relation to standard mitigation for bats which can be found in ID3.3.13.	
3.3.13	Standard mitigation (Bats)	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Ecology and Biodiversity effects during construction are summarised in Section 8.6 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity {AS-**	CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that the standard mitigation for bats requires further information and review.	~~Under discussion~~Agreed

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		0261(Revision C) and set out in the 7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G) and **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** ~~[REP3-030](Revision~~ G). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. The mitigation approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England see **5.9.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Natural England** ~~rREP4-081](Revision~~ CD),and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale ~~(see~~ ID3.3.7).. The Applicant has agreed a bat box compensation strategy to resolve this issue wording for which had been agreed with Colchester City Council and has been added to **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management (Revision G).** This includes the provision of bat boxes/veteranisation of 10 % of the potential bat roosting features lost. The Applicant considers this matter Agreed.	CCC comment May 2026: Following a meeting with Place Ecology and applicant this appear to be moving forward. This Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to the agreed wording on bat compensation that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6.	
3.3.14	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures is presented in Section 8.6 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity** ~~rAS-0261(Revision~~ CJ. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. Details on hedgerow replacement planting, including species mixes, are already provided	CCC position December 2025: We do agree that the planned mitigation measures are thorough and apply good practice. However, this line should still be under discussion as greater confidence required about the enforcement and monitoring of the mitigation steps taken. Use of language such as 'where practicable' introduces opportunity for subjective interpretation.	Agreed

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		within the-7.4 **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP3-OSOjfRevision G).** The approach to BNG is set out in **the 7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-299](Revision C).** The Applicant is open to engagement on potential offsite BNG sites in the local area that are/will be registered on Natural England BNG register. The LNRS will be taken into consideration as part of the offsite BNG site selection process once detailed design has been undertaken post-consent.	CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed. CCC position January 2026: Where habitats such as hedgerows and trees are removed, they should be reinstated with enhanced hedgerow habitats using locally important native species and local seed stock, in consultation with wildlife groups across Essex. CCC recommends that discussions be held to secure off-site biodiversity compensation within Essex, with a preference for delivery within strategic habitat opportunity areas identified in the Essex LNRS. To ensure long-term ecological benefits, CCC also encourages the establishment of stewardship agreements with local wildlife groups such as Essex Wildlife Trust, ECC, Place Services, and relevant Local Authorities. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.3.15	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 8.7 **of 6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity [AS-026](Revision CJ.** The assessment of effects during	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as there is still missing data for various ecology. |f would be useful transparency to advise on how |on g js jf predicted to take for the	Under discussionAgreed

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		construction presented is considered appropriate. Additional survey results from 2025 (including otter, water vole and bat roost inspections) are presented within the updated **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~[AS-0261(Revision~~ CJ** which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2025. The bat roost survey scope was agreed with Natural England, as the statutory authority for roosting bats, in advance of survey being undertaken. Ground level tree assessments to identify potential bat roosting features have been undertaken on 97% of the land within the Order Limits. **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity fAS-0261(Revision C)** includes a reasonable worst case assessment of impacts on potential bat roost features. The Applicant has committed to a ~~5-yearfive-~~year aftercare period, for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting, which is considered sufficient and standard for DOO projects of this scale. The Applicant has also committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within **7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report ~~[APP-299](Revision~~ B).** Tables 8.23 and 8.24 within **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~[AS-026](ReA~~sion G)** do not restate a specific timeframe for	long-term neutrality to be achieved for the affected receptors. The completion of only GLTAs is a significant constraint to the roosting bats impact assessment. Impacts on protected species need to be assessed with reasonable confidence and the proposed mitigation considered appropriate, prior to determination to support a lawful decision. CCC considers that the impact assessment for roosting bats falls short of achieving reasonable confidence in both the impact magnitude prediction and the appropriateness of mitigation. Where static bat detector surveys within the Order Limits recorded barbastelle bat activity above a defined threshold, robust roost survey methods were employed, including aerial inspections, dusk emergence surveys, backtracking surveys, and radio-tracking. However, this level of tree roost survey was undertaken at only 12 discrete locations, which must cover only a fraction of the overall potential for bat roost tree impacts. This conclusion is based on ES Table 8.23 which describe that, *"the trees that have been identified for complete removal comprise: 113 trees with PRF-M, 257 trees with PRF-I, 801 FAR trees* [any number of which could be classified PRF-M after further survey] *and 16 trees with hibernation features."*	

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		residual effects because the duration of impacts has already been assessed and defined within the magnitude assessment using the agreed categories of short term (up to 1 year), medium term (1-10 years) and long term (greater than 10 years). Duration, along with other magnitude components, is fully considered and described in the earlier stages of the assessment, where it informs the evaluation of unmitigated effects. This approach reflects standard EIA practice, in which the residual effects section presents the final significance outcome, with the underlying factors, such as duration, embedded within the earlier magnitude assessment rather than restated. The survey approach to bat roost surveys has been agreed with Natural England (the statutory responsible body for bats), see **5.9.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Natural England ~~[REP4-081](Revision~~ D),** and is considered a pragmatic approach to a project of this scale (see ID3.3.7) ~~Following a meeting~~ in ~~May 2026 National Grid submitted to the Local Planning Authorities a bat resource compensation proposal for consideration~~The Applicant has agreed a bat box compensation strategy to resolve this issue wording for which had been agreed with Colchester City Council and has been added to **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management (Revision G).** This includes the provision of bat boxes/veteranisation of 10 %	As a consequence of the restricted survey effort, there is no quantitative transparency as to how many non-minor and minor bat roosts could be collectively lost, the highest significances of roosts that could be lost, and the extent to which the different (especially non-barbastelle) bat species within the districts may be affected. The potential impact without any mitigation measures being applied is described in the ES Table 8.23: *"In the absence of mitigation, the direct loss of roost features and disturbance to roosting bats would have a permanent medium negative effect (large negative in the event of a loss of a maternity roost - mortality) that would be irreversible (in the event of mortality) or reversible in the medium-term if bats are not present at the time of removal. Bats are known to frequently change roost locations and may seek alternative, retained roosting resources within the Order Limits. Effects would be considered significant"* However, the residual impact assessment assumes that, whatever the number and significance of the bat roosts that end up being destroyed, doing so under derogation licence(s) (i.e. the expected delivering of two compensation bat boxes per roost lost, as stated in ES Table 8.23) will inevitably result in a cumulative negligible impact on all affected bat species/populations. This is	

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		of the potential bat roosting features lost in ~~any one Project Section.~~. The Applicant considers this matter Agreed.	not considered to be a reasonably supported assessment. What is being proposed is a guasi District Level Licence-type approach for roosting bats (i.e. getting DCO without first completing surveys), when CCC is not aware of any such DLL method for bats having been trialled and approved. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around timeframes. CCC comment May 2026: Following a meeting with Place Ecology and applicant this appear to be moving forward. This Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to the agreed wording on bat compensation that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6.	
3.3.16	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 8.7 of **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~rAS-0261(Revision~~ £).** The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is considered appropriate. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is considered agreed.	Agreed
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.3.17	Outline CoCP	The 7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~FREP4-164l(Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant construction related mitigation	The content of the CoCP is still under discussion,	~~Under discussionAgreed~~

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		measures specified in **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~[AS-026](Revision~~ C)** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. The Ecological Clerk of works (ECoW) would be suitably qualified based on industry good practice. Protected species specialists would be used where reguired as identified within the **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-0301(Revision~~ G).** The Project role and responsibilities of the various clerk of works, environmental managers, work supervisors and technical specialists are set out within Table 3.1 of **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~rREP3-030](Revision~~ G).** The various Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) would be suitably qualified based on industry good practice. These roles would be delivered by multiple individuals across the Project, depending on the specific reguirement/task. As stated within the management plans, the ECoW will be supported by a range of species specialists as reguired, this will include a bat licenced surveyor. Further detail on the multiple specific individuals undertaking these roles would be available post-consent as part of the final Landscape and Ecological Management Plan/s. The remit of the Ecology Working Group will include review of individuals within the core	CCC position January 2026: Given the critical importance of the ECoW oversight and influence throughout the construction stage of the project, CCC would welcome a commitment as to the minimum qualifications/experience levels of the ECoWs to be used for specific tasks. CCC would also advise a clarification of ECoW decision capability and hierarchy, assuming that there will be multiple ECoWs (of varying levels) employed on the project. Potential Roost Features (PRFs) should be identified by a Natural England bat survey class licensed (level 2+ if endoscoping required) ecologist or ECoW. This is advised to clarify who should be accepted as a "competent" person for PRF classification. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around Ecological Clerk of Works. This Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to wording that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6 to confirm that the Ecology Working group can review the ECoW structure and key individuals[1] qualifications.	

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		ECoW team (once known post-consent), as a mechanism to demonstrate individuals have sufficient ECoW experience to adequately fulfil the role.		
3.3.18	Outline LEMP (bats)	**7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Revision G)** includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in **6.8 Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity ~~rAS-026](Revision~~ C)** and is appropriate. Meeting held on 9 October 2024 to agree on the structure for the **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-030}(Revision~~ G).** A further meeting was held on 29 January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders. Comments received from CCC were taken on board and addressed in the next iteration of the draft **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-0301(Revision~~ G).** Natural England (the statutory responsible body for bats) has approved the method to classify potential roost features which are in line with standard guidelines. A risk-based approach has been taken when assessing trees for their hibernation potential for bats. While some features assessed as PRF-I or PRF-M may allow individual bats to hibernate for very short periods of time, only tree features where the PRF is highly likely to	With respect to paragraph 6.1.8, clarity regarding the criteria used for defining a tree's bat hibernation potential is sought? Given that there appear to be fewer trees with hibernation potential than the totals for PRF-I and PRF-M, how does the hibernation criteria exclude certain PRF-I and PRF-M features? CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around bat hibernation. CCC position January 2026: CCC requests clarity on the governance and long-term monitoring arrangements for BNG delivery. ECC recommends that the Outline LEMP include a robust monitoring framework with adaptive management provisions and opportunities for stakeholder engagement to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of BNG measures. While HMMP and LEMP are standalone documents CCC recommend that BNG delivery be cross referenced within the Outline LEMP and supported by a clear monitoring framework, including adaptive	Agreed

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		provide constant cool, stable and humid conditions, and therefore a higher likelihood of being used for longer periods of time, have been highlighted as having hibernation potential. For a project of such a large scale, to assume hibernation for all trees with any PRF is not reasonable and not realistic to apply appropriate and effective mitigation while ensuring project feasibility. The approach to mitigation involves all trees with PRFs that will be unavoidably impacted will undergo an updated Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) survey and aerial / emergence surveys, during which time the potential of each feature can be re-assessed for its suitability for hibernation using the same assessment as outlined above. ~~A standalone Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)~~ is ~~not proposed. The habitat management and monitoring measures for the Environmental Areas will be~~ included ~~within the final LEMP,~~ in line ~~with the requirements of the **7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-299].** This will~~ include ~~a robust management and monitoring framework with adaptive measures for the Environmental Areas.~~ The Applicant has ~~committed to~~agreed a 5-~~year aftercare period for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting, which~~ is ~~considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of this scale (Yorksl re Green and Bramford to Twinstead).~~	management provisions and community engagement. This Matter was agreed during a call held on 11 June, subject to the agreed wording on bat compensation that was added to the Outline LEMP at Deadline 6.	

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		bat box compensation strategy including the provision of bat boxes/veteranisation of 10 % of the potential bat roosting features lostThe ~~Applicant~~ is ~~committed to~~ ensuring ~~a good planting regime~~ (i.e. ~~stock quality, planting technique and site preparation)~~ The wording for which ~~can be more determinative than the~~ length ~~of aftercare alone.had~~ been agreed with Colchester City Council and was added to **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological and Management ~~Plan [REP3-030]~~** ~~has highlighted some good practice principles, and these will be~~ expanded ~~upon with full details provided within the final Landscape and Ecological Management Plan to be discharged~~ in ~~accordance with Reguirement~~ 4 ~~of~~ ~~**3.1 Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-004].**~~ ~~**7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP3-030]**~~ ~~also further commits to the aftercare being adaptive, allowing adaptations to be made~~ in light ~~of monitoring results. After this five-year aftercare period, the planting would be managed by the relevant~~ landowner, ~~as currently takes place~~ in ~~respect of the~~ existing ~~planting on private~~ land. ~~Planting sizes and species will be selected based on those which would naturalise more~~ easily ~~than~~ larger ~~trees stock, for~~ example ~~smaller whips and transplants.~~ **(Revision G)** at Deadline 6. ~~The Applicant has also committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas~~ in line ~~with the commitments made within 7.1~~		

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		~~Biodiversity Net Gain Report [APP-299]The~~ Applicant considers this matter Agreed.		
3.3.18a	Outline LEMP (Habitat Management and monitoring)	A standalone Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) is not proposed. The habitat management and monitoring measures for the Environmental Areas will be included within the final LEMP, in line with the reguirements of **7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Revision B).** This will include a robust management and monitoring framework with adaptive measures for the Environmental Areas. The Applicant has committed to a five-year aftercare period for all replacement tree and hedgerow planting, which is considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of this scale (Yorkshire Green and Bramford to Twinstead). TheThe Applicant is committed to ensuring a good planting regime (i.e. stock guality, planting technigue and site preparation) which can be more determinative than the length of aftercare alone. **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological and Management Plan (Revision G)** has highlighted some good practice principles, and these will be expanded upon with full details provided within the final Landscape and Ecological Management Plan to be discharged in accordance with Reguirement 4 of **3.1 Draft DCO (Revision G),** **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-030]~~ (Revision G)** also further commits to the aftercare being	CCC requests clarity on the governance and long-term monitoring arrangements for BNG delivery. ECC recommends that the Outline LEMP include a robust monitoring framework with adaptive management provisions and opportunities for stakeholder engagement to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of BNG measures. While HMMP and LEMP are standalone documents CCC recommend that BNG delivery be cross referenced within the Outline LEMP and supported by a clear monitoring framework, including adaptive management provisions and community engagement. CCC recommends extending the monitoring period for landscape (GI) delivery to 10 years, in line with best practice demonstrated by other NSIPs (e.g. Five Estuaries and North Falls Offshore Wind Farms), The proposed 10-year monitoring period could be structured into two phases: an initial 5-year period of high-frequency establishment monitoring, followed by a subsequent 5-year period of lower-frequency development monitoring.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		adaptive, allowing adaptations to be made in light of monitoring results. After this five-year aftercare period, the planting would be managed by the relevant landowner, as currently takes place in respect of the existing planting on private land. Planting sizes and species will be selected based on those which would naturalise more easily than larger trees stock, for example smaller whips and transplants. The Applicant has also committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within 7.1 **Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Revision B).** The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
Other matters as required				
3.3.19	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Onsite and Assessment	The Applicant will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. **7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report ~~[APP-299]~~(Revision B)** sets out the approach to BNG. On site (within the Order Limits) measures will be secured through **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) ~~[REP3-030]~~Revision G)** and Requirement 4 of **3.1 Draft ~~Development Consent Order [REP4-037]~~DCO (Revision G)**. The final LEMP, which would be approved by the Local	Comments received from CCC on the 'Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Strategy' document - 6 February 2025. CCC Statutory Consultation response: The Council consider the NGET should be going significantly further than the national baseline of 10% BNG and should commit to provide 20% uplift for the whole project. *The Council require significantly more detail as to how this uplift is to be provided either within the order limits or outside of the order limits. In the inevitable position that*	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Planning Authority prior to commencement will include habitat monitoring and management plans for each of the Environmental Areas. Following review, the Applicant is now to secure any offsite BNG required and identified by the Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme, and delivery of any offsite tree planting resulting from the commitment to replace individual trees and individual trees in small groups at a ratio of 3:1, by requirement and not by a unilateral s1Q6 agreement. Off-site BNG will be ~~secured by~~ legal ~~agreement and~~ managed by third-party providers in accordance with the habitat management and monitoring plan prepared for the off-site location. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was published in July 2025, just before the Project DCO submission. Notwithstanding, the draft version of the LNRS was available prior to submission and were therefore considered by the Project. The Applicant will consider the Essex- LNRS as part of the off-site BNG selection process, where sites are available, and appropriate to the Project. This off-site selection process would take into consideration the potential for wider habitat connectivity and enhancement across the three counties, as well as specific areas of importance to biodiversity. Full details of the ~~off-siteoff-site~~ solution would be provided to the Local Planning Authorities post-consent.	*offsite units are to be used, the Council would want to see the off-site gains made in locations within the CCC administrative boundary as close to the order limits as possible to ensure that where biodiversity is lost it is compensated for directly.* ~~CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion, but are no~~ longer ~~stating that NG should commit to 20% BNG uplift.~~ Support the achievement of 10% BNG but still waiting to see how this will be clearly achieved and want to see this happen using the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure measures delivered to enhance/conserve biodiversity are done in the most beneficial locations. CCC would like this matter to remain under discussion. This matter cannot be considered fully accepted and agreed until the issue presented in ID3.3.8 is resolved. CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed as 20% BNG not to be provided.	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		BNG is being offered for this Project on a voluntary basis as the provisions in Schedule 15 of the Environment Act 2021 to make BNG a legal obligation for NSIPs is not yet in force. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.3.20	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Offsite	The Applicant will deliver at least 10 % BNG with wider environmental and societal benefits on its construction projects. 7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report ~~[APP-299]~~(Revision B) sets out the approach to BNG. Offsite BNG will be secured by a legal agreement and delivered through collaboration with partners and purchased from commercially registered providers. Biodiversity is not bound by Local Authority area and therefore off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will be considered across the length of the Project. However as detailed within the 7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report ~~{APP-299]~~(Revision B), the aim is to deliver a biodiversity legacy ideally in each of the three counties crossed by the Project (Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex). Off-site BNG sites will be selected based on a range of factors including proximity to the Project, geographical location, local nature recovery strategies, habitat type, habitat condition, cost and timings amongst others Following review, the Applicant is now to secure any offsite BNG	CCC position January 2026: CCC would recommend that offsite BNG proposals be co-developed with local stakeholders and LNRS delivery partners to ensure strategic alignment and long-term ecological value. Further detail is requested on how LNRS mapping and priority habitats have informed the site selection and design of BNG interventions. Transparent accounting is required to distinguish between mitigation, enhancement, and compensation to avoid double-counting BNG. CCC confirmed in meeting regarding the Statement of Common Ground in January 2026 that this matter is still under discussion, and that further clarification is sought around Offsite BNG. CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed as 20% BNG not to be provided.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		required and identified by the Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme, by requirement and not by a unilateral s106 agreement. Full details of the offsite solution would be provided to the Local Planning Authorities post-consent. The Applicant has committed to 30 year monitoring and management at the Environmental Areas. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was published in July 2025, just before the Project DCO submission. Notwithstanding, the draft version of the LNRS was available prior to submission and were therefore considered by the Project. The Applicant will consider the Essex, LNRS as part of the off-site BNG selection process, where sites are available, and appropriate to the Project. This off-site selection process would take into consideration the potential for wider habitat connectivity and enhancement across the three counties, as well as specific areas of importance to biodiversity. Full details of the ~~off siteoff-site~~ solution would be provided to the Local Planning Authorities post-consent. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.3.21	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	The level of detail within 6.13.A6 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.6 - Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report ~~[APP-236]~~(Revision B) is based on the	CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025:	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		methodology outlined in Appendix J of **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-296]** and is considered appropriate for this stage of the Project. The Applicant will be seeking to retain the veteran trees through their detailed design. The Applicant has reviewed local policy requirements of the relevant Local Planning Authorities to determine replacement planting commitments. There was no consensus across the various Local Plans for a replanting ratio. Following a review of replacement planting commitments for previous consented Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), National Grid's own projects, local and national planning policy and guidance from the Woodland Trust, the Applicant has made a 3:1 commitment. Whilst there is no specific replanting ratio identified within National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 (2024) or NPS EN-5 (2024), the commitment is in line with the wider environmental gains advocated for in paragraph 4.6.13 and the requirements set out in paragraph 5.11.27 of NPS EN-1 (2024). The tree planting strategy would prioritise replanting within the Order Limits, although off-site provision may be required. Reporting of potential impacts corresponds to the Project sections. Information covering Colchester can be found on sheets 166-182 of Annex D within Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment of the 6.13.A6 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.6 -	CCC position December 2025: Many concerns with the AIA including the inability to clearly identify the trees lost in Colchester and concern that some tree loss may have been missed through desktop surveys as detailed in our relevant representation. CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • From the assessment, it is difficult to fully understand the level of tree loss as within Section C of the AIA (covering Babergh, Colchester and Tendring) tree loss cannot be disaggregated to those trees located in Colchester. However, it is estimated that at least 47 individual trees will be removed alongside substantial portions of 20 groups (~ 32 800 m^2 of canopy, potentially exceeding 40,000 m2 with Section C estimated losses). To help understand, and mitigate, the tree loss the Council requests that the applicant should produce a Colchester Specific Canopy Cover Assessment and Recovery Plan clearly quantifying baseline canopy area within Colchester, level of canopy loss and disturbance and projected canopy recovery over 5, 10 and 15 years. • CCC ~~050520265~~ May 2026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report ~~rAPP-2361(Revision~~ B) Following review, the Applicant is now to secure delivery of any offsite tree planting resulting from the commitment to replace individual trees and individual trees in small groups at a ratio of 3:1, by reguirement and not by a unilateral s1Q6 agreement. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.3.22	Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) - Veteran Tree Removal	The veteran tree (Ref No T566) is reported as removed due to its proximity to existing infrastructure and working area. The Applicant provided details in relation to the reasons for the tree removal and ongoing work which is taking place to seek to reduce the loss of veteran trees in response to ExQ1 **LV 1.31 in 8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions rREP3-073].** Impacts to veteran trees are currently reported as a reasonable worst-case scenario and will be reviewed during the detailed design to determine if impacts can be further avoided and/or reduced. Section 8.2.3 of **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-0301(Revision~~ G)** confirms that following detailed design and prior to construction, relevant surveys would be undertaken to reduce removal of trees/hedgerows as far as practicable and is recorded as mitigation	CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • The Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy submitted details that one veteran tree is to be removed. However, the reasoning behind the need for removal is unclear which is of significant concern considering its removal would constitute the loss of irreplaceable habitat Full justification for its removal needs to be provided.	Not Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		measure GG14 within the-7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~**[REP4-164]**~~**(Revision G).** Mitigation measures may, for example include tree pruning. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.3.23	Outline LEMP - Vegetation Retainment	Detailed design will look to retain vegetation where practicable. In the event that veteran tree removal is unavoidable, the compensation, management and duration will need to be developed and be implementable with land owner agreement and will be detailed further in **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Appendix B - Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy** ~~**[REP3-032]** contained~~ **withmfRevision D)** of the final LEMP. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • The Applicant does propose compensation through the Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy, including creation of replacement veteran features, retention of felled timber for in-situ habitat, and targeted veteranisation of younger oaks. While these measures align with good practice, the Council considers the impact major adverse and requires a Veteran Tree Compensation and Management Plan securing local delivery and a minimum 30-year management term.	Not agreed
3.3.24	Outline LEMP - Mitigation hierarchy	The mitigation hierarchy will be followed, with replacement tree planting for individual and small groups of trees being undertaken onsite as a priority and offsite only as a last resort. **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** ~~**[REP3-030]**~~**(Revision G)**) outlines the Project's commitment to onsite	CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • The Council notes the 3:1 replacement planting ratio proposed by the applicant. The Council wishes to emphasise that tree planting should occur on-site as	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		replacement planting under Section 9.3.1. The replacement planting native species mix is also outlined within this section of the same document. An Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy details the compensation and mitigation strategies for veteran trees and ancient woodland affected - see ~~Appendix B of~~ 7.4 **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** ~~rREP3-030]Appendix~~ **B - Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Strategy (Revision D).** The Applicant has committed to a ~~5-yearfive-~~year aftercare period which is considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of this scale. The ~~5 yearfive-year~~ period only relates to areas that are to be returned to landowners. The Applicant has committed to a 30-year aftercare period at Environmental Areas in line with the commitments made within **7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report** ~~{APP-299]~~ **(Revision B).** The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	priority, and where this is not possible then off-site compensatory planting undertaken. The replacement planting should reinstate boundary oak and hedgerow patterns using native, climate-resilient species, prioritise canopy continuity and ecological connectivity, include a 10-year aftercare programme and 30-year monitoring for veteran compensation planting, and be tied to DCO Requirements mandating outcome-based canopy recovery.	
3.3.25	Outline LEMP - Onsite Tree Monitoring	Onsite tree monitoring will take place in line with **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** ~~[REP3-030]~~**(Revision G)**, Section 9.4, which also outlines the commitment to reinstatement of hedgerow field	CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • The Council requests that a Tree Monitoring Plan is included within the Construction Environment Management	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		boundaries. The restoration of hedgerows would restore rural field-boundary character. The Applicant has committed to a ~~5-yearfive-~~year aftercare period which is considered sufficient and standard for DCO projects of this scale. **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ~~[REP3-~~0301(Revision G)** also further commits to the aftercare being adaptive, allowing adaptations to be made in light of monitoring results The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	Plan (CEMP) by the applicant and that it confirms that the Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will detail that reinstatement planting will restore rural field-boundary character.	
3.3.26	Green Infrastructure	The Applicant will consider the Essex, LNRS as part of the off-site BNG selection process, where sites are available, and appropriate to the Project. This off-site selection process would take into consideration the potential for wider habitat connectivity and enhancement across the three counties, as well as specific areas of importance to biodiversity. Full details of the off-siteoff-site solution would be provided to the Local Planning Authorities post-consent.	CCC position January 2026: In respect of Green Infrastructure matters: The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) mapping should be incorporated into the desktop study to inform the identification of existing habitats and to guide the selection of appropriate locations for mitigation and compensation measures. It provides a spatial framework for identifying opportunities to enhance biodiversity and deliver nature recovery across Essex. Including LNRS mapping ensures alignment with national policy objectives and supports coordinated, cross-boundary environmental planning that reflects local priorities and ecological networks.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			~~CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed as 20% BNG not to be provided.~~	

3.4 Air Quality

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.4.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Air Quality assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context** ~~[APP-126]~~**(Revision B)** and Section 7.2 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~[APP-447~~**4(Revision B).** All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.4.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.4.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 7.4 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~[APP-147](Revision~~ **B)**.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Air Quality was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.4.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Air Quality are summarised in Section 7.4 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~rAPP-147](Revision~~ **B).** The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.4.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Air Quality are presented in Section 7.5 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~[APP-147l(Revision~~ **B).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.4.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Air Quality effects, are set out in Section 7.6 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~[APP-147](Revision~~ **B).** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.		
3.4.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 7.6 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~**[APP-147](Revision**~~ **B)** and set out in the **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~**[REP4-164](Revision**~~ **G).** The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 7.6 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality** ~~**[APP-147l(Revision**~~ **B).** Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.4.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 7.7 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality [APP-147],** The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed
3.4.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	TheAn assessment of effects ~~during operation~~ ~~(~~operational and maintenance) ~~is presented~~ in ~~Section 7.7 of **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7—Air Quality [APP-147].** The assessment of~~ effects ~~during operation (and maintenance) presented~~ is ~~considered~~	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable	Agreed

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		~~appropriate~~ effects was screened out in the **6.19 EIA Scoping Report [APP-296]** and was agreed within the **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297].**		
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.4.12	Outline CoCP	The **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in **6.7 Environmental Statement Chapter 7 - Air Quality ~~rAPP-147](Revision~~ B)** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project.	E-mail from CCC dated 31 October 2024 stated that *'CCC's EP team have said that from the noise, dust and contaminated land aspects the outline CoCP appears satisfactory.'* CCC position December 2025: Unchanged	Agreed
~~**Other matters as required**~~				

3.5 Noise and Vibration

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.5.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Noise and Vibration assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context ~~[APP-126](Revision~~ B)** and Section 14.2 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~[APP-256](Revision~~ B).**	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.		
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.5.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through **the-6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 14.4 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration {ARR-256}(Revision B).**	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
3.5.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through **the-6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Noise and Vibration was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.5.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Noise and Vibration are summarised in Section 14.4 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration {ARR-2564(Revision B).** The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.5.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Noise and Vibration are presented in Section 14.5 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 -**	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Noise and Vibration ~~[APP-256](Revision~~ B). The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate.		
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.5.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Noise and Vibration effects, are set out in Section 14.6 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~rAPP-256](Revision~~ B).** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
3.5.8	Standard mitigation	The Applicant has considered a reduction to the proposed working hours, including the loss of the flexibility to work after 13:00 on a Saturday and the loss working hours on a Sunday and Bank Holidays (see Question DCO 1.S10 in **8.9.1 Applicant's Response to First Written Questions [REP3-074]).** A reduction in working hours would result in a delay to the construction programme and given the forecast of constraint costs outlined in Annex 2 of the National Energy System Operator's Clean Power 2030 Report, any restriction of working hours that results in a delay to the energisation date would lead to additional costs being borne by British energy bill payers, at a rate of approximately £7 million per day. Certain elements of the construction programme require the flexibility to be undertaken across a seven-day working week, including Sundays and	CCC position December 2025: Remain under discussion as CCC are still of the view that the construction hours schedule is inappropriate. We believe the hours should be: Monday-Friday: 08:00-18:00 Saturday: 08:00-13:00 No construction on Sundays, Bank Holidays and other public holidays. NGET will not agree to CCC suggested hours to suggest this matter is moved to 'not agreed'	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Bank Holidays, where necessary. For instance, earthworks (often delayed due to wet weather) benefit from a flexible schedule to maintain programme certainty and take advantage of favourable weather conditions. Overhead line works may necessitate activity throughout the week to uphold project continuity, minimise outage durations, and coordinate effectively with access and possession constraints related to highway and railway infrastructure. Additionally, highway mitigation works may require seven-day flexibility to reduce weekday disruption to the business community and to enhance safety when working in areas adjacent to live roads. This approach ensures that such activities can be efficiently managed while remaining sensitive to the needs of the community and the operational requirements of the Project. Importantly, the core working hours permit, but do not require, working on Sundays and Bank Holidays. The flexibility to operate across seven days, including Sundays and Bank Holidays, is essential to maintain programme certainty and continuity for certain construction activities as described above and minimise disruption to local communities and businesses. Limiting the working week would inevitably prolong the overall construction period, leading to extended exposure to construction impacts. The Applicant would also like to note that reducing working hours on a Saturday to 8:00-13:00 would not be practical as it would significantly limit the available time to carry out		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		construction activities. The process of mobilising the workforce, setting up equipment and preparing the site for work can take a considerable amount of time at the start of each shift, likewise with demobilisation which requires adequate time to safely secure equipment and materials to ensure the site is left in a safe condition. A substantial portion of the morning would be taken up by these activities, leaving insufficient time for productive construction works. For these reasons, the Applicant considers that maintaining a seven-day schedule is both appropriate and necessary for the delivery of the Project. The removal of Sundays and/or Bank Holidays and public holidays from the core working hours would not represent a neutral change; rather, it would reduce flexibility and introduce unnecessary risk on the timely delivery of the Project. The Applicant ~~considers~~ it is ~~unlikely that the two parties will find~~recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved to~~recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.5.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 14.6 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~[APP-2561(Revision~~ B).** Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.5.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 14.7 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration [APP-256].** The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
3.5.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 14.7 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~fAPP-256](Revision~~ B).** The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Agreed that this is acceptable.	Agreed
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.5.12	Outline CoCP	The-7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~[APP-256](Revision~~ B)** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. For further information relating to the working hours proposed by the Project please see response to ID3.5.8. Regarding start up and close down activities specifically, **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~rAPP-256](Revision~~ B)** assessed the impact to sensitive receptors from noise and vibration during the construction phase, and based the	E-mail from CCC dated 31 October 2024 stated that *'CCC's EP team have said that from the noise, dust and contaminated land aspects the outline CoCP appears satisfactory.'* May 2025 CCC fed back that proposed working hours start too early and end too late especially considering set up and pack away are not restricted by these hours. These should be changed to 8:00 to 18:00hrs with no working at all on any Sundays or BH. This is to allow neighbours some respite during the potentially four-year construction phase. CCC position December 2025: Remain under discussion as CCC are still of the view that the construction hours schedule is	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		assessment on the core working hours proposed, which would include start up and close down activities taking place up to one hour either side of the core hours, and activities which can take place outside the core working hours. The assessment concluded that with the embedded mitigation and controls set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-~~ 4644(Revision G),** significant effects from during the construction phase are not anticipated. The start-up and close down activities are defined in Schedule 3, Part 1 (Interpretation). These activities do not typically involve the operation of heavy machinery, require HGV deliveries, or generate significant noise, dust, or vibration, and therefore are not nuisance generating activities. All activities taking place on-site remain subject to the application of best practicable means and appropriate mitigation to manage noise and other environmental effects as set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164l(Revision~~ G).** The Applicant notes in particular commitments GG17, GG26, GG09, and GG01. In respect of noise impacts, works during any period would be subject to assessment against the applicable construction noise threshold for potential significant effects for that period, as per the 'ABC method described in Annex E.3.2 of BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 - Part 1: Noise28, and as detailed in Section 14.4 of **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~[APP-2561(Revision~~ B).** The Main Works	inappropriate. We believe the hours should be: Monday-Friday: 08:00-18:00 Saturday: 08:00-13:00 No construction on Sundays, Bank Holidays and other public holidays.	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Contractor(s) will identify and implement specific mitigation measures for all construction works, including start-up and close-down activities, in consideration of these thresholds to avoid significant adverse effects and reduce adverse effects as per commitment NV05 within Table 6.1 of **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ G).** The Applicant therefore considers the provision for start-up and close-down activities 1 hour either side of the core working hours to be proportionate, justified, and consistent with established practice for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, noting that all such activities remain subject to the application of best practicable means and appropriate mitigation to manage noise and other environmental effects as set out within **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164l(Revision~~ G).** The measures are secured via Requirement 4(a) (Construction Management Plans) of **3.1 Draft ~~Development Consent Order [REP4-0371DCQ~~ (Revision G).** The Applicant ~~considers~~ it is ~~unlikely that the two parties will find~~recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore ~~suggest thisthe~~ matter is ~~moved torecorded~~ as Not Agreed.		
~~Other matters as required~~				

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3.6 Health and Wellbeing

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.6.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Health and Wellbeing assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context** ~~[APP-126](Revision~~ **B)** and Section 10.2 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing** ~~[APP-192](Revision~~ **C)**. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment. The assessment undertaken in **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing** ~~[APP-1921(Revision~~ **C)** reported the available IMD data at the time it was prepared to understand baseline health and socio-economic characteristics of populations potentially affected by the Project. A review of the updated IMD data published in October 2025 (after the DCO application was submitted) shows that, as a whole, deprivation levels have reduced for the CCC area, with fewer neighbourhoods now ranking among the most deprived in England. It is ~~not considered~~ **8.16 Health and Wellbeing and Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism**	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Suggest NGET review the project impacts against updated Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data published in October 2025 and that more granular LSOA information is used to identify localised deprivation. Also, there is no information given on cumulative health effects as required under NPS Policy EN-1. CCC May 2026 position: CCC is seeking advice on Health and Wellbeing matters. Following the technical note provided by the Applicant **rREP4-317],** this matter is now agreed (17 June 2026).	Not agfoedAgreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Technical Note [REP4-317] was prepared in response to the ExA's Rule 17 letter **[PD-019]** and contains a comparison of IMP 2019 and IMP 2025 data, including provision of data at a more localised level. The review confirmed that the updated dataset woutddid not result in material changes to the conclusions of the Health and Wellbeing assessment in **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192].~~ (Revision C).** An updated 6.10 E ' ental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing (Revision B) was submitted at Deadline 6, which includes IMP 2025 data. A cumulative assessment is provided in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~rAPP-281](Revision~~ B).** The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with NPS EN-1, guidance and good practice and is appropriate for a project of this scale and nature. Paragraphs 17.5.46 to 17.5.48 contain the findings in relation to health and wellbeing of inter-project cumulative effects. For example, it is identified that, in a number of instances, adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing may be particularly relevant as a result of the scale of other development (for example significant residential or infrastructure development) and associated perceived effects on neighbourhood quality / sense of place / uncertainty during the construction phases.		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.6.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach in October 2024.	The study area was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach -Technical Note issued in October 2024. No comments received from CCC on the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach - Technical Note to date. It is therefore assumed that the study area is agreed. CCC position December 2025: Unchanged.	Agreed
3.6.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 10.4 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192](Revision~~ C).** See response to ID3.6.1 in relation to the IMD dataset and conclusions for the Health and Wellbeing assessment.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Suggest NGET review the project impacts against updated Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data published in October 2025 and that more granular LSOA information is used to identify localised deprivation. CCC May 2026 position: CCC is seeking advice on Health and Wellbeing matters. Following the technical note provided by the Applicant **FREP4-3171** this matter is now agreed.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed
3.6.4	Assessment methodology	A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192](Revision~~ C)**. The Methodology was agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach - Technical Note issued in October 2024.	A meeting was held on 24 September 2024 to agree the assessment methodology of the Health and Wellbeing ES chapter. The Methodology was also agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Refreshed Approach - Technical Note issued in October 2024. CCC Statutory Consultation response -	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		In response to CCC's Statutory Consultation feedback NG can confirm that the baseline identifies where local health indicators are better or worse than England averages. This has been used to inform the identification of vulnerable populations and how they may experience impacts arising from the Project. The ES describes and explains these impacts and differences in how receptors experience them. The ES has taken local policy documents into account. A cumulative assessment is provided in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects** ~~[APP-281l(Revision~~ B).~~]~~ The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with NPS EN-1, guidance and good practice and is appropriate for a project of this scale and nature. Paragraphs 17.5.46 to 17.5.48 contain the findings in relation to health and wellbeing of inter-project cumulative effects. For example, it is identified that, in a number of instances, adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing may be particularly relevant as a result of the scale of other development (for example significant residential or infrastructure development) and associated perceived effects on neighbourhood quality / sense of place / uncertainty during the construction phases. **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing** ~~[APP-192l(Revision~~ C]~~]~~ contains an assessment of impacts on vulnerable groups. Vulnerable groups	are ~~Are-particular~~ groups or vulnerable groups more likely to be impacted than others and is this clearly described and explained? What indicators within the current health baseline that are worse than England average/ local ward or LSOA levels? The health policy context of the PEIR needs to broaden out to consider not only the Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, but also the localised Health and Wellbeing Strategies/Plans (in Chelmsford, Brentwood, Basildon, and Colchester Three Year Plan - A City fit for the future). To also consider both Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plans for Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System and Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion - Cumulative health impacts, impacts on vulnerable groups and indirect health impacts from reduced access to open space and active travel do not appear to have been assessed. ~~No further progression on this matter so suggest~~ it is ~~moved to 'not agreed'CCC~~ confirmed this matter can be considered agreed during a call in June 2026.	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		considered in the assessment are identified in Table 10.5 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing [APP-4£21(Revision C).** For each health determinant, impacts have been identified in relation to the general and vulnerable populations. Health impacts associated with access to open space and active travel have been assessed in the section of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing [APP-4£24(Revision C)** relating to physical activity (paragraphs 10.7.81 to 10.7.107). The section considers impacts associated with access to areas of Open Access land, recreational facilities / land and areas of open space such as the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The section also considers impacts on health and wellbeing associated with changes to active travel (walking and cycling) routes. A review of local health and wellbeing strategies was completed as part of the Health and Wellbeing assessment. A specific review of Colchester City Council's Three Year Plan - A City fitFit for the futweFuture was undertaken following the ExA's First Written Questions (HW 1.13). ~~The outcomes from this reviewAn~~ updated 6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing (Revision B) was submitted at Deadline 6 following the ExA's Rule 17 letter rPD-019]. The updated chapter includes IMP 2025 data and includes more		

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		specific reference to strategy documents including the Colchester Three Year Plan - A City fit for the future) and the Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plans for Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System. These changes do not materially affect the conclusions of the Health and Wellbeing assessment presented in **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~(APP-192](Revision C)~~**.		
3.6.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with Health and Wellbeing are summarised in Section 10.4 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192l(Revision~~ C).** The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. In relation to the points raised in ECC's relevant representation dated 27 November 2025: • The assessment undertaken in **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing (Revision C)** reported the available IMP data at the time (i.e. 2019) in order to understand baseline health and socio-economic characteristics of populations potentially affected by the Project. We have also reviewed deprivation data for the health deprivation and disability domain at LSOA level, as set out in paragraph 10.5.18 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing (Revision C).** A review of the	CCC ~~position December 2025: Still under review— awaiting advice from~~ £GGconfirmed during a call in June 2026 that they would align with the final ECC position on this matter therefore, this is agreed.	Net apreedAgreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		updated IMP data published in October 2025 (after the PCO application was submitted) shows that, for Greater Essex, more people are living in deprived areas in 2025 than was the case in 2019 (although for some areas such as Colchester, deprivation levels do not appear to have changed significantly over the same time period). It is not considered that the updated dataset would result in material changes to the conclusions of the Health and Wellbeing assessment; impacts on vulnerable populations (which includes people both within and outside of deprived areas) have already been taken into account in the assessment. • The Applicant submitted **8.16 Health and Wellbeing and Socio-Economics Recreation and Tourism Technical Note FREP4-317]** which reviewed the findings of IMP 2025 against 2019 IMP and used LSOA level data to understand whether there has been any changes in localised deprivation overtime, **8.16 Health and Wellbeing and Socio-Economics Recreation and Tourism Technical Note fREP4-317]** presented the summary assessment of the implications of the new data for **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing (Revision C)** and **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism rREP6-070].**		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		• **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing (REP6-0531** and **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism (Revision C)** have been updated with new IMP 2025 baseline information (which includes LSOA-level data) and was submitted at Deadline 6 in response to requirements of the ExA's Rule 17 letter **[PD-0191,**		
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.6.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Health and Wellbeing are presented in Section 10.5 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing [APP-432MRevision C).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. See response to ID3.6.1.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Suggest NGET review the project impacts against updated Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data published in October 2025 and that more granular LSOA information is used to identify localised deprivation. CCC May 2026 position: CCC is seeking advice on Health and Wellbeing matters.CCC advised this position is now agreed on 17 June 2026.	Net agrees Agreed
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.6.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Health and Wellbeing effects, are set out in Section 10.6 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ES [APP-192l(Revision C).** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate	CCC position December 2025: Still under review— awaiting advice from ECCconfirmed during a call in June 2026 that they would align with the final ECC position on this matter therefore, this is agreed.	Under discussionAgreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. ECC has advised that this matter can be moved to agreed, subject to confirmation that the Communications Strategy requirement in the final CoCP will explicitly require: (a) advance notification of disruptive activities to affected communities; (b) a formal complaints handling process with defined response times and escalation routes; and (c) accessible communication options for residents experiencing digital exclusion (paper copies, community notice boards). The Applicant is committed to ensuring that all activities related to the Project are conducted with full transparency and respect for the health and concerns of local communities. Commitments GG36 and GG37 have been added to **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision G).** Commitment GG36 secures the preparation of a detailed Communication Strategy, including the approach to community liaison, as part of the final Code of Construction Practice. The detailed Community Strategy will cover activities such as those identified by ECC including advance notification of disruptive activities to affected communities; and the approach to accessible communication options for residents. Commitment GG37 relates to development of a robust and accessible complaints procedure. Further detail on the complaints procedure was submitted at		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Deadline 6 in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice Appendix E - Community Engagement and Public Information (Revision D).**		
3.6.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 10.6 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing** ~~**[APP-192](Revision**~~ **C)** and set out in the **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~**[REP4-164](Revision G).**~~ The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. ECC position has requested a summary section for health and wellbeing within **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision G).** The Applicant has shared a summary document which summarises those commitments within **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice (Revision G)** which are of relevance to health; creating a new section within the OCoCP would be duplicative. This document is intended to provide reassurance that the totality of health-protective measures is adequate. The Applicant considers that through ongoing engagement between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.	CCC ~~position December 2025: Still under rev ew— awaiting advice from~~ £GGconfirmed during a call in June 2026 that they would align with the final ECC position on this matter therefore, this is agreed.	~~Under discussion~~Agreed
3.6.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 10.6 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 -**	~~CCC position December 2025: Still under review — awaiting advice from ECC.~~	Net a€H²eedAgreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192](Revision~~ C). Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. No significant health and wellbeing impacts have been identified and as such there is no requirement for monitoring measures. However, the Applicant recognises that uncertainty while the Project is developed may cause anxiety. The Applicant has sought to reduce potential effects on communities and residents through routeing and design. The Applicant has also sought to reduce concern or uncertainty about the proposals through making timely design decisions and engaging with communities and stakeholders throughout the development of the Project. The Project team will continue to engage with people potentially affected during progress of the Project. This would enable concerns to be raised and discussed at an early opportunity and provide a regular point of contact to respond to queries and concerns. There is typically no clear, direct causal pathway linking large infrastructure construction to diagnosable mental health conditions in the general population. Distinguishing project-related impacts from those caused by unrelated social, economic, or personal factors is methodologically very difficult. For example in relation to mental wellbeing, any monitoring is likely to capture background mental health trends rather than, or in addition to, project-	CCC provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • The ES concludes that no additional mitigation or monitoring is required beyond embedded measures. The Council considers this inadequate given the scale and duration of construction and the socioeconomic characteristics of affected communities. A Health and Wellbeing Monitoring Framework should be established, including baseline data on active travel, green space access, amenity satisfaction, and mental wellbeing. Indicators and reporting intervals should be clearly defined and co-developed with local communities. e CCC advised this position is now agreed on 17 June 2026.	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		specific effects, making attribution and actionable conclusions unreliable. A formal, standalone health and wellbeing monitoring plan or framework which includes thresholds for potential mitigation carries notable methodological, ethical and practical limitations, and risks being disproportionate to likely impacts anticipated for the Project. It may, however, be appropriate to identify specific actions in addition to the above that could help with understanding community mental health over the pre-construction, construction and operation periods. This could include reviewing the number and type of complaints or concerns raised during construction works through the complaints procedure identified. Complaints / concerns could be categorised by theme, type of action and speed of escalation. This would help understand where further communication may be required with local communities.		
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.6.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 10.7 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192](Revision~~ C).** The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate. See response to ID3.6.4. Public Rights of Way	CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under review - awaiting advice from ECC. However, there is concern that the cumulative impacts and impacts on vulnerable groups have not been determined.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		7.6 Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [REP4-178] ~~'Outline PRoW Management Plan'REP5-163]~~ identifies various routes in the vicinity of Fordham that may be affected by the Project, including duration of impact and management measures (which relate to temporary closures and diversions for a number of the Fordham routes). The Outline PRoW Management Plan would be developed into a final document by National Grid's appointed Main Works Contractor(s) to discharge Requirement 4 of **3.1 Draft ~~Development Consent Order rREP4-037DCQ~~ (Revision G)** ahead of the commencement of any construction activities; a regular dialogue would be maintained with PRoW Officers throughout the construction period of the Project. No areas of open access land (as defined under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act) are directly impacted by the Project in the Fordham area. The Fordham Hall Estate, which is leased to the Woodland Trust, is not statutorily defined as open access land; impacts on this area of woodland are described in **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-2651(Revision~~ C)** relate to temporary land-take during the construction phase. Given the rolling nature of the linear works, the construction activities in any particular area are likely to be short-term. The residual	• CCC advised this position is now agreed on 17 June 2026.	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		construction effect is described as temporary, short-term, minor adverse and not significant. Language vulnerable communities and mental health workshops The Applicant is aware that there are language-vulnerable communities within proximity of the Project route and set out appropriate methods to engage with people for whom English is a second language in **5.1 Consultation Report - Appendix E: Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [APP-071].** We understand from statutory and non-statutory consultation already undertaken that the principal concerns of local residents from a mental health and wellbeing perspective centre around stress and anxiety associated with impacts on quality of life / wellbeing during the construction and operational phases as well as perceptions of the impacts of EMF on health and wellbeing. It is not considered that additional workshops would provide further insight.		
3.6.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 10.7 of **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192](Revision C).~~** The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate. See response to ID3.6.4.	CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under review - awaiting advice from ECC. However, there is concern that the cumulative impacts and impacts on vulnerable groups have not been determined.	~~Under discussion~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
			• CCC advised this position is now agreed on 17 June 2026.	
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.6.12	Outline CoCP	**The-7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant mitigation measures specified in **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~fAPP-192l(Revision~~ C)** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. A meeting was held in October 2024 to agree on the structure for the-7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[APP-300](Revision~~ G).** A further meeting was held in January 2025 to address comments from stakeholders. A further iteration of the-7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rAPP-300](Revision~~ GJ** was issued in May 2025 following meetings and feedback in writing. See ID3.6.9 regarding the request for a Health and Wellbeing Monitoring Framework.	CCC advised this position ~~December 2025: CCC~~ is ~~still reviewing the CoCP and awaiting advice from ECCis~~ now agreed on 17 June 2026.	~~Under discussionAqreed~~
~~**Other matters as required**~~				

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3.7 Historic Environment

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.7.1	Policy and legislation (Archaeology)	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Historic Environment assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context** ~~[APP-126]~~**(Revision** **B)** and Section 11.2 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment** ~~[AS-0681(Revision~~ **D).** Historic Environment walkover surveys have been undertaken across 97% of the Order Limits. Geophysical survey has been undertaken across 96% of priority areas and 30% of phase 2 areas, at the point of submission in January 2026 of the **Supplementary Environmental Information [AS-068 to AS-083].** This represents a combined total of 74% of the overall geophysical survey area and the area of intrusive impact for the Project. It is intended ~~to submit the~~The results to results of the phase 2 geophysics fieldwork that has been completed up to the 17 April 2026 intewere submitted at Deadline 6 (7.7.26) of the Examination. This would then represent a combined total of 92% (approximately 2050ha) of the overall geophysical survey area and the area of intrusive impact for the Project.	CCC position December 2025: Under discussion - Still under review with Place. There is concern about the application currently not complying with paragraph 5.9.11 of EN-1 as fieldwork surveys have not been fully completed.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Archaeological trial trenching had been completed for 89% of priority areas (approximately 3000 trenches) at the point of submission of **Supplementary Environmental Information [AS-068 to AS-083].** The remaining 11% of the priority archaeological trial trenching is in progress and fieldwork was largely completed in April 2026. Final reports of this element of the archaeological trial trenching are expected in August 2026 and therefore are not expected to be available during examination. The fieldwork undertaken to date comprises a more comprehensive approach to evaluation than many other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects have completed and has been considered sufficient to determine consent by the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State. ~~The Applicant considers that through ongoing~~ engagement ~~between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.~~		
3.7.2	Policy and legislation (Built Heritage)	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Historic Environment assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context ~~[APP-126J(Revision~~ B)** and Section 11.2 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~rAS-0681(Revision~~ D).** All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	~~CCC~~ ~~[~~EPS (Built Heritagef) on behalf of CCC conclude that based on a further review of the identification and assessment of the value of NDHA buildings in Document: **6.11.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 11.1 Historic Environment Baseline Report [APP-209]** we are able to agree this matter.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant notes the LPAs request for further clarity in relation to non-designated heritage assets. All non-designated heritage assets were assessed to determine their value in accordance with **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 - APP-296], 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** and the methodology set out in **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11- Historic Environment ~~rAS-068](Revision~~ D).** Those assets assessed to have a low or negligible value and located outside the Order Limits did not have a settings assessment undertaken. As they would not experience physical impacts there is no potential for significant effects as a result of change to setting for assets of these values. While some harm would still be possible, given their value and nature of potential impacts this would be at the very lowest end of the harm scale. In NPS (EN-1) instructions regarding the Applicant's assessment paragraph 5.9.9 'The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA, and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES' and in several places refers to detail being proportionate to the importance/significance of the heritage asset. The Project therefore considers that it has appropriately complied with relevant policy in the NPS (EN-1) regarding assessment of impacts to non-designated heritage assets.		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.7.3	Study area	The study area was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate. The study area was also agreed through subsequent thematic group meetings where further comments were addressed.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate. The study area was also agreed through subsequent thematic group meetings where further comments were addressed.	Agreed
3.7.4	Data sources (archaeology) - survey data	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 11.4 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~[AS-0681(Revision~~ D).** See ID 3.7.1 regarding archaeological fieldwork. ~~The Applicant considers that through ongoing~~ engagement ~~between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.~~	CCC need an updated status on accuracy of AP rectification. Information recently provided by CCC includes Palaeolithic potential to be included in Palaeolithic/geoarchaeology background. ~~See 3.7.4 re: Non designated heritage assets (NDHAs) (CCC Built Heritage, May~~ 2025) CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as not all of the required archaeological fieldwork/surveys have been fully completed. There is concern that the appropriate level of evaluation is not going to be completed within the determination period. EPS (Archaeology) on behalf of CCC confirmed this matter is agreed during a call on 22 June 2026.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed
3.7.5	Data sources (archaeology) - Desktop	Sufficient desktop data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 11.4 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~rAS-0681(Revision~~ D).**	£GCEPS (on behalf of CCC) has reviewed the relevant documentation and confirms that sufficient desktop data has been collected (agreement confirmed during meeting January 2026).	Agreed

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3.7.6	Data sources (Built Heritage)	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 11.4 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment** ~~[AS-0681(Revision~~ D)~~.~~ Non-designated historic buildings were identified in addition to those included in the HER and Local Lists. This was primarily through historic mapping. The methodology for desk-based research and walkover included identification of any previously unknown heritage assets, including historic buildings. **6.11.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 11.1 - Historic Environment Baseline Report** ~~fAPP-2091(Revision~~ C) is organised geographically and by period and includes baseline information on non-designated historic buildings. All assessed heritage assets were referred to in text either by their NHLE number in the case of designated assets, or a Project ID number for non-designated assets. The baseline report and assessment tables are not structured by asset type as some heritage assets can contain both above ground built elements and archaeological remains.	CCC (Built Heritage) confirm their agreement on this matter following a meeting in January 2026.	Agreed
3.7.7	Assessment methodology (Archaeology)	The methodology for assessing Historic Environment was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	With regard to the non designated heritage assets a programme of geophysics and trial trenching is underway within the undergrounding sections of the route, however it would be expected that a programme of archaeological investigation will also have occurred in advance of the submission of the application in areas	Agreed

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			disturbed by the overhead proposals, including the access route, so that the impact on heritage assets is understood in these areas also. (May 2025) CCC is in agreement with this matter.	
3.7.8	Assessment methodology (Built Heritage)	The methodology for assessing Historic Environment was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate. The scoping opinion stated: *'The Applicant should make effort to discuss and agree relevant non-designated heritage assets for assessment and the detailed assessment methodology with relevant local planning authorities.' The* assessment methodology has been discussed at a number of Historic Environment Thematic Group Meetings held between July 2022 and November 2024. Comments raised by CCC as part of the Statutory Consultation will bewas considered during the update of the Baseline Report for DCO submission. Historic Environment Viewpoints feedback will bewas taken into account for the assessment. The Applicants position regarding non-designated heritage assets is as outlined in ID3.7.2 (Policy and Legislation) and ID 3.7.6 (Data Sources) above. The assessment methodology is the same for designated and non-designated heritage assets.	It appears that the only NDHAs included in Annex A are those that appear on the relevant Historic Environment Record. This is concerning as not all built NDHAs will be included on the HER. Unfortunately, no text has been provided which addresses various comments and questions previously raised regarding whether there was a methodology for identifying NDHAs as part of site walkovers, whether this has been undertaken, or whether any have been identified. As such, there are still concerns that not all NDHAs have been included (CCC, May 2025). A 'spot check' of the Draft Heritage Baseline Report was carried out by CCC which raised questions and concerns regarding the robustness of the methodology. These comments were submitted to NG in a letter dated 6th March 2025 (CCC - Built Heritage, May 2025). ~~CCCEPS~~ (Built Heritage) on behalf of CCC confirm their agreement on this matter following a meeting in January 2026. CCC is of the view that above ground NDHAs are of a greater sensitivity than the Applicant has assessed, and they should	Net aoreedAgreed

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		~~The Applicant considers that through ongoing~~ engagement ~~between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.~~	be afforded similar impact assessment to a Grade II listed building (for example). This position may change pending further discussion. EPS (Built Heritage) on behalf of CCC confirmed this matter is agreed following a call on 23 June 2026.	
3.7.9	Key parameters and assumptions (Archaeology)	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Historic Environment assessment are summarised in Section 11.4 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~rAS-068](Revision~~ D).** The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. The fieldwork undertaken to date (see response to 3.7.1) comprises a more comprehensive approach to evaluation than many other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects have completed and has been considered sufficient to determine consent by the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State. The Applicant has provided a response to this matter at Deadline 3 is response to HE 1.43 in **8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions [REP3-074].** The assessment presented in **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11- Historic Environment ~~|APP-2081(Revision~~ DI** and **6.11.A2 Environmental Statement Appendix 11.2 - Historic Environment Assessment Tables ~~[APP-210](Revision~~ D)** has taken a precautionary approach and	CCC position January 2026: Until the completion of intrusive field evaluation there is not agreement with the statement under 11.4.33 that *"The information obtained to date from desk-based assessment and field investigations provides sufficient detail to characterise the likely nature and extent of any currently unrecorded remains."* EPS (Archaeology) on behalf of CCC confirmed this matter is agreed during a call on 22 June 2026.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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		assessed non-designated heritage assets where there is potential for archaeology, even if this had not been confirmed by field evaluation. This situation is common for all types of development There are measures in place through Requirement 5 of **3.1 Draft** ~~Development Consent Order~~ **~~[ARP-056]~~ ~~[REP3-0041DCQ~~ (Revision G)** and **7.5 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation ~~[APP-3281(Revision~~ C)** to secure agreement of any further evaluation and/or mitigation prior to the start of works, which provides protection for currently unknown archaeology. The archaeological evaluation work (geophysics and trial trenching) has continued since the submission of the application for development consent, continuing the Applicant's commitment to the historic environment potentially affected by the Project. The results of the fieldwork up to the end of December 2025 were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2026 as **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~[AS-0681(Revision~~ D)** to **6.11.F6 Environmental Statement Figure 11.6 - Phase 2 Geophysical Survey Preliminary Results [AS-083],** of which the historic environment stakeholders are aware. See ID 3.7.1 regarding archaeological fieldwork.		

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		The Applicant considers that through ongoing engagement between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.		
3.7.10	Key parameters and assumptions (Built Heritage)	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Historic Environment assessment are summarised in Section 11.4 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~rAS-068~|(Revision~~ D)**. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	~~CCCEPS~~ (Built Heritage) on behalf of CCC is in agreement with the matter following review of the ES.	Agreed
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.7.11	Baseline conditions and receptors (Built Heritage)	The baseline conditions and receptors for Historic Environment are presented in Section 11.5 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment {AS-0684(Revision D).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. February 2025, the Applicant issued a draft Historic Baseline Report including Annex C and Annex D for agreement/comment and held a meeting on the topic. Further detail relevant to this section are outlined in ID3.7.4 (Data Sources).	A 'spot check' of the Draft Heritage Baseline Report was carried out by CCC which raised questions and concerns regarding the robustness of the methodology. These comments were submitted to NG in a letter dated 6th March 2025 (CCC - Built Heritage, May 2025) ~~CCCEPS~~ (Built Heritage) on behalf of CCC is in agreement with this matter.	Agreed
3.7.12	Baseline conditions and receptors (Archaeology)	The baseline conditions and receptors for Historic Environment are presented in Section 11.5 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment {AS-0684(Revision D).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. February 2025, the Applicant issued a draft	£GGEPS (on behalf of CCC) agreed this matter during call in January 2026.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Historic Baseline Report including Annex C and Annex D for agreement/comment and held a meeting on the topic.		
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.7.13	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Historic Environment effects, are set out in Section 11.6 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment** ~~[AS-068](Revision D).~~ Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. Embedded mitigation measures applied to those assets where a mid level of less than substantial harm has been concluded in **6.11,A7 Environmental Statement Append.x 11.7 - Assessment of Harm to Designated Hentage Assets** ~~fAPR-246](Revision B)~~ includes sensitive routeing and siting. Specific alterations that have been made to remove or reduce effects on heritage assets through restriction of the Limits of Deviation are secured through commitment GG34 of **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [{Revision B]G1.** **5.15 Design Development Report [APP-122]** provides an explanation of the main changes in the route alignment, infrastructure siting and technology incorporated into the Project following review and consideration of the feedback received to the 2024 statutory consultation and to the targeted statutory and	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full completion of all archaeological survey information which is needed to inform a robust mitigation strategy. Also, some of the standard and embedded mitigation measures identified for built heritage should be strengthened (as detailed in our relevant rep), ccc jtion Jan 2026: The jm t on unknown archaeo |ogica| remains can on|y **be better understood thro h further** intrusive archaeo |ogica| eva |uatio n. This is **most re|evant jn areas of undergrounding ~~where there wj|| be an im t on~~** archaeo |ogica| remains . ~~EPS (on behalf of CCC) advised that thj~~[S] matter can be considered agreed during a ~~call held on 22 June 2026.~~	~~Under discussionAqreed~~

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		non-statutory consultations held in 2025. It addresses the main changes requested and those changes raised by a larger number of respondents, but which may not have led to a change of Project design. May 2026, following stakeholder feedback, the Applicant has re-issued an updated version of **7.5 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation** ~~[APP-3281(Revision~~ C) with the intention that any further comments can be addressed and included for submission at Deadline 5. The evaluation of the 400kV underground cable is complete and reporting for the final areas completed in 2026 is underway. No significant areas of archaeology have been identified that were not already included in baseline and assessment. The Applicant considers that through ongoing engagement between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.		
3.7.14	Standard mitigation (Built Heritage H06)	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 11.6 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment** ~~FAS 0681(Revision~~ D) and set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G). The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	~~Also, some~~Some of the standard and embedded mitigation measures identified for built heritage should be strengthened (as detailed in our relevant rep). This matter is agreed with regards to commitment H06.	~~Under discussion~~Agreed

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		Regarding commitment H06 the term 'appropriate' in this context refers to the reinstatement of landscape features (such as hedgerows, fences, walls, and earthworks) in a manner that is sensitive to the local character, setting, and historic significance of the area. The general approach and reinstatement plans can be found in Section 9 of **7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** ~~[REP3-030](Revision~~ G). Specifically, this means: Replacement features will be of a similar type, scale, and material to those lost, wherever possible, reflecting the character and function of the original feature Design and siting will be informed by local landscape character assessments, historic environment records, and where relevant, consultation with Local Planning Authorities and heritage specialists Species selection for replanting (e.g., hedgerows) will seek to match historic or locally appropriate species mixes, and construction/restoration of walls or banks will use traditional techniques and materials where feasible If retention of a feature is not possible, the replacement or reinstatement will be designed to ensure that the heritage, ecological, and landscape value is maintained, or where possible, enhanced.		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant considers that through ongoing engagement between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.		
3.7.15	Standard mitigation (Built Heritage H07)	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 11.6 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~FAS 0681(Revision~~ D)** and set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Process ~~[REP4-1~~64]~~(Revision~~ G).** The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. Regarding H07 **6.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 - Noise and Vibration ~~[APP-2561(Revision~~ B)** did not identify any heritage assets in Colchester, Braintree, Brentwood, Basildon or Thurrock that would be impacted by the Project. The vibration assessment identified one historic structure, the grade II listed Little Bromley War Memorial (1493299), in Tendring that has potential to be impacted. As this is not a residence the current approach in H07 and the associated NV04 in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G)** is considered to be appropriate. Further details regarding construction vibration effects on listed buildings have been provided in response to ExQ1 HE 1.11 of **8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions [REP3-074] and 8.17 Response to**	Whilst we understand that the anticipated effects of construction vibration on designated heritage assets are limited to the Grade II listed Little Bromley War Memorial (1493299) in Tendring District (which is not a dwelling) we would still recommend expansion of H07, to create a hotline or method of contact for building owners who are concerned about the effects of construction vibration on their buildings as works are undertaken to allay fears and allow the monitoring of effects. This matter was agreed during a call on 23 June 2026, regarding a contact mechanism for vibration effecting built heritage.	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Rule 17 Letter - Historic Environment [REP4-318]. As outlined in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice Appendix E - Community Engagement and Public Information** ~~[APP-3051(Revision~~ **D)** a community relations team will be appointed to engage with local residents and building owners and provide dedicated community relations and external communications support. The community relations team will work closely with the Main Works Contractors to ensure all information is up to date and communicated in a timely manner to interested parties, local communities and affected landowners. In addition, **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~[REP4-164l(Revision~~ **G).** commitment GG30 includes: "A *contact number will be provided which members of the public can use to raise any concerns or complaints about the Project. All construction related complaints will be logged by the Main Works Contractor(s) in a complaints register, together with a record of the responses given and actions taken."* The Applicant considers that through ongoing engagement between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.		
3.7.16	Standard mitigation (Archaeology)	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential effects during construction are summarised in Section 11.6 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 -**	CCC Statutory Consultation response: The standard mitigation proposed related to the historic environment are inadequate, and it would be expected that a detailed program	Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Historic Environment ~~rAS-0681(Revision~~ D) and set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G).** The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	of archaeological investigation has occurred in advance of the submission of the application so that the impact on heritage assets is understood. Although the preliminary assessment has identified many impacts along the proposed routes further evaluation in the form of geophysics, aerial photographic rectification and trial trenching is likely to identify many more heritage assets. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full completion of all archaeological survey information which is needed to inform a robust mitigation strategy. £CGEPS (Archaeology) on behalf of CCC agreed this matter during call held January 2026.	
3.7.17	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 11.6 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~[AS-0681(Revision~~ D).** Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. May 2026, following stakeholder feedback, the Applicant has re-issued an updated version of **7.5 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation ~~[APP-328]~~** ~~with the~~ intention ~~that any further comments can be addressed and~~	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full completion of all archaeological survey information which is needed to inform a robust mitigation strategy. Need clarity that no additional mitigation is being proposed by the applicant as this is currently not clear (see para 11.6.10 of doc 6.11, Chapter 11 Historic Environment of ES). £CGEPS (on behalf of CCC) noted during call in January 2026 that this matter is not relevant for Built Heritage.	Not aereedAgreed

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		included ~~for submissionfRevision~~ **C)** which was submitted at Deadline 5.	EPS (on behalf of CCC) confirmed this can be agreed on 14.7.2026 based on agreement of the AMS oWSI).	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.7.18	Construction effects (Built Heritage)	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 11.7 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~rAS-068](Revision~~ D)**. The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	~~CCCEPS~~ (Built Heritage) on behalf of CCC are in agreement with this matter.	Agreed
3.7.19	Construction effects (archaeology)	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 11.7 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment ~~[AS-0681(Revision~~ D).** The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate.	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as not all of the required archaeological fieldwork/surveys have been fully completed. Therefore, the full impacts of the scheme cannot be determined. Following review of the ES, ~~CCCEPS~~ (Archaeology) on behalf of CCC confirmed agreement on this matter during call in January 2026.	Agreed
3.7.20	Operational (and maintenance) effects (Built Heritage)	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 11.7 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment {AS-0684(Revision D).** The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	This matter is agreed.	Agreed
3.7.21	Operational (and maintenance) effects (archaeology)	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 11.7 of **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment {AS-**	CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as not all of the required archaeological fieldwork/surveys have been fully completed. Therefore, the full	Agreed

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		0684(Revision D). The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate.	impacts of the scheme cannot be determined. Following review of the ES, ~~ECCEPS~~ on behalf of CCC confirmed agreement on this matter during call in January 2026.	
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.7.22	Outline CoCP	The-7.2 **Outline Code of Construction Practice** ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ **G)** includes all relevant construction mitigation measures specified in **6.11 Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment {AS-0634(Revision D)** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. ~~The Applicant notes that theCommitments~~ H04 and H06 in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP2-014]** issued ~~at Deadline 2 proposes additional wording for HOd. Measures to retain and reinstate historic~~ landscape ~~features are a commitment~~ in ~~H06 and this will befRevision~~ **G)** have been updated to include additional wording. ~~The Applicant considers that through ongoing~~ engagement ~~between the parties, this matter can be moved to Agreed.~~	Comments have been submitted to National Grid and this is still under discussion. The structure of the CoCP is agreed but the contents are not. Comments were provided to NG in a letter dated 24th February 2025 (CCC - Built Heritage, May 2025). CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. This section is currently under review ~~(ECCEPS~~ Archaeology) on behalf of CCC. Further comments will be included within the LIR which require action. For ~~CCCEPS~~ (Built Heritage) on behalf of CCC See 3.6.14 Standard mitigation (Built Heritage) for current position.	Agreed (built heritage)
Other matters as required				
3.7.23	Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSIs) for pre-consent	The scope and methodology of the overarching WSI for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	The scope and methodology of the overarching WSI for pre-consent geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate	Agreed

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	geophysical surveys and archaeological trial trenching.		and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	
3.7.24	Site specific Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) for pre-consent priority archaeological trial trenching.	The scope and methodology of WSIs for archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required. There are still addenda to site specific WSIs forthcoming that have yet to be issued.	The scope and methodology of WSIs for archaeological trial trenching is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required.	Agreed
3.7.25	Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI.	The contents of the Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline WSI (AMS-OWSI) is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation required. May 2026, following stakeholder feedback, the Applicant has re-issued an updated version of **7.5 Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation [APP-328]** ~~with the~~ intention ~~that any further comments can be addressed and~~ included ~~for submissionREP5-161]~~ which was submitted at Deadline 5.	CCC position November 2025: Still under discussion as the document still needs to clarify the scope and extent of further evaluation required prior to any agreed mitigation. This will include further geophysical survey, archaeological trial trenching and geoarchaeological investigation. This will allow all parties to be clear about the scope and level of evaluation that may be required should consent be given. Would also suggest that 3.7.13 and 3.7.14 may also be under discussion but awaiting clarification from CCC. The Outline AMS-WSI is currently not agreed, further comments will be provided in the Local Impact report (EGGEPS Archaeology on behalf of CCC). EPS (on behalf of CCC) confirmed this can be agreed on 14.7.2026 based on agreement of the AMS oWSI).	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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3.7.26	Programme for completion of archaeological fieldwork	A phased approach to archaeological evaluation is being undertaken. The Project has defined 'priority areas' on the basis of the likely scale of impact on archaeological remains, flexibility in design and construction programme. A proportion of the evaluation of 'priority areas' was complete at submission with the rest completed and submitted pre-examination. Evaluation of 'non priority areas' is proposed to be undertaken following completion of 'priority areas'. The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation reguired.	The programme for archaeological fieldwork is considered appropriate and proportionate to the level of evaluation reguired.	Agreed

3.8 Landscape and Visual

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.8.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context** ~~**[APP-126]**~~**(Revision B)** and Section 13.2 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual (Revision B).** Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) Para 4.3.4 is considered in **5.7**	Reference is also needed to the DEFRA guidance note (2024) in relation to the enhanced duty for National Landscapes under LURA (2023). Likely material. https://www.gov.Uk/government/publications/the-protected-landscapes-duty/guidance-for-relevant-authorities-on-seeking-to-further-the-purposes-of-protected-landscapes	Not agreed

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		Policy Compliance Document [APP-22S-086], page 35. All relevant legislation, policy and guidance have been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment. The Applicant's position on compensation is set out in Section 3.10 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports TREP2-0301.** The Applicant's approach to the duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Landscape is set out in **5.10 National Landscapes - Duty to Seek to Further the Purpose Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) [APP-120]** which includes reference to and consideration of the Defra guidance note. Section 3.11 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports (Final Issue A) [REP2-030]** also sets out the Applicant's approach to the duty. The Applicant considers the measures that have been identified meet the requirements of section 85(1) of the CRoWAct, and are appropriate, reasonable and proportionate in accordance with NPS EN-1 (2024) and the Defra guidance- Matters related to baseline and assessment are considered under IDs 3.8.6, 3.8.10 and 3.8.11. Matters related to mitigation are considered under IDs 3.8.7, 3.8.8 and 3.8.9. ~~The Applicant awaits further correspondence following review of the most recent application document to~~ ensure ~~that the correct~~ legislation,	Add reference to Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) Para 4.3.4 in relation to compensation for significant negative impacts 'To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy' CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Concern has been raised about reference to the non-existence of locally valued landscapes in Colchester despite no local authorities doing this anymore as not required by national policy. CCC position January 2026: Additionally, the baseline evaluation and judgements appear to be made solely at a district and not a site/setting level, they do not necessarily address the value of the key characteristics of the landscapes in the study area that are directly affected, particularly river valleys. Elements remaining for discussion include National Landscapes and furthering the purpose of landscape mitigation/compensation Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	

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		~~policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately assessed, and will continue to~~ engage ~~with CCC on this matter.The~~ Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.8.2	Study area	The Landscape and Visual study area is set out in Section 13.4 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~[APP-2261(Revision~~ B).**	The study area for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops.	Agreed
3.8.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data (excluding viewpoints) has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 13.4 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~rAPP-2261.(Revision~~ B).** The Applicant has responded on viewpoints under ID 3.8.4a. Matters related to the methodology and landscape value are considered under ID 3.8.4. The Applicant suggests that there appears to be no reason for the matter of data sources not to be agreed between both parties. The Applicant therefore suggests that this matter is Agreed.	CCC remain unsatisfied with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed generally (Email November 2024). Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, CCC remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value assessment (Email 22.04.2025). CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as given the publishing of the ES it is clear that the scheme will be able to be seen from vast distances. Consider that additional viewpoints are required between 0.5km-1.5km in many locations to check that impacts are not significant, particularly with effects on the PROW network. Additional viewpoints from the CSECs in Great Horkesley needed beyond 3km particularly in the areas that could affect the national	Not agreed

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			landscape, to demonstrate the effects are not significant. Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	
3.8.4	Assessment methodology (including LVIA methodology)	The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through **6.19 Scoping Report IAPP-296]** and **6.19 Scoping Opinion IAPP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops The assessment methodology is set out in **6.13.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 - Landscape and Visual Methodology ~~[APP-2271(Revision~~ B).** Paragraph 13.4.9 and Table A13.1.4 of **6.13.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 - Landscape and Visual Methodology ~~[APP-227]~~(Revision B)** set out the approach to consideration of landscape value. The Applicant's position regarding the approach to landscape value is set out in response ID 7.5.1 in Table 4.20 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports)-[REP2-030].** The Applicant has clarified the approach to identifying the value of views in Table 4.20, ID 13.105 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030].** The Applicant has responded on viewpoints under ID 3.8.4a.	The outline methodology for assessing Landscape and Visual was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate and through subsequent thematic workshops A meeting was held on the 25 September 2024 to seek to agree the detailed methodology. A further meeting was held on 28th November 2024 to follow up any additional changes to the assessment. At Statutory Consultation, CCC requested the inclusion of a Valued Landscape Assessment. CCC E-mail response to proposed LVIA viewpoints dated 11 October 2024. CCC Email response to proposed viewpoints in Essex North dated 24 October 2024. CCC remain unsatisfied generally with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed. Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, CCC remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025) CCC also have reservations regarding the methodology for assessing the value of views	Not agreed

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		In relation to CCC position and reference to routeing and Holford Rules, this matter is considered under ID 3.8.7. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	as this appears skewed towards promotional data. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion for reasons outlined in ID 3.8.3 of this document. CCC position January 2026: Additionally, still have concerns about the valued landscape assessment and how some areas of high landscape value may have been ignored as not designated as 'valued landscapes'. Additionally, concern about how the Holford Rules have been addressed as the route was chosen before landscape value criteria were included in the assessment. *'Where possible choose routes which minimise the effect on Special Landscape Areas, areas of Great Landscape Value and other similar designations of County, District or Local value.'* Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged. CCC ~~0505202605.05.2026~~ comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed. CCC consider that significantly more VPs should have been provided as set out in the LIR.	
3.8.4a	Viewpoints	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is supported by visualisations and an assessment of effects at 206 viewpoints, as set out in **6.13.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.3 - Visual Baseline and Assessment [APP-229 to**	CCC ~~0505202605.05.2026~~ comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	Not agreed

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		APP-232]. Visualisations are provided in **7.12 Visualisations [APP-343 to APP-351].** The approach to selecting viewpoints is set out in paragraphs 13.2.39 to 13.2.41 **of6.13.A3 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.3 - Visual Baseline and Assessment - Part 1 of 4 IAPP-229].** The viewpoints were shared and discussed with relevant Local Planning Authorities. The LVIA viewpoints are a representative selection of publicly accessible locations along the Project, capturing a range of receptors and a variety of distances and viewing directions. The locations of all viewpoints are shown on **6.13.F7 Environmental Statement Figure 13.7 - Visual Receptors and Viewpoints fREPI-066].** This includes viewpoints beyond 1.5 km. The number of viewpoints assessed in the LVIA (206 viewpoints) is considered to be proportionate and appropriate in relation to the scale of the Project. In addition, there are a further 47 viewpoints and accompanying visualisations that support the historic environment assessment. These are presented in the **7.12 Visualisations IAPP-350 - APP-351, REP4-1821,** The Applicant does not consider that further viewpoints are necessary. The existing suite provides robust and sufficient coverage to understand the likely significant effects of the Project, including within valued landscapes. The LVIA is not reliant solely on fixed viewpoints, but is underpinned by extensive fieldwork and professional assessment across the wider study		

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		area. Additional viewpoints in close proximity or with similar orientation would not materially alter the assessment findings or conclusions. Accordingly, the Applicant considers that the assessment is robust, proportionate and compliant with best practice, and that the current viewpoint coverage is sufficient to inform the Examination. ~~The Applicant considers the number of visualisations provided proportionate and aoDroDriate.The~~ Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.8.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment are summarised in Section 13.4 **of 6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~rAPP-2261(Revision~~ B),** The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate.	Latest version of ES has been reviewed - key parameters and assumptions associated with the Landscape and Visual assessment are acceptable.	Agreed
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.8.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Landscape and Visual are presented **in** Section 13.5 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~{ARR-226]~~(Revision B)**. The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. The Applicant has responded on viewpoints under ID 3.8.4a.	CCC remain unsatisfied generally with the number of viewpoint assessments proposed. Whilst CCC welcome the inclusion of criteria against which landscape value will be assessed, we remain unhappy with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025) CCC also have reservations regarding the methodology for assessing the value of views	Not agreed

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		The Applicant has responded on the approach to landscape value and value of views under ID 3.8.4. Matters related to compensation are considered under ID 3.8.9. The Applicant notes that a response to the point on the updated Colchester Landscape Character Assessment was provided in **8.4.1 Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations [REP2-023]** on pages 246 and 320. The Applicant's position regarding the approach to visual receptors and groupings is set out in response **ID** 7.8.2 in Table 4.20 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030].** The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	as this is heavily skewed towards published data. An approach to compensation is needed, not just mitigation, where and how it has been identified and described, how the applicant has sought engagement from the local authority on this issue etc. (See below). CCC do not consider the applicants have considered or met either the EIA Regs or EN-1 requirements in relation to compensation. The likely significant negative landscape and visual effects of the project appear not to be compensated for, over and above offering enhancements at substations and sealing end compounds. CCC suggest the test of 'as far as possible' has not been met in any reasonable way in relation to the overwhelming likely permanent negative landscape and visual impacts along the length of the project described by the applicant within the PEIR. This has been an outstanding issue since 2023. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as baseline environment not adequately assessed against the updated Colchester Landscape Character Assessment 2024. Also, due consideration does not appear to have been given to considering landscape value at the site/setting level (it has been done at district level which doesn't identify key characteristics of local landscapes). Still retain concerns about methodology for	

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			assessing the value of views and the lack of compensation that NG identify Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged. CCC ~~0505202605.05.2026~~ comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed.	
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.8.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded measures are those that are intrinsic to and built into the design of the Project, which are presented in Table 4.2 in **6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 - Project Description ~~rAPP-130](Revision~~ B)** and also Paragraphs 13.6.2 to 13.6.4 in Section 13.6 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~[APP-2261(Revision~~ B).** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate ~~and adequate,~~ in ~~terms of its nature and scale,~~ + proportionate and robust to address potential effects. The Applicant has responded on the approach to landscape value and value of views under ID 3.8.4. The Applicant acknowledges that residual landscape and visual effects remain in some locations, including within more sensitive landscapes. However, these effects have been fully assessed and are considered, on balance, to be acceptable in the context of the Project and its need case as set out in **8.5.12 Applicant's**	CCC E-mail 5 Nov 2024 - Landscape - adequacy of undergrounding, mitigation and lack of compensation are all still under discussion. CCC do not agree with the response regarding additional proposed undergrounding e.g. in the Colne Valley, which has the qualities of a Special Landscape Area. We do not think this conclusion can be made in advance of a valued landscape assessment being carried out and shared with us. CCC remain unsatisfied with aspects of the approach to Landscape Value (Email 22.04.2025) Local landscape designation has not been national policy for decades. The Holford Rules are out of date on this issue and haven't been reviewed since the 1990s. Since then, landscape characterisation has become the tool for understanding landscape and guidance on valued landscape	Not agreed

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		Written Summary of Oral Submissions and Response to Action Points for Issue Specific Hearing 4 submitted at Deadline 6. As set out under ID 3.2.6 above, the Applicant does not agree that further undergrounding or re-routing is required. The current design represents an appropriate and balanced solution having regard to landscape, environmental and engineering considerations. Embedded mitigation includes the mitigation proposed in the Environmental Areas around specific substations and CSE compounds and also the 3:1 tree replacement where this occurs within the Order Limits. It is not possible for embedded mitigation measures to remove the significant residual effects of a project of this nature. Matters related to compensation are considered under ID 3.8.9. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed-	assessment outside designated landscapes introduced. Even if '*policy statement EN-5 (which covers the development of new energy infrastructure) … concludes that in most cases, the government expects that overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid*' it doesn't follow that there are no significant residual negative effects and therefore that potentially further undergrounding or compensation '*as far as possible*' might be required. Where undergrounding isn't proposed, explanation is needed as to why compensation isn't being offered instead, except at substations and sealing end compounds, when the PEIR states that significant landscape and visual impacts will occur along the length of the project length. Embedded mitigation measures are not addressing substantial significant negative residual impacts. As above, an approach to compensation is required. This has been an outstanding issue since 2023. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as majority of the above is still retained following review of the ES. CCC position January 2026: Request that when mitigation approaches to landscape are	

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			considered that these are also aligned with LNRS priorities. Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	
3.8.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures comprise management activities and techniques which would be implemented during construction of the Project to limit effects through adherence to good site practices and achieving legal compliance. Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Landscape and Visual effects during construction are summarised in Section 13.6 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~[APP-2261(Revision~~ B)** and **the-7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164](Revision~~ G).** The standard mitigation is considered appropriate-and ~~adequate,~~ in ~~terms of~~ its ~~nature and scale,~~ proportionate and robust to address potential effects. It is not considered reasonable or possible for standard mitigation measures to wholly mitigate significant temporary impacts of 400 kV infrastructure during construction. Compensation does not form part of standard mitigation and is therefore considered under ID 3.8.9 below.The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	Standard mitigation measures do not wholly mitigate substantial significant temporary impacts caused by construction. See reference to proposed compensation elsewhere. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. CCC position January 2026: Compensation for residual landscape impacts not addressed. This includes impacts of locating three pylons on Open Access Land near Fordham where compensation should be required (as detailed in our relevant representation). Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	Not agreed

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3.8.9	Additional mitigation	Additional mitigation comprises measures over and above any embedded and standard mitigation measures. The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 13.6 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226].** The Applicant's approach to the mitigation hierarchy is set out in Section 2.5 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports [REP2-030]** and the Applicant's position on landscape mitigation and compensation is set out in Section 3.10. The Applicant's position in relation to landscape compensation is set out in Section 3.10 'Landscape and VisuakLandscape Compensation' of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports fREP2-0301.** The Applicant's position in relation to the policy requirement for landscape and visual compensation remains unchanged from that set out at ISH 2 and detailed in Section 8.2e of **8.5.7 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions to Issue Specific Hearing 2 FREP4-3021.** Action Point 27 identified in Action Points from Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH 2) **rEV9-023]** stated - *'ExQ1 LV 1.28 and masterplans - Masterplans to be provided at the next deadline, with an agreed position in terms of compensation measures for residual effects on the specified landscapes by deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June).'*	Additional mitigation measures do not address significant residual negative impacts from pylons and the overhead cables. CCC do not agree that the mitigation hierarchy has been effectively applied as it does not include compensation for the significant residual negative impacts of the overhead lines and pylons. An approach to compensation is required, as above. CCC suggest the test of *'as far as possible'* has not been met in any reasonable way in relation to the likely significant permanent negative landscape and visual impacts along the length of the project described by the applicant within the PEIR. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as much of the above is still retained following review of the ES. CCC position January 2026: Compensation should be delivered and this should be co-ordinated with key organisations such as ECC, Essex Wildlife Trust and others where landscape mitigation could also benefit biodiversity. This off-site compensation should align where possible with LNRS strategic habitat opportunity areas. Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	Not agreed

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		The Applicant engaged with Local Authorities and submitted **8.4.12.2 Response to ISH2 Action Point 27 - Masterplans fREP5-199]** at Deadline 5. This document **FREP5-199]** contains plans which set out the constraints and opportunities relating to topics of interest at certain locations, as set out in ExQ1 LV 1.28. The Applicant's position on compensation and the status of these plans is also set out in Section 2.5 of **8.4.12.2 Response to ISH2 Action Point 27 - Masterplans FREP5-1991-** In addition to the above the Applicant has considered measures to address the duty to seek to further the purposes of Dedham Vale National Landscape are set out in the **5.10 National Landscapes - Duty to Seek to Further the Purpose Report (s85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) FAPP-120].** Section 3.11 of **8.8.2 Applicant's Comments on Local Impact Reports (Final Issue A) rREP2-030]** also sets out the Applicant's approach to the duty. The Applicant considers the measures that have been identified meet the reguirements of section 85(1) of the CRoWAct, and are appropriate, reasonable and proportionate in accordance with NPS EN-1 (2024) and the Defra guidance. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.8.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 13.7 of **6.13 Environmental**	Impacts on landscape of Colne Valley landscape including Open Access Land and	Not agreed

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		Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~rAPP-2261(Revision~~ **B),** The Applicant stands by the assessment of landscape and visual effects within the Colne Valley. The assessment of effects during construction presented is ~~considered appropriate,~~ robust, proportionate and compliant with best practice, and that the current viewpoint coverage is sufficient to inform the Examination. The Applicant has responded on viewpoints under ID 3.8.4a. No significant effects were identified for viewpoints beyond approximately 2 km within CCC area. In relation to CCC position related to routeing and undergrounding, this matter is considered under ID 3.8.7. The approach to the identification of Visual Receptor Areas (VRA) is explained in **8.4.1 Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations rREP2-023],** page 140. The Applicant has also responded to concerns raised regarding the VRA approach in **8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions |~REP3-074],** page 25 of Appendix F Supplement 7 - LV 1.24 - Supplementary table. Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 are labelled on **6.13.F7 Environmental Statement Figure 13.7 - Visual Receptors and Viewpoints rREP4-160]** on page 4 of 13, The Applicant has responded on viewpoints under ID 3.8.4a. No significant effects were	Essex Way appear understated. Project line needs undergrounding or realigning in this area. In relation to visual impact, we understand that the Visual Receptor Areas are a pragmatic way of organising the data, but fear clarity and detail may have been lost as a result. Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 do not appear to be labelled on Figure 13.7 Pages 3 or 4. Not all suggested changes to siting, alignment, viewpoint assessments and visualisations have been addressed. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as much of the above is still retained following review of the ES. Increased viewpoints are required at greater distances from the alignment to determine if impacts are significant (as detailed in the relevant representation). Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	

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		identified for viewpoints beyond approximately 2 km within CCC area. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.8.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 13.7 of **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~[APP-226]~~(Revision B).** The Applicant stands by the assessment of landscape and visual effects within the Colne Valley. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered ~~appropriate.robust,~~ proportionate and compliant with best practice, and that the current viewpoint coverage is sufficient to inform the Examination. The Applicant has further set out its position in response to the CCC position on Colne Valley in **8.5.12 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions and Response to Action Points for Issue Specific Hearing 4 fREP6-118]** submitted at Deadline 6. The Applicant has responded on viewpoints under ID 3.8.4a. No significant effects were identified for viewpoints beyond approximately 2 km within CCC area. In relation to CCC position related to routeing and undergrounding, this matter is considered under ID 3.2.6 and ID 3.8.7. The approach to the identification of Visual Receptor Areas (VRA) is explained in **8.4.1**	Impacts on landscape of Colne Valley landscape including Open Access Land and Essex Way understated. Project line needs undergrounding or realigning. In relation to visual impact, we understand that the Visual Receptor Areas are a pragmatic way of organising the data, but fear clarity and detail around the likely impacts may have been lost as a result. Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 do not appear to be labelled on Figure 13.7 Pages 3 or 4. Suggested changes to siting, alignment, viewpoint assessments and visualisations have not necessarily been addressed. CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as much of the above is still retained following review of the ES. Increased viewpoints are required at greater distances from the alignment to determine if impacts are significant (as detailed in the relevant representation). Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	Not agreed

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		Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations [REP2-023], page 140. The Applicant has also responded to concerns raised regarding the VRA approach in **8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions [REP3-074],** page 25 of Appendix F Supplement 7 - LV 1.24 - Supplementary table. Visual Receptor Areas B4, B5 and B6 are labelled on **6.13.F7 Environmental Statement Figure** 13.7 - **Visual Receptors** and **Viewpoints [REP4-160]** on page 4 of 13.The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.8.12	Outline CoCP	**7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [ARP-226REP6-1181** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	~~ECCEPS~~ provided comments and feedback in June 2025 on behalf of CCC, in relation to Landscape and Visual for the May 2025 iteration of the 0C0CP. Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged. EPS provided further comments in July 2026: The broad location and alignment of the construction routes remain a concern. Numerous instances where construction routes have been routed without any detailed site analysis of the existing landscape and features raise concern. These will result in several unnecessary tree and hedgerow removal. Concerns around replacement	Not agreed

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			planting and its establishment also remain a concern, with a lack of detail to provide assurance.	
3.8.13	Outline LEMP	**7.4 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [REP3-030](Revision G)** includes all relevant operational related mitigation measures specified in **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual [APP-226](Revision B)** and is appropriate. The Applicant's response to Action Point 18 in **8.5.8 Applicant's Response to Issue Specific Hearing 2 Action Points FREP4-3.3]** sets out the difference between mitigation, compensation, enhancement and BNG. Matters related to additional mitigation and compensation are considered under ID 3.8.9. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	CCC response to the draft Outline LEMP received on 22nd October 2024. ECCEPS provided comments and feedback in June 2025 on behalf of CCC, in relation to Landscape and Visual for the May 2025 iteration of the Outline LEMP. Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion - Awaiting information from Place. • CCC positions January 2026: CCC recommends that compensation measures be clearly distinguished from mitigation and BNG obligations, with geo-located planting plans and habitat creation evidence. • CCC recommend that additional mitigation and compensation measures be considered in consultation with Place Services, Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Essex Wildlife Trust and other wildlife organisations, including enhanced planting schemes in key locations, and landscape-scale GI interventions	Not agreed

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			Following a meeting held in January 2026, CCC note their position on this matter is unchanged.	
~~Other matters as required~~				

3.9 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.9.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context ~~[APP-126](Revision~~ B)** and Section 15.2 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~rAPP-265](Revision~~ C).** All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed.	Agreed
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.9.2	Study area	The Scoping Opinion stated: *"The Applicant should seek to agree the study area with the relevant local authorities".*	During the Thematic Group meeting in November 2024, it was proposed that the study area for businesses was increased	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The 3rd Technical Note was issued in March 2025 to seek agreement on the study area and methodology. CCC's position noted. In consideration of the **6.13 Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual ~~[APP-2261(Revision~~ B).** it is anticipated that no likely significant visual effects will occur for receptors located beyond 3 km from the Order Limits. Consequently, potential effects on businesses within this area are also not expected to be significant and have therefore been scoped out of the ES in order to maintain a proportionate assessment. The approach to the LVIA follows professional guidance as set out in **6.13.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1 - Landscape and Visual Methodology ~~rAPP-227].(Revision~~ B).** This was shared and discussed with stakeholders. This methodology sets out the justification for the 3 km Study Area used for the assessment. This was determined by the nature and scale of the Project and the nature of the surrounding area and considers the landscape and/or views that the Project may influence in a significant manner. The following viewpoints are located beyond 3 km from the nearest above ground structure within Essex (approximate distance provided in brackets): Viewpoint 5.01 (3.2 km), Viewpoint 6.22 (3.1 km), Viewpoint 6.25 (3 km) and Viewpoint 8.09 (4 km). No significant effects were identified at these viewpoints as set out in **6.13.A3 Environmental Statement**	from 1km to 3km to account for visual effects on businesses. CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion as awaiting full comments from ECC but likely to be agreed now. • CCC position January 2026: Agreed that study area is acceptable. However, would propose that where it is identified that particular businesses will be impacted outside of the scope of this (potentially some wedding venues, hotels etc) that these should be considered on a case-by-case basis. • CCC ~~0505202605~~ May 2026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Appendix 13.3 - Visual Baseline and Assessment [APP-229 to APP 232], The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.9.3	Data sources	Sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Section 15.4 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265]~~(Revision C)**. Data collection undertaken for this assessment are in line with the approaches used on other comparable National Grid projects, including Yorkshire GREEN. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	CCC provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Do not agree that sufficient survey data has been undertaken to assess impact of the project on visitor accommodation and the available bedspace that would actually be suitable for construction workers (rather than assessing overall bedspace capacity). • CCC ~~0505202605~~ May2Q26 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	Not agreed
3.9.4	Assessment methodology	The Scoping Opinion stated *"The ES should detail the criteria used to identify businesses likely to be affected and the Applicant should seek to agree these with relevant local authorities".* The 3rdthird Technical Note was issued in March 2025 to seek agreement on the study area and methodology.	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position January 2026: See comments on 3.9.2 as these apply here. If addressed then suggest that 3.9.2 and 3.9.4 can be agreed.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	• CCC ~~0505202605~~ May2026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	
3.9.5	Key parameters and assumptions	Key parameters and assumptions associated with the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment are summarised in Section 15.4 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265]~~(Revision C)**. The key parameters and assumptions presented are considered appropriate. The Applicant recognises the importance of skills development and workforce planning and has already given detailed consideration to the scale and nature of employment likely to arise from the Project. Due to the characteristics of the works, the maximum peak onsite construction workforce attributable to local labour is anticipated to be approximately 172 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) roles, with a total local job demand of approximately 480 roles across the four-year construction period. This level of employment is modest in scale and is not considered significant when compared with employment demand in other sectors or large-scale regeneration schemes. The Applicant is committed to supporting skills development and workforce planning at both local and regional levels, beyond the scope of this individual Project. This includes: • Working with local suppliers and supporting forums, such as Chambers of Commerce	CCC position January 2026: Still need greater clarity for what NG are going to deliver for training and skills. This should be considered and distinguished separately from community benefits. CCC does not consider that the outline ESP has fully or adequately addressed the cumulative implications for supply chains arising from the number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) consented or progressing within the same geographic area. In particular: • Cumulative pressure on local supply chains: While the document recognises local engagement, it does not sufficiently assess or respond to the potential strain on local businesses, materials, and services resulting from concurrent major infrastructure projects in the region. • Coordination across projects: There is no clear mechanism for coordination with other NSIPs to manage overlapping demand for goods, services, and labour. This creates a risk of inflationary pressures, reduced availability of suppliers, and missed opportunities for strategic alignment across projects.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		• Contributing to a coordinated regional approach to electricity industry jobs and skills planning • Engaging with Local Authorities to understand local priorities and opportunities around skills and employment. These commitments form part of the Applicant's wider approach to community benefits and legacy and are broader than, and separate from, the DCO process. The delivery of these initiatives will be taken forward through non-statutory community benefit and engagement mechanisms, rather than through the development consent process, consistent with established guidance. In response, and to elaborate on what the Applicant set in response to **8.4.1 Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations [REP2-023]** pages 253 to 255 and without prejudice to the Applicant's position that such matters do not constitute mitigation, the Applicant is ~~submittinghas~~ submitted an Employment and Skills Plan into the Examination at Deadline 5. ~~This document~~ is intended ~~to provide~~ **(8,13 Outline Employment and Skills Plan FREP5-215]).** The OESP provides transparency and clarity regarding the approach that National Grid and its delivery partner, The Great Grid Partnership, will take to employment, skills, training and supply chain engagement during construction of the Project. The Applicant has engaged with host authorities to inform the content of the Employment and Skills Plan.	Support for local businesses: The current proposals focus primarily on advertising opportunities rather than actively enabling participation. There is limited detail on how local businesses—particularly SMEs—will be supported to navigate procurement processes, meet compliance reguirements, and compete effectively NGET will not provide funding beyond community benefits, therefore suggest this matter is 'not agreed'.	

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.9.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism are presented in Section 15.5 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265}~~(Revision C).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. The assessment undertaken in **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 (Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265}~~(Revision C)** reported the available IMD data at the time it was prepared to understand baseline socio-economic characteristics of populations potentially affected by the Project. A review of the updated IMD data published in October 2025 (after the DCO application was submitted) showsshowed that, as a whole, deprivation levels have reduced for the Colchester City Council area, with fewer neighbourhoods now ranking among the most deprived in England. It is ~~not considered~~ **8.16 Health and Wellbeing and Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism Technical Note TREP4-317]** was prepared in response to the ExA's Rule 17 letter **[PD-019]** and contains a comparison of IMD 2019 and IMD 2025 data, including provision of data at a more localised level. The review confirmed that the	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. IMD data used is now out of date. Further checks needed on other areas. ~~• CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed~~Following the technical note provided by the Applicant **[REP4-317],** this matter is now agreed.	Net ~~agreed~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		updated dataset ~~wouldd~~did not result in material changes to the conclusions of the ~~Socio-~~economics, ~~Recreation and Tourism~~ assessment ~~set out~~ in **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265].(Revision~~ C),** An updated Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism was submitted at Deadline 6, which includes IMP 2025 data. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.		
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.9.7	Embedded mitigation	Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project relevant to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects, are set out in Section 15.6 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265](Revision~~ C),** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects.	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed.	Agreed
3.9.8	Standard mitigation	Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects during construction are summarised in Section 15.6 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism [APR-265 REP6-070]** and set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-~~4S4KRevision G).** The standard mitigation is	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: e CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Believe there is scope to fund provision of resource to provide businesses with information about the	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. Impacts on local businesses, including where effects are considered to be significant, are set out in **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism** ~~[APP-265](Revision~~ C). Potential effects on communities, including residents and local businesses, have been reduced through routeing and design. The Applicant has sought to reduce concern or uncertainty about the proposals through transparent engagement with residents and stakeholders, which has formed an important part of Project development to date. **5.1 Consultation Report [APP-066]** sets out the Applicant's approach to engagement to date. The Project team will continue to engage with people potentially affected during progress of the Project, through regular communication including letters, phone calls and meetings. This will enable concerns to be raised and discussed at an early opportunity and provide a regular point of contact to respond to queries and concerns. For the Applicant's position on community benefits, please refer to ID 3.2.12 of this SoCG. In response, and to elaborate on what the Applicant said in response to **8.4.1 Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations [REP2-023]** pages 253 to 255 and without prejudice to the Applicant's position that such matters do not constitute mitigation, the Applicant is ~~submiting~~ ~~anhas~~ submitted **8.13 Outline**	project and its delivery to help with managing impacts of disruption. • CCC position January 2026: Community benefits need considering and outlining separately from contribution to skills and training. NGET will not provide funding beyond community benefits, therefore suggest this matter is 'not agreed'	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Employment and Skills Plan into ~~the~~ ~~ExaminationrREP5-215]~~ at Deadline 5. This document is intended ~~to orovideprovides~~ transparency and clarity regarding the approach that National Grid and its delivery partner, The Great Grid Partnership, will take to employment, skills, training and supply chain engagement during construction of the Project. The Applicant has engaged with host authorities to inform the content of the Employment and Skills Plan-hr ~~advance of~~ its ~~submission~~ into ~~the~~ **examination.**		
3.9.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Section 15.6 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265]~~(Revision C)**. Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. Please refer to the response provided above in ID 3.9.8. For the Applicant's position on community benefits, please refer to ID 3.2.12 of this SoCG. In accordance with mitigation measure ~~GG35~~GG36 in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-164]~~** ~~members of the community and local businesses will be kept~~ informed ~~regularly of the works through~~ aotivef**Revision G)** a detailed Communications Strategy including the approach to community liaison, will be developed as part of the final Code of Construction Practice. This is anticipated to include notification of heavy traffic periods. **7.2**	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Believe there is scope to fund provision of resource to provide businesses with information about the project and its delivery to help with managing impacts of disruption. • Also, additional funding could be provided to support local skills and employment that could help support the transition to net zero. • CCC position January 2026: Contribution to community benefits needs to be outlined. NGET will not provide funding beyond community benefits, therefore suggest this matter is 'not agreed'	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		Outline Code of Construction Practice Appendix E - Community Engagement and Public Information [REP4-168l(Revision C) sets out the communications channels and approach to community engagement during the construction of the Project. A community relations team will be appointed to engage with local residents and businesses and provide dedicated community relations and external communications support. For any questions or concerns during the construction phase, residents and stakeholders can contact the community relations team via a range of contact methods. In response, and to elaborate on what the Applicant set in response to **8.4.1 Applicant's Comments on Relevant Representations [REP2-023]** pages 253 to 255 and without prejudice to the Applicant's position that such matters do not constitute mitigation, the Applicant is submitting anThe Applicant has prepared and submitted **8.13 Outline Employment and Skills Plan** into the ExaminationrREP5-21**5]** at Deadline 5 of the Examination. This document is intended to provideprovides transparency and clarity regarding the approach that National Grid and its delivery partner, The Great Grid Partnership, will take to employment, skills, training and supply chain engagement during construction of the Project. The Applicant has engaged with host authorities to inform the content of the Employment and		MM

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		~~Skills Plan.~~ OSEP. Paragraph 2.6.1 of the OESP states that National Grid is committed to expanding the number and range of specialist skills needed to construct transmission lines given the challenges that it faces in delivering the wider, national programme of grid upgrades in support of the UK's transition to Net Zero.		
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.9.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Section 15.7 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism fAPP-2651(Revision C).** The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate. **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265](Revision~~ C)** of the ES considers the impacts of the project in relation to visitor accommodation (e.g. impacts on bedspace availability as a result of the construction workforce). **Paragraphs 15.7.26 to 15.7.30** of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-2651(Revision~~ C)** conclude that the residual effect on visitor accommodation bedspace would be negligible adverse and not significant. The assessment anticipates an estimated peak non-local construction workforce of 1,528. This	CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Particular concern regarding accommodation and the impact on the tourism/leisure industry, associated supply chains and visitor attractions. Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. Believe cumulative impacts of the project have not been satisfactorily addressed. Still have concerns about impacts on accommodation.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		figure represents the total workforce distributed along the entire linear route of 180 km of the Project, rather than concentrated in a single geographic area. As construction activity progresses along the route, short-term accommodation is expected to be spread across the district and county, reducing pressure on any one locality. Given these factors, the Project is not expected to compromise the availability of visitor accommodation, including budget options. The cumulative impact of other projects, including NSIPs, has been considered within **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-281]~~ (Revision B).** The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.9.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 15.7 of **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265]~~ (Revision B).** The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	CCC position June 2026: matter not agreed as CCC consider that the effects are more significant and go beyond those set out in the ES as set out in the LIR	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.9.12	Outline CoCP	**7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-2651(Revision~~ B).** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	The content of the CoCP is still under discussion. C CC ition June 2026 · matter not a d	Not agreed
~~**Other matters as required**~~				

3.10 Cumulative Effects

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

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Regulatory, Planning Policy Context and Guidance				
3.10.1	Policy and legislation	The policy context, legislation and guidance considered when undertaking the Cumulative Effects assessment is presented in **6.2 Environmental Statement Chapter 2 - Key Legislation and Planning Policy Context ~~[APP-126l(Revision~~ B)** and Section 17.2 of **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~rAPP-281](Revision~~ B).**	CCC position December 2025: Now agreed.	Agreed

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		All relevant legislation, policy and guidance has been identified and appropriately considered to inform the assessment.		
EIA - Approach and Methods				
3.10.2	Study area	The study area was agreed through the **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The study area was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.10.3	Datasources	~~Sufficient~~The Applicant considers that sufficient desktop and survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within Sections 17.4 and 17.5 of **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-281](Revision~~ B).** The inter-project cumulative assessment presented in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-281]~~** ~~included afRevision~~ **B)** was undertaken using a clearly defined methodology and a transparent 'cut-off date' of 1 April 2025 to confirm the long list of cumulative developments to be assessed. ~~However, since the 1~~ The Applicant acknowledges CCC's comments regarding additional consented developments and emerging Local Plan allocations. However, the cumulative effects assessment is not static and has been subject to ongoing review throughout the Examination. Since April 2025 the Applicant has been undertaking monthly reviews of planning registers and Local Planning Authority websites	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion - Need to do full review of all projects included and consider if suitable to include sites put forward in emerging Local Plan for potential development. Missing live and consented TCPA and emerging local plan schemes were set out in CCC's responses to ExQk On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **FREP4-163]** and **fRep4-2961,** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		and ~~will continuecontinues~~ to do so during the Examination period, to check whether there are any new relevant developments / allocations. ~~Where this review~~ identifies ~~the potential for new or different significant~~ effects ~~or changes to the conclusions presented~~ in ~~ES then these would be published~~ into ~~Examination as updates to the relevant~~ inter-projectAn updated Cumulative Assessment was provided at Deadline 4 **(6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects** ~~documents (as appropriate)-~~ **Response Update (Revision B)),** and a further update will be submitted at Deadline 7. Cumulative Effects documents would not be updated just because there is new information available about a development, where this information has been assessed as having no change to the assessment or conclusions presented in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects (Revision B),** ~~**[APP-281].** Updates to the cumulative~~ effects ~~assessment are presented~~ inThe Applicant has updated Table 2.1 of **8.4.3 Report on Interrelationship with Other Infrastructure Projects FREP4-296] and 6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update [REP4-163]** **In** ~~addition,~~submitted at Deadline 4, taking into account emerging allocations within Colchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18 (November 2025) and Colchester City Council's comments about planning		

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		application 250545. The Applicant has reviewed the additional application raised by Colchester City Council ~~will also be required to undertake their own assessments to determine the viability of any new allocations.and~~ this application (251310) has been included in an updated inter-project cumulative effects assessment in **6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update (Revision B)** that has been provided at Deadline 4 (under reference CO44). The Applicant considers that the cumulative assessment has been undertaken on a robust, proportionate and evidence-based basis, consistent with relevant guidance and good practice. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.		
3.10.4	Assessment methodology	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through ~~the~~-6.19 **Scoping Report [APP-288 to APP-296] and 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** received from the Planning Inspectorate.	The methodology for assessing Cumulative Effects was agreed through the EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate.	Agreed
3.10.5	Key parameters and assumptions	KeyThe key parameters and assumptions ~~associated with~~underpinning the Cumulative Effects assessment are ~~summarised~~set out in Sections 17.5 and 17.6 of **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~rAPP-281](Revision~~ B).** The Applicant considers these key parameters and assumptions ~~presented are considered appropriate.to~~ be robust, proportionate and	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion. <-On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **FREP4-163]** and **|~Rep4-**	Not ~~agreed~~Agreed

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		evidence-based, and consistent with relevant guidance and established EIA practice. The methodology adopts a precautionary approach where appropriate, using a clearly defined and transparent methodology, incorporating appropriate assumptions to ensure a realistic appraisal of potential cumulative effects. See response to ID3.1Q.3 in relation to planning applications raised by CCC in response to ExQ1 and new sites put forward through the Colchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.	**296],** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	
EIA - Baseline Conditions				
3.10.6	Baseline conditions and receptors	The baseline conditions and receptors for Cumulative Effects are within the environmental topic chapters (Environmental Statement 6.6 - 6.16 **[APP-138 to APP-280]).** The baseline conditions and receptors presented are considered appropriate. See response to ID3.10.3 in relation to planning applications raised by CCC in response to ExQ1 and new sites put forward through the emergingColchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion - Need to do full review of all projects included and consider if suitable to include sites put forward in emerging Local Plan for potential development. Missing live and consented TCPA, and emerging local plan schemes were set out in CCC's responses to ExQ'L On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **fREP4-163]** and **rRep4-296],** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	Net ac eedAgreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
EIA - Embedded, Standard and Additional Mitigation Measures				
3.10.7	Embedded mitigation	The assessment of cumulative effects considers the residual effects identified during construction and operation (and maintenance) within the environmental topic chapters (Environmental Statement 6.6 - 6.16 **[APP-138 to APP-280]).** Embedded mitigation measures, designed as an inherent part of the Project are set out in the environmental topic chapters of the **ES.** Embedded mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. See response to ID3.10.3 in relation to planning applications raised by CCC in response to ExQ1 and new sites put forward through the Colchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.	• Missing live and consented TCPA, and emerging local plan schemes were set out in CCC's responses to ExQL e On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **[REP4-163]** and **[Rep4-296],** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	Net ~~agreed~~Agreed
3.10.8	Standard mitigation	The assessment of cumulative effects considers the residual effects identified during construction and operation (and maintenance) within the environmental topic chapters (Environmental Statement 6.6 - 6.16 **[APP-138 to APP-280]).** Standard mitigation measures to reduce potential Cumulative Effects during construction are summarised in the environmental topic chapters of the **ES** and set out in **7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~[REP4-4€4}~~(Revision G).** The standard mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms	• Missing live and consented TCPA, and emerging local plan schemes were set out in CCC's responses to ExQ1. • On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **[REP4-163]** and **[Rep4-296],** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	Net ~~agreed~~Agreed

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		of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. See response to ID3.10.3 in relation to planning applications raised by CCC in response to ExQ1 and new sites put forward through the Colchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.		
3.10.9	Additional mitigation	The consideration of additional mitigation measures are presented in Sections 17.4 and 17.5 of **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects {ARP-2S44(Revision B)** and in **6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update [REP4-163],** Additional mitigation is considered appropriate and adequate, in terms of its nature and scale, to address potential effects. See response to ID3.10.3 in relation to planning applications raised by CCC in response to ExQ1 and new sites put forward through the Colchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed	• Missing live and consented TCPA, and emerging local plan schemes were set out in CCC's responses to ExQ1 • On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **fREP4-163]** and **fRep4-296],** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed
EIA - Assessment Conclusions				
3.10.10	Construction effects	The assessment of effects during construction is presented in Sections 17.4 and 17.5 of **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-281](Revision B)~~**	Likely Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts with Five Estuaries, North Falls and EACN.	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		and in **6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update [REP4-163].** The assessment of effects during construction presented is considered appropriate. The cumulative assessment within **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-281](Revision~~ B)** has been undertaken in accordance with the agreed methodology in **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 - 296]** and **6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297]** which assesses other NSIPs in the East of England within defined Study Areas (that are based on how far impacts could reach as a result of the Project on environmental receptors). The assessment includes landscape and visual impacts, economic impacts and traffic congestion. An assessment on potential effects on planning applications and Local Plan has been undertaken as part of the ES in **6.15 Environmental Statement Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism ~~[APP-265](Revision~~ B).** Also see response to ID3.10.3. The Applicant is engaged with the promoters of other NSIPs and the interaction between projects is reported in **8.4.3 Report on Interrelationship with Other Infrastructure Projects [REP1-134REP4-2961.**	CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Particular concern regarding accommodation and the impact on the tourism/leisure industry, associated supply chains and visitor attractions. Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion and position/points related to economic and health cumulative impacts not fully considered. • Also aware that project may impact on viability/availability of sites for housing and employment in Local Plan. This should be kept under review along with progression of the Local Plan review. • CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
3.10.11	Operational (and maintenance) effects	The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) is presented in Section 17.4 and **17.5** of **Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects)** of the **ES ~~[APP-281]~~(Revision B)** and in **6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update ~~[REP4-163]~~(Revision B)**. The assessment of effects during operation (and maintenance) presented is considered appropriate. See response to ID3.10.10. The Applicant responded to Colchester City Council's Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation 2025 on 14 January 2026. Overhead electricity lines can be successfully co-located with development provided that the statutory safety clearances are maintained in accordance with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. the Applicant has produced its Design Guidelines for development near high voltage overhead lines, which set out these statutory safety clearances and provide detailed guidance for developers on how successful co-location can be achieved in practice. Accordingly, the Applicant does not consider that the Norwich to Tilbury Project would adversely affect the delivery of the proposed site allocations, subject to the future development of	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion and position/points related to economic and health cumulative impacts not fully considered. • Aware that the project may impact on viability/availability of sites for housing and employment in Local Plan. This should be kept under review along with progression of the Local Plan review. • CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		those sites having full regard to this guidance. In this context, the Applicant recommended that the policies explicitly reference the need to comply with both the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 and National Grid's Design Guidelines for Development Near Pylons and High Voltage Overhead Power Lines, in order to facilitate successful development, should the Norwich to Tilbury Project Development Consent Order be granted. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.		
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring				
3.10.12	Outline CoCP	**7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice ~~rREP4-164](Revision~~ G)** includes all relevant construction related mitigation measures specified in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-2&44(Revision~~ B)** and is appropriate for managing construction impacts from the Project. See response to ID3.1Q.3 in relation to planning applications raised by CCC in response to ExQ1 and new sites put forward through the Colchester Preferred Options Local Plan Regulation 18. With the above in mind, it is suggested that this matter could be moved to Agreed.	• Missing live and consented TCPA, and emerging local plan schemes were set out in CCC's responses to ExQ'L • On the basis of the updates provided by the Applicant **FREP4-163]** and **[~Rep4-2961,** CCC consider this matter can be moved to agreed.	~~Not agreed~~Agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
Other matters as required				
3.10.13	Cumulative effects	The intra-cumulative assessment within **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~rAPP-281l~~(Revision B)** assessed the impacts on common receptors within the ES (Volume 6 of the DCO application) in accordance with the agreed methodology in **6.19 Scoping Report [APP-288 - 296] and 6.20 Scoping Opinion [APP-297].** The assessment did not conclude that there would be any intra-cumulative effects common agriculture and soil, ecology or historic receptors. The assessment did, however, assess a number of common landscape and visual receptors. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their relevant representations in November 2025: • The Council also notes that the applicant identifies several intra-project impacts between different receptors including Land and Community Assets, Development Land and Businesses, and Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders and these only at Construction Stage. We are concerned that no intra-project cumulative effects are identified at the Construction and Operational Stage for Agricultural and Soil, Landscape, Ecology and Historic receptors. • CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	Not agreed
3.10.14	Health and Wellbeing	A cumulative assessment is provided in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~rAPP-281l~~(Revision B)** and in **6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update ~~[REP4-163]~~(Revision B)**. Paragraphs 17.5.46 to 17.5.48 contain the findings in relation to health and wellbeing of inter-project cumulative effects. For example, it is identified that in a number of instances, adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing may be particularly relevant as a result of the scale of other development (for example significant residential	Likely Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts with Five Estuaries, North Falls and EACN. CCC expressed that consideration should be given to the cumulative impacts of NSIPs in the region. Colchester City Council provided the following comments in their review of the Statement of Common Ground in December 2025: • CCC position December 2025: Still under discussion and position/points related to	Not agreed

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ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
		or infrastructure development) and associated perceived effects on neighbourhood quality / sense of place / uncertainty during the construction phases. **6.10 Environmental Statement Chapter 10 - Health and Wellbeing ~~[APP-192]~~(Revision B)** contains an assessment of impacts on vulnerable groups. Vulnerable groups considered in the assessment are identified in Table 10.5 of ES Chapter 10. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed.	economic and health cumulative impacts not fully considered. CCC 05052026 comment: CCC consider this unlikely to be resolved so move to not agreed	
3.10.15	Visitor Economy	Cumulative effect on tourism economy is detailed in **6.17 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects ~~[APP-281]~~(Revision B)** and in **6.17.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 17 - Cumulative Effects - Response Update (Final ~~Issue A) [REP4-163]~~Revision B)**, paragraphs 17.5.64 and 2.1.70 respectively, which conclude that effects would be negligible and not significant. The Applicant recognises that a mutually agreed position has not been reached, and therefore the matter is recorded as Not Agreed-	CCC do not concur and therefore suggest this matter is 'not agreed'	Not agreed

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3.11 Development Consent Order

3.11.1 Colchester City Council defer to Essex County Council regarding the draft Development Consent Order and proposed requirements within the Statement of Common Ground, and will work alongside all host authorities and the Applicant to progress this separately.

3.12 Other Matters

Table 3.11 Other Matters Agreed, Not Agreed or Under discussion

ID	Matter	National Grid's Position	Colchester City Council's Position	Status
3.12.1	Flood Risk	Building on the information provided in Appendix C of **7.9 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-331]** ~~further~~ details regarding proposals for surface water management (including storage calculations) ~~will be~~was shared with Essex County Council in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority and the Applicant has submitted to the examination in ~~the form of a~~8.2 **Drainage Strategy** ~~report. This~~ is **expected** ~~to be shared at Deadline 1~~**(Revision D).**	The Council has no significant concerns to raise but encourage the Examining Authority to review any issues raised by Essex County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Essex.	Agreed
3.12.2	Contaminated Land	The assessment for Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology are presented in Section 9.5 of **6.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 - Contaminated Land Geology and Hydrogeology** ~~**[APP-181](Revision**~~ **B).**	7.1. The Council's Contaminated Land Officer has reviewed the Contaminated Land Geology and Hydrogeology chapter of the ES. The Council notes that there is a relatively low level of contamination risk as the project will mainly affect agricultural and undeveloped land since the late 1800s. Therefore, there are no main concerns the Council would like to raise.	Agreed

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4. Confirmation of Agreement

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

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

z- DocuSigned by:

[redacted]

Date:

17/07/2026

Signed for and on behalf of Colchester City Council:

Signed by:

[redacted]

Date:

15/7/2026

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Loads
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CCC	Colchester City Council
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
GI	Ground Investigation
GW	Gigawatt
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MIIA	Mineral Infrastructure Impact Assessment
MRA	Minerals Resource Assessment
NCR	National Cycle Route
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NPSs	National Policy Statements
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHIASU	Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit
WIIA	Waste Infrastructure Impact Assessment
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
ZoI	Zone of Influence
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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