



SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Material Change

Case Reference: EN0210004

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) to
Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact
Assessment) Regulations 2017

15 July 2025

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APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc. (NGET) ('the Applicant') is proposing a material change to the development consented under the National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project Order 2016 (Statutory Instrument 2016 No. 49) and the National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project (Correction) Order 2017 (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 786).
- 1.0.2 On 04 June 2025, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from the applicant under regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection DCO Material Change 1 (the proposed development). The applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under regulation 8(2)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the proposed development.
- 1.0.3 The applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA regulation 10(4) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:

planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0210004

This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the proposed development as currently described by the applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the applicant's Scoping Report. The Scoping Report and this Opinion refer to the National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project Order 2016 and the National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project (Correction) Order 2017 collectively as 'the 2016 Project'.

- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in appendix 1 in accordance with EIA regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice pages, including '[Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#)'. AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA

processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.

1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice pages'](#)

1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or development that does not require development consent.

2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
21.1	See comments section for detail.	Project description and figures	<p>The scoping report figures show an area of red line boundary to the north of Langford, this is separate from the main red line boundary, but it is not clear from the project description in the Scoping Report what the proposed use for this site is. Navigating through several documents from the 2014 Original ES, suggests this may be land at Churchill Compound but this is not referred to in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The area in question is shown on figure 1.1 site location plan and on the first page of relevant figures, however on pages where this land is shown in the map insert, it is not included in the main figure. The figures affected are as follows: page 3 of figure 2.1, page 3 of figure 2.2, page 3 of figure 2.3, page 3 of figure 5.1, page 3 of figure 5.2, page 4 of figure 11.1, page 4 of figure 11.2, page 4 of figure 11.3 and page 3 of figure 13.1. The ES should provide a description of the purpose of this area of land and include it within relevant figures to enable understanding of impacts it may create.</p>
21.2	Paragraphs 2.4.9 and 2.4.10	Timescales	<p>The Scoping Report states that works will be undertaken as a single package of works and within five years of receiving consent via the material change application process. The Scoping Report seeks to retain flexibility of when in this timeframe, upgrades will be carried out. If more specific timeframes are known at time of submission, these should be reported in the ES. The ES should also explain if it is possible that culverts in the same locality may be upgraded at the same time, and explain any potential impacts for this, for example of sensitive human and ecological receptors.</p>

2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
221	Paragraph 2.4.28	Landowner culverts/bridges within the Severn Estuary Ramsar site and Special Protection Area (SPA)	The Scoping Report states that there are two upgraded culverts/bridges belonging to landowners that are located within the Severn Estuary Ramsar site and SPA. It proposes to scope out an assessment of these assets on the basis that they have been previously consented through the Town and Country Planning Act which included consideration of ecological impacts (including a Habitats Regulations Assessment). On this basis, and on the basis that no further physical works are required, the Inspectorate agrees that the retention of these assets is not likely to result in significant effects in terms of EIA. The Inspectorate considers this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
222	Paragraph 2.4.93	Maintenance access route MC-H-700	An assessment of this maintenance access route is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that it provides access to lattice towers rather than T-pylons, and as such, there would be no physical change to the route or the vehicles using it. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out.
223	n/a	Environment Agency data	The Environment Agency has published new flood and coastal erosion risk data in 2025 following the release of its "National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024". Further updates are also expected to follow. The applicant should ensure that assessments take account of updated data sets as these become available through Defra's Data Services Platform. Where relevant, the applicant is encouraged to liaise with the Environment Agency to determine the implications for project design and the scope of assessments.
224	n/a	Strategic documents	It is noted throughout the Scoping Report that some aspect chapters will rely upon the 2014 Original Environmental Statement (ES) as the basis for assessment. The applicant should consider the implications resulting

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			from changes to local authorities' strategic documents such as Local Plans, Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments on these assessments. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from the Environment Agency (Appendix 2 of this opinion) in this regard.
225	Section 4.3	Significance of effects	The Scoping Report does not include an overarching methodology to determine significance and states that this remains unchanged from that outlined in the 2014 Original ES. The Scoping Report does not explain if the updated ES will include this information, however the Inspectorate considers that inclusion of this information in the updated ES would be helpful. Any departure from the original methodologies applied should be described in individual aspect assessment chapters.
226	Paragraph 4.4.3	Transboundary	<p>The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the proposed development and concludes that the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the proposed development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the proposed development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.</p> <p>Note: The SoS' duty under regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the annex to its Advice Page 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process', links for which can be found in paragraph 1.0.7 above.</p>
227	Appendix 11.1	Supporting ecological information	<p>Appendix 11.1 provides information regarding preconstruction checks for several ecological species. In some instances, no dates are provided of when checks have been undertaken and when reports been made. For example, in Table 5 of Appendix 11.1, in the entry for birds it states that:</p> <p>"No specific update bird surveys have been conducted since the surveys to inform the 2014 Original ES. However, bird species identified in pre-construction checks have been included in the monthly/weekly ECoW reports."</p> <p>The ES should include information regarding the dates that reports have been made to enable understanding of current ecological records.</p>
228	Figure 5.2 and paragraph 5.8.3	Study area and identification of designated and non-designated heritage assets	<p>Figure 5.2 shows the designated and non-designated heritage assets within a 250m study area of the proposed development. However, the Scoping Report does not explain why a 250m distance was chosen and whether this was agreed with statutory consultees, nor does it confirm whether the historic assets identified are using updated data from the 2014 Original ES. The ES should confirm the study boundary with relevant consultees and clearly state what data sets are shown in figures.</p>
229	Paragraph 5.5.5	Agricultural land - Best Most Versatile (BMV)	<p>The Scoping Report states that effect on agricultural land is not expected to differ from conclusions in the 2014 Original ES, it is noted that the proposed development includes area of land which were not included in the original application. As such, the ES should contain a clear tabulation of the areas of land in each BMV classification to be temporarily or permanently lost as a result of the proposed development, with reference</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			to accompanying map(s) depicting the grades. Specific justification for the use of the land by grade should be provided.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

3.1 Aspects to be scoped out

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Section 5.2	Landscape	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on landscape and explains that anticipated impacts during construction would result in minor, localised and temporary changes in the landscape. Construction may result in temporary loss of arable crops and grassland as well as temporary stockpiling of materials and presence of plant. During operation, the Scoping Report states that the magnitude of changes to the character of the receiving environment would be negligible due to the small scale and discrete ground-based interventions which would take place.</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that landscape in which the changes are proposed have a sensitivity of low to medium and states that the difference in significance is not significant enough to alter the conclusions of the landscape assessment undertaken in the 2014 Original ES. However, no details are included regarding anticipated growth rates, or of monitoring/management to ensure re-seeding is successful. As such, the Inspectorate does not agree that impacts on landscape may be scoped out from the ES, and considers that further details regarding timescales, monitoring and management should be included, together with relevant visualisations to aid understanding of how the landscaping will look long term. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council (Appendix 2 of this opinion) in this regard.</p>
3.1.2	Section 5.3	Air quality	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on air quality and states that the construction phase may generate temporary impacts from dust and traffic emissions. The 2014 Original ES assessed the locations of construction activities, and the Scoping Report considers that the magnitude of construction dust activities is the same as per the</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>2016 application. The Scoping Report states that the measures included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) are still valid and these would be applied during the construction phase along with the Construction Traffic Management Plan to mitigate against any adverse impacts. It is noted in the Scoping Report that operational impacts are not anticipated to lead to any materially new or different significant effects. Based on the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees that air quality may be scoped out from the ES.</p>
3.1.3	Section 5.4 and paragraph 12.6.13	Noise and vibration	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts from noise and vibration and states that for the construction phase, no materially new or different significant effects compared to what had been assessed in the 2014 Original ES would occur. The Scoping Report states that during the construction phase, noise thresholds are unlikely to be exceeded for periods at any receptor which would result in significant effects. The Scoping Report identifies that the main activity which will generate noise is sheet piling associated with work pad LD104, however this is located in a working port and works will be short in duration.</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that vibration effects during construction and operation is not likely to change effects reported in the 2014 Original ES. However, the proposed development will require use of larger and heavier vehicles and abnormal loads which were not previously assessed in the 2014 Original ES assessment. Therefore, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this aspect out and considers that the ES should include an assessment of effects from noise and vibration on sensitive human and ecological receptors from the use of larger and heavier vehicles during construction and operation.</p>
3.1.4	Section 5.5	Socio-economics and land use	<p>The Scoping Report states that compared to that of the 2016 Project, it is anticipated that there would be no significant change in the inward migration of workers and spend for both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.</p> <p>With regards to landowners and businesses, the Scoping Report refers to the 2014 Original ES which stated that the compensation offered to affected land holders and</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>businesses was sufficient to conclude an insignificant residual impact for both the construction and operational phase. The Scoping Report notes that discussions are ongoing with landowners to reach an agreement and paragraph 15.7.3 of the 2014 Original ES states that National Grid has a statutory duty to appropriately compensate landowners for disruption throughout proposed development.</p> <p>For these reasons, the Inspectorate agrees this aspect may be scoped out.</p>
3.1.5	Section 5.6	Electric magnetic fields (EMF)	<p>The Scoping Report states that the proposed development does not include works to the overhead line. As the works only relate to maintenance access arrangements, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.</p>
3.1.6	Section 5.7	Ground environment	<p>The Scoping Report states that any construction effects related to the proposed development will be restricted to the immediate localities around the assets and mitigation measures set out in the CEMP, including the Site Waste Management Plan and a Soil Management Plan, would be applied during this phase.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not provide information regarding specific area of land take or area/depth of soil potentially affected and it is unknown what distances are involved in the reference to 'immediate localities' and what the baseline ground conditions are within these areas. The applicant's attention is also drawn to comments from Natural England and North Somerset Council (Appendix 2 of this opinion) in this regard.</p> <p>As such, the Inspectorate does not agree that impacts on the ground environment may be scoped out from the ES. The ES should specify the area of land take and set out the baseline conditions for these areas. It should also include an assessment of changes to the ground environment, where likely significant effects could occur, or evidence of agreement with consultation bodies that no likely significant effects would occur.</p>
3.1.7	Section 5.8	Historic environment	<p>The Scoping Report explains that the baseline reported in the 2014 Original ES is likely to be the same for the proposed development although new assets may have been added</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>to the Historic Environment Record since the 2016 Project, but no significant finds have been recorded to date.</p> <p>In its consultation response (Appendix 2 of this opinion), Historic England note that no updated archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken. However, the Scoping Report states that all archaeological works will be subject to the CEMP, with reference to the Appendix 3: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.</p> <p>In its consultation response (Appendix 2 of this opinion), Somerset Council observe that the Scoping Report does not confirm whether any of the 87 no. landowner culverts or 2 no. landowner bridges are historic assets. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that this aspect can be scoped out with the exception of the landowner culverts and bridges. In the instance where these are identified as historic assets, these should be assessed.</p>
3.1.8	Section 5.9	Heat, light and radiation	The Scoping Report states that heat, light and radiation was not included within the 2014 Original ES as it was submitted prior to the 2017 EIA Regulations where this aspect was introduced. The Scoping Report states that the proposed development will not introduce emissions of heat, light and radiation which could lead to significant effects. The Inspectorate agrees that the proposed development is unlikely to lead to significant emissions of heat, light and radiation and agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.1.9	Paragraph 2.4.44	New gates	The Scoping Report states that a number of new gates will be required where wider access points are required to allow sufficient and safe turning space for maintenance vehicles. The Scoping Report states that this will be similar to routine maintenance activities and the works to install gates would be minimal. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.1.10	Paragraph 2.4.95	Decommissioning	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out decommissioning on the basis that there are no changes to the assumptions made since those set out in the 2014 Original ES. On this basis, the Inspectorate considers this matter may be scoped out of further assessment.

3.2 Climate change

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
321	Paragraph 6.1.5.	Climate change effects during construction	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out effects from climate change during the construction phase on the basis that the construction period is five years in duration and the weather over this period is anticipated to be similar to present day weather conditions. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
322	Paragraph 6.1.6 and table 6-4.	Standalone in-combination climate change impact (ICCI) assessment construction and operation	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out a standalone ICCI assessment for construction and operation. It states that consideration of climate change will be included in the biodiversity and water environment aspects. On the basis that this matter will be assessed in the biodiversity and water aspects, the Inspectorate considers this may be scoped out.
323	Paragraph 6.6.17 and table 6-4.	Greenhouse gas emissions during construction and operation	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts during construction and operation on the basis that the emissions associated with the proposed development are estimated to be a very small part of the UK sixth carbon budget and as such the proposed development would not compromise the UK being able to deliver its carbon commitments. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out. However, the ES should include information regarding amounts of greenhouse gas emissions anticipated during construction and operation.
324	Paragraph 6.6.20 and table 6-4	Climate change resilience during	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out climate change resilience on the basis that it is not expected that climate hazards will result in significant effects as a result of the proposed development. Table 6-3 provides information regarding the type of climate hazard

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		construction and operation	considered and reasons as to why it would not result in significant effects. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
325	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.3 Human health

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	Paragraph 7.6.3 and table 7-9	Access to health, social care and other social infrastructure (e.g. schools, libraries, community centres, recreation)	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on access to health, social care and other social infrastructure on the basis that the proposed development will not result in significant effects. Justification as to why the proposed development would not result in significant effects is provided in table 7-8. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.3.2	Table 7-9	Neighbourhood amenity (in relation to air quality, noise, lighting, landscape, water and ground conditions)	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on neighbourhood amenity on the basis that the proposed development will not result in significant effects. Justification as to why the proposed development would not result in significant effects is provided in table 7-8. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.3.3	Table 7-9	Access to green space, recreation and physical activity	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on access to green space, recreation and physical activity on the basis that the proposed development will not result in significant effects. Justification as to why the proposed development would not result in significant effects is provided in table 7-8. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.3.4	Table 7-9	Community safety	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on community safety on the basis that the proposed development will not result in significant effects. Justification as to why the proposed development would not result in significant effects is provided in table 7-8. Based on the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
335	Table 7-9	Access to work and training	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on access to work and training on the basis that the proposed development will not result in significant effects. Justification as to why the proposed development would not result in significant effects is provided in table 7-8. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
336	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.4 Major accidents and disasters

(Scoping Report Section 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
34.1	Paragraphs 8.6.2 to 8.6.4 and table 8-1	Major accidents and disasters – all phases	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the potential risks associated with the proposed development will be considered within the other technical chapters of the ES and are unlikely to result in significant effects relating to major accidents and disasters. The Scoping Report identifies the main risks associated with the construction and operation phases and states that these can be managed by the processes and standards which are already in place. The Inspectorate agrees that the proposed development is unlikely to generate any potential significant effects on the environment if a major accident or disaster were to occur. Therefore, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this aspect out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
34.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.5 Waste and materials

(Scoping Report Section 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
35.1	Paragraph 9.1.6	Extraction of raw materials and manufacture of products – all phases	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that these impacts would occur offsite and possibly outside of the UK and the volumes of material use and waste generation associated with the proposed development are expected to be very small. The Inspectorate is in agreement that waste arising from extraction, processing and manufacture of construction components and products can be scoped out of further assessment.
35.2	Paragraph 9.1.7	The prevention of mineral extraction – all phases	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the nature of the proposed development and its permanent infrastructure would still enable mineral extraction within Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in the future. The Inspectorate agrees that the extent of the physical changes to the site would be unlikely to further impede the extraction of minerals within MSAs in the future. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
35.3	Paragraph 9.6.4	Waste and Material Use – all phases	The Scoping Report states that with the implementation of the Waste Management Plan included in the CEMP that was submitted with the 2016 DCO, construction effects for both materials and waste are considered to be negligible. Regarding the operational phase, the Scoping Report also states that the worst-case scenario material use associated with the proposed development would not give rise to material shortages and waste generation would not be above the capacity of waste operating systems based on the future baseline. On the basis of the information presented in the Scoping Report and providing the Waste Management Plan submitted with the 2016 DCO is still wholly relevant, the Inspectorate agrees that an assessment of waste impacts can be scoped out of the ES. However, the ES should still provide an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected waste.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
354	N/A	N/A	N/A

3.6 Visual effects

(Scoping Report Section 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
361	Paragraph 10.1.5	Landowner and project culverts and bridges – all phases	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that landowner and project culverts are discrete in nature and in keeping with the agricultural landscape and the bridges associated with the material change are pre-existing. On this basis, the Inspectorate considers that landowner culverts and bridges are not likely to result in significant visual effects. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out from the ES.
362	Paragraph 10.4.8	Proposed assets in Section F Portishead and Section H Hinkley Line Entries – all phases	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the assets within these sections are within the scoping boundary and contain only pre-existing landowner and project culverts and vehicular access points which are not large enough or close enough to sensitive receptors to give rise to materially new or materially different visual effects. On this basis, the Inspectorate considers that significant effects from assets within these sections are not likely to occur. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out from the ES.
363	Paragraph 10.6.2 and Table 10-8	Visual effects from work pads LD86, LD92, LD93 and LD104 and their associated haul roads – all phases	Visual impacts from these work pads are proposed to be scoped out on the basis that they are not located near to sensitive visual receptors and are unlikely to give rise to significant visual effects. Given the nature and location of these work pads, the Inspectorate considers that significant effects are unlikely to occur. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
364	Paragraph 10.6.4 and Table 10-8	Visual effects from landowner vehicular	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the pre-existing landowner vehicular access points would only require limited and infrequent works to upgrade and maintain them, meaning that significant effects would be unlikely. On this basis, the

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		access points – all phases	Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out from the ES.
365	Paragraph 10.6.5 and Table 10-8	Visual effects from project vehicular access points AC1, AC8, AC13, AC22, AC27, AC60 (LD39-CR08), AC65, AC66, AC73 (LD70-CR01), AC73B (LD70-CR04A), AC73C (LD70-CR05A), AC88, AC110 - construction	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the vehicular access points are not near any sensitive receptors and so are unlikely to give rise to significant effects. Having considered the physical nature of these access points and their location, the Inspectorate agrees that significant visual effects are not likely to occur as a result of them. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
366	Section 10.8	Zone of Theoretical visibility (ZTV)	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out a new ZTV for the proposed material change as the low-lying ground-based nature of the assets would produce unreliable or inaccurate results. The Inspectorate agrees that producing a ZTV for these assets would be disproportionate. Providing this approach is agreed with the relevant stakeholders, a new ZTV can be scoped out from the ES.
367	Section 10.8	Night-time visual effects	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out night-time visual effects on the basis that the proposed development does not include any new or additional construction or operational lighting. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that significant night-time effects are not likely to occur. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
368	Section 10.8	Viewpoint photomontages	The Scoping Report proposes that no viewpoint photomontages are produced for the ES, subject to agreement with statutory consultees. The Inspectorate notes that verified viewpoint photography and annotated viewpoints will be provided in the ES and that

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			viewpoints would be agreed with relevant stakeholders. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees photomontages may be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
36.9			

3.7 Biodiversity and nature conservation

(Scoping Report Section 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Paragraph 11.6.7	Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this site out as it is further than 10 kilometres away from any construction phase activity. The Scoping Report does not explain what this site is designated for and therefore the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out this matter. The ES should include an assessment on this designated site where likely significant effects could occur or a justification as to why significant effects will not occur.
3.7.2	Paragraphs 11.6.8-11.6.17	All national and local statutory sites and non-statutory designated sites that do not overlap with construction phase activities	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out all national and local statutory sites that do not overlap with the 20m working area buffer around construction activities. The Scoping Report states that following the implementation of the measures secured within the Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy (BMS) (Document 5.26.3C) included as Appendix 2 of the CEMP from the 2014 Original ES, there will be no materially new or different significant effects from the proposed development on these designations. However, due to the introduction of different vehicles, including abnormal loads, the Inspectorate considers that the ES should assess the potential for significant effects on these sites and does not agree to scope this matter out.
3.7.3	Paragraphs 11.6.18-11.6.20	Ancient Woodland within 500m of the construction phase activities or within 500m of the EIA scoping boundary (excluding Buddings Wood)	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the five areas of ancient woodland that are located within 500m of the construction phase activities, as well as the additional four areas of ancient woodland that fall outside this range but are within 500m of the EIA scoping boundary. This is proposed on the basis that the measures secured within the BMS and CEMP from the 2014 Original ES mean there will be no materially new or different significant effects on these sites. However, due to the introduction of different vehicles, including abnormal loads, the Inspectorate considers that the ES should assess the potential for significant effects on ancient woodland sites and does not agree to scope this matter out.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.74	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Dormouse	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that materially new or different significant effects can be avoided or mitigated through implementation of the BMS included in the CEMP from the 2014 Original ES. The 2014 Original ES reported no confirmed or conclusive evidence of dormice during surveying on site, and Scoping Report Appendix 11.1 (June 2025) describes that dormouse surveys of hedgerows undertaken in 2022 identified no new evidence of the species' presence. Given the absence of dormouse on site has not changed between 2014 and 2022, the strategies included in the BMS will still be valid to avoid likely significant effects. The Inspectorate therefore agrees to scope this matter out.
3.75	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Otter	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out as no otter holts have been identified on site during surveys for the 2014 Original ES or during pre-construction surveys undertaken in 2020 and 2022. The Scoping Report states that given the absence of holts the measures presented within the BMS for the 2014 Original ES will remain sufficient to avoid impacts to otter. The BMS states that pre-construction surveys will be undertaken prior to the commencing of the construction works, which will inspect for breeding sites, holts, couches and resting places, and in the event that such areas NE will be consulted and a licence sought to allow works to commence. On this basis the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.
3.76	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Bird species (assemblages that are not qualifying features of international sites);	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that materially new or different significant effects can be avoided or mitigated through implementation of the BMS included in the CEMP from the 2014 Original ES. On the basis that pre-construction checks for nesting birds and specific Schedule 1 species remain suitable to avoid impacts to birds, the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.
3.77	Paragraph 11.6.33 and	Amphibians	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out impacts on amphibians on the basis that materially new or different significant effects can be avoided or mitigated through implementation of the BMS included in the CEMP from the 2014 Original ES. On the

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
	appendix 11.1		basis that impacts to amphibians can be managed through implementation of the BMS, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.78	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Reptiles	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out impacts on reptiles. Appendix 11.1 confirms that no major changes to habitats or alterations to land management has occurred and the presence of reptiles was considered to be unchanged since 2014. On the basis that materially new or different significant effects can be avoided or mitigated through implementation of the BMS included in the CEMP from the 2014 Original ES, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out.
3.79	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Badger	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on badger due to the permanent retention of assets. The Scoping Report states that the retention of assets and resultant lack of habitat reinstatement is unlikely to affect badgers as the habitat loss has already occurred and any effects is unlikely to be materially different to those included in the 2014 Original ES. On the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees that impacts on badger from the permanent retention of assets may be scoped out. It is noted that impacts on badger remain scoped in for construction.
3.7.10	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Other mammal species of principal importance (SPIs)	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that materially new or different significant effects can be avoided or mitigated through implementation of the BMS included in the CEMP from the 2014 Original ES. Appendix 11.1 states that low numbers of brown hare have been recorded between 2022 and 2024. No other records of SPIs were reported in the Ecological Clerk of Works Reports. On the basis of low-level numbers of SPI's and measures secured in the BMS, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES. However, the ES should provide information regarding the species and dates reported.
3.7.11	Paragraph 11.6.33 and	Other fish species (that are not	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on fish species. Appendix 11.1 states that a precautionary approach was adopted through the Fish Method Statement, due to the presence of protected fish species such as European eel. The Scoping Report states

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
	appendix 11.1	qualifying features of international sites);	that measures in the BMS remain suitable to avoid impacts to fish species. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope out this matter.
3.7.12	Paragraph 11.6.33 and appendix 11.1	Terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates.	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out impacts on terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates. Appendix 11.1 states that during pre-construction checks undertaken between 2020 and 2024 recorded a range of common invertebrates. The Scoping Report states that measures in the BMS remain suitable to avoid impacts to terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate species. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees to scope out this matter.
3.7.13	Paragraph 11.6.33	Invasive non-native species (INNS)	The Scoping Report states that preconstruction checks in 2016 identified the presence of INNS which were appropriately managed by the BMS for the 2016 Project. Table 5 of Appendix 11.1 states that checks from 2021 and 2024 identified giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. The Scoping Report states that measures contained in the BMS for the 2016 Project remain suitable to manage INNS. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees INNS may be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.14	Paragraph 11.4.14	Ancient woodland	Table 4 of Appendix 11.1 identifies a number of ancient woodland areas, however the source of this information is not clear. The Inspectorate notes that ancient woodlands smaller than 2 hectares (ha) are unlikely to appear on inventories, for example the Natural England Ancient Woodland Inventory. As such, the ES should assess likely significant effects on all relevant ancient woodland receptors; seek to avoid direct impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees; and ensure that there is no increase in fragmentation of these habitats.

3.8 Traffic and transport

(Scoping Report Section 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
381	Paragraph 12.6.1	All construction phase effects	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out as the material change will involve further works at locations that were already subject to construction activity associated with the installation of the 2016 Project, and any increase in traffic caused by the proposed development will be limited due to the smaller scale of construction. The Scoping Report states that the proposed development would therefore not result in any materially new or different significant effects when compared to the 2016 Project. Based on the information provided in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate agrees this may be scoped out of the ES. However, the ES should provide information regarding anticipated number of traffic movements associated with bringing construction materials to site and removal of waste from site.
382	Paragraph 12.6.3	Future maintenance works relating to landowner culverts and landowner vehicular access points	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out as although landowner culverts and vehicular access points may require maintenance works to ensure they are suitable for maintenance access when required, the maintenance activity and operations needed will be infrequent, temporary and minor in nature so unlikely to lead to significant effects. On this basis the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out.
383	Paragraph 12.6.5	Operational traffic impacts	The Scoping Report seeks to scope out traffic impacts during the operational phase from work pads and the A39 Bath Road to Bridgewater Tee CSE Compounds Access Track on the basis that no collisions or significant traffic disruption has occurred at this location during the construction of the 2016 Project. The Scoping Report states therefore that maintenance of the proposed development in this location would not give rise to materially new or different effects from those identified in the 2014 Original ES. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees this matter may be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
384	Paragraphs 12.6.6 and 12.6.7	Maintenance works to revised maintenance access routes (and associated assets)	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out of the assessment due to the temporary nature and small scale of the required works. The Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out on the basis that the maintenance works will result in minimal traffic movements.
385	Paragraphs 12.6.10 and 12.6.12	Use of revised maintenance routes by larger vehicles	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out of the assessment on the basis that there will be no materially new or different significant effects to those identified within the 2014 Original ES. Chapter 2 of the Scoping Report explains that the vehicles required for maintenance of the T-Pylons are now larger than assumed in the 2014 Original ES assessments, and now includes the use of larger mobile elevating work platforms, cranes, and lorry mounted cranes. The Scoping Report states that although larger vehicles will be used, the frequency of maintenance is the same as was assumed for the 2016 Project. On this basis the Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out. The applicants attention is drawn to points in noise and vibration and biodiversity and nature conservation regarding potential impacts of larger vehicles on these aspects.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
386	Paragraph 12.4.4	Updates to road user surveys	The Scoping Report states no updated traffic surveys are proposed due to the minimal traffic flows predicted from the proposed development during construction and operation phases. The ES should consider changes to traffic unrelated to the proposed development and explain whether any new developments have taken place since the original 2014 ES assessments which may increase overall traffic.

3.9 Hydrology and water resources

(Scoping Report Section 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Paragraphs 13.6.1 to 13.6.4 and Table 13-4	Direct disturbance of surface waters, changes to water resources for surface waters and groundwater and changes to flood risk - construction	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out impacts from construction on the basis that the majority of works consist of upgrading existing assets in line with the original construction works and therefore are included in the original assessment, which concluded no residual significant effects following mitigation. Providing there are no materially new or different effects to those identified within the 2014 Original ES, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.9.2	Paragraph and Table 13-4	Direct disturbance of groundwaters – all phases	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the proposed development only has a limited potential to affect ground water due to the surface-based nature of its assets. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects due to the direct disturbance of groundwater as a result of the proposed development are not likely to occur. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.9.3	Paragraph and Table 13-4	Sediment runoff to surface waters – all phases	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that operational activities have limited potential to generate sediment run-off. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely to occur. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.9.4	Paragraph and Table 13-4	Release of pollutants into surface water or groundwater – all phases	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that whilst maintenance activities pose a risk of pollution to ground water and surface water due to spillages, impacts may be managed by the maintenance regime secured by the CEMP. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are not likely to occur. The Inspectorate considers that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
395	Paragraph 13.4.3	Surveys	The Scoping Report states that the assessment will rely on surveys undertaken for the 2014 Original ES. The ES should provide evidence to confirm the relevance of the surveys produced for the original ES.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

Bodies prescribed in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations (as amended)')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence
The relevant parish council or, where the application relates to land in Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Almondsbury Parish Council
	Pilning and Severn Beach Parish Council
	Aust Parish Council
	Olveston Parish Council
	Frampton Cotterell Parish Council
	Hanham Parish Council
	Winterbourne Parish Council
	Bradley Stoke Parish Council
	Alveston Parish Council
	Hanham Abbots Parish Council
	Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council
	Filton Town Council
	Patchway Parish Council
	Magor with Undy Town Council
	Butetown Community Council
	Weston-Super-Mare Town Council
	Stoke Park and Cheswick Parish Council

**SCHEDULE 1
DESCRIPTION**

ORGANISATION

Charlton Hayes Parish Council

Kingswood Parish Council

Staple Hill and Mangotsfield Parish Council

Tidemham Parish Council

Holford Parish Council

Stogursey Parish Council

Priddy Parish Council

North Petherton Town Council

Wembdon Parish Council

Pawlett Parish Council

Bridgwater Without Parish Council

Westonzoyland Parish Council

Burtle Parish Council

Otterhampton Parish Council

Mark Parish Council

Brent Knoll Parish Council

East Brent Parish Council

Wedmore Parish Council

Compton Bishop Parish Council

Cheddar Parish Council

Nether Stowey Parish Council

Fiddington Parish Council

Bridgwater Town Council

Chilton Trinity Parish Council

**SCHEDULE 1
DESCRIPTION**

ORGANISATION

Puriton Parish Council

Chedzoy Parish Council

Bawdrip Parish Council

Stawell Parish Council

Woolavington Parish Council

Chilton Polden Parish Council

Cossington Parish Council

West Huntspill Parish Council

Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council

East Huntspill Parish Council

Burnham Without Parish Council

Badgworth Parish Council

Lympsham Parish Council

Chapel Allerton Parish Council

Weare Parish Council

Axbridge Parish Council

Shipham Parish Council

Whitchurch Village Council

Keynsham Town Council

Bleadon Parish Council

Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council

Dundry Parish Council

Yatton Parish Council

Loxton Parish Council

**SCHEDULE 1
DESCRIPTION**

ORGANISATION

Hutton Parish Council
Banwell Parish Council
Puxton Parish Council
Churchill Parish Council
Congresbury Parish Council
Wrington Parish Council
Wick St. Lawrence Parish Council
Kingston Seymour Parish Council
Brockley Parish Council
Clevedon Town Council
Kenn Parish Council
Nailsea Town Council
Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council
Tickenham Parish Council
Clapton-in-Gordano Parish Council
Backwell Parish Council
Wraxall and Failand Parish Council
Long Ashton Parish Council
Portishead Town Council
Portbury Parish Council
Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council
Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Locking Parish Council
Burrington Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Cleeve Parish Council
	Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council
	Flax Bourton Parish Council
	St. Georges Parish Council
	Rogiet Community Council
	Portskewett Community Council
	Mathern Community Council
	Chepstow Community Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
Natural England	Natural England
The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission
Relevant AONB Conservation Boards	Cotswolds Conservation Board
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)	Historic England
The relevant internal drainage board	Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage District
	North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board
	Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board
	Parrett Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
The relevant Highways Authority	South Gloucestershire Highways
	North Somerset Highways
	City of Bristol Highways

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Somerset Highways
	National Highways
The Secretary of State for Transport	Department for Transport
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
NHS England	NHS England
The National Health Service Trusts (Wales)	Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust
The Coal Authority	Mining Remediation Authority
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The relevant police authority	Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant ambulance service	South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Avon Fire and Rescue Service
	Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS

‘Statutory undertaker’ is defined in The APFP Regulations (as amended) as having the same meaning as in section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board
	NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board
	NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
NHS England	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust
The relevant NHS Foundation Trust	South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
The relevant local health board (Wales)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	National Highways Historical Railways Estate
Road Transport	Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Canal and River Trust
Dock and Harbour authority	Uphill Port Harbour
	Bridgwater Port Harbour
	Bristol Avonmouth Port Harbour
	Bristol City Docks Port Harbour
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
	Bristol Water

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	South West Water
	Wessex Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	Wales and West Utilities Ltd
	CNG Services Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Inovyn Enterprises Ltd
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Stark Infra-Gas Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	National Gas
The relevant electricity generator with CPO Powers	Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station - EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Limited
	Hinkley Point C New Nuclear Power Station - NNB Generation Company (HPC) Limited
	Seabank Power Ltd
	Spalding Expansion OCGT - Spalding Energy Expansion Limited
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Distribution (South West) Limited
	Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd
	Aidien Ltd
	Aurora Utilities Ltd
	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
	UK Power Networks Limited
	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited

TABLE A3: LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 43(3) OF THE PA2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bristol City Council
Caerdydd - Cardiff
Cotswold District Council
Devon County Council
Dorset Council
East Devon District Council
Exmoor National Park
Forest of Dean District Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Mid Devon District Council
North Devon Council
North Somerset Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Sir Fynwy - Monmouthshire
Somerset Council
South Gloucestershire Council
Stroud District Council
Wiltshire Council

TABLE A4: THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Section 42(1)(a) of the PA2008 requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection 42(2).

ORGANISATION
The Marine Management Organisation

APPENDIX 2: **RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES**

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Avon Fire and Rescue Services
Bristol City Council
Canal and River Trust
Cardiff Council
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
Environment Agency
Exmoor National Park Authority
Forest of Dean District Council
Forestry Commission
Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Mid Devon District Council
MOD Safeguarding
National Gas
National Grid Electricity Transmission
National Highways
NATS Safeguarding
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
NHS Somerset
North Devon Council
North Somerset Council

Portishead Town Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Drainage Board IDB

South Gloucestershire Council

Tickenham Parish Council

UK Health Security Agency

Wedmore Parish Council

Wraxall and Failand Parish Council

Yatton Parish Council

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 02 July 2025 16:16:45

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@avonfire.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir,

I am responding on behalf of Avon Fire and Rescue service.
If these comments need to be placed elsewhere then please point me in the right direction.

I have reviewed your documents relating to EIAs and have the following comments.

These should be read in conjunction with comments from Devon and Somerset fire and rescue service;

- Access and egress for emergency vehicles needs to be maintained during the build and completion stages. There is a possibility that damage to the land will be caused by our actions whilst reaching remote sites. Our response times could be significant trying to locate these remote sites, particularly in wet or freezing conditions.
- The firefighting media required for an incident will be dependant on the scenario, however this will determine the environmental impact.
The most likely sources will be water, Foam, or an extinguishing agent
- Other incident types are unlikely to have a direct environmental risk created from our actions. As an example; a rescue from height
- Additional vehicles and equipment that are being used during the build stages will create an additional risk due to the specialist nature and remote locations
- Considerations to surrounding areas for electrical discharge, fire spread, smoke spread or water run-off impacts

Hopefully this covers all of the aspects required

Regards
Russ Mitchell

This email and any attachments should only be read by the person or people to whom it is addressed, and to be used by them for its intended purpose. Avon Fire & Rescue Service cannot accept liability for statements or legally binding obligations, which are the sender's and not made on behalf of Avon Fire & Rescue Service or Avon Fire Authority. Replies to this email address may be monitored under lawful business purposes. This email and any attachments are scanned by Forcepoint Mail Control Security Service and believed to be free from viruses, but it is your responsibility to carry out all necessary virus checks and Avon Fire Authority accepts no liability in connection therewith.

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Hinkley Connection – BCC SO response to PINS

PINS Ref. EN0210004

BCC Ref. 25/12595/K

Application No: 25/12595/K

Proposal: Request for comment on the ES scoping opinion for a cross boundary infrastructure project (Hinkley C connection infrastructure).

Site Address: Hinkley Point C Connection Project Severn Road Avonmouth

In relation to the consultation in relation to the above, BCC comment as follows:

Comments re. elements scoped in within the submission:

Visual Effects

If all amendments relate to ground level works, then distant views are unlikely to be affected. Consideration should however be given to local views and the resultant impact upon visual amenity.

Please also refer to sub-sections of Landscape and Historic Environment, as it is considered that there are links between these issues.

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Under original scope, various works were temporary, with sites to be restored to their former condition. Where works are now instead proposed to be permanent, this in some cases represents a loss of habitat, which over the extent of the project could be considered significant. Consideration therefore must be given to this, along with considerations of BNG and compensatory planting where applicable. In accordance with BNG requirements, replacement habitat creation should be as close a practicable to the habitat features lost.

Avonmouth and surrounds include various areas of special protection for wildlife, and any potential impact upon these protected areas and their features, whether direct or indirect, requires consideration.

Advice has been sought from the BCC Nature Conservation Officer, who has expressed the following:

The proposals are for the retention of some assets (culverts, field boundary breaks, etc) which were constructed for the 2016 project as temporary assets, together with creation of some new (permanent) assets.

Habitats and species present within Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Wildlife Corridor Habitats within the boundary of Bristol City Council Local Planning Authority have the potential to be affected. In addition, there are potential impacts on migratory fish and European eel, which are protected under the Severn Estuary European Marine Site (SPA/SAC/Ramsar).

In our assessment, the submitted documents identify ten temporary assets within the boundary of Bristol City Council Local Planning Authority which this proposal now seeks to make permanent, comprising 7 culverts, 1 work pad and 2 vehicular access points. One additional asset (culvert) is proposed to be constructed, the potential impacts of which were not considered within the permission for the 2016 project.

For the purposes of this scoping request, the size and nature of the proposals [within Bristol] set out do not trigger the need for an Environmental Statement to be prepared for Ecology purposes.

Appropriate working methods for the construction of the new culvert shall need to be prepared, taking full consideration of potential impacts on designated sites and protected species and habitats. A suitable review of whether the permanency of the retained culverts will represent any long-term significant impacts on aquatic vertebrates will also be required. Direct impacts upon rhine networks, and associated hydrologically linked habitats shall need to be assessed. Species of conservation interest which may be impacted upon by the proposals are migratory fish and European eel, otter, water vole and common reptiles. These considerations can be appropriately addressed by means of an Ecological Impact Assessment report, which should be submitted with any future planning application.

In any future planning applicant, the applicant should accord with national and local planning policy, and as such the applicant is expected to seek opportunities to deliver net gains for biodiversity through the provision of ecological enhancements (additionality), in conjunction with any measures necessary to mitigate for adverse impacts on biodiversity.

Reasons

(a) The 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended); the 1996 Wild Mammals Protection Act; the 2017 Habitats Regulations; the 2006 Animal Welfare Act; and the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act; the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Section 40)
(b) the Environment Act (2021) requires net gains for biodiversity to be delivered as part of proposals.

(c) Local planning policies in the Bristol City Council Local Plan: BCS9 states development must mitigate against the loss of existing biodiversity and nature habitats. In The Site Allocations and

Development Management Policies document, DM19 states that development will be expected to be ‘designed and sited, in so far as practicably and viably possible, to avoid any harm to identified habitats, species and features of importance’ and ‘Take opportunities to connect any identified on-site habitats, species or features to nearby corridors’; DM15 Green infrastructure Provision and DM17 Development Involving Existing Green Infrastructure states that ‘All new development should integrate important existing trees’.

Traffic and Transport

BCC Highways have expressed it is possible that elements may have been permitted on a temporary basis that may not have been permitted on a permanent basis. Works would therefore need to be re-assessed on a permanent basis, requiring a full transport appraisal of each junction and access, and construction detail (including culverts and Public Rights of Way), along with the identification of any current safety and maintenance issues.

Hydrology and Water resources

Potential issue re. increased run-off rates if areas of hardstanding are not reinstated to soft landscaping as was previously the intention.

Cumulative Effects

Should be scoped in as consideration of the project as a whole must be given, as well as a more focussed effect on individual elements.

Comments re. elements scoped out within the submission:

Heat and Radiation

No comment.

Landscape

Potential for localised impacts. May be considered significant in cumulative terms. Also considered to be linked to subject areas of Visual Effects, and Historic Environment. PINS should give consideration therefore to whether this should be scoped in.

Air Quality and Emissions

No comment.

Noise and Vibration

No comment.

Socio-economics and Land Use

No comment.

Electro-magnetic fields

No comment.

Ground Investigation

Whilst land contamination is known to be present within areas of Avonmouth, it is considered that requirements for ground investigation and remediation could reasonably be considered within individual applications for the works. It is therefore considered that this element could be scoped out, on the basis that individual applications for works could reasonably address this issue.

Historic Environment

On the basis of the previously temporary works now sought to be made permanent would be at ground level, it is considered that impact in this regard is unlikely to be significantly different to that of the original project. It is however recommended that consideration be given to the setting of Grade I Listed Kings Weston House and the surrounding Grade II Registered historic Landscape.

The Grade I Listed mansion derives aspects of its architectural and historic character from it's elevated position above the flood plain of the Severn and from the landmark character of the arcaded rooftop chimneys. Views from the parkland are important and intentional design elements of the landscape and further intrusion of infrastructure into important views has the potential to have a detrimental impact on the significance of house and grounds.

It is noted that previously the impact of new pylons and infrastructure works associated with the Hinkley Point National Grid extension had to address the heritage impacts on the highly protected listed building and Registered landscape.

This issue has clear links with issues of Visual Effects and Landscape, and as such further consideration should therefore be made by PINS as to whether Historic Environment should also be scoped in.

It is also recommend that Historic England are consulted through their pre-application process for their views to be taken into account.

Climate Change

No comment.

Human Health

No comment.

Major Accidents/Disasters

The route passes through a number of COMAH zones within Avonmouth. It is noted that this subject area was scoped out of the original project EIA, and it is considered likely therefore that this may again be appropriate, given that the retention of some previously temporary features is unlikely to increase risk of, or exposure to, major incident. That said, it is recommended that a view be obtained from HSE in relation to this aspect.

Waste and Materials

No comment.

Please note that these comments have also been fed into the Joint Officers Group response, submitted via Tetra-tech. This is with the exception of the BCC Nature Conservation Officer comments, due to the date of their receipt.

Yours Sincerely.

Andy Cross

Principal Planning Officer
Development Management
Bristol City Council.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: NSIP: Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change
Date: 10 June 2025 14:43:37
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

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The Canal & River Trust has no comment to make on this application.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Jane Hennell MRTPI

Area Planner

M [REDACTED]
Canal & River Trust

Gloucester Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EH



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Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with company number 7807276 and charity number 1146792. Registered office address National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW.

Cadw mewn cysylltiad

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Mae'r e-bost hwn a'i atodiadau ar gyfer defnydd y derbynnydd bwriedig yn unig. Os nad chi yw derbynnydd bwriedig yr e-bost hwn a'i atodiadau, ni ddylech gymryd unrhyw gamau ar sail y cynnwys, ond yn hytrach dylech eu dileu heb eu copio na'u hanfon ymlaen a rhoi gwybod i'r anfonwr eich bod wedi eu derbyn ar ddamwain. Mae unrhyw farn neu safbwyt a fynegir yn eiddo i'r awdur yn unig ac nid ydynt o reidrwydd yn cynrychioli barn a safbwytiau Glandŵr Cymru.

Mae Glandŵr Cymru yn gwmni cyfyngedig drwy warant a gofrestrwyd yng Nghymru a Lloegr gyda rhif cwmni 7807276 a rhif elusen gofrestredig 1146792. Swyddfa gofrestredig: National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW.

Date Dyddiad 24th June 2025
Email Ebost [REDACTED]@cardiff.gov.uk
Contact Cyswllt Grace Saveker
Our ref Ein cyf 25/01305/RFO



Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088
www.caerdydd.gov.uk
County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087
www.cardiff.gov.uk

Joseph Jones
The Planning Inspectorate

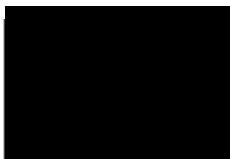
Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Hinkley Point C

Proposal: Request for Observation - Scoping Opinion in relation to Hinkley Point C.

This application has now been considered and this Authority has no comments to make with regard to the scope, and level of detail, of the further information to be provided in the updated ES relating to the proposed development that would accompany the material change application.

Yours faithfully



Head of Planning

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Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog.
Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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DEVON & SOMERSET

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Protection Delivery
Taunton Fire Station
Lisieux Way
Taunton
TA1 2LB

Your Ref: EN0210004 Date: 01 July 2025 Telephone: [REDACTED]
Our Ref: BL332298/686477/RH Please ask for: Matthew Franks
Website: www.dsfire.gov.uk Email: admintauntonyeovil@dsfire.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Re: National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)

Further to the above application, the Fire and Rescue Authority does not have any comments to make on the proposed development as long as access for fire services appliances is provided in line with current legislation.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Matthew Franks
Fire Safety Inspector
On behalf of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority

Tel. [REDACTED]

Chief Fire Officer – Gavin Ellis PGDip, MBA

Ms Karen Wilkinson
The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Temple Quay House (2 The Square)
Temple Quay
Bristol
Avon
BS1 6PN

Our ref: WX/2025/139041/01-L01
Your ref: EN0210004
Date: 01 July 2025

Dear Ms Wilkinson

**EIA SCOPING OPINION - MATERIAL CHANGE TO HINKLEY POINT C
CONNECTION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER HINKLEY POINT C,
BRIDGWATER**

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

Environment Agency Position

We have reviewed the HPC Connection Project EIA Scoping Report and Appendices, Briefing Session PowerPoint and Material Change Programme Document.

It should be noted that we would generally oppose permanent culverting of main rivers and therefore the applicant will need to demonstrate why culverting is both necessary and the only reasonable and practicable alternative. Alternatives could include open span bridges, revisions to site layout or diversion of the watercourse.

We welcome confirmation that flood risk is being Scoped In for further assessment and would welcome submission of an updated Flood Risk Assessment to take into account the proposed changes. We welcome confirmation that this will address changes in legislation since the DCO application including updated Climate Change allowances. Please also note that this should include the updated NaFRA2 data.

It is considered acceptable that the methodology used in Section 10.3, Chapter 10 of the original Environmental Statement remains applicable and can be used for the updated Environmental Statement. However, please be aware that several of the Local Authorities within the application area are working on their strategic documents, including Local Plans, Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments so it will be important that the most up to date information is used.

We would be happy to review any technical documents prior to the submission of the formal Material change DCO application.

A Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) variation will be required for any temporary works

which are now intended to become permanent, especially if the permanent works significantly differ from the original temporary design. If the conversion involves significant changes to the structure or its impact on flood risk, it might be considered a "substantial variation" requiring a more detailed assessment and potentially a new bespoke permit.

Please also note that any temporary stockpiling of material (if required) will need to be located outside of Flood Zone 3 where possible, to reduce the potential impact on flood flows.

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ms Briony Waterman
Sustainable Places - Planning Specialist

Direct [REDACTED]
E-mail wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 27 June 2025 10:14:27
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[~WRD0002.jpg](#)
[EN0210004 Letter to stat cons_Scoping & Req 11 Notification_NEW.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email with consultation letter attached.

A Development Consent Order (DCO) was granted in 2016 by the SoS for the Hinkley Connection Project to be built. This comprises new overhead lines and pylons, including new T-pylons, and two new substations and 8.5km of underground cables under the Mendip Hills. The construction started in 2018. Over the time since, it has been identified that some locations along the Connection Project are no longer suitable for maintenance and emergency access in the future because it cannot accommodate the vehicles that would be needed.

To secure suitable permanent vehicle access routes, a fresh application to the SoS would be needed to seek changes to the existing DCO (known as a DCO material change application). As part of the process for preparing that, the applicant has asked the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS for a written opinion of the scope, and level of detail, of the further information to be provided in the updated Environmental Statement (ES) relating to the proposal.

The changes are to ensure suitable future access to the new electricity transmission infrastructure built as part of the Project by:

1. securing permission to retain a number of structures that were constructed by National Grid but intended to be temporary
2. securing permission to upgrade and use those structures and additional existing structures that belong to landowners

Visual impact and biodiversity / nature conservation would be scoped in the ES. Under para 10.8, the scoping document advises that "night-time visual effects are scoped out and would not be assessed as the Proposed Development does not include any new or additional construction or operational lighting". Whilst sky glow from artificial lighting is already experienced from Hinkley Point, on the basis that no new or additional lighting is proposed and given the distance of the project from Exmoor National Park, the nature of the works with construction and the resulting changes and additions to the landscape more or less at ground level, Exmoor National Park Authority would not have any comments to make. Visually it is all far removed from the National Park and there would be no visual connections between the sites and the National Park in addition to that relating to Hinkley Point C site itself.

Nevertheless, it is perhaps an opportunity to mention the significance of darkness within Exmoor

as an important component of nighttime tranquillity and a quality of Exmoor's landscape character. It is also an opportunity to remind of the duty under Section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 on relevant authorities in respect of their functions which affect land in National Parks, National Landscapes, and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads (collectively referred to as Protected Landscapes) in England. Relevant authorities must now 'seek to further' the statutory purposes of these Protected Landscapes. The duty is intended to facilitate better outcomes for England's Protected Landscapes.

Best wishes

Joe White
Development Manager
Exmoor National Park Authority
Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL

Tel: 01398 323665

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

From: Planning external <plan@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2025 14:41
To: Joe White [REDACTED]@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk>
Subject: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping
Notification and Consultation

From: Hinkley Connection MC
Sent: 04 June 2025 14:38
Subject: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping
Notification and Consultation

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FAO Head of Planning

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change.

The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.

The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion and is therefore inviting you to submit comments by **2 July 2025**. The deadline is a

statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Further information is included within the attached letter.

Kind regards,

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones
EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
T [REDACTED]

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Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Contact: Hannah Ramsey
Direct line: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@fdean.gov.uk
Our ref: P0683/25/CONSUL
Your ref: EN0210004
Date: 01 July 2025

Dear Ms Wilkinson,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Scoping Consultation - Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)

Thank you for consulting the Forest of Dean District Council on the scope of the Environmental Statement in your letter dated 05 June 2025.

It is noted that Section 1.6 of the applicant's EIA Scoping Report provides a summary of the aspects that the applicant proposes to be scoped in or out of the Updated Environmental Statement. It is noted that Biodiversity and Nature Conservation are proposed to be scoped in; this is agreed.

The Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar is within the redline boundary of the application site; this internationally designated site also falls within the Forest of Dean District Council. The Scoping Report notes that updated Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) will be required and this is agreed. It is advised that following preliminary screening for Likely Significant Effects, if any Likely Significant Effects are identified then an Appropriate Assessment would be required including in situations where adverse impacts could be avoided or cancelled out by appropriately worded conditions. It is advised that a shadow HRA is undertaken by the appointed ecologist to identify relevant impact pathways.

Habitat Regulations Assessments should be informed by scientific evidence which includes any necessary surveys. It is noted within paragraph 11.6.72 of the EIA Scoping Report that the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar is crossed by a maintenance access. It is implied elsewhere within the Report that the bird survey data for the initial Environmental Statement is out of date. It is considered that there may be impacts or disturbance to bird species and assemblages that are qualifying features of the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar; it is therefore recommended that updated surveys are likely to be required unless there is robust justification.

The Forest of Dean District Council have no further comments to make regarding the scoping consultation.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hannah Ramsey
Senior Planning Officer

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change EIA Scoping Consultation - EN0210004
Date: 03 July 2025 18:19:47
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

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Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on these material changes.

As a Non-Ministerial Government Department, the Forestry Commission provide no opinion supporting or objecting to an application. Rather we provide advice on the potential impact that the proposed development could have on trees and woodland including ancient woodland.

We note from the provided EIA scoping documents that Banwell Wood, Buddings Wood, Moggs Wood and Chummock Wood Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands may all be affected. Also, one veteran tree has been identified within the scoping boundary, although more may yet be identified.

Banwell Wood overlaps the scoping boundary, the access road for workpad LD93 is within 20m of Buddings Wood, workpad LD87 is approximately 5m from Moggs Wood and the haul road for workpad LD86 sits between Moggs Wood and Chummock Wood approximately 25m from Chummock Wood.

Ancient Woodland/Ancient and Veteran Trees:

Ancient woodlands are an irreplaceable habitat. They have great value because they have a long history of woodland cover, being continuously wooded since at least 1600AD with many features remaining undisturbed. Ancient and veteran trees are also irreplaceable habitats.

Section 5.4.32 of EN-1 – The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy states:

“Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both the construction and operational phases”

We would particularly refer you to further technical information set out in Natural England and Forestry Commission's [Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland](#) – plus supporting [Assessment Guide](#) and [“Keepers of Time” – Ancient and Native Woodland and Trees Policy in England](#).

The Standing Advice states that proposals should have a buffer zone of **at least** 15m from the boundary of ancient woodlands to avoid root damage which can result in loss or deterioration of the woodland. Where assessment shows impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, you're likely to need a larger buffer zone. For example, the effect of air pollution from development as a result of dust from construction.

For ancient or veteran trees (including those on the woodland boundary), the buffer zone should be **at least** 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5 metres from the edge of the tree's canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree's diameter. This will create a minimum root protection area.

Where possible, buffer zones should contribute to wider ecological networks and be part of the green infrastructure of the area.

There is a need to consider both the direct and indirect impacts resulting from both construction and operational phases of the development.

Direct impacts can include, but are not limited to, damaging or compacting soil, damaging functional habitat connections and changing the woodland ecosystem by removing the woodland edge or thinning trees. Indirect impacts can also include reducing the amount of semi-natural habitats next to ancient woodland, increasing the amount of dust, light, air or soil pollution.

It is essential that fuels, chemicals or water materials such as topsoil, minerals or hardcore are not stored on Ancient woodland soils or under the woodland canopy.

Due to the irreplaceable nature of ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees, most temporary effects will result in irreplaceable damage.

While occasional use of access roads and workpads may not increase impacts, we note the expected load could include a 44 tonne vehicle. This is particularly relevant with workpad LD87 which will be approximately 5m from Moggs Wood. This is well within the minimum buffer zone and has the potential to compact soils and damage the roots of trees on the woodland edge.

We would expect to see a detailed assessment of any impacts to the ancient woodlands, including details of measures to be taken to reduce and mitigate any effect.

It should also be considered that these areas will already have been affected by construction for the original application, so further affects should be considered cumulative.

Mixed deciduous woodland – Priority Habitat:

All the woodlands affected are also listed as mixed deciduous woodlands on the National Forest Inventory and the Priority Habitat Inventory (England). There are also other mixed deciduous woodlands adjacent to the scoping boundary.

These woodlands were recognized under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as being the most threatened, requiring conservation action. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan has now been superseded but this priority status remains under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006. (NERC) Sect 40 "Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity" and Sect 41 – "List of habitats and species of principle importance in England".

Section 5.11.27 of EN-1 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy states:

"Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible.....The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured"

Fragmentation is one of the greatest threats to mixed deciduous woodland. Woodlands can suffer loss or deterioration from nearby development through loss of connectivity, damage to soils, roots and vegetation and changes to drainage and air pollution from an increase in traffic or dust, particularly during the construction phase of a development.

For any woodland within the development boundary, land required for temporary use or land where rights are required for the diversion of utilities, the Root Protection Zone must be taken into consideration. The Root Protection Zone (as specified in British Standard 5837) is there to protect the roots of trees, which often spread out further than the tree canopy.

Protection measures include taking care not to cut tree roots (e.g., by trenching) or causing soil compaction around trees (e.g., through vehicle movements or stacking heavy equipment) or contamination from poisons (e.g., site stored fuel or chemicals) and fencing off these areas to prevent unintended incursions into the root protection zone as well as dust prevention measures to reduce any potential impact of dust pollution.

Net Deforestation and Tree Planting:

It is expected that there will be thorough assessment of all trees within the new project boundary to identify any ancient or veteran trees in line with good arboricultural practice (BS 5837), also to assess any net loss of trees and the development of mitigation measures to minimise any risk of net deforestation because of the scheme.

Hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site should also be considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development.

With the Government aspiration to increase tree and canopy cover to 16.5% of land area in England by 2050, The Forestry Commission is seeking to ensure that tree planting is a consideration in every development not just as compensation for loss.

Perhaps with the creation of some larger woodland blocks and hedgerow/hedgerow trees between existing woodland blocks, to link them and ensure maximum gains to increase habitat connectivity, making woodlands more resilient and to benefit biodiversity across the whole site. Ideally we would like to see woodland creation to be carried out in 5ha blocks or that connecting planting with existing woodlands, should create blocks of at least 5ha.

The species and provenance of new trees and woodland needs to be considered to ensure a resilient treescape which can cope with the full implications of a changing climate. The biosecurity of all planting stock also needs to be considered to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases, especially in areas where there are ancient woodlands.

Plans should also be in place to ensure the long term management and maintenance of new and existing woodland, perhaps by creation of a UK Forestry Standard compliant management plan, with access also needing to be considered for future management.

We hope these comments have been useful to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Sandra

Sandra Squire

**Local Partnership Advisor
East & East Midlands**

Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] @forestrycommission.gov.uk



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NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2,
Redgrave Court,
Merton Road,
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 7HS.

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

Email: hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Jones

Date: 2 July 2025

**PROPOSED HINKLEY POINT C CONNECTION PROJECT MATERIAL CHANGE (the project)
PROPOSAL BY NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (the applicant)
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as
amended) REGULATIONS 10 and 11**

Thank you for your letter of 4/06/2025 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

1. With reference to the redlined **EIA Scoping Boundary** of the proposed development shown on **Figures 1.1 Site Location Plan and 2.1 The Proposed Development (Pages 1 – 6 inclusive)** found in document **Hinkley Point C Connection DCO Material Change, EIA Scoping Report – Figures, Figures 1.1 - 10.2, EN0210004, June 2025**, sections of the proposed development fall within HSE public safety zones associated with a number of Major Accident Hazard Pipeline(s) and Major Hazard Installation(s).
2. There is currently insufficient information available for HSE to provide its' public safety Land Use Planning Advice. However, by way of general guidance HSE would not advise against the proposed development providing no population(s), either temporary or permanent, is introduced within any of HSE's public safety zones nor would HSE advise against Workplaces (DT1.1 - Workplaces)*, providing for less than 100 occupants in each building and less than 3 occupied storeys.

* HSE's Land Use Planning Methodology **Table 1 Development type: People at work, Parking** [<https://www.hse.gov.uk/landuseplanning/methodology.htm>]

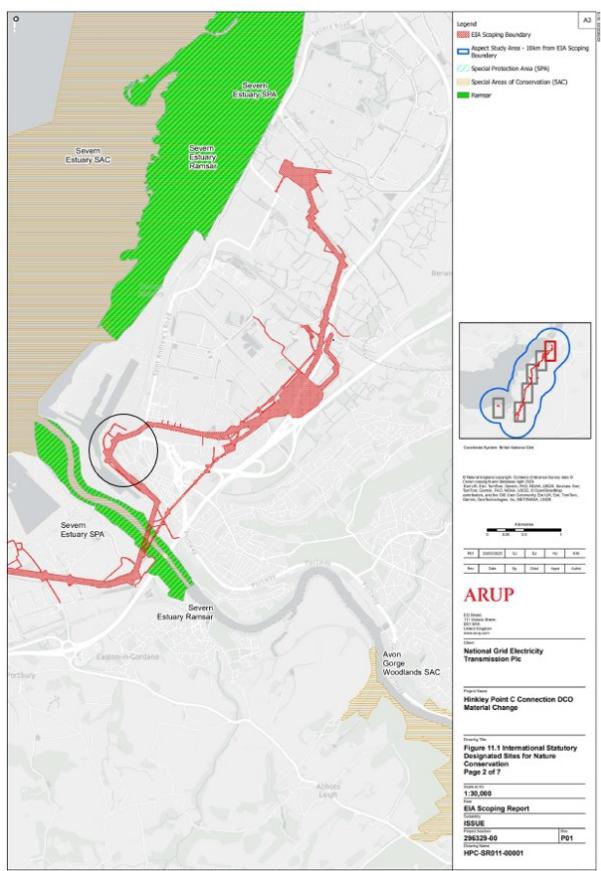
3. Should a new Major Accident Hazard Pipeline be introduced, or existing Pipeline modified prior to the determination of the present application, then the HSE reserves the right to revise its advice.
4. If prior to the determination of the present application, a Hazardous Substances Consent be granted for a new Major Hazard Installation or a Hazardous Substances Consent is varied for an existing Major Hazard Installation in the vicinity of the proposed development, then the HSE reserves the right to revise its advice.

Hazardous Substance Consent

5. The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) may require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others, for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015.
6. Hazardous Substances Consent would be required if the site is intending to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances and Preparations at or above the controlled quantities set out in schedule 1 of these Regulations.
7. Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.

Explosives sites

Explosives Inspectorate has reviewed this NSIP application, and some sections do fall into safeguarding sections of nearby explosives sites, we do not view the pylons/overhead cables as a 'protected place', therefore we have comment to make. However, we would want to be consulted in regarding the placement of contractors cabins (equipment) during the construction phase, particularly in the vicinity of Royal Edward Dock (see image below - area of concern in black circle).



Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk . We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely

Pp Shirley Rance

Cathy Williams
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team



Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: PL00475294

Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

20 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: EN0210004

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) - Regulations 10 and 11

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)
Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested**

Thank you for consulting us on the proposed Material Change for the Hinkley Point C Connection Project. We have reviewed the EIA Report (June 2025).

In answer to the two requests, regarding the content of the ES and if we have any comments, please see below.

Historic England role is to provide advice to local planning authorities, government departments, developers and owners on development proposals affecting the historic environment. We have therefore only reviewed the Historic Environment aspects of the EIA Scoping Report (5.8). In general, we agree with the conclusions of the assessment and the scoping out of the Historic Environment (5.8.14).

We are however disappointed that an updated archaeological Desk-Based



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Telephone 0117 975 1308

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Assessment (DBA) was not undertaken. We note that the assumption is that since 2014 when the DBA was written for the ES not much has changed (5.8.3). However since 2014 a new scheduled monument has been designated close to the DCO limit (Portbury Heavy Anti-aircraft Battery <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1485246>).

We also note that the archaeological works undertaken under the existing DCO and ES have been reviewed and no significant finds relating to the proposed works were identified (5.8.3).

We also recognise that the proposed changes will still be subject to the agreed CEMP (Document 5.26.1), especially Appendix 3: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation(Document 5.26.4C). This will ensue any new excavations will be monitored by an archaeologist.

This means any works that might impact on the historic environment will be mitigated as agreed under the existing agreed CEMP.

We therefore have no further comment to make and will not need to be involved in the Material Change Process going forward. Do however keep us informed of any decisions that are made.

Yours Sincerely

Melanie Barge

Inspector of Ancient Monuments
E-mail: [REDACTED]@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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Telephone 0117 975 1308
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Our Ref: 784-A090129-110

Your Ref: EN0210004

Date: 3rd July 2025

**Environmental Services,
Operations Group 3,
Planning Inspectorate,
Temple Quay House,
2, The Square,
BRISTOL
BS1 6PN**

Dear Karen Wilkinson,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

I am writing in response to your consultation letter of 05 June 2025, in our capacity as the planning consultancy instructed by and to support Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council (the 'Joint Councils') to discharge the current Hinkley Point C Connection Project (HPCCP) DCO Requirements, and the planning consultancy providing support to the Joint Councils in their capacities as 'Consultation Bodies' in respect of the HPCCP DCO Material Change.

Further to and in addition to the individual consultation response submissions made by Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council, in the above capacity, please find attached the collective consultation response prepared and submitted on behalf of the Joint Councils.

For the most part, the Joint Councils agree with the National Grid proposed Scoping of factors for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment. However, we have concerns regarding the proposed scoping out of 'Landscape', 'Ground Environment' and 'Historic Environment' and believe they should be scoped in on a cumulative likelihood basis as well as at one or more local authorities level. Further information and justification should be sought from NG regarding those small number of 'Traffic & Transport' matters proposed to be scoped out, and the views of the HSE should be obtained before accepting the scoping out of Major Accidents & Disasters if appropriate in light of those views, for reasons set out above to enable a comprehensive and diligent Scoping Opinion to be provided.

We trust that this submission and any submitted by the individual 'Joint Council' councils will be taken into account by PINS in providing a Scoping Opinion response to National Grid.

Please do contact me in the first instance if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Yours faithfully,



**Philip Higginbottom
Principal Planner**

(For and behalf of and Cc'ed to the 'Joint Councils' (Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council))

Hawkridge House, Chelston Business Park, Wellington, TA21 8YA

Tel: + [REDACTED]

Email: planning.wellington@tetrtech.com Website: www.tetrtech.com

Tetra Tech Environment Planning Transport Limited. Registered in England & Wales Number: 03050297

Registered Office: 3 Sovereign Square, Sovereign Street, Leeds, LS1 4ER

Hinkley C Connections Material Change	Scoping Consultation Response	<p>Planning Inspectorate reference no. EN0210004</p> <p>Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11</p> <p>Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)</p>							Scoping Conclusion: green - agree topic should be scoped in/out amber - concerns red - disagree topic should be scoped in/out contrary to NG conclusion
Council area:	Bristol City								
Summary of works proposed:	Notably: Ten temporary assets now seeking permanent consent, comprising 7 culverts, 1 work pad and 2 vehicular access points. One additional asset (culvert) is proposed to be constructed.								
Scoping Topic identified by National Grid:	Constraints/ factors for consideration in Bristol City	Potential effects identified by project lead officer			<p>Specialist Officer consultee comments to cover: NOTE: the baseline for this assessment is the existing certified EIA for the Development Consent Order 2016 and any subsequent survey updates. The Scoping process enables an applicant to ask the Secretary of State to state in writing its opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES."</p>				
Topics proposed to be scoped in by National Grid					Baseline/ study area / assumptions	Policy context (national & local)	methodology, scope, level of assessment?	Impacts identified & assessment of significance?	Adequacy of mitigation/ any additional required? Any other comments
Visual Effects		If all amendments relate to ground level works, then distant views are unlikely to be affected. Consideration should however be given to local views and the resultant impact upon visual amenity. Please also refer to sub-sections of Landscape and Historic Environment, as it is considered that there are links between these issues.							
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation		<p>Under original scope, various works were temporary, with sites to be restored to their former condition. Where works are now instead proposed to be permanent, this in some cases represents a loss of habitat, which over the extent of the project could be considered significant. Consideration therefore must be given to this, along with considerations of BNG and compensatory planting where applicable. In accordance with BNG requirements, replacement habitat creation should be as close as practicable to the habitat features lost.</p> <p>Avonmouth and surrounds include various areas of special protection for wildlife, and any potential impact upon these protected areas and their features, whether direct or indirect, requires consideration.</p> <p>Advice has been sought from the BCC Nature Conservation Officer, who has expressed the following:</p> <p>The proposals are for the retention of some assets (culverts, field boundary breaks, etc) which were constructed for the 2016 project as temporary assets, together with creation of some new (permanent) assets.</p> <p>Habitats and species present within Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Wildlife Corridor Habitats within the boundary of Bristol City Council Local Planning Authority have the potential to be affected. In addition, there are potential impacts on migratory fish and European eel, which are protected under the Severn Estuary European Marine Site (SPA/SAC/Ramsar).</p> <p>In our assessment, the submitted documents identify ten temporary assets within the boundary of Bristol City Council Local Planning Authority which this proposal now seeks to make permanent, comprising 7 culverts, 1 work pad and 2 vehicular access points. One additional asset (culvert) is proposed to be constructed, the potential impacts of which were not considered within the permission for the 2016 project.</p> <p>For the purposes of this scoping request, the size and nature of the proposals [within Bristol] set out do not trigger the need for an Environmental Statement to be prepared for Ecology purposes.</p> <p>Appropriate working methods for the construction of the new culvert shall need to be prepared, taking full consideration of potential impacts on designated sites and protected species and habitats. A suitable review of whether the permanency of the retained culverts will represent any long-term significant impacts on aquatic vertebrates will also be required. Direct impacts upon rhine networks, and associated hydrologically linked habitats shall need to be assessed. Species of conservation interest which may be impacted upon by the proposals are migratory fish and European eel, otter, water vole and common reptiles. These considerations can be appropriately addressed by means of an Ecological Impact Assessment report, which should be submitted with any future planning application.</p> <p>In any future planning application, the applicant should accord with national and local planning policy, and as such the applicant is expected to seek opportunities to deliver net gains for biodiversity through the provision of ecological enhancements (additionality), in conjunction with any measures necessary to mitigate for adverse impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>Reasons</p> <p>(a) The 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended); the 1996 Wild Mammals Protection Act; the 2017 Habitats Regulations; the 2006 Animal Welfare Act; and the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act; the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Section 40)</p> <p>(b) the Environment Act (2021) requires net gains for biodiversity to be delivered as part of proposals.</p> <p>(c) Local planning policies in the Bristol City Council Local Plan: BCS9 states development must mitigate against the loss of existing biodiversity and nature habitats. In The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document, DM19 states that development will be expected to be 'designed and sited, in so far as practicable and viably possible, to avoid any harm to identified habitats, species and features of importance' and 'Take opportunities to connect any identified on-site habitats, species or features to nearby corridors'; DM15 Green Infrastructure Provision and DM17 Development Involving Existing Green Infrastructure states that 'All new development should integrate important existing trees'.</p>							
Traffic & Transport		Works would therefore need to be re-assessed on a permanent basis, requiring a full transport appraisal of each junction and access, and construction detail (including culverts and Public Rights of Way), along with the identification of any current safety and maintenance issues.						BCC Highways have expressed it is possible that elements may have been permitted on a temporary basis that may not have been permitted on a permanent basis.	
Hydrology & Water Resources		Potential issue re. increased run-off rates if areas of hardstanding are not reinstated to soft landscaping as was previously the intention.							Agree should be scoped in.
Cumulative Effects		Should be scoped in as consideration of the project as a whole must be given, as well as a more focussed effect on individual elements.							Agree should be scoped in.
Topics proposed to be scoped out by National Grid									
Heat & Radiation		No comment.							Accept this can be scoped out.
Landscape		Potential for localised impacts. May be considered significant in cumulative terms. Also considered to be linked to subject areas of Visual Effects, and Historic Environment. PINS should give consideration therefore to whether this should be scoped in.							Having regard to comments it is suggested that Landscape should be scoped in, not out.
Air Quality & Emissions		No comment.							Accept this can be scoped out.
Noise & Vibration		No comment.							Accept this can be scoped out.
Socio-economics & land use		No comment.							Accept this can be scoped out.

Electro Magnetic fields		No comment.								Accept this can be scoped out.
Ground Environment		Whilst land contamination is known to be present within areas of Avonmouth, it is considered that requirements for ground investigation and remediation could reasonably be considered within individual applications for the works. It is therefore considered that this element could be scoped out, on the basis that individual applications for works could reasonably address this issue.								Agree this can be scoped out.
Historic Environment		On the basis of the previously temporary works now sought to be made permanent would be at ground level, it is considered that impact in this regard is unlikely to be significantly different to that of the original project. It is however recommended that consideration be given to the setting of Grade I Listed Kings Weston House and the surrounding Grade II Registered historic Landscape. The Grade I Listed mansion derives aspects of its architectural and historic character from its elevated position above the flood plain of the Severn and from the landmark character of the arcaded rooftop chimneys. Views from the parkland are important and intentional design elements of the landscape and further intrusion of infrastructure into important views has the potential to have a detrimental impact on the significance of house and grounds. It is noted that previously the impact of new pylons and infrastructure works associated with the Hinkley Point National Grid extension had to address the heritage impacts on the highly protected listed building and Registered landscape. This issue has clear links with issues of Visual Effects and Landscape, and as such further consideration should therefore be made by PINS as to whether Historic Environment should also be scoped in. It is also recommended that Historic England are consulted through their pre-application process for their views to be taken into account.							Having regard to comments it is suggested that Historic Environment should be scoped in, not out.	
Climate change		No comment.								Accept this can be scoped out.
Human Health		No comment.								Accept this can be scoped out.
Major Accidents & Disasters		The route passes through a number of COMAH zones within Avonmouth. It is noted that this subject area was scoped out of the original project EIA, and it is considered likely therefore that this may again be appropriate, given that the retention of some previously temporary features is unlikely to increase risk of, or exposure to, major incident. That said, it is recommended that a view be obtained from HSE in relation to this aspect.								PINS are advised to seek the views of the HSE in respect of the appropriateness of scoping out Major Accidents/Disasters.
Waste & Materials		No comment.								Accept this can be scoped out.
OTHER										

Summary of Conclusions for Bristol City Council area	Summary of BCC's position: Landscape and Historic Environment should be scoped in. For the most part we agree with the National Grid proposed Scoping of factors for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment. However we have concerns regarding the proposed scoping out of 'Landscape' and 'Historic Environment' and believe they should be scoped in, and that the views of the HSE should be obtained before accepting the scoping out of Major Accidents & Disasters if appropriate in light of those views, for reasons set out above.
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Hinkley C Connections Material Change	Scoping Consultation Response	Planning Inspectorate reference no. EN0210004 Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11 Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)						
Council area:	North Somerset							
Summary of works proposed:	Notably: Permanent retention of culverts and bellmouths previously intended to be temporary, with upgrading of work pads so they too will be permanent, and provision of associated temporary haul roads, stone but with seeding, so grass crete. It is understood that the intention is that the haul roads be eventually removed and the land reinstated, but thereon dismantlable aluminium trackways be used for access by MEWPs etc to the work pads for occasional pylon maintenance as necessary.							
Scoping Topic identified by National Grid:	Constraints/ factors for consideration in North Somerset	Potential effects identified by project lead officer	Specialist Officer consultee comments to cover: NOTE: the baseline for this assessment is the existing certified EIA for the Development Consent Order 2016 and any subsequent survey updates. The Scoping process enables an applicant to ask the Secretary of State to state in writing its opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES."					Scoping Conclusion: green - agree topic should be scoped in/out amber - concerns red - disagree topic should be scoped in/out contrary to NG conclusion
Topics proposed to Scoped IN by National Grid			Baseline/ study area / assumptions	Policy context (national & local)	methodology, scope, level of assessment?	Impacts identified & assessment of significance?	Adequacy of mitigation/ any additional required?	Any other comments
Visual Effects		It is likely that permanent retention of bellmouths, culverts and workpads, with upgrading of culverts, (as opposed to them being removed and the land restored (reinstated), including hedgerow reinstatement), will have a visual impact. So too will provision of the haul roads to the workpads, although they will be temporary. Proposed seeding and grasscrete, and possibly seeding of a design feature on culvert headwalls, are noted. Agree that Visual Effects should be scoped in, as proposed.		NPPF Chapter 12 well-designed places & Chapter 15 Conserving & enhancing the natural environment NS Core Strategy policy CS5 Landscape and the historic environment. Covers sensitive design and townscape	Scoping Report page 129 gives methodology for assessing visual effects. Includes intention for viewpoint photography, including winter (worst case) to be in the Updated ES, with identified stakeholders to be consulted on viewpoints. Informal design visualisations to assist .			No specialist officers' comments specifically on Visual Effects have been received, although the comments under Landscape below have a relevance.
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation		Para 11.6.9 refers to SSSIs at Yatton and near Nailsea overlapping the 20 m working area around construction phase assets (culverts) being scoped in. Similarly scoped in are non statutory local sites overlapping the 20 m working buffers of construction phase assets. Potential for some impacts on biodiversity from upgrading and making permanent culverts, as opposed to removing culverts and reinstating the land to former state. While culverts are already there, reinstatement could presumably in time provide habitat for water voles and bat foraging.		NPPF Chapter 15 Conserving & enhancing the natural environment. NSC Core Strategy Policy CS4.				No specialist officers' comments specifically on Biodiversity and Nature Conservation have been received, although some comments under Landscape below have a relevance.
Traffic & Transport				NS Development Management Policies Plan , policy DM24.				Lead Engineer: I have no comments to make on the EIA scoping report. When we receive detailed proposals for the access points on the public highway (for operational maintenance access purposes) we can provide the designer with detailed comments in the normal manner.
Hydrology & Water Resources	Proximity of interconnecting rhyme network of importance to wildlife.	Para 13.6.5 indicates that the permanent retention of 2016 Project assets and any works to landowner assets (culverts and vehicular access points) which may be required have potential to give rise to materially new or materially different effects upon the water environment and flood risk. Para 13.6.7 indicates that the primary potential for effect is through the permanent change in the physical habitats of watercourses related to the permanent retention of project culverts that were intended to be temporary, or the future maintenance of landowner culverts that are located within and outside of the 2016 Order Limits that were not considered in Chapter 10 of the 2014 Original ES .		NSC Core Strategy Policy CS3.				No specialist officers' comments specifically on Hydrology and water resources have been received, although some comments under Ground Environment below have a relevance.

Cumulative Effects		Potential for cumulative impacts over the entire project area.								No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree should be scoped in.
Topics proposed to be scoped out by National Grid										
Heat & Radiation										No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.
Landscape		It is likely that permanent retention of bellmouths, culverts and workpads, with upgrading of culverts, as opposed to them being removed and the land restored (reinstated) , including hedgerow reinstatement (para 11.6.52), will have a landscape, as well as visual impact, particularly given their number over the entire project area. So too will provision of the access tracks to the workpads, although they will be temporary. Landscape should be scoped in, like Visual Effects, particularly with potential for impacts over the entire project area.		NPPF Chapter 12 well-designed places & Chapter 15 Conserving & enhancing the natural environment NS Core Strategy policy CS5 Landscape and the historic environment. Includes sensitive design and townscape					NSC Flood Risk Manager: The assertion that the proposed changes will not result in materially different landscape effects is not supported by the likely long-term visual changes resulting from the access infrastructure. Specifically: -Use of grasscrete or other engineered surfaces for maintenance access is not visually neutral and does impact on the biodiversity of the area. These surfaces, although vegetated, are visually distinct from typical grassland and can introduce an industrialised aesthetic into rural settings. This change, especially across large swathes of agricultural land or open peatland, may reduce the landscape character and perceived naturalness of the area. - In sloping or elevated areas, the engineered platforms or tracks required to accommodate vehicle access are likely to introduce cut-and-fill features, edge definition, or drainage works that further alter visual appearance and character. These interventions may not have been fully considered or anticipated in the 2014 ES, particularly in light of the revised maintenance strategy and larger vehicles now proposed.	Having regard to comments it is suggested that Landscape should be scoped in, not out.
Air Quality & Emissions									NSC Environmental Protection Service Leader: I have reviewed the information and have noted that Air Quality and Noise have been scoped out of the EIA. We have not had many reported issues associated with the works to date and any that have been reported have been managed and dealt with under existing controls within the DCO, I do not envisage therefore that these material amendments will cause significant effects and agree with the findings of the scoping report.	Agree this can be scoped out.
Noise & Vibration									NSC Environmental Protection Service Leader: I have reviewed the information and have noted that Air Quality and Noise have been scoped out of the EIA. We have not had many reported issues associated with the works to date and any that have been reported have been managed and dealt with under existing controls within the DCO, I do not envisage therefore that these material amendments will cause significant effects and agree with the findings of the scoping report.	Agree this can be scoped out.
Socio-economics & land use										No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.
Electro Magnetic fields										No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.

Ground Environment		While the NSC Environmental Protection Service Leader did not foresee significant impacts regarding ground contamination from the proposed material amendments, the NSC Flood Risk Manager had concerns about other aspects of the ground environment, notably regarding peat, and said it should be scoped in.						NSC Flood Risk Manager: Ground Environment (including Peat) It is not appropriate to scope out the ground environment given the nature and sensitivity of the soils in this area: -Part of the revised access falls across peat soils, which were significantly undervalued in the original DCO submissions. Since that time, North Somerset Council has completed a government-funded peatland study identifying the vulnerability and importance of these soils for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and subsidence risk management. -Peatlands are dynamic systems; subsidence of more than 0.5m over the lifetime of the pylons is likely due to ongoing shrinkage and oxidation, particularly where access tracks are compacted or poorly drained. -Access infrastructure may need to be upgraded over time from grass to formal surfacing to ensure operational reliability. This would have clear implications for ground disturbance, long-term hydrology, and habitat integrity—issues which are not adequately assessed if scoped out at this stage	Having regard to comments it is suggested that Ground Environment should be scoped in, not out.
Historic Environment							NSC Principal Conservation and Heritage Officer had no comments	No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.	
Climate change								No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.	
Human Health								No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.	
Major Accidents & Disasters								No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.	
Waste & Materials		Waste may arise from reconfiguration/ removal/ construction of culverts. Presumably this will be controlled by measures already approved in the CEMP.						No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.	
OTHER									

Summary of Conclusions for North Somerset area	Summary of NSC's position: Landscape and Ground Environment (peat) should be scoped in. For the most part we agree with the National Grid proposed Scoping of factors for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment. However we have concerns regarding the proposed scoping out of 'Landscape' and Ground Environment and suggest that they should be scoped in, for reasons set out above.
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Hinkley C Connections Material Change	Scoping Consultation Response Summary	Planning Inspectorate reference no. EN0210004 Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11 Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)				
Council areas:	Bristol City, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire ('The Joint Councils')	Prepared by Tetra Tech Planning, on behalf of the HPCCP Joint Councils	Date Prepared & Submitted to PINS: 03 July 2025			
Summary of works proposed:	Temporary assets now seeking permanent consent, comprising vehicular access points/bellmouths and access tracks, culverts, and work pads; New culverts; Use of Ableton Lane for construction maintenance traffic; Use of dismantlable aluminium trackways be used for access by MEWPs etc to the work pads for occasional pylon maintenance as necessary; Modifications to overhead line and pylon positions; and land rights adjustments.					
Scoping Topic identified by National Grid:	Potential effects identified by Joint Councils' project lead officers	methodology, scope, level of assessment?	Impacts identified & assessment of significance?	Adequacy of mitigation/ any additional required?	Any other comments	Scoping Conclusion: green - agree topic should be scoped in/out amber - concerns red - disagree topic should be scoped in/out contrary to NG conclusion
Topics proposed to Scoped IN by National Grid						
Visual Effects	Permanent retention of infrastructure (e.g., culverts, bellmouths, workpads) may alter visual amenity, especially where reinstatement of vegetation is not proposed. Concerns raised about: - Urbanising effects of concrete headwalls and fencing. - Visual breaks in green corridors. - Need for winter viewpoint photography and visualisations. - Recommendation: Visual effects should remain scoped in, with detailed assessment of local views and mitigation through design and planting.	Methodology includes viewpoint photography and visualisations. Concerns raised about urbanisation of rural/green corridors.	Concerns include permanent infrastructure altering visual amenity, especially in green corridors and rural areas. Linked to landscape and heritage considerations. Environmental effects are likely to be significant not only on a cumulative basis but also at individual local authority levels as well.			Scoped in by Joint Councils.
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation	Key concerns include: - Loss of habitat due to permanent infrastructure. - Impacts on protected species (e.g., water vole, migratory fish, European eel, otter, reptiles). - Proximity to designated sites (SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, Ramsar). Emphasis on: - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements. - Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). - Habitat connectivity and compensatory planting. - Recommendation: Full ecological assessment required, with mitigation and enhancement measures aligned with national and local policy.	Emphasis on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and ecological enhancements. Need for Ecological Impact Assessment and compliance with national/local policy.	Impacts on protected species and designated sites. Environmental effects are likely to be significant not only on a cumulative basis but also at individual local authority levels as well.	Ecological Impact Assessment to address impacts on protected species and habitats. Biodiversity Net Gain and ecological enhancements required.		Scoped in by Joint Councils.
Traffic & Transport	Issues identified: - Need for reassessment of access points and junctions for permanent use. - Potential safety concerns on narrow rural lanes and PRoW (Public Rights of Way). - Requirement for swept path analysis and CTMP (Construction Traffic Management Plan) addendum. - Consideration of abnormal loads and cumulative traffic impacts. - Whilst it is agreed that traffic and transport is scoped in, NG have referred to scoping out a small number of individual matters, which on the face of it appear reasonable. However, they haven't provided the background information to enable diligent review and to come to a reasoned conclusion. - Recommendation: Comprehensive transport appraisal needed, including PRoW impacts and opportunities for legacy access improvements.	Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and equestrian use need to be considered. Need for updated Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and safety assessments.	Issues include permanent access points, haul roads, and increased maintenance traffic. Rights of Way and equestrian access noted. Environmental effects are likely to be significant not only on a cumulative basis but also at individual local authority levels as well. Unable to come to a reasonable conclusions as to whether or not small number of individual transport matters proposed to be scoped out of the Traffic & Transport section of the ES is justified due to lack of information and justification.	Updated CTMP including abnormal load licensing and PRoW considerations.		Scoped in by Joint Councils. However, there are specific individual matters that require sharing of justification information prior to the Council being able to agree that it can be scoped out.

Hydrology & Water Resources	Concerns include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased runoff from retained hardstanding.Long-term flood risk and water quality impacts.Effects on rhyne networks and hydrologically linked habitats.Maintenance and design standards for culverts.Recommendation: Updated flood risk assessments, WFD compliance, and consultation with LLFAs, IDBs, and the Environment Agency are essential.	Requirement for updated flood mapping and Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessments. Maintenance regimes for culverts required.	Concerns about flood risk, water quality, and long-term impacts on rhyne network and of permanent culverts. Environmental effects are likely to be significant not only on a cumulative basis but also at individual local authority levels as well.	Flood Risk Assessment and maintenance plans for culverts.		Scoped in by Joint Councils.
Cumulative Effects	Recognised need to assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Combined impacts of multiple permanent features (e.g., culverts, access points).Interaction with other major infrastructure projects (e.g., Hinkley Point C, Gravity, Bridgwater Tidal Barrier).Landscape and biodiversity fragmentation.	Consideration of cumulative impacts from multiple infrastructure elements and other regional projects.	Need to assess combined impacts of multiple infrastructure changes and interactions with other major projects.			Scoped in by Joint Councils.
Topics proposed to be scoped out by National Grid						
Heat & Radiation	No anticipated effects.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
Landscape	While Visual Effects are consistently scoped in, all Councils challenge the scoping out of Landscape. This is due to localised and cumulative impacts resulting from the numerous elements of permanent infrastructure now proposed along the length of the route, where the original consent would have restored these locations back to landscape. Specifically, the permanent loss of landscape features such as hedgerows and other green infrastructure, the urbanising effects of now permanent highway access points and haul roads, road widening, work pads, fencing, removal or modification of temporary bridges and culverts, additional culvert, and concrete headwalls etc and their consequent impacts on landscape character.	Permanent infrastructure will alter landscape character. Strong links to visual effects and cumulative impacts.	Permanent infrastructure may alter landscape character. Strong links to visual effects and cumulative impacts. Environmental effects are likely to be significant on a cumulative basis as well as at individual local authority levels.	Visual and Landscape Assessment including cumulative impacts and design mitigation		Joint Councils' view is that Landscape should be scoped in, not out.
Air Quality & Emissions	No significant issues reported. Existing controls deemed sufficient.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
Noise & Vibration	No significant new impacts expected. Existing mitigation measures considered adequate.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
Socio-economics & land use	No significant changes anticipated.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
Electro Magnetic fields	No change from existing situation.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
Ground Environment	Mixed views. North Somerset Council recommends scoping in due to concerns about peatland disturbance, carbon sequestration, and subsidence risks. Emphasis on the sensitivity of soils and long-term ground stability. No Council is opposed to this view/conclusion.	Peatland sensitivity and carbon sequestration concerns need to be addressed.	Peatland sensitivity, carbon sequestration, and subsidence risks.	Ground Environment Assessment for peatland areas and subsidence risks.		Having regard to NSC comments, Ground Environment should be scoped in, not out.
Historic Environment	Re: Built Heritage Scoped in by Bristol City Council due to potential impacts on listed buildings and historic landscapes. Concerns about setting, views, and cumulative heritage impacts. Re: Archaeology Generally agreed to be scoped out, except where historic culverts and bridges may have heritage value. Recommendation for further investigation and potential local listing. No Council is opposed to this view/conclusion.	Potential impacts on listed buildings and historic features such as bridges and culverts.	Potential impacts on listed buildings and historic landscape inc. historic culverts and bridges potentially linked to 18th/19th-century land enclosures. Environmental effects are likely to be significant on a cumulative basis and at individual local authority levels.	Heritage Assessment for historic culverts and landscape settings.	PINS is advised of the need to consult Historic England.	Having regard to BCC comments and wider cumulative likelihood of significant effects Historic Environment should be scoped in, not out.
Climate change	No significant new effects identified.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.

Human Health	No likely significant effects.					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
Major Accidents & Disasters	Generally scoped out, although Bristol City Council recommends PINS consults the HSE due to COMAH zones before potentially scoping 'Major Accidents & Disasters' out.	COMAH zones may need to be scoped in and assessed, following consultation with and response from the HSE.				PINS are advised to seek the views of the HSE in respect of the appropriateness of scoping out Major Accidents/Disasters.
Waste & Materials	Waste expected to be managed under existing Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP).					Scoped out by Joint Councils.
OTHER		General comment: Topic-specific, with emphasis on updated surveys, stakeholder consultation, and cumulative impact analysis. Re: assessment level: Varies by topic. Detailed assessments will be required for scoped-in topics.				

Summary of Conclusions for Joint Councils	For the most part, the Joint Councils agree with the National Grid proposed Scoping of factors for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment. However we have concerns regarding the proposed scoping out of 'Landscape', 'Ground Environment' and 'Historic Environment' and believe they should be scoped in on a cumulative likelihood basis as well as at one or more local authorities level. Further information and justification should be sought from NG regarding those small number of 'Traffic & Transport' matters proposed to be scoped out, and the views of the HSE should be obtained before accepting the scoping out of Major Accidents & Disasters if appropriate in light of those views, for reasons set out above to enable a comprehensive and diligent Scoping Opinion to be provided.
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Hinkley C Connections Material Change	Scoping Consultation Response	<p>Planning Inspectorate reference no. EN0210004</p> <p>Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11</p> <p>Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)</p>										
Council area:	Somerset Council											
Summary of works proposed:	Changes include modifications to overhead line and pylon positions, access arrangements, temporary construction works (such as temporary bellmouth access and road widening, removal or modification of temporary bridges and culverts), and land rights adjustments.											
Scoping Topic identified by National Grid:	Constraints/factors for consideration in Somerset	Potential effects identified by project lead officer	<p>Specialist Officer consultee comments to cover: NOTE: the baseline for this assessment is the existing certified EIA for the Development Consent Order 2016 and any subsequent survey updates. The Scoping process enables an applicant to ask the Secretary of State to state in writing its opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES."</p>									
			Baseline/ study area / assumptions	Relevant methodology, scope, level of legislation/Policy context assessment? (national & local)	Impacts identified & assessment of significance?	Adequacy of mitigation/ any additional required?	Any other comments	Scoping Conclusion: green - agree topic should be scoped in/out amber - concerns red - disagree topic should be scoped in/out contrary to NG conclusion				
Topics proposed to Scoped IN by National Grid												
Visual Effects	No comment							Agree that visual effects need to be scoped in.				
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation		NG are strongly advised to engage with the Council as the project develops especially with regards to the Habitats Regulation Assessment.						Agree that biodiversity and nature conservation need to be scoped in.				
Traffic & Transport			Para 12.6.1 of the Scoping Report sets out the construction works that will be required. Whilst it is acknowledged that the construction traffic levels are most likely to be very low, we would request that NG provide evidence of the likely number of traffic movements that will support this matter being scoped out.	Para 12.5.1 sets out existing agricultural accesses are deemed suitable for use for maintenance. This will need to be substantiated with confirmation that safe and suitable access can be provided based on the anticipated use by larger vehicles.	Para 12.6.12 of the Scoping Report outlines that Swept Path Analysis has been undertaken to assess the suitability of accesses with the larger maintenance vehicles and that the analysis shows that there would be new or significantly different environmental effects. Somerset Council would wish to see the swept path analysis for larger vehicles to support this matter being scoped out of the assessment.	The statement relating to the suitability of the project vehicular access points also requires confirmation. The existing access points were the subject of the Somerset Council's road safety and technical approvals process and were approved based on the volume and type of vehicle anticipated at the time. The suitability of these access points should be reassessed based on the anticipated larger vehicles.	The potential impacts of the Gravity Project Local Development Order should be considered in the intra project cumulative effects analysis. https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/gravity-enterprise-zone/ Somerset Council would strongly advocate that a CTMP addendum is carried out given the new issue of abnormal loads being introduced into the updated ES. There are requirements for the licensing of abnormal load movements which will need to be included in the updated CTMP. Table 2-4 Proposed Material Change Assets refers to 169 culverts. Are any of these structures being offered to the highway authority for adoption? Confirmation is sought in respect of who will be the maintaining authority for the retained and new vehicular access points. Will there be any alterations to the existing highway boundary?	Agree that traffic and transport need to be scoped in.				
Traffic & Transport (Rights of Way)							Where aggregate is remaining on access routes that are along or crossing PRoW where previously it was intended to be removed, then there needs to be an assessment of whether that surface is suitable in a long-term context for the public use over it and whether any modifications may be required. Allied to the above, NG are strongly advised to discuss the proposed arrangements for maintenance of the retained surfaces with the Local Highway Authority. During construction the LHA were approached from local equestrians to seek whether haul roads could be retained as new access routes – public or permissive. The answer at the time was no as the roads were not being retained. Where they are now being retained and/or CPOd it does raise the question as to whether there is the opportunity for providing a positive planning legacy arising from this material change. Further detailed assessment and consultation would be required to understand if any of the retained routes would actually be complementary to the existing network, and equally how any public access would be capable of being secured and maintained. NG are therefore strongly advised to discuss the matter with the Council early in the process.	Agree that traffic and transport (Rights of Way) need to be scoped in.				

Hydrology & Water Resources		The LLFA agree with the measures to be scoped into the EIA. We expect to see a review of flood risk to demonstrate the retention of all features and culverts will not increase flood risk elsewhere, considering existing flood risk and comparing the baseline to the proposed development to demonstrate that there will be no detrimental impacts.		We would like to highlight that updated flood mapping has been undertaken and should be reviewed as part of any submission. Furthermore, the LLFA now have our own Local Standards which can be found at: bas-jbau-xx-xx-fn-la-0043-d3-c01-local_standards.pdf.	Any infrastructure including culverts will be required to demonstrate that they will be suitable to be retained for the lifetime of the proposal, including any upgrades and replacement. All avenues should be explored to reduce the number of culverts retained . This will need to include a maintenance regime for the lifetime of culverts to ensure that these are retained, free flowing and will likely require an updated WFD assessment.			The Internal Drainage Board and Environment Agency should also be consulted on the proposal.	Agree that Hydrology and Water Resources need to be scoped in.
Cumulative Effects		NG need to be mindful of the following infrastructure projects currently in construction within Somerset: Hinkley Point C Gravity Bridgwater Tidal Barrier							No specific comment from Somerset Council. Accept should be scoped in.
Topics proposed to be scoped out by National Grid									
Heat & Radiation									Somerset Council does not have a technical officer in this capacity and therefore is unable to comment at this stage.
Landscape									NG are advised to provide further justification to support its view that Landscaping can be scoped out of the ES.
Air Quality & Emissions									No comments provided
Noise & Vibration									No comments provided
Socio-economics & land use									Agree with NG assessment.
Electro Magnetic fields									Somerset Council does not have a technical officer in this capacity and therefore is unable to comment at this stage.
Ground Environment									No comments provided.
Historic Environment (Archaeology)		In respect of Archaeological matters, having reviewed the Scoping report, in particular section 5.8 Historic Environment, we agree that in terms of below ground archaeology there has been no change to effects to that noted in the 2014 Original ES. Based on the information supplied in the Scoping Report there appear to be no impacts that would be of such significance to warrant inclusion in an EIA. Therefore, it is agreed that Archaeology can be scoped out of the Updated ES for both construction, operation and maintenance phases of the development.							Agree with NG assessment.
Historic Environment (Built Heritage)		Section 5.8 of the EIA Scoping Report deals with the Historic Environment. It concludes that 'further assessment of Historic Environment is Scoped Out of the Updated ES for both the construction phase and the operation and maintenance phase' (para. 5.8.14). This is owing to there being no known built heritage assets within the proposed development and the agricultural nature of the area being retained, thus no change to the setting of any heritage assets. This position is accepted except for the existing 87 no. landowner culverts, that the project assumes will require full replacement, and similarly the 2 no. landowner bridges. There is no assessment of their historic and architectural significance, which could be high if they relate to the late 18th or early 19th century land enclosures of the Somerset Levels and Moors, and/or are architecturally fine. Some of the culverts and bridges could warrant local listing under the relatively new Local heritage List for Somerset & Exmoor (https://swheritage.org.uk/historic-environment-service/local-heritage-list/) and potentially put forward for statutory listing. Digital copies of the enclosure plans are reproduced on the Somerset Historic Environment Record, under one of the map layer options (https://www.somersetheritage.org.uk/), and cover large swaths of the proposed project. We request that this element of the historic environment is Scoped In, with the potential historic sensitivity of these structures investigated through both fieldwork and desktop study.							See matters listed in opposite column, advising to be scoped in.

Climate change									No comments provided.
Human Health									No comments provided.
Major Accidents & Disasters									No comments provided.
Waste & Materials									No additional comments to raise at this stage

Summary of Conclusions for Somerset Council area	<p>Summary of SC's position: Traffic & Transport details need clarification. Historic culverts should be assessed.</p> <p>Somerset Council agrees with the majority of the information provided by National Grid in their Scoping application, however we have set out above where we consider further information is required. In relation to Traffic and Transport in particular, we note that the overall topic is intended to be scoped in, but there are references to individual matters being proposed to be scoped out, and we have highlighted matters above which we consider require further clarification to support this proposal. We would also like to take the opportunity to raise at an early stage that the maintenance of retained assets need to be established and agreed.</p>
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Hinkley C Connections Material Change	Scoping Consultation Response	Planning Inspectorate reference no. EN0210004 Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11 Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)							
Council area:	South Gloucestershire	<i>Note: proposals for S Glos are identified by type only, there is no detailed information on the nature of the proposals. National Grid have included illustrative information on the types of development proposed, but not site specific proposals.</i>							
Summary of works proposed:	Nature of works proposed affecting S Glos: Bellmouth and culvert, with nearby access route + further culverts. Use of Ableton Lane for construction maintenance traffic (links to S Glos PRoW)								
Scoping Topic identified by National Grid:	Constraints/ factors for consideration in South Gloucestershire	Potential effects identified by project lead officer	Specialist Officer consultee comments to cover: NOTE: the baseline for this assessment is the existing certified EIA for the Development Consent Order 2016 and any subsequent survey updates. The Scoping process enables an applicant to ask the Secretary of State to state in writing its opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES."						
			Baseline/ study area / assumptions	Policy context (national & local)	methodology, scope, level of assessment?	Impacts identified & assessment of significance?	Adequacy of mitigation/ any additional required?	Any other comments	Scoping Conclusion: green - agree topic should be scoped in/out amber - concerns red - disagree topic should be scoped in/out contrary to NG conclusion
Topics proposed to Scoped IN by National Grid									
Visual Effects	Green Lane: significant contributor to visual quality of otherwise industrial area.	Lack of replacement planting at vehicular access point creates visual break potentially urbanising this green corridor. Note SGC does not share the same rural landscape context as the scheme south of Bristol.	no further comment	NPPF Chapter 12 well-designed places & Chapter 15 Conserving & enhancing the natural environment SGC Core Strategy: Ch. 5 High quality design, Ch 8 Managing Environment & Heritage SGC Policies Sites & Places Plan (PSP) DM policies, ch 3 Responding to Climate Change & High Quality Design, Ch 6 managing the Environment & Heritage.	no further comment	no further comment	no further comment	no	No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree should be scoped in.
Biodiversity & Nature Conservation	Water Vole present in rhynes	Permanent culverts could impact on habitat/ movement of water vole in rhynes & ditches. Design needs to meet nature conservation needs as well as IDB design/flow requirements. Construction phase: noise, vibration, water quality etc effects on water vole to be addressed through methods and mitigation?	no further comment	NPPF Chapter 12 well-designed places & Chapter 15 Conserving & enhancing the natural environment SGC Core Strategy: Ch. 5 High quality design, Ch 8 Managing Environment & Heritage SGC Policies Sites & Places Plan (PSP) DM policies, ch 3 Responding to Climate Change & High Quality Design, Ch 6 managing the Environment & Heritage.	no further comment	no further comment	no further comment	no	No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree should be scoped in.

Traffic & Transport	Ableton Lane is single track and potentially used by pedestrians & equestrians using the PRoW network.	Construction traffic using proposed vehicular access points to SGC & BCC along Ableton Lane? Single track lane necessitates traffic control for any significant volumes and measures to avoid/manage pedestrian/equestrian conflict/safety risks, given the direct links to PRoW & equestrian routes. Note: during construction NGET operated a traffic light system to manage traffic. QUERY: Is this included in the CEMP or are other measures required? Businesses in South Gloucestershire also access onto Severn Road that runs just outside the Council's boundary. Consideration should be given to traffic conditions on Severn Road (within Bristol City Council), and any related issues.	no further comment	SGC Core Strategy Ch 7 improving accessibility covers ensuring safety of other road users SGC PSP ch 5 tackling congestion & improving accessibility	no further comment	no further comment	no further comment	no	No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree should be scoped in.
Hydrology & Water Resources	Surrounding interconnecting rhyne network of importance to wildlife.	Potential impacts on water quality during construction/ amendment of culverts to permanent configuration, will presumably be controlled via existing agreed CEMP? Flooding: culvert design to ensure adequate long term consideration of flow in this flood risk area.	Flood & Water Management: no comment	SGC Core Strategy: Ch. 5 High quality design & responding to climate change includes flooding Ch 8 Managing the Environment & heritage includes policy on flood risk reduction & management SGC Policies Sites & Places Plan (PSP) DM policies, ch 3 Responding to Climate Change & High Quality Design, Ch 6 managing the Environment & Heritage incl flood risk, water management	Flood & Water management: no comment	Flood & Water management: The proposals to allow for temporary access culverts to be made permanent will be carried out following the original CEMP to ensure works do not have a negative impact on the water environment and to meet LSIDB requirements.	Flood & Water management: The proposals to allow for temporary access culverts to be made permanent will be carried out following the original CEMP to ensure works do not have a negative impact on the water environment and to meet LSIDB requirements.	no	No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree should be scoped in.
Cumulative Effects	A green lane of significance for biodiversity & landscape within a surrounding industrial area	Query: cumulative impacts across scheme and with other projects of culverts on protected species including water vole? Cumulative impact of up to 18 breaches in hedgerows at vehicular access points: should replacement native hedgerow planting be required behind the visibility splays? Plus urbanising impact of concrete headwalls, channels and plus railings associated with 84 culverts + query a further 87 landowner culverts if they require upgrading.	no specialist officer comments received	see above	no specialist officer comments received.	no specialist officer comments received	no specialist officer comments received	no	No specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree should be scoped in.
Topics proposed to be scoped out by National Grid									
Heat & Radiation	n/a	not aware of any effects.							no specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.

Landscape	Significant green corridor within otherwise industrial landscape, providing contributing significantly to the character of the area.	If breach in hedgerow/s at Ableton Lane this would have negative impact on the landscape features and character of this currently green lane, + leading to urbanisation due to adjacent industrial uses. Note SGC does not share the same rural landscape context as the scheme south of Bristol. Concrete headwalls, channels, and potential railings have an urbanising impact on landscape character, and may result in loss of landscape features (green ditches/ rhynes). This is relevant to cumulative impacts above.	query given policy context for development proposals impacting landscapes	NPPF ch 15: recognising the intrinsic character & beauty of the countryside, protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, minimising impact etc. Para 135 development to be sympathetic to surrounding ... landscape setting. SGC Core Strategy: Ch. 5 High quality design, Ch 8 Managing Environment & Heritage SGC Policies Sites & Places Plan (PSP) DM policies, ch 3 Responding to Climate Change & High Quality Design, Ch 6 managing the Environment & Heritage.	query	query	query	no	Query whether impact on landscape features and character should be scoped out? - due to cumulative impacts across the project resulting from e.g. loss of hedgerows and permanent urbanisation of rural landscape resulting from e.g. vehicular accesses, pads and the concrete headwalls, channels & potentially railings associated with 84 - 169 no. culverts along the length of the scheme. See cumulative impacts above.
Air Quality & Emissions		not aware of any effects.	Environmental Protection: Having reviewd the documents: No Comments	SGC Policies Sites & Places Plan (PSP) DM policies, Ch 6 managing the Environment & Heritage.	No Comments	No Comments	No Comments	No Comments	Agree this can be scoped out. No additional comments to make
Noise & Vibration	Industrial area already subject to industrial noise & vibration	Additional works unlikely to result in disturbance to people, however construction may impact on protected species such as watervole? (see biodiversity above)	Environmental Protection: Having reviewd the documents: No Comments	SGC PSP ch 4 managing future development & ch 6 Managing the Environment & Heritage.	No Comments	No Comments	No Comments	No Comments	Agree this can be scoped out. No additional comments to make
Socio-economics & land use		National Grid negotiating with landowners. Note industrial context at S Glos.	no comment	SGC PSP ch 7 maintaining economic prosperity	no comment	no comment	no comment	no comment	no specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.
Electro Magnetic fields	no change to existing situation	not aware of any effects.	no comment		no comment	no comment	no comment	no comment	no specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.
Ground Environment		not aware of any effects.	no comment	SGC PSP ch 4 managing future development & ch 6 Managing the Environment & Heritage.	no comment	National Grid suggests that the proposed development would not change the risks of contamination	Any effects should be restricted to the immediate locality and works would be in line with the CEMP along with a Site Waste Management Plan and Soil Management Plan.	no	Agree can be scoped out
Historic Environment	n/a as no designations/ non statutory sites in surrounding area. Reconfiguration of culvert will be in an area already disturbed by existing culvert.	not considered likely to be any effects.	Conservation Officer: There are no above ground heritage issues in relation to these proposals.	no heritage designations or sites in the vicinity (above ground built heritage & archaeology).	No Comments	no comment	no comment	no	Agree can be scoped out for built heritage and archaeology.
Climate change		not considered likely to be any effects.	No comment	SGC Policies Sites & Places Plan (PSP) DM policies, ch 3 Responding to Climate Change & High Quality Design	No comment	Having reviewed the Scoping submission and supporting information, we are content to accept NG recommendation for how climate change is addressed in the EIA and have no further comments.	No Comment	no	Agree with NG recommendation for how climate change is addressed in the EIA.
Human Health	Surrounding area is industrial.	not considered likely to be any effects.	No comment	SGC PSP ch 4 managing future development	No comment	no comment	No Comment	no	no specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.

Major Accidents & Disasters	Flooding addressed above.	Emergency Planning measures were put in place via CEMP. Confirmation sought that these still apply to MC	No comment	no	no specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.				
Waste & Materials	Waste may arise from reconfiguration/ removal/ construction of culverts.	Presumably this will be controlled by measures already approved in the CEMP.	No comment	no	no specialist officer comments received that would lead to a different conclusion. Agree this can be scoped out.				
OTHER	<p>QUERY: Are there likely to be any mitigations / measures that need controlling through further Discharge of Requirement Applications, or will this all form part of the MC application?</p> <p>Can Requirements be applied to a Material Change consent?</p>								

Summary of Conclusions for South Gloucestershire Council area	<p>Summary of SGC's position: Landscape should be scoped in due to cumulative and visual impacts.</p> <p>For the most part we agree with the National Grid proposed Scoping of factors for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment. We are puzzled however that 'Visual' impact is scoped in, while 'Landscape' impact is scoped out, especially as the retention of highway access points results in loss of hedgerows, introduction of fencing and gates, plus the retention of many culverts (concrete features with headwalls and railings), has the potential to result in the permanent loss of landscape features(hedgerows and trees) and urbanisation of rural/green landscapes. In view of the number of proposed changes along the route (culverts, accesses etc) we suggest there is the potential for significant in combination effects on landscape features and landscape character, and that therefore 'Landscape' should be scoped in.</p>
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Joseph Jones
On Behalf of The Secretary of State
hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Planning Services
Development Management
Phoenix House
Phoenix Lane
Tiverton
Devon
EX16 6PP

Tel: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [REDACTED]@middevon.gov.uk

Your Ref: EN0210004

Date: 1st July 2025

My Ref: 25/00767/PE

Dear Joseph Jones,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)

I am writing further to your consultation on the scoping opinion for the above development.

We have read through the EIA documents that are currently listed on your website and I can confirm that we have no comments to make.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Devereaux
Area Team Leader
Mid Devon District Council

Requests for alternative formats will be considered on an individual basis
Please telephone 01884 255255 or email customerfirst@middevon.gov.uk

To contact your local Councillor, his/her name and address can be obtained by visiting our website or telephoning Customer First on 01884 255255



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Ben Manners
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
DIO Head Office
St George's House
Whittington
Lichfield
Staffordshire WS14 9PY

Planning ref: EN0210004

Mobile: [REDACTED]

DIO ref: 10067572

E-mail: [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk

Joseph Jones

Environmental Services

Operations Group 3

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol,

BS1 6PN

13th June 2025

Dear Joseph

MOD Safeguarding – Site outside safeguarding area (SOSA)

Proposal: Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order
granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material
Change (the proposed development)

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above Scoping application which was received by this office on 04/06/2025.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the MOD as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of Defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage

sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

The applicant has submitted a scoping application for the electricity transmission lines for Hinckley Point C that transits from Bridgewater in the south to land north of Bristol. Though the proposed route does not cross any MOD safeguarding zones however, the MOD still requests a condition is placed on the development.

Physical Obstruction

In this case the development does not fall within a MOD Safeguarding zone however, it is still subject to Low Flying operations in this area where fixed wing and rotary aircraft may operate. The introduction of a new transmission network across this area has the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft operating in the area.

To address this impact, and given the location and scale of the development, the MOD requires a condition to be added to any consent granted. The MOD request that full details of the changes are submitted for charting and that construction details are submitted to Low Flying Safeguarding prior to construction so that airspace users can be notified of the changes in advance.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

B,Manners

Safeguarding Manager

Submitted via email to: hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Date: 3rd July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGT) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the Proposed Development)

I refer to your email dated 05/06/25 regarding the above proposed DCO. This is a response on behalf of National Gas Transmission PLC (NGT). Having reviewed the scoping consultation documents, NGT wishes to make the following comments regarding gas infrastructure which may be affected by proposals.

NGT has 1 feeder main located within or in proximity to the Order limits. Details of this infrastructure is as follows:

- Feeder Main – FM14 – Pucklechurch to Seabank
- NG Leasehold – BL99259
- Cathodic Protection Groundbeds/TR
- Ancillary apparatus

Please note that NGT has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip.

You should also be aware of NGT's guidance for working in proximity to its assets, further guidance and links are available as follows.

CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEM

To ensure a high level of safety and reliability in operation, National Gas Transmission's assets are protected by a cathodic protection system. It is essential that buried steel pipework associated with the transmission and distribution of natural gas is designed, installed, commissioned and maintained to withstand the potentially harmful effects of corrosion and that the corrosion control systems employed are monitored to ensure continued effectiveness. Installations in the vicinity of National Gas Transmission's assets which may potentially interfere with the cathodic protection system must be assessed and approved by National Gas Transmission, and appropriate control measures must be put in place where required.

Installations which have the potential to interfere with National Gas Transmission's Cathodic protection system include (but are not limited to):

1. High voltage cable crossings and parallelism
2. High voltage ac pylon parallelism
3. Battery Energy Storage Systems
4. Third party pipelines with cathodic protection systems
5. PV Solar arrays

Further information on D.C interference can be found in UKOPA/GPG/031 Edition C Microsoft Word - UKOPA GPG 031 DC Interference Ed 1.docx

[Microsoft Word - UKOPA GPG 031 DC Interference Ed 1.docx](#) (hold ctrl and click to access) Further information on A.C. interference can be found in UKOPA/GPG/027 UKOPA Good Practice Guide [UKOPA Good Practice Guide](#) (hold ctrl and click to access)

The safe limits for transfer voltage and impressed current that a high-pressure gas pipeline can be exposed to are outlined in T/PL/ECP/1, T/PL/ECP/2 and BS EN 50122-1. These are the safe limits for non-electrically trained personnel.

Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGT's apparatus, NGT will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. A Deed of Consent will also be required for any works proposed within the easement strip.

Key Considerations:

- NGT has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc.
- Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the NGT easement strip. Furthermore a Deed of Consent will be required prior to commencement of works within NGT's easement strip subject to approval by NGT's plant protection team.
- Any large installations which may result in a large population increase in the vicinity of a high pressure gas pipeline must comply with the HSE's Land Use Planning methodology, and the HSE response should be submitted to National Gas Transmission for review.
- The below guidance is not exhaustive and all works in the vicinity of NGT's asset shall be subject to review and approval from NGT's plant protection team in advance of commencement of works on site.

General Notes on Pipeline Safety:

- You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and NGT's Dial Before You Dig Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of NGT Assets. There will be additional requirements dictated by NGT's plant protection team.

- NGT will also need to ensure that its pipelines remain accessible during and after completion of the works.
- Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres, however actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a NGT representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.
- If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of NGT High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a NGT representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline.
- Below are some examples of work types that have specific restrictions when being undertaken in the vicinity of gas assets therefore consultation with NGT's Plant Protection team is essential:
 - Demolition
 - Blasting
 - Piling and boring
 - Deep mining
 - Surface mineral extraction
 - Landfilling
 - Trenchless Techniques (e.g. HDD, pipe splitting, tunnelling etc.)
 - Wind turbine installation - minimum separation distance of 1.5x the mast/hub height is required, and any auxiliary installations such as cable or track crossings will require a deed of consent.
 - Solar farm installation
 - Tree planting schemes

Traffic Crossings:

- Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at agreed locations.
- Permanent road crossings will require a surface load calculation, and will require a deed of consent.
- The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required.
- The type of raft shall be agreed with NGT prior to installation.

- No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the NGT pipeline without the prior permission of NGT
- NGT will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure.
- The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to NGT.
- An NGT representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with NGT specification T/SP/SSW22

New Asset Crossings:

- New assets (cables/pipelines etc) may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees.
- The separation distance for a cable >33kV is 1000mm and pre and post energisation surveys may be required at National Gas Transmission's discretion. A risk assessment/method statement will need to be provided to, and accepted by National Gas Transmission prior to the deed of consent being agreed. Where a new asset is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres.
- A new service should not be laid parallel within an easement strip
- Clearance must be at least 600mm above or below the pipeline
- An NGT representative shall approve and supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline.
- A Deed of Consent is required for any cable crossing the easement

Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGT apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO. NGT requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection.

Adequate access to NGT pipelines must be maintained at all times during construction and post construction to ensure the safe operation of our network.

Yours Faithfully

Asset Protection Team

Further Safety Guidance

To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G)47, please use the following link:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm>

Working Near National Gas Assets

<https://www.nationalgas.com/land-and-assets/working-near-our-assets>

Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of National Gas High Pressure Pipelines and Associated Installations

<https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82951/download>

Tree Planting Guidance

<https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82976/download>

Excavating Safely

<https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82971/download>

Dial Before You Dig Guidance

<https://www.nationalgas.com/document/128751/download>

Essential Guidance:

<https://www.nationalgas.com/gas-transmission/document/82931/download>

Solar Farm Guidance

<https://www.nationalgas.com/document/82936/download>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: Your ref: EN0210004
Date: 19 June 2025 09:38:57

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Your ref: EN0210004 – Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change

National Grid Electricity Distribution have no comments in relation to information to be provided in the Environmental Statement.

Regards,

Ben

Ben Thomas

Consents & wayleave specialist
Estates
nationalgrid

[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.co.uk](#)

Saw Mills End, Corinium Avenue, Gloucester, GL4 3BH
nationalgrid.co.uk

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Registered number: 2366894 (South West) / 2366985 (South Wales) / 2366923 (East Midlands) / 3600574 (West Midlands)

Registered Office: Avonbank, Feeder Road, Bristol, BS2 0TB

For the other registered information on the UK operating companies within the National Grid group please use the attached link: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/corporate-registrations>

Our ref:
Your ref: EN0210004

Karen Wilkinson
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3 Temple Quay House 2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Via email
hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Eleanor Ward
Spatial Planner
National Highways
Ash House
Falcon Road
Sowton Industrial Estate
Exeter EX2 7LB

Tel: [REDACTED]

2 July 2025

Dear Ms Wilkinson

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Thank you for inviting National Highways to provide comments on the EIA Scoping Report (June 2025) for the Hinkley Point C Connection DCO Material Change. We welcome opportunity to provide advice on the scope of the proposed updated Environmental Statement.

The Material Change Application seeks consent for permanent access infrastructure for the purpose of maintenance and operation of the Project. This includes amendments to the authorised works, powers and land rights set out in the Development Consent Order.

Our comments relate to matters arising from our responsibilities to manage and maintain the strategic road network (SRN) which for this project comprises the M5 and M49.

We have set out below both the general and specific areas of concern that National Highways would expect to see considered as part of any Environmental Statement, considering both the construction and operational phases of the development. Comments relating to the local road network should be sought from the appropriate Local Highway Authority.

General aspects to be addressed in all cases

- An assessment of transport related impacts of the proposal should be carried out and reported as described in the current Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance on '*Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements in decision-taking*'.
- Environmental impacts arising from any disruption during construction, traffic volume, composition or routing change and transport infrastructure modification should be fully assessed and reported, along with the environmental impact of the road network upon the development itself.
- Adverse changes to noise and air quality should be particularly considered, including in relation to compliance with the European air quality Limit Values and/or Local Authority designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and World Health Organisation (WHO) criteria.
- No new connections are permitted to National Highways' drainage network. In the case of an existing 'permitted' connection, this can only be retained if there is no land use change.
- Development must not lead to any surface water flooding on the SRN carriageway.

Location specific considerations

SRN Operational Asset Impacts

Several new infrastructure elements (including culverts) are proposed to support the project. Some appear adjacent to and crossing the M5 and M49 at multiple locations. Due to interaction between the SRN and the application proposals, the development has the potential to adversely impact National Highways operational assets and we need to be satisfied that the proposals reflect the requirements of [DfT Circular 01/2022](#) in this regard.

We would draw the applicant's attention to paragraph 54 of the Circular which states that "*Due consideration must be given to the geotechnical integrity of land within the SRN where development would increase the load of, or otherwise alter, an embankment. In such cases, supporting plans and reports must identify the extent of the proposed works and how any risk would be managed in accordance with the DMRB.*" The CD622 process would need to be followed to address any specific geotechnical risks identified to National Highways infrastructure. The Circular further states at para 57 that "*For reasons of safety, liability and maintenance, any physical infrastructure that is necessary to mitigate the environmental effects of or on development must be located outside of the highway boundary of the SRN. In general terms, structures should be sited sufficiently far from the highway boundary of the SRN so that they cannot ... undermine its geotechnical integrity*", and at paragraph 59 that "*To ensure the integrity of the highway drainage systems, no new connections into those systems from third party development and proposed drainage schemes will be accepted. Where there is already an existing informal or formal connection into the*

highway drainage system from a proposed development site, the right for a connection may be allowed to continue provided that the flow, rate and quality of the discharge into the highway drainage system remains unaltered or results in a betterment”

There could also be National Highways surface water assets that fall within the EIA scoping boundary, which should be considered in environmental assessment work.

It should be emphasised that National Highways soft estate must not be relied upon to contribute any mitigation to the development as the management of our estate may from time to time affect any real or perceived benefits. Our soft estate management includes cyclical maintenance and periodic renewal, either of which could involve significant reduction in any available screening benefit until new planting is well established. We are also needing to consider removal of all dead, dying and diseased trees affected by ash dieback (Chalara), where these are on National Highways estate and where they present a safety risk to our assets, neighbours and all road users.

Where there is interface with our estate, we will require in due course require detailed ‘Landscape Plans’ and associated ‘Planting Schedule’ for our review and to provide our acceptance in so far as any potential impact on National Highways Operational estate or the Strategic Road Network.

We advise the developer that the following species must not be planted within 10m of our estate:

1. Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
2. Goat willow (*Salix caprea*)
3. Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*)
4. Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
5. Italian alder (*Alnus cordata*)
6. Cherry (*Prunus sp*)
7. Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremula*)
8. Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

In addition, the following trees must not be planted in a position where at maturity they would be within falling distance of the carriageway or any significant National Highways asset:

9. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*, *Betula pubescens*)
10. Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*)
11. Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*)
12. Poplar (*Populus sp*)
13. Oak – English / Sessile (*Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*)

Furthermore, the planting of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and larch (*Larix sp*) is ill advised due to the current diseases they succumb to or spread.

We also require that where removals or works on trees and hedges within National Highways estate are required, the ‘Arboricultural Method Statement’ specifies prior consultation with one of our South West region Senior Specialists.

Traffic Impact

The 'Traffic and Transport' section of the report makes no mention of the Strategic Road Network. Paragraph 12.4.9 considers that the road traffic baseline is established in the 2014 Original ES and 'given the minimal traffic flows predicted to occur as a result of the Proposed Development, traffic impact and highway capacity will not be material considerations for assessment in the Updated ES'. National Highways consider that traffic assessment materials from 2014 are not typically acceptable as representative when being considered in 2025. Without quantification of traffic flow estimations, we are unable to confirm these are 'minimal'.

We note that the EIA Scoping Report identifies to 'scope in' operational consideration of (i) interfaces with PRoW and (ii) abnormal loads accessing compounds where overhead lines transition with underground cables. The description in the Scoping Note infers that access to sites associated with the Material Change proposals only affect the Local Road Network and PRoW routes, and do not involve the SRN.

Please note that any abnormal loads routing via the SRN will require a formal application via the Electronic Service Delivery for Abnormal Loads (ESDAL).

Rights and Land

The Scoping Report identifies that the material change application will seek to extend rights afforded by the 2016 DCO to areas outside the 2016 Order Limits, to facilitate maintenance or upgrades to assets that were previously not considered within the 2014 Original ES. Any extensions of rights that interact with National Highways estate and/or operational network will need to be detailed to enable further internal consideration (property and legal), and as necessary protected provisions established.

We trust these comments are useful and are available to provide any clarification if required. We look forward to contributing further as this workstream progresses.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Ward

Eleanor Ward
South West Operations Directorate – Planning and Development
Email: [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk

From: [NATS Safeguarding](#)
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation [SG39517]
Date: 05 June 2025 09:08:56
Attachments: [~WRD0000.jpg](#)
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[image007.png](#)
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Our Ref: SG39517

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully



NATS Safeguarding

E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk



From: Hinkley Connection MC <hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2025 14:34
Subject: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping
Notification and Consultation

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change.

The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.

The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion and is therefore inviting you to submit comments by **2 July 2025**. The deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Further information is included within the attached letter.

Kind regards,

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones
EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
T [REDACTED]

 @PINSgov  The Planning Inspectorate  planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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Date: 03 July 2025
Our ref: 514777
Your ref: EN0210004



hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Consultations
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 900

Dear Sir/Madam

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulation 11

Proposal: EN0210004 EIA Scoping Opinion for Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change. Hinkley Point C Connection Project

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in the consultation dated 04 June 2025, received on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities, based on relevant and up to date environmental information, should be undertaken prior to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development.

Natural England has engaged with the applicant regarding this project through our Discretionary Advice Service. Due to delays in finalising the full extent of assets to be included in the Material Change application and the limited information regarding the biodiversity baseline available prior to the EIA Scoping consultation we have only provided high level comments on the potential impacts of the proposed development at this stage. The potential for significant adverse effects on the environmental features highlighted in this letter may be able to be ruled out as further information and assessments of the project become available. We will continue to engage with the applicant throughout the pre-application stages of the development to advise on the potential environmental impacts of the project and suitable avoidance, mitigation and, if necessary, compensation measures which should be included in the forthcoming submission.

Detailed advice on scoping the Environmental Statement is available in the attached Annex.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact the case officer Amelia Earley and copy to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Amelia Earley
Wessex Team

Annex A – Natural England’s Advice on EIA Scoping

1. General principles

- 1.1. The following general principles should be applied in the EIA.
- 1.2. Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 - (The EIA Regulations) sets out the information that should be included in an ES to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:
 - A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases
 - Appropriately scaled and referenced plans which clearly show the information and features associated with the development
 - An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen
 - A description of the aspects and matters requested to be scoped out of further assessment with adequate justification provided¹.
 - Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development
 - A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors
 - A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment
 - A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment
 - An outline of the structure of the proposed ES

2. Cumulative and in-combination effects

- 2.1. The ES should fully consider the implications of the whole development proposal. This should include an assessment of all supporting infrastructure.
- 2.2. An impact assessment should identify, describe, and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):
 - existing completed projects
 - approved but uncompleted projects
 - ongoing activities
 - plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and

¹ National Infrastructure Planning [Advice Note Seven, Environmental Impact Assessment, Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements](#) (see Insert 2 – information to be provided with a scoping request)

- plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

3. Environmental data

- 3.1. Natural England is required to make available information it holds where requested to do so. National datasets held by Natural England are available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx>.
- 3.2. Detailed information on the natural environment is available at www.magic.gov.uk. This includes Marine Conservation Zone GIS shapefiles.
- 3.3. Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset which can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](http://www.magic.gov.uk).
- 3.4. Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local Wildlife Trust, local geo-conservation group or other recording society.

4. Biodiversity and geodiversity

- 4.1. The assessment will need to include potential impacts of the proposal upon sites and features of nature conservation interest as well as opportunities for nature recovery through biodiversity net gain (BNG). There might also be strategic approaches to take into account.
- 4.2. Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, quantifying, and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EIA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. [Guidelines](#) and an [EIA checklist](#) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- 4.3. Many public authorities e.g. National Highways and National Grid have biodiversity duties including taking opportunities for habitat restoration or enhancement. They might have Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to adhere to via Government policy, or have agreed approaches to BNG. Further information around general duties is available [here](#).
- 4.4. Remember to refer to the relevant sector specific information within National Policy Statements [here](#) and our own sector specific guidance on the SD Toolkit.

5. International and European sites

- 5.1. European site conservation objectives are available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>.
- 5.2. Evidence Plans are a useful mechanism NSIP applicants can use to agree what information should be provided to the Planning Inspectorate and Natural England when undertaking Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Agreeing the evidence-needs of the project early prior to applying for Development Consent will

help reduce delays in the process. More information on Evidence Plans is available [here](#).

- 5.3. Natural England's Impact Risk Zones incorporate internationally designated sites and features and can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a European Site. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#).
- 5.4. The development site is within or may impact on the European/internationally designated nature conservation sites listed in Table 1.
- 5.5. The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance / European sites, including marine sites where relevant. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), listed Ramsar sites, candidate SAC and proposed SPA.
- 5.6. Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive requires an appropriate assessment where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Table 1: Potential risk to international designated sites: the development is within or may impact on the following sites

Site name with link to conservation objective	Features which the ES will need to consider	Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required
Exmoor and Quantick Oakwoods SAC	All qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat)• Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species
Mendip Limestone Grasslands SAC	All qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat)• Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species
North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC	All qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat)• Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species
Severn Estuary Ramsar	All Ramsar criterion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat)• Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species
Severn Estuary SAC	All qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat)• Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species

Table 1: Potential risk to international designated sites: the development is within or may impact on the following sites

Site name with link to conservation objective	Features which the ES will need to consider	Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required
Severn Estuary SPA	All qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat) • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species
Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar	All Ramsar criterion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat) • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species
Somerset Levels and Moors SPA	All qualifying features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation (designated site and functionally linked habitat) • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring qualifying species

6. Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 6.1. Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at www.magic.gov.uk.
- 6.2. Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#).
- 6.3. The development site is within or may impact on the Sites of Special Scientific Interest listed in Table 2.
- 6.4. The ES should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within the SSSIs and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

Table 2: Potential risks to nationally designated sites: the development is within or may impact on the following sites

Site name with link to citation	Features which the ES will need to consider	Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required
Severn Estuary SSSI	All SSSI features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring feature species
Tickenham, Nailsea and Kenn Moors SSSI	All SSSI features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring feature species

Table 2: Potential risks to nationally designated sites: the development is within or may impact on the following sites		
Site name with link to citation	Features which the ES will need to consider	Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required
Biddle Street Yatton SSSI	All SSSI features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring feature species
Puxton Moor SSSI	All SSSI features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring feature species
Crook Peak to Shute Shelve Hill SSSI	All SSSI features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat degradation • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring feature species
Bridgwater Bay SSSI	All SSSI features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and degradation • Disturbing, displacing, killing or injuring feature species

7. Regionally and Locally Important Sites

7.1. The ES should consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites, including local nature reserves. Local sites are identified by the local Wildlife Trust, geoconservation group or other local group. The ES should set out proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures and opportunities for enhancement and improving connectivity with wider ecological networks. They may also provide opportunities for delivering beneficial environmental outcomes.

8. Protected species

8.1. The conservation of species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 [Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System](#).

8.2. Applicants should check to see if a mitigation licence is required using Natural England guidance on licensing [Natural England wildlife licences](#). Applicants can also make use of Natural England's charged service [Pre Submission Screening Service](#) for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. Natural England then reviews a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued. This is done to give the Planning Inspectorate confidence to make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State in granting a DCO. See [Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate | National Infrastructure Planning](#) for details of the LONI process.

8.3. The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

8.4. The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.

8.5. Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may also be required.

9. **District Level Licensing for great crested newts**

9.1. Where strategic approaches such as DLL for GCN are used, a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) will not be required. Instead, the developer will need to provide evidence to the Examining Authority (ExA) on how and where this approach has been used in relation to the proposal, which must include a counter-signed Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC) from Natural England, or a similar approval from an alternative DLL provider.

9.2. The DLL approach is underpinned by a strategic area assessment which includes the identification of risk zones, strategic opportunity area maps and a mechanism to ensure adequate compensation is provided regardless of the level of impact. In addition, Natural England (or an alternative DLL provider) will undertake an impact assessment, the outcome of which will be documented in the IACPC (or equivalent).

9.3. If no GCN surveys have been undertaken, Natural England's risk zone modelling may be relied upon. During the impact assessment, Natural England will inform the applicant whether their scheme is within one of the amber risk zones and therefore whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant effect on GCN.

9.4. The IACPC will also provide additional detail including information on the Proposed Development's impact on GCN and the appropriate compensation required.

9.5. If it is demonstrated that the [DLL scheme for GCN](#) will be used, consideration of GCN in the ES can be restricted to cross-referencing to the Natural England (or alternative provider) IACPC as a justification as to why significant effects on GCN populations as a result of the Proposed Development would be avoided.

10. **Priority Habitats and Species**

10.1. Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found [here](#). Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

10.2. Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to [download](#). Further information is also available [here](#).

10.3. An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present.

10.4. The ES should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys)
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal
- The habitats and species present
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat)
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures
- Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement

11. **Ancient Woodland, ancient and veteran trees**

11.1. The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on the ancient woodland and any ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement.

11.2. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat of great importance for its wildlife, its history, and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. Paragraph 186 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the highest level of protection for irreplaceable habitats and development should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

11.3. Paragraph 5.4.32 of EN-1 sets out the approach that should be taken by the applicant in the assessment of impacts to ancient woodland arising from the proposal. Paragraph 5.4.53 of EN-1 sets out the approach taken by the Secretary of State in decision making regarding ancient woodland impacts.

11.4. Natural England maintains the [Ancient Woodland Inventory](#) which can help identify ancient woodland. The [wood pasture and parkland inventory](#) sets out information on wood pasture and parkland.

11.5. The [ancient tree inventory](#) provides information on the location of ancient and veteran trees.

11.6. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have prepared [standing advice](#) on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.

12. **Biodiversity net gain**

12.1. The Environment Act 2021 includes NSIPs in the requirement for BNG, with the biodiversity gain objective for NSIPs defined as at least a 10% increase in the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat. It is the intention that BNG should apply to all terrestrial NSIPs accepted for examination from May 2026. This includes the intertidal zone but excludes the subtidal zone (an approach to marine net gain is being developed but this will not form part of mandatory BNG). Projects that span both offshore and onshore will be subject to BNG requirements for the onshore components only. Some organisations have made public BNG commitments, and some projects are already delivering BNG on a voluntary basis.

12.2. DEFRA are currently consulting on implementation of BNG for NSIPs. The outcome of this consultation should be considered by the applicant if the project is expected to be accepted for examination after May 2026.

13. **Landscape**

13.1. **Nationally designated landscapes**

13.1.1. The development site is may impact on the Mendip Hills National Landscape.

13.2. **Landscape and visual impacts**

13.2.1. Public bodies have a duty to seek to further the statutory purposes of designation in carrying out their functions (under section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023). This duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

13.2.2. Energy National Policy Statement EN-1 gives significant protection including within the setting of the protected landscape.

13.2.3. Consideration should be given to the direct and indirect effects on this designated landscape, and in particular the effect upon its purpose for designation. The management plan for the designated landscape may also have relevant information that should be considered in the EIA.

13.2.4. The environmental assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#). Character area profiles set out descriptions of each landscape area and statements of environmental opportunity.

13.2.5. An assessment should be provided of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using [landscape assessment methodologies](#). We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing, and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character.

13.2.6. Where a landscape and visual impact assessment is carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area, Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013 (3rd edition) produced by LI and IEMA. For National Parks and AONBs, we advise that the assessment also includes effects on the 'special qualities' of the designated landscape, as set out in the statutory management plan for the area. These identify the particular landscape and related characteristics which underpin the natural beauty of the area and its designation status.

13.2.7. The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.

13.2.8. To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the [National Design Guide](#) and [National Model](#)

Design Code. The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

13.2.9. The National Infrastructure Commission has also produced Design Principles for National Infrastructure - NIC endorsed by Government in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

14. Connecting people with nature

14.1. The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, public rights of way and, where appropriate, the England Coast Path and coastal access routes and coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph 104 and there will be reference in the relevant National Policy Statement. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

14.2. Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure.

14.3. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

15. Soils and agricultural land quality

15.1. Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed. Impacts from the development on soils and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land should be considered. Further guidance is set out in the Natural England Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land.

15.2. The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the ES:

- The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development.
- The extent to which agricultural land would be disturbed or lost as part of this development, including whether any BMV agricultural land would be impacted.

15.3. This may require a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey if one is not already available. For information on the availability of existing ALC information see www.magic.gov.uk.

15.4. Where an ALC and soil survey of the land is required, this should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. The survey data can inform

suitable soil handling methods and appropriate reuse of the soil resource where required (e.g. agricultural reinstatement, habitat creation, landscaping, allotments and public open space).

- 15.5. The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on BMV agricultural land can be minimised through site design/masterplan.
- 15.6. The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed, including consideration in site design and master planning, and areas for green infrastructure or biodiversity net gain. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.
- 15.7. Further information is available in the [Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#) and The British Society of Soil Science Guidance Note [Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction](#).

16. **Climate change**

- 16.1. The England Biodiversity Strategy published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development will embed Nature Based Solutions, maintain ecological networks and build resilience to climate change. The ES should also incorporate the policies as set out in NPS EN-1 relating to climate change.

17. **Contribution to Local Environmental Initiatives and Priorities**

- 17.1. The ES should consider the contribution the development could make to relevant local environmental initiatives and priorities to enhance the environmental quality of the development and deliver wider environmental gains. This should include considering proposals set out in relevant local strategies including landscape strategies, green infrastructure strategies, Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) strategies, tree and woodland strategies, biodiversity strategies or biodiversity opportunity areas. Opportunities for wider environmental gains often include multifunctional benefits and can improve environment for people, nature and climate



Karen Wilkinson
Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Ein cyf/Our ref:
Eich cyf/Your ref:

Ebost/Email:
marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

By email to: hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

1 July 2025

Dear Karen

HINKLEY POINT C CONNECTION PROJECT EIA Scoping Consultation

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change

Thank you for consulting Natural Resources Wales (NRW) by email dated 4 June 2025 on the Scoping Opinion for the Hinkley Point C (HPC) connection project. We understand that the Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its Development Consent Order (DCO) Material Change application.

Please note that NRW does not appear to have been involved in previous stages of this project.

The context for our advice is that, whilst the project is wholly in England, it is located in proximity to the Severn Estuary European Marine Site (EMS), which comprises the Severn Estuary/Mor Hafren Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site. Natural England (NE) and NRW are joint Appropriate Nature Conservation Body (ANCB) for the Severn Estuary EMS.

We have liaised with NE and we defer to their advice on the scoping of this project. We would however be grateful to remain on the list of consultation bodies given our joint ANCB role for the Severn Estuary EMS.

If you have further queries regarding our response to this consultation, please contact the Marine Area Advice and Management Team
(marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

SRevill

**Sarah Revill
Senior Marine Advisor
Marine Area Advice and Management Team**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Cc: [ENQUIRIES \(NHS SOMERSET ICB - 11X\)](#)
Subject: FW: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 05 June 2025 15:34:48
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[Hinkley Point CCP Mat Change Letter to stat cons Scoping & Req 11 Notification .pdf](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@nhs.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sirs

Further to the attached letter, I can confirm on behalf of NHS Somerset ICB, we do not have any comments.

Kind regards

Anthea

Anthea Pryce
Planned Care & Specialised Commissioning Lead Officer
Localities and Strategic Commissioning
Directorate of Strategy, Digital & Integration
[NHS Somerset | Working together to improve health and wellbeing](#)
Wynford House | Luton Way | Luton | Yeovil | Somerset| BA22 8HR
Email: [REDACTED]@nhs.net
Website: [www.nhssomerset.nhs.uk](#)

Please note my normal hours of work are Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm



From: ENQUIRIES (NHS SOMERSET ICB - 11X) [REDACTED]@nhs.net>
Sent: 05 June 2025 12:42
To: PRYCE, Anthea (NHS SOMERSET ICB - 11X) <[REDACTED]@nhs.net>
Subject: FW: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping

Notification and Consultation

Dear Anthea

The enquiry below and attachment has been received in our 'Enquiries' inbox. Are you able to respond and copy me in please.

Best wishes

Roz

Roz Butterfield | Executive and Business Support Assistant

Jade Renville | Director of Corporate Affairs | NHS Somerset | Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

Charlotte Callen | Director of Communications | Engagement | Marketing

NHS Somerset | Working Together to Improve Health and Wellbeing

Wynford House | Lufton Way | Lufton | Yeovil | Somerset | BA22 8HR

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: www.nhssomerset.nhs.uk

Follow us on social media: @NHSSomerset

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From: Hinkley Connection MC <hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 June 2025 10:14

Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping
Notification and Consultation

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Dear Sir/Madam,

It has come to our attention that the consultation letter attached to our previous email contained a broken hyperlink. Please find attached, an updated letter with a new link to the project page. Accordingly, the deadline for responses is now **3 July 2025**, this is a statutory deadline and cannot be extended.

Apologies for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

Kind regards,

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones
EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
T [REDACTED]



@PINSgov



The Planning Inspectorate



planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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DPC:76616c646f72



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Enquiry Response

Planning (Development Management)
North Devon Council
Lynton House, Commercial Road,
Barnstaple, EX31 1DG



Enquiry Ref: ENQ/0371/2025
Application Type: Pre Application Enquiry
Response Due:
Extension of Time Expiry:
Publicity Expiry:
Parish/Ward: BARNSTAPLE/BARNSTAPLE CENTRAL
Location: Hinkley Point C
Hinkley
Somerset
Proposal: EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation EN0210004 - Connection DCO Material Change (due 4 July) - Nuclear
Agent: Joseph Jones - EIA Advisor
Applicant: Joseph Jones - EIA Advisor
Planning Case Officer: Mr M. Brown
Departure: No
EIA Development: No
EIA Conclusion:
Decision Level/Reason for Report to Committee (If Applicable): Officer Delegated Decision

Recommendation

Enquiry Closed

Legal Agreement Required: No

Planning History: N/A

Consultees: N/A

Enquiry Response

Thank you for your enquiry which was received on the 06/06/2025.

I have no observations to make on the request.

Recommendation

Enquiry Closed

Recommendation Date	Case Officer	Lead Officer	Admin	Check
12 June 2025	-	MDB		

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 04 June 2025 15:40:09
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Thank you for notification,

Portishead would welcome the provision of all information relating to any proposal that is likely to, or could, have a material impact on the social, environmental, or social wellbeing of the residents (all or any) of Portishead.

Very best

Steve Milton

Locum Town Clerk

Portishead Town Council

The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 6PR

Email: clerk@portishead.gov.uk

My working hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9am – 5pm.

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From: Hinkley Connection MC <hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2025 14:34
Subject: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change.

The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.

The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion and is therefore inviting you to submit comments by **2 July 2025**. The deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Further information is included within the attached letter.

Kind regards,

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones
EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
T 0303 444 5028

  @PINSgov  The Planning Inspectorate  planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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Our Ref: P-NS-005487

Your Ref: EN0210004

Date: 20 June 202

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir or Madam

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990
The Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015

Proposal: Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

The proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Material Change application seeks consent for permanent access infrastructure for the purpose of maintenance and operation of the Project. This includes amendments to the authorised works, powers and land rights set out in the Development Consent Order.

Location: Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change

O.S. Grid reference: 333263 138488

Thank you for referring the above application, please be advised that this response is the view of the North Somerset Levels IDB, the Axe Brue IDB & the Parrett IDB.

In principle the IDBs do not have an issue with the material change application for the project.

The IDBs are mostly concerned with the retention of the temporary culverts which were constructed using temporary materials and have the potential to fail before the end of the life time of the development.

The IDBs would ask that the project assesses the capacity of the culverts for flow conveyance in low flow and flooding condition. The physical condition of the culverts also need to be assessed to make sure that each structure is fit to be retained and will be suitable for future use.

Once approved, the structures will need to be checked regularly and maintained throughout their life. The IDB would like to see a maintenance plan and details of liability for the structures.

In the event that any culvert or headwall fails, the project will need to re-apply for consent. The IDBs do not guarantee that the current culvert measurements will be consented again due to the temporary status under which the structures were originally consented.

Any email correspondence relating to this consultation response should be sent to planning@somersetdbs.co.uk

Yours Sincerely

Virginie Martin
Development Control Officer

Date: 03 July 2025
Reference: PINs EN0210004

Planning Inspectorate
Operations Group 3, Temple Quay House 2
The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Submitted by email only to: hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
cc. Joint Council Lead Officers

Dear Karen Wilkinson

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the applicant) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change (the proposed development)

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation

Thank you for your consultation dated 05 June 2025.

We would be grateful if you could note that your consultation letter did not arrive with the lead officer in this Council until 10 June, having been kindly forwarded by the lead officer in another Council. I am aware that there are other fellow Council officers who also had similar difficulties. As you will understand, given the short statutory timetable for response, this caused difficulties for our Council. To prevent this from happening in the future, please may we therefore request that all future consultations on the Material Change are sent to all the contacts provided to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (National Grid). We have been advised that the relevant contact details were provided by National Grid via email to Hannah and Georgiana by email dated 13 May 2025.

Scoping consultation response

South Gloucestershire's response to the EIA Scoping Consultation is, in accordance with its Constitution, a delegated Officer response provided following consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure.

Please see attached table (see attachment 1) setting out this Council's assessment of National Grid's Scoping proposals.

A summary of our conclusions is as follows:

For the most part we agree with the National Grid proposed Scoping of factors for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

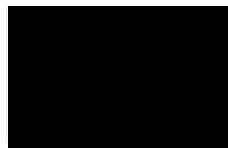
However, we question the scoping out of 'Landscape' impact. This is because the retention of highway access points results in loss of hedgerows, introduction of fencing and gates, plus the retention of many culverts (concrete features with headwalls and potentially railings), has the potential to result in the permanent loss of landscape features(hedgerows and trees) and urbanisation of rural/green landscapes. In view of the number of proposed changes along the route (culverts, accesses etc) we suggest there is the potential for significant in combination effects on landscape features and landscape character, and that therefore 'Landscape' should be scoped in along with the proposed scoping in of Visual effects (that result from the combination of the retention/upgrading of previously temporary works themselves and the landscape impacts).

Please note that this Council's response should be read along with the submission made by Tetra Tech (copy attached), who are planning consultants to the host Councils (the Joint Councils) along the length of the Hinkley C Connections Project. Tetra Tech has been commissioned by the Joint Councils to undertake an overview across the EIA Scoping Assessments of each of the Councils, as well as to consider cumulative impacts across the Material Change proposals. A copy of the Tetra Tech submission is attached for ease of reference (see attachments 2 &3).

We trust that this submission and that submitted by Tetra Tech will be taken into account by the PINs in providing a Scoping response to National Grid.

Please email if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Ellis-King
Strategic Projects Manager
Department for Place

Attachment 1: 2025.07.03 SGC EIA Scoping assessment FINAL for issue (Excel document)

Attachments 2 & 3 are copies of submissions made to the PINs by Tetra Tech on behalf of the Joint Councils:

- Attachment 2: HPCCP DCO Material Change EIA SO Covering letter 03.07.25 (PdF)
- Attachment 3: HPCCP DCO Material Change Combined Joint Councils response (Excel document)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: HINKLEY POINT C CONNECTION PROJECT MATERIAL CHANGE
Date: 16 June 2025 17:03:50

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Dear Sirs,

Tickenham Parish Council considered this application to the Planning Inspectorate at its meeting on 10th June 2025. The proposal regarding permanent access to pylons affects five locations in Tickenham village.

Although no objection was raised in principle, councillors expressed concern regarding the size and weight of maintenance vehicles and the effect on traffic flow and road surfaces. The Traffic and Transport Assessment should note that local roads are already beyond capacity and this will be further aggravated by proposed development in the neighbouring town of Nailsea. It should be noted that access for heavy transport vehicles via Stone Edge Batch is very difficult: It is a very narrow section of road on a bend and two HGVs are unable to pass.

Yours faithfully,

Vena Prater

Clerk, Tickenham Parish Council



UK Health Security Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Seaton House, City Link
London Road
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukhsa

Your Ref: EN0210004
Our Ref: 92822

Ms Karen Wilkinson
Senior EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

2nd July 2025

Dear Ms Wilkinson,

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change Scoping Consultation Stage

Thank you for including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.*** The response is impartial and independent.

UKHSA notes that we have replied to earlier consultations for the previous DCO application (granted in 2016) as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence.

Request for Scoping Opinion	8 th May 2013
Section 42 Consultation	24 th October 2013
Section 42 Consultation	26 th February 2013
Registration of Interest	15 th August 2014

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population,

vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following comments and recommendations:

We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*¹, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement¹. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

Air Quality

Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e, an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

¹

<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

Recommendation

The applicant has highlighted throughout the scoping report that there have been no substantial changes of relevance to legislation, policy, standards, or guidance to assessment approach since the 2016 DCO. The applicant proposes to scope out further assessment of air quality. We would recommend that any new air quality guidelines and guidance are considered, within assessments, control and mitigation measures and best practice.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.



Wedmore Parish Council

The Council Office, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset BS28 4EA
Email: clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk

1st July 2025

To:
Environmental Services
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN
Email: hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

RE: Scoping Consultation for Hinkley Point C Connection Project – Material Change (Ref: EN0210004)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wedmore Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to respond as a statutory consultee to the Planning Inspectorate's letter dated 5 June 2025 regarding the request for a Scoping Opinion for the proposed material change to the Hinkley Point C Connection Project (the Project), submitted by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc.

As a rural parish situated within the wider impact area of major infrastructure works across Somerset, we wish to ensure that the Environmental Statement (ES) fully reflects the environmental and community considerations that arise from nationally significant development of this scale.

1. Environmental Impact Assessment: Scope and Principles

We strongly urge that the ES:

- Applies the Mitigation Hierarchy — prioritising avoidance and reduction of environmental harm over offsetting.
- Includes site-specific environmental assessments of landscape, biodiversity, noise, and traffic impacts in affected parishes — not just regional modelling.
- Provides clear justification for all proposed material changes, especially where these may alter original mitigation commitments or lead to new land take or operational impacts.
- Recognises the indirect effects of the project on neighbouring rural communities such as ours, including construction traffic, public rights of way (PRoW) interruptions, and ecological fragmentation.

2. Landscape and Visual Impact

We request that the ES gives particular attention to:

- Cumulative visual effects of pylons, substations, haul roads, and associated infrastructure within or visible from the Somerset Levels.
- Long-range visual intrusion, including elevated infrastructure on ridgelines or across open farmland.

- The potential for fragmentation of rural views and character in communities not directly on the route but within visual catchment zones.

3. Ecology and Biodiversity

The ES must address:

- Impacts on ecological corridors, hedgerows, and watercourses used by bats, birds, and amphibians.
- Connectivity with the Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and other local biodiversity priorities.
- Habitat disruption during construction and operation, with defined monitoring and reinstatement measures.

We draw attention to our recent representation to the Secretary of State regarding the Planning and Infrastructure Bill 2025, in which we expressed grave concern about any weakening of site-specific environmental safeguards. We reaffirm those concerns here.

4. Construction Access and Traffic

We expect the ES to:

- Provide a full Construction Traffic Impact Assessment, including projected volumes, timings, and routes across parish roads.
- Assess risks to road safety, PRoW network disruption, and potential access restrictions for agricultural and local traffic.
- Include mitigation measures for noise, dust, and disruption in small rural communities during peak construction phases.

5. Community and Cumulative Impact

We urge that the ES:

- Identifies all local communities and amenities likely to be affected, directly or indirectly, and not just those immediately adjacent to the route.
- Assesses the cumulative impacts of this and related infrastructure works across Somerset, including other National Grid or EDF projects.
- Includes transparent public reporting of baseline and post-development monitoring data.

6. Regulation 11(3) – Provision of Information

Wedmore Parish Council acknowledges its duty under Regulation 11(3) of the EIA Regulations and is prepared to make available relevant environmental information held locally should it be requested by the applicant.

We expect the Environmental Statement to uphold the highest standards of environmental accountability, community transparency, and rural sensitivity. We request that this submission be considered in full during the scoping process and that the Parish Council continues to be included as a consultee at all future stages.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsey Baker

Clerk to the Council
Wedmore Parish Council

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 30 June 2025 13:41:51
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Dear Joseph,

Thank you very much for your e-mail informing us of the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change.

I can confirm that the Wraxall and Failand Parish Council does not have any comments.

Kind regards,

Monika

Monika Ward

Wraxall and Failand Parish Council Clerk

Tel No: [REDACTED]

E-mail: clerk@wraxallandfailand-pc.gov.uk

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From: Hinkley Connection MC <hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 June 2025 14:34

Subject: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached correspondence on the proposed Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change.

The Applicant for the Proposed Development intends to make an application for Development Consent under the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has sought a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as to the

scope and level of detail of the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement that will accompany its future application.

The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body to inform the Scoping Opinion and is therefore inviting you to submit comments by **2 July 2025**. The deadline is a statutory requirement that cannot be extended.

Further information is included within the attached letter.

Kind regards,

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones
EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
T 0303 444 5028



@PINSgov



The Planning Inspectorate



planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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DPC:76616c646f72

?

From: clerk@yatton-pc.gov.uk
To: [Hinkley Connection MC](#)
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 25 June 2025 16:34:56
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

Thank you for the notification and consultation. I'm writing to inform you that Yatton Parish Council has no comments to make on this matter.

Kind regards

Aleana Baird
Clerk to Yatton Parish Council

From: Hinkley Connection MC <hpccmc@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 June 2025 10:14
Subject: RE: EN0210004 Hinkley Point C Connection Project Material Change - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has come to our attention that the consultation letter attached to our previous email contained a broken hyperlink. Please find attached, an updated letter with a new link to the project page. Accordingly, the deadline for responses is now **3 July 2025**, this is a statutory deadline and cannot be extended.

Apologies for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

Kind regards,

Joseph Jones



Joseph Jones
EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
T 0303 444 5028

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