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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

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Executive Summary

National Grid is seeking to reinforce the electricity transmission network between Bramford Substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex through the construction and operation of a proposed 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line.

The proposed reinforcement comprises up to approximately 18 kilometres (km) of new overhead line and 11km of underground cable system, alongside the removal of approximately 27km of existing overhead line and the construction of a new grid supply point (GSP) substation.

The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement (the 'project' or 'the reinforcement') is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) via a Development Consent Order (DCO). The application must demonstrate that adequate consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

In accordance with requirements of the PA 2008 and informed by inputs from key stakeholders on the engagement methods used, National Grid undertook multi-stage pre-application consultations, allowing consultees several opportunities to provide feedback as the proposals evolved. Several rounds of consultation were undertaken between 2009 and 2013, when work was originally commenced on a reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead. Following a period of pause, driven by changes to when planned new generation would come online in East Anglia, work on the project was resumed in 2020.

A period of non statutory consultation was held for six weeks, between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. That consultation re-introduced the project, explained how National Grid had reviewed the previous proposals, and sought the views of the public and stakeholders. Statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 and provided the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to see how the project has evolved since the non statutory consultation, and comment on further detailed engineering design and environmental assessment work. Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the project.

All feedback received during the non statutory consultation, statutory consultation and targeted consultation has been carefully reviewed and considered, alongside outputs from wider stakeholder engagement, by National Grid as part of its preparation of the application for development consent for the project. Regard has been had to all feedback received, and substantial changes have been introduced into the project design as a result. From February 2023, additional consultation and engagement was also held with certain newly or differently affected persons with an interest in land (PILs).

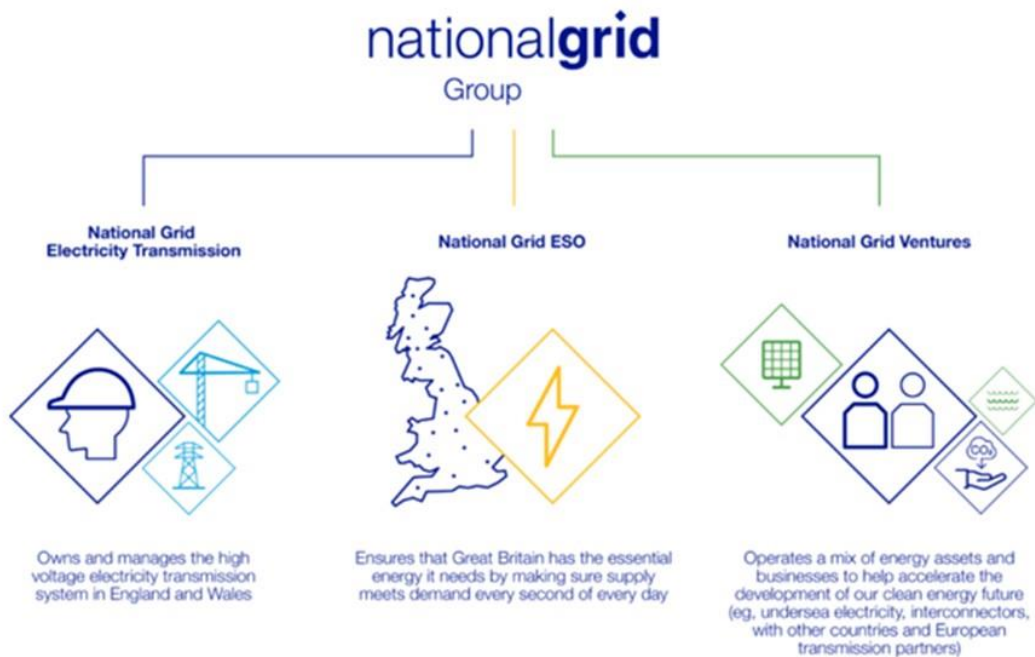
This report provides details of the pre-application consultation, engagement and publicity that National Grid undertook, and sets out how the project has evolved in response to feedback received during the pre-application consultation. This Consultation Report forms part of National Grid's application to the SoS for the National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement (DCO) and has been prepared in fulfilment of section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. This requires the DCO application to be accompanied by a consultation report giving details of the matters specified in section 37(7).

1. About National Grid Electricity Transmission

1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission

- 1.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (here on referred to as National Grid) holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales and is thus obligated to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989. National Grid is regulated by Ofgem, which sets price controls and monitors how the company develops and operates the network on behalf of consumers.
- 1.1.2 National Grid owns and manages the national high-voltage electricity transmission system throughout England and Wales. National Grid owns, builds and maintains the infrastructure; overhead lines, buried cables and substations as a few examples, to allow power to move around the country. The key role of this transmission system is to connect the electricity generators' power stations with regional Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) who then supply businesses and homes. In return for the connection, users of the transmission network pay a tariff to National Grid. This revenue is then used to maintain, improve and invest in the transmission network.
- 1.1.3 As a licence holder National Grid has specific duties to uphold in relation to the desirability of preserving amenity of certain aspects of the environment and to mitigate the effects of its activities on the environment under section 38 and schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1985.
- 1.1.4 National Grid sits within the wider National Grid Group; within the Group there are distinctly separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles. National Grid companies sit at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. This is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of Companies



1.2 About the Project

- 1.2.1 This report accompanies National Grid’s application for an order granting development consent to reinforce the transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29 kilometres (km). The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), hence National Grid requires a development consent order (DCO).
- 1.2.2 The reinforcement would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 1.2.3 Four cable sealing end (CSE) compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. The CSE would be located within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, a small control building and a permanent access track for maintenance.
- 1.2.4 It is proposed that approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new grid supply point (GSP) substation is proposed at Butler’s Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including reinforcement pylons, a single circuit sealing end and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV overhead lines.
- 1.2.5 Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):

- Modifications to; and realignment of sections of existing overhead lines, including pylons;
- Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access;
- Temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway including bellmouths for site access, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings, watercourse crossings and diversions of Public Rights of Way;
- Diversions of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint; and
- Land for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

1.2.6 The project meets the threshold as an NSIP, as defined under Part 3 of the PA 2008, hence National Grid requires a DCO. Some aspects of the project, such as the underground sections and the GSP substation, constitute associated development.

1.3 Summary of Project Development

1.3.1 National Grid previously consulted on the proposed reinforcement between 2009 and 2013, before changes to when the planned new generation would come online led to this work being put on hold. There is now a clear need to progress with the reinforcement, driven by current and future generation and reinforced by Government targets and legislation, and work on the project was recommenced in 2020.

1.3.2 The project was shaped by consultation feedback; design work (including engineering and environmental surveys); feedback from 18 months of community forums, and thematic group meetings between 2009 and 2013 when the project was paused.

1.3.3 Further details on how the project developed between 2009 and 2013 and again when the project resumed in 2020 is contained in Chapter 3 of this report.

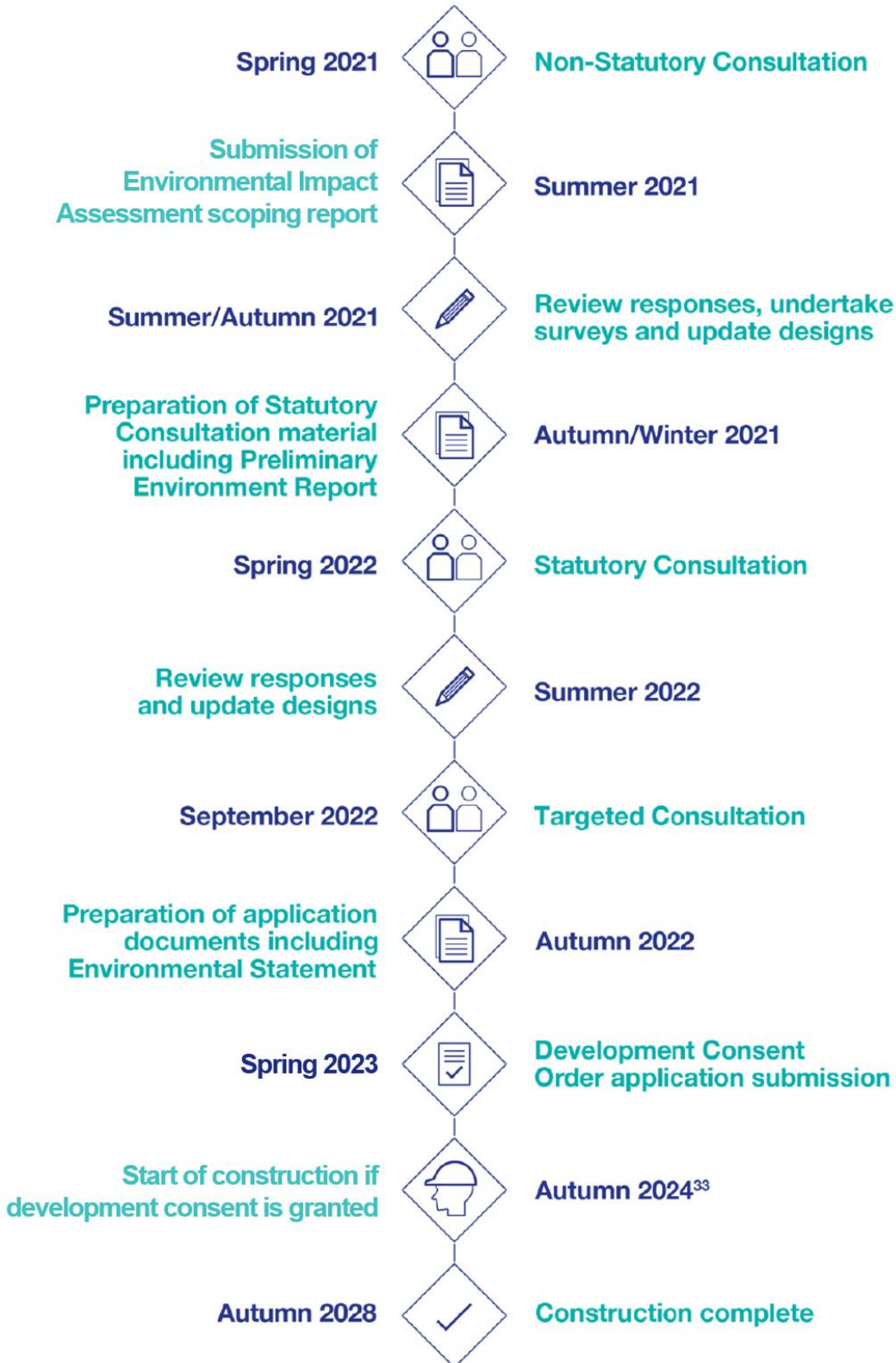
1.3.4 Prior to the project re-launch in 2020, a robust back check and review was undertaken to confirm the extent to which the work undertaken between 2009 and 2013 remained relevant and suitable for taking forward. This back check and review considered all elements of the project, and concluded that, subject to some specific areas requiring further work, the project assumptions remained valid.

1.3.5 In spring 2021 (between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021) National Grid held a non statutory consultation to re-introduce and explain the project, to gather feedback to inform the ongoing design of the project, and to outline the next steps and look ahead to statutory consultation. A Non Statutory Consultation Report was published at statutory consultation (see Appendix C).

1.3.6 Statutory consultation was held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. The decision to commence statutory consultation in January 2022 was taken following discussions with planning officers and political representatives, and in the context of feedback received from the host planning authorities to the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). It had previously been proposed to commence statutory consultation in November 2021.

- 1.3.7 Further targeted consultation was held between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022 and focussed on a smaller number of proposed changes and key issues that National Grid wished to reconsult on.
- 1.3.8 Figure 1.2 sets out the current proposed timeline for each key stage of the project.

Figure 1.2 – Project Timeline



³³ As the GSP substation has planning permission under the Town & Country Planning Act, construction may start sooner

2. About the Consultation Report

2.1 Background to the Consultation Report

- 2.1.1 The project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) via a DCO.
- 2.1.2 The statutory pre-application consultation for this project and the development of this report have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act (PA 2008), the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations). The non statutory consultation was also undertaken having regard to these principles.
- 2.1.3 The following guidance has also been taken into account:
- PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) (Ref. 1.4);
 - PA 2008: Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land (September 2013) (DCLG) (Ref. 1.5);
 - The Planning Inspectorate's (PINs) Advice Note Three (August 2017, version 7): EIA Notification and Consultation (Ref. 1.6);
 - PINs' Advice Note Six (February 2016, version 10): Preparation and submission of application documents (Ref. 1.7); and
 - PINs' Advice Note Fourteen (February 2021, version 3): Compiling the consultation report (Ref. 1.8).
- 2.1.4 National Grid complied with the guidance provided by PINs in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic throughout non statutory and statutory consultation, including in relation to managing public events (virtual and face-to-face).
- 2.1.5 Section 55 of the PA 2008 sets out the criteria used by PINs to decide if an application is of a satisfactory standard to be accepted for examination.
- 2.1.6 A checklist is included at Chapter 3 of this report which confirms compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008, the EIA regulations and the APFP Regulations and adherence to the relevant advice and guidance published by PINs and UK Government.

2.2 Purpose of the Report

- 2.2.1 This Consultation Report is a record of the pre-application consultation for the project, including both statutory consultation and non statutory consultation, and forms part of National Grid's application for development consent.
- 2.2.2 The requirement to submit a consultation report as part of the application for development consent is set out in section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. Section 37(7) confirms that the consultation report is to provide details of:

- What has been done in compliance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 in relation to the proposed application;
- Any relevant responses (within the meaning of section 49(3) of the PA 2008); and
- The account taken of any relevant responses.

2.2.3 Where relevant, the report also explains how National Grid has complied with guidance issued by the (then) DCLG, (from September 2021 known as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) in undertaking its pre-application consultation.

2.3 Structure of the Report

2.3.1 The Report is structured into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1:** Provides an overview of National Grid, including its role and statutory duties, and introduces the project, including an overview of project development to date;
- **Chapter 2:** Introduces the Consultation Report and its structure;
- **Chapter 3:** Provides a summary of National Grid's approach to pre-application consultation and provides an overview of non statutory and statutory consultation and engagement for the project, including how National Grid has complied with statutory requirements and other guidance;
- **Chapter 4:** Provides an account of the non statutory consultation held from 25 March 2021 to 6 May 2021 detailing consultation activities undertaken, representations received and National Grid's response to these representations;
- **Chapter 5:** Provides an overview of activities undertaken in advance of and to support the statutory consultation, including the development of the SoCC;
- **Chapter 6:** Provides an overview of the statutory consultation held from 25 January 2022 to 21 March 2022, including compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008;
- **Chapter 7:** Summarises the responses received to the statutory consultation and the changes made as a result;
- **Chapter 8:** Provides an account of the targeted consultation held from 8 September 2022 to 19 October 2022 detailing consultation activities undertaken, representations received and National Grid's response to these representations;
- **Chapter 9:** Provides an account of the additional consultation and engagement held after the targeted consultation detailing representations received and National Grid's response to these representations;
- **Chapter 10:** Provides an overview of the consultation held as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
- **Chapter 11:** Sets out the conclusions of the Report; and
- **Appendices:** Provides supporting evidence.
 - Appendix A: Meeting and Correspondence with Stakeholders;
 - Appendix B: Non Statutory Consultation Summary Report;
 - Appendix C: Non Statutory Consultation Report;

- Appendix D: Infrastructure Planning (EIA Regulations) 2017 Regulation 8 letter to the Inspectorate, and acknowledgement (s46);
- Appendix E: Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and Supporting Information;
- Appendix F: List of Prescribed Consultees Identified and Consulted During Statutory Consultation and Section 42(1) Letter sent;
- Appendix G: Section 42(1)(d) Consultees and Supporting Information;
- Appendix H: Section 47 and Section 48 Notices;
- Appendix I: Section 47 Consultation Materials;
- Appendix J: Land Referencing Methodology;
- Appendix K: September 2022 Targeted Consultation Materials and Supporting Information; and
- Appendix L: March 2023 Additional Engagement.

3. Approach to Consultation and Engagement

3.1 Approach

3.1.1 National Grid is committed to engaging those communities considered to be affected by its activities. National Grid's Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy incorporates National Grid's Schedule 9 Statement relating to the preservation of amenity and makes the following commitments to consultation when undertaking electricity works:

- National Grid will promote genuine and meaningful stakeholder and community engagement; and
- National Grid will meet and, where appropriate, exceed the statutory requirements for consultation or engagement, and will adopt the following principles to help National Grid meet this commitment:
 - Seek to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may be affected by National Grid's works;
 - Provide opportunities for engagement from the early stages of the process where options and alternatives are being considered and there is the greatest scope to influence the design of the works;
 - Endeavour to enable constructive debate to take place, creating open and two-way communication processes;
 - Ensure that benefits, constraints and adverse impacts of proposed works are communicated openly for meaningful stakeholder and community comment and discussion. National Grid will be clear about any aspects of the works that cannot be altered;
 - Use appropriate methods and effort in engaging stakeholders and communities, proportionate to the scale and impact of the works; and
 - Provide feedback on how views expressed have been considered and the outcomes of any engagement process or activity.

3.1.2 These principles informed the approach to consultation/engagement at each stage of the project, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and the way in which representations received have been dealt with by the project team. During the development of new infrastructure in the UK, it has been necessary for National Grid to develop procedures and expertise in how to effectively communicate, engage and consult with stakeholders as part of project development, in line with National Grid's commitments discussed above.

3.1.3 National Grid's consultation experience extends from its development of electricity transmission projects both prior to and since the introduction of the Planning Act (PA 2008). From this experience, the project has been able to draw upon effective, tried and tested methods of consultation and engagement and has been able to adapt these to the local area.

- 3.1.4 For the project, National Grid has sought to engage thoroughly with affected stakeholders throughout project development, whether these stakeholders are individuals, organisations or prescribed consultees. National Grid has built upon its own knowledge and experience of consultation by agreeing strategies and methods of engagement with affected local planning authorities (LPAs) in advance of formal consultation.
- 3.1.5 Consideration of the feedback received through consultation and wider stakeholder engagement has been a major contributing factor in the development of the project. Consultation has been completed at an early stage in the development of proposals to allow consultees to have a real opportunity to influence the project.
- 3.1.6 Consultation with stakeholders and the local community has helped inform decisions at all stages, including during high-level strategic options and corridor selection, to more detailed routing and siting and the extent of underground and overhead technology.
- 3.1.7 Undertaking consultation at a series of project stages was aimed at managing the balance between consulting early, whilst also having the necessary detail for consultees to provide meaningful feedback. To support this, at each stage of the consultation process, clear parameters were set out to explain to consultees the information presented and how feedback can influence the project during each specific stage of consultation.

3.2 Summary of Consultation Between 2009 and 2013

- 3.2.1 The first stage of consultation was launched in October 2009 and focussed on why the reinforcement was needed, how the strategic options were assessed and details on the four route corridor options.
- 3.2.2 Consultation was undertaken in May 2012, focussing on the indicative alignment and information on undergrounding in two sections of the route.
- 3.2.3 Further public consultations were held over the summer of 2012, and in October 2012 National Grid confirmed the preferred alignment and next steps in the design of the proposals. This included the alignment around Hintlesham and Bramford, the proposed cable sealing end (CSE) compound at Stour Valley West and the grid supply point (GSP) substation west of Twinstead.
- 3.2.4 In February 2013, a public consultation was held about the possible site options for the new electricity substation. In August 2013 a new site near Butler's Wood was confirmed as the preferred location. In November 2013, work was paused on the project
- 3.2.5 In summary between 2009 and 2013 the project was shaped by:
- Feedback from public consultations on route corridor options, route alignment, Stour Valley West CSE compound location and the GSP location;
 - Detailed design including engineering and environmental surveys; and
 - Feedback from 18 months of community forums and thematic group meetings which explored importance of impacts and where undergrounding the cables might be necessary to mitigate them.
- 3.2.6 Changes to when planned new generation would come online in East Anglia led to the project being put on hold in 2013.
- 3.2.7 A summary of these previous consultations and engagement activity are provided in both the Project Background Document (March 2021) the Project Background Document

(January 2022). National Grid reports published at the time are also available on the project website in a section called 'Archived consultation documents (2009-2013)'.

3.3 Summary of Pre-Consultation Engagement Activities

- 3.3.1 Prior to the project re-launch in 2020, a robust back check and review was undertaken to confirm the extent to which the work undertaken between 2009 and 2013 remained relevant and suitable for taking forward. This back check and review considered all elements of the project, and concluded that, subject to some specific areas requiring further work, the project assumptions remained valid.
- 3.3.2 The iterative process of project design that has moved the project on from the 2021 'iterative alignment' has been based on robust options appraisal, and ongoing back checking of earlier conclusions.
- 3.3.3 Discussions were commenced with the host local authorities in 2020 regarding the recommencement of proposals for the reinforcement. Further ongoing discussions have been held with the host authorities and other key stakeholders throughout the pre-application period.
- 3.3.4 Appendix A1 provides details of key engagement activities carried out ahead of the non statutory and statutory consultations, targeted consultation and through to submission.

3.4 Summary of Non Statutory Consultation Activities

- 3.4.1 National Grid held a period of non statutory consultation between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. The consultation had the following aims:
- Reintroduce and provide an overview of the project, including the need case;
 - Describe how the project was developed before being paused in 2013;
 - Explain how National Grid reviewed and updated the proposals; and
 - Gather feedback on those proposals and look ahead to next steps.
- 3.4.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold face-to-face events. Instead, National Grid incorporated a greater degree of digital methods of engagement, providing a range of opportunities for the stakeholders to access information and take part in the consultation. This approach was discussed with the host authorities in advance.
- 3.4.3 A draft consultation strategy was sent to all the host local authorities on 27 January 2021 and feedback discussed at a meeting on 1 March 2021. A final version of the Consultation Strategy was published as part of the non statutory consultation and can be found in Appendix I1.
- 3.4.4 Table 3.1 provides an overview of key activities during the non statutory consultation. Full details are provided in the Non Statutory Consultation Report in Appendix C.

Table 3.1 – Summary of Non Statutory Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Details
31 March 2021 to 18 April 2021	Eight webinars	82 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars
5 March 2021, 7 March 2021 and 23 April 2021	Three telephone surgeries	Enabled people to book appointments with the project team to ask questions and find out more
22 February 2021 to 30 April 2021	Presentations were given to five district/county councils, 13 parish councils and two Members of Parliament (MPs)	The presentations explained the proposals, supported stakeholder relationships and promoted the non statutory consultation

3.5 Summary of Statutory Consultation Activities

3.5.1 National Grid held a period of statutory consultation between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 the purpose of which was to seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- Proposed route of the proposed 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead line;
- Extent of the underground cable and overhead line sections of the new 400kV reinforcement;
- Location and form of CSE compounds;
- Removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line;
- Location and form of a new GSP substation at Butler’s Wood;
- Construction methodology;
- Likely environmental effects arising from the project;
- Potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely important effects; and
- Preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.

3.5.2 National Grid applied an agile approach to managing a consultation during the pandemic. This approach enabled the team to deliver a comprehensive consultation including traditional and digital communications. National Grid actively consulted the LPAs and responded to their requests regarding the timing and duration of the consultation as well as the channels for consultation. This included discussion regarding the rapidly changing Covid-19 situation (including the ‘Plan B’ measures in place in England in late 2021/ early 2022).

3.5.3 In summary, while the SoCC set out a robust digital first engagement, which did not include or rely on face-to-face events, once the statutory consultation commenced National Grid was able to incorporate six face-to-face events in addition to the scheduled digital events.

3.5.4 An overview of key activities during the statutory consultation can be seen in Table 3.2, and full details are provided in Chapter 6 of this report.

Table 3.2 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Details
31 January 2022 to 24 February 2022	Webinars	Ten webinars covered a range of topics from an overview of the project to specific sessions focussed on sections of the route as identified in the consultation materials.
1 February 2022 to 18 March 2022	Telephone/ video appointments	Ten ‘ask the expert’ sessions provided the opportunity to speak one-to-one with technical experts from across the project.
During consultation	Virtual meetings	Offered to all s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) consultees as identified in the SoCC
25 February 2022 to 5 March 2022	Public exhibitions	Following the change to Government guidance on 19 January 2022 and easing of restrictions on 26 January 2022, four events were added to the schedule and were in addition to the virtual activities in the SoCC.
10 and 11 March 2022	Appointment only ‘ask the experts’	Following the change to Government guidance on 19 January 2022 and easing of restrictions on 26 January 2022, two in-person events were added to the schedule and were in addition to those identified in the SoCC

3.6 Summary of Further Targeted Consultation Activities

- 3.6.1 As allowed for in the SoCC, National Grid held a period of targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, to seek views and feedback on changes introduced to the project following the statutory consultation earlier in the year. This period of consultation focussed primarily on:
- Moving the route of the underground cables further away from Alphamstone;
 - Constructing a proportion of the underground cables using trenchless construction methods; and
 - Building a temporary construction haul road from the A131 to the Stour Valley West CSE.
- 3.6.2 A series of smaller changes introduced following statutory consultation were also consulted on.
- 3.6.3 As the key changes related to the western part of the route, the face-to-face events (a public exhibition and an appointment only ‘ask the experts’ event) and the leaflet drop focussed on this area only. However, the consultation was advertised more widely by other means. An overview of key activities during the targeted consultation can be seen in Table 3.3, and full details are provided in Chapter 8 of this report.

Table 3.3 – Summary of Further Targeted Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Details
15 September 2022	Public exhibition	Enabled people to find out more and ask the project team questions in a face-to-face event.
16 September 2022	Appointment only 'ask the experts'	Enabled people to book face-to-face appointments with the project team to ask questions and find out more.
21 September 2022	Webinar	Hosted online and provided an overview of the changes made as identified in the consultation materials.
During consultation	Telephone/ video appointments	Offered to all consultees and hosted online or telephone as requested.
7 September 2022 – 14 October 2022	Presentations to district/county councils, parish councils and two MPs	The presentations explained the proposals, supported stakeholder relationships and promoted the targeted consultation.

3.7 Compliance with the Planning Act 2008

3.7.1 Table 3.4 sets out how National Grid (the Applicant) has complied with the statutory requirements of the PA 2008.

Table 3.4 – How National Grid has Complied with the Statutory Requirements of the PA 2008

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the Act about the proposed application?		
Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?	Meetings were held with the key statutory bodies affected throughout the pre-submission period of the DCO. All relevant prescribed consultees were notified of the commencement of the statutory consultation. See Appendix F1 and F3.	19 January 2022 – issue of consultation documentation
Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation?	Not applicable	Not applicable
Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?	Meetings were held with local authorities affected throughout the pre-submission period of the DCO. All local authorities falling within the scope of s43 of the PA 2008 were notified of the commencement of the statutory consultation. See Appendix F2 and F3.	19 January 2022 – issue of consultation documentation
Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	The project is not within the GLA and did not require consultation with the	

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
	<p>section 42(1)(c) consultee. Nonetheless, the GLA was consulted in any case under section 42(1)(b) on a precautionary basis. The GLA was notified of the commencement of the statutory consultation. See Appendix F2 and F3.</p>	<p>19 January 2022 – issue of consultation documentation</p>
<p>Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories?</p>	<p>Using diligent inquiry, National Grid identified 729 Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs). All identified PILs were notified on the 19 January 2022 of the commencement of the statutory consultation. See Appendix G1 and G2.</p> <p>26 additional PILs were identified following the commencement of the consultation. Each of those PILs was notified of the commencement of the statutory consultation at the earliest opportunity and given not less than 28 days in which to provide feedback on National Grid’s consultation proposals. See Appendix G1.</p> <p>Duplicate sets of consultation materials were also provided to land agents instructed to act on behalf of identified PILs, with the addition of a cover letter to reference information sent to their client. See Appendix G3.</p> <p>All letters that were returned to sender were re-issued to alternative addresses and none of the re-issues were returned to sender again. See Appendix G4. Further detail is in Chapter 6 of this report.</p> <p>The Book of Reference is provided at Volume 4 of the DCO application (application document 4.3).</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage with existing PILs and also identify any new and additional interests within referencing limits throughout and after the conclusion of s42 consultation but before the application is submitted.</p>	<p>19 January 2022 – issue of consultation documentation</p>
Section 45: Timetable for S42 consultation		
<p>Did the Applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?</p>	<p>Statutory consultation was an eight week period, commencing on the 25 January 2022; the consultation deadline was the 21 March 2022.</p> <p>729 Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) were notified of the consultation deadline in letters posted on the 19 January 2022.</p> <p>Any newly identified PILs were notified weekly until the 18 February 2022</p>	<p>19 January 2022 to 18 February 2022 - issue of letter to PILs</p>

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
	<p>when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window.</p> <p>Three letters were issued on the 28 January 2022 – as well as three re-issued to an alternative address due to being returned to sender.</p> <p>Nine letters were issued on the 3 February 2022 – as well as three re-issued due to being returned to sender.</p> <p>One letter was issued on the 10 February 2022 – as well as two re-issued due to being returned to sender.</p> <p>13 letters were issued on the 18 February 2022 as well as nine re-issued due to being returned to sender.</p>	

Section 47: Duty to consult local community

Did the Applicant prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	A SoCC was published as part of the consultation documentation.	18 January 2022
Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and (where applicable) 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?	Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Braintree District Council, Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council were all provided with a draft copy of the SoCC and were formally invited to comment.	<p>Initial discussions took place to inform drafting of the SoCC. Informal consultation took place from 2 August 2021 until 30 August 2021.</p> <p>Formal consultation on the SoCC took place between the 9 November 2021 and 7 December 2021.</p>
Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Comments were received from the five LPAs (Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council, Braintree District Council, Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council) as consulted on the draft SoCC and National Grid responded to the comments received. The SoCC was amended as appropriate prior to the formal SoCC being published.</p> <p>Regard to responses received to the SoCC are contained in Appendix E4 and E8.</p>	<p>Informal consultation took place from 2 August 2021 until 30 August 2021.</p> <p>Formal consultation took place from the 9 November 2021 for 28 days.</p>
Has the SoCC been made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	<p>The SoCC was made available or inspection free of charge at deposit points in the vicinity of the project for the duration of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Appendix E12 contains evidence of the SoCC on the relevant webpage.</p> <p>The s47 notice was available at the deposit points.</p>	25 January 2022 to 21 March 2022

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
	The s47 notice was placed in the following two local newspapers: (see Appendix H2) East Anglian Daily Times	21 January 2022 An incorrect version of the s47 notice was also published in the East Anglian Daily Times on 18 January 2022.
	Colchester Gazette	18 January 2022
Does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development; and does it set out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information?	Paragraph 3.2.4 of the SoCC confirms an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent. Paragraph 3.2.3 of the SoCC confirms publicity and consultation activities regarding the Preliminary Environmental Information.	n/a
Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	National Grid promoted the consultation in line with the SoCC. Chapter 6 of this report provides further detail on how compliance was met.	SoCC compliant statutory consultation held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022.

Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application

Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?	A copy of the s 48 notice and publications is in Appendix H3 and H4.	18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated; 	The s48 notice was placed in the following newspapers (see Appendix H4): East Anglian Daily Times	21 and 27 January 2022 Incorrect versions of the s48 notice were also published in the East Anglian Daily Times on 18 and 25 January 2022.
	Colchester Gazette	18 and 25 January 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> once in a national newspaper; 	The Guardian	25 January 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and 	The London Gazette	25 January 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> where the proposed application relates to offshore development – 	Not applicable	

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — once in Lloyds List; and — once in an appropriate fishing trade journal. 		

Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of APFP Regulations?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the name and address of the Applicant; 	The s48 notice included the following 'Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA'	18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State; 	The s48 notice included the following: 'Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the Act) to authorise the construction of the Bramford to Twinstead project.'	18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a statement as to whether the application is EIA development; 	The s48 notice included the following; 'The proposed project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the proposed project'.	18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development; 	The s48 notice included a description of the project and the principal elements.	18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Proposed Development) and times set out in the notice; 	The s48 notice included the following statements: <i>'The documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed application, including the preliminary environmental information, will be available to download free of charge from 25 January 2022 until 21 March 2022 on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'</i> <i>'Reference copies will also be available to view free of charge from 25 January</i>	18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
	<p>2022 for the duration of the consultation at the following deposit points in the vicinity of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hadleigh Library, Hadleigh - Sible Hedingham Library, Halstead - Sudbury Library, Sudbury' 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection; 	<p>The s48 notice included the following; 'Reference copies will also be available to view free of charge from 25 January 2022 for the duration of the consultation' and 'The consultation is running between 25 January 2022 and 23:59 on 21 March 2022'.</p>	<p>18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge; 	<p>The s48 notice included the following; '<i>Printed copies of the documents, plans and maps can also be provided on request by contacting the project team on the details at the bottom of this notice. A reasonable copying charge will apply (up to a maximum of £220 for the full suite of documents). The documents can also be obtained free of charge on digital media by contacting the project team</i>'.</p>	<p>18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● details of how to respond to the publicity; and 	<p>The s48 notice included details of how to submit an online feedback form (website); a paper feedback form to be posted; a copy of the feedback form via email and scanning a paper copy or free text response</p>	<p>18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published 	<p>The s48 notice included the following; '<i>National Grid must receive all responses by 23:59 on 21 March 2022 to ensure their consideration</i>'. 21 March 2022 was more than 28 days after the date on which the last newspaper notice was published.</p>	<p>18, 21, 25 and 27 January 2022 – dates of publication of s48 in various newspapers.</p>
<p>Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?</p>	<p>The s48 notice was incorrectly published by the newspaper team in the East Anglian Daily Times. This was corrected in later versions. The correct versions of these notices were published in all other newspapers and have been available in the Document Library on the project website since the launch of the statutory consultation.</p>	<p>18 and 25 January 2022.</p>
<p>Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with the EIA Regulations?</p>	<p>Yes, a copy of the s48 notice was sent to all EIA consultation bodies. No other persons were notified to National Grid in accordance with the EIA</p>	<p>19 January 2022.</p>

Statutory Requirement	Activity Undertaken	Date Undertaken
	Regulations. Please refer to Appendix F1 and F3.	

S49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity

Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	This Consultation Report details how account has been taken of the previous consultations. Chapters 4 and 5 of this report detail how National Grid has taken into account non statutory consultation/ engagement stages and Chapters 7,8 and 9 detail how National Grid has taken account of responses received during the statutory and targeted consultations as well as additional s42(1)(d) engagement.	Non statutory - between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021 Statutory – 25 January 2022 to 21 March 2022 Targeted – 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022
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Guidance about pre-application procedure

To what extent has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process'?	National Grid considers it has complied with the guidance as detailed in this Consultation Report.	Ongoing
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3.8 Compliance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance (DCLG) on the Pre-Application Process

- 3.8.1 Table 3.5 sets out how National Grid has complied with the guidance, Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process, published by the (then) DCLG.

Table 3.5 – How National Grid has Complied with the Guidance set out by the DCLG on the Pre-Application Process

Guidance	Comment
The pre-application consultation process	
Para 17 – When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.	The consultation materials produced for the statutory consultation consisted of consultation banners and response form, which clearly set out it was for the purpose of the consultation and the date responses need to be received by. A copy of the statutory consultation response form can be found in Appendix I10 of this report.
Para 18 – Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have all been engaged in the proposals since the first stages of consultation between 2009 and 2013 and again when the project was revisited in 2020. Non statutory consultation was held between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. Further details about engagement with communities during non statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 4 of this report.
Para 19 – The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the major infrastructure consenting regime. A thorough process can give the	Consultations were undertaken (non statutory, statutory and targeted consultations as described in Chapters 4,

Guidance	Comment
<p>Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the six-month examination period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues. Without adequate consultation, the subsequent application will not be accepted when it is submitted. If the Secretary of State determines that the consultation is inadequate, he or she can recommend that the applicant carries out further consultation activity before the application can be accepted.</p>	<p>6 and 8 of this report) during the pre-application stage to ensure that issues arising were considered and taken into account.</p> <p>The LPAs have been engaged throughout the pre-application period and were consulted on the SoCC. National Grid developed a Host Authority Engagement Plan which was circulated by the project team to the host authorities on the 22 December 2020 and iterations have been issued as the project progressed.</p>
<p>Para 20 – Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options; ● shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and ● engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views. 	<p>The consultation banners, response form, project videos, infographics and virtual consultation 'town hall' clearly set out the proposals. The response form reflected the brochure to help consultees in providing feedback to National Grid. Copies of the consultation materials can be found in Appendix I9 and I10 of this report.</p> <p>The statutory consultation undertaken between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 allowed consultees to engage face-to-face with National Grid, through exhibitions, attend webinars, video and telephone appointments. The project website contained the consultation documentation and the ability to submit feedback via the online form. Responses could also be sent via postal response form, letters, and emails to dedicated project addresses. All materials were produced to be accessible and easy to understand. The project website was compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation.</p>
<p>Para 21 – Where an Applicant has not been able to follow this guidance they should set out why this is the case, in the consultation report.</p>	<p>National Grid complied with the guidance in the undertaking of the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Para 23 – In brief, during the pre-application stage applicants are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application; ● identify whether the project requires an environmental impact assessment; 	<p>The s46 letter was issued on 21 January 2022, as provided in Appendix D1.</p> <p>National Grid identified that the project requires an EIA during the pre-application stage and submitted a Scoping Opinion request to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) on 10 May 2021. See Appendix D3.</p> <p>The SoCC also stated in Paragraph 3.2.4: <i>'an Environmental Statement will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent'</i>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● where it does, confirm that they will be submitting an environmental statement along with the application, or that they will be seeking a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application; 	<p>An ES is provided in Volume 6 of the DCO application.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce a Statement of Community Consultation, in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that Statement; 	<p>The SoCC was provided to the five LPAs on 2 August 2021 for informal review. The formal period of consultation on the SoCC started on the 9 November 2021 and lasted 28 days. The statutory consultation was compliant with the SoCC.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make the Statement of Community Consultation available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulations; 	<p>The SoCC was placed in the deposit locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hadleigh Library, Hadleigh; - Sible Hedingham Library, Halstead; and - Sudbury Library, Sudbury.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and consult statutory consultees as required by section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulations; 	<p>Consultees were identified as required under s42 of the PA 2008</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> publicise the proposed application in accordance with Regulations; 	<p>The s48 notice was published in two local papers for two consecutive weeks, a national paper for one week and the London Gazette for one week. See Appendix H4 for details.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set a deadline for consultation responses of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt/last publication; 	<p>Statutory consultation was held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 for a period of eight weeks.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation; and 	<p>Chapter 7 of this report and Appendix C provides National Grid's response to the non statutory and statutory consultations. Chapter 8 details how National Grid has taken account of responses received during the targeted consultation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare a consultation report and submit it to the Secretary of State. 	<p>This Consultation Report (application document 5.1) is submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>
<p>Para 24 – The aim should be to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale and nature of the project and where its impacts will be experienced.</p>	<p>National Grid supported a range of communication channels including a project website, online and face-to-face events and stakeholder meetings as required and appropriate to support and promote the consultation, along the proposed route.</p>
<p>Para 25 – Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate.</p>	<p>National Grid conducted a thorough, effective, and proportionate consultation. The period provided to comment for consultation under s42, s47, and s48 of the PA 2008 was greater than the required 28 calendar days. The non statutory consultation ran for six weeks between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. The statutory consultation ran for eight weeks between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 to provide a sufficient period of time of responses. This in in excess of the 28 day minimum consultation period. This allowed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultees to engage with National Grid one or more times;

Guidance	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultees to visit a consultation event (face-to-face or webinar); - Facilitation of invitation requests to attend community events; and - Consultees time to complete the response form. <p>A period of targeted consultation took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022. The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Guidance (The PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process).</p>
Who should be consulted?	
<p>Para 26 – The Planning Act requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself.</p>	<p>National Grid engaged with all parties during the statutory consultation, as required by the PA 2008. In addition, National Grid consulted the local community within the vicinity of the proposals, as set out under s47 of the PA 2008.</p>
<p>Para 27 - The Planning Act and Regulations set out the statutory consultees and prescribed people who must be consulted during the pre-application process. ...In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could make an important contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	<p>The full list of prescribed consultees as set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) is provided in Appendix F1. This table sets out where National Grid departed from the list of Schedule 1 prescribed consultees and the appropriate reasons for doing so. Chapter 6 of this report also details consultation with the relevant local authorities, as statutory consultees.</p> <p>Recognising the broad interest in the project, National Grid also consulted with a wide range of national and other interest groups.</p> <p>Details of the consultation feedback received and an explanation of how National Grid has regard to it is provided in Chapter 7 of this report.</p>
<p>Para 28 - From time to time a body may cease to exist but, for legislative timetabling reasons, may still be listed as a statutory consultee. In such situations the Secretary of State will not expect strict compliance with the statutory requirements.</p> <p>Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>The full list of prescribed consultees as set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) is provided in Appendix F1. This table sets out where National Grid departed from the list of Schedule 1 prescribed consultees and the appropriate reasons for doing so.</p> <p>In addition, the original email for Essex County Fire and Rescue received a response related to the part of the business known as EFA Trading to say they were no longer trading. Alternative contact email details were used to resend the email. The Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) and Homes England were both contacted. RSH confirmed that Homes England are the relevant successor organisation for this project. Forbury Assets Limited is now known as Optimal Power Networks limited. The email was reissued to Optimal Power Networks within a few days of the start of consultation.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>Para 29 – Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid necessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>Throughout the lifetime of the project, The Project proposals have developed through consultation with local communities, landowners and businesses.</p> <p>Early and ongoing engagement with expert bodies to seek their technical input supported National Grid in the development of the design of the proposals. National Grid sought technical input from relevant expert bodies throughout pre-consultation and consultation stages. Appendix A1 details key activities for engagement outside of the formal consultation periods and Chapters 4 (Non Statutory Consultation), Chapter 6 (Statutory Consultation) and Chapter 8 (Targeted Consultation) of this report provide details on activities during consultation.</p>
<p>Para 35 - The applicant has a duty under section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. Before doing so, the applicant must consult on its Statement of Community Consultation with each local authority in whose area the proposed development is situated.</p>	<p>Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Braintree District Council, Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council were informally consulted and provided with a draft copy of the SoCC (30 July 2021) and were invited to comment on the draft SoCC on 2 August 2021. See Appendix E2 and E1 for the informal draft SoCC and for the letter to the Local Authorities.</p> <p>Formal consultation on the SoCC took place between the 9 November 2021 and 7 December 2021. See Appendix E6 and E5 for the formal draft SoCC and for the letter to the Local Authorities.</p> <p>Table 6.3 outlines how the consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the SoCC (see Appendix E10)</p>
<p>Para 36 – Where an applicant decides to consult people living in a wider area who could be affected by the project (e.g., through visual or environmental impacts, or through increased traffic flow), that intention should be reflected in the SoCC.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 ‘Who we will consult’ of the SoCC provides an overview of the range of groups and organisations consulted. The SoCC can be found in Appendix E10.</p>
Local authorities	
<p>Para 37 – Prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the Act.</p>	<p>National Grid entered informal consultation on the SoCC with the five host authorities (Essex County Council, Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and Braintree District Council) on the 2 August 2021, ahead of formal consultation that started on the 9 November 2021. See Appendix E1.</p>
<p>Para 41 – Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.</p>	<p>The five host authorities were consulted on the SoCC for 28 days beginning on 9 November 2021. Appendix E4 and E8 of this Consultation Report provides details on how National Grid had regard to the comments made by the host authorities in developing the SoCC.</p>
<p>Para 42 - Where a local authority decides that it does not wish to respond to a consultation request on the Statement of Community Consultation, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to ensure that all affected communities are consulted.</p>	<p>All five host authorities were consulted and responded with comments. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitted a joint response ‘Regard had to SoCC Responses’ in Appendix E8 provides a summary of the comments received from local authorities on the formal SoCC.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>Para 43 – Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with them as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>National Grid engaged extensively with local authorities prior to the project pause in 2013. Following the re-launch of the project, National Grid has continued this ongoing engagement, commencing in summer 2020 and including the non statutory and statutory consultations. See Chapters 3-6 of this report.</p>
<p>Para 48 - Agreements reached between an applicant and relevant local authorities can be documented in a statement of common ground. This will contain agreed factual information about the application and can accompany the application. The statement of common ground can also set out matters where agreement has not been reached.</p>	<p>Draft Statements of Common Grounds (SoCG) have been prepared with key interested parties including a single SoCG with the LPAs. Further details about these can be found in Chapter 11 of this report.</p>
<p>Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs)</p>	
<p>Para 49 – Applicants will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or who could be affected by a project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation.</p>	<p>S42(1)(d) consultees were identified through diligent inquiry as having an interest following the land referencing methodology as included in Appendix J.</p>
<p>Para 50 – It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is up to date at the time of submission.</p>	<p>National Grid ensured due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. All known land interests were consulted under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 and National Grid has made all reasonable effort to ensure the Book of Reference (application document 4.3) is up to date at the point of submission. Further details on how National Grid has demonstrated diligent inquiry is included in the Statement of Reasons (application document 4.2)</p>
<p>Para 51 - However, it is understood that land interests change over time and that new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.</p>	<p>After the conclusion of the landowner PIL consultation undertaken pursuant to s42 alongside the targeted consultation, any newly identified or affected PILs were written to with details of the project, where further information could be found and how to get in touch with National Grid. They were informed that there would be the opportunity to provide comments to PINs following submission of the DCO.</p>
<p>Para 52 – Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>Alongside or independently of the work carried out to identify new PILs as a result of minor amendments to the Order Limits described above, National Grid took steps to ensure that the Book of Reference as a whole would be up to date at the time of submission. In accordance with Government guidance (Planning Act</p>

Guidance	Comment
	<p>2008: Guidance on Pre-application Process, March 2015).</p> <p>National Grid notified any new interests in land of the commencement of statutory consultation at the earliest opportunity and provided at least 28 days to provide comment, until 18 February 2022. Following this date, when fewer than 28 days of the consultation period remained, any newly identified interests in land were not immediately notified.</p> <p>An additional s42 consultation was held in September 2022, to provide an opportunity for PILs not yet consulted to submit their feedback. PILs invited to this consultation were those identified after 18 February 2022 and did not get chance to participate in the statutory consultation that concluded on 21 March 2022 as well as new interests identified through design changes finalised in July 2022. The PILs invited to this consultation are summarised in Appendix K3. Details on targeted consultation is in Chapter 8 of this report.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of this report summarises the additional engagement held after the targeted consultation, detailing representations received and National Grid's response to these representations.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to undertake due diligence to identify new interests in line with the Land Referencing Methodology (see Appendix J).</p> <p>National Grid has been proactive and helpful in ensuring PILs identified in the very latter stages prior to DCO submission may understand how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination. Any new PIL identified as part of the November 2022 HM Land Registry refresh was written to with details of the Project, where further information could be found, how to get in touch with National Grid and to explain how there would be opportunity to provide comments to PINs following submission of the DCO application.</p>

Local communities

Para 53 - Local people have a vital role to play at the pre-application stage. People should have as much influence as is realistic and possible over decisions which shape their lives and communities. It is therefore critical that they are engaged with project proposals at an early stage.

The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have all been engaged in the proposals since the first stages of consultation between 2009 and 2013 and again when the project was revisited in 2020. Non statutory consultation was held between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. Appendix A1 contains details about engagement that has been held whilst further details about engagement with communities during non statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 4 of this report. Information regarding statutory consultation activities can be found in Chapter 6, and details about targeted consultation can be found in Chapter 8.

Para 54 – In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local

A variety of techniques were used to ensure an inclusive approach to consultation on the proposals. These are as follows:

- Interactive project website;

Guidance	Comment
<p>authorities will be able to provide advice on what works best in terms of consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultations in their area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation events (online and face-to-face); - Consultation banners and information in community locations/deposit points; - Mailing to the primary consultation zone; - Advertising in local newspapers alongside notices placed in a national newspaper and the London Gazette; and - Social media advertising.
<p>Para 55 – Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested.</p>	<p>The consultation banners which were used on the website and at the public consultation events, set out the principal features of the proposals. The feedback form was designed to help consultees focus on the section areas they wish to focus on. The response form comprised of open questions to allow the consultee to use free form text.</p> <p>A copy of feedback form can be found in Appendix I10 of this report.</p> <p>A Project Background Document providing a comprehensive overview of the project details was also included as part of the public consultation materials.</p>
<p>Para 56 – Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals.</p>	<p>Section 3.5 of the SoCC provides information on promotion of the consultation including details of the primary consultation zone. See Appendix E10 for the SoCC.</p>
<p>Para 57 – The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.</p>	<p>The SoCC included dates and location details for the ten public webinar events and ten bookable telephone appointments events.</p> <p>The SoCC was available both online and at the exhibitions. The SoCC remains available on the project website.</p> <p>The SoCC could be viewed at the three deposit locations, detailed in Table 6.11 of this report.</p>
<p>Para 58 – Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements (section 48 notices) should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities.</p>	<p>National Grid advertised the proposed application under s48 of the PA 2008 to coincide with the start of s42 and s47 consultations. Details of the published notices can be found in Table 6.4 of this report. Copies of the newspaper notices are provided in Appendix H2 and H4.</p>
<p>When should consultation take place and how much is enough?</p>	
<p>Para 68 – To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.</p>	<p>Section 1.3 of this report provides an overview of the pre-application consultations. Throughout the lifetime of the project, our proposals have developed through consultation with local communities, landowners and businesses as well as stakeholders.</p> <p>Consultations commenced well in advance of the proposed DCO application date, allowing time for</p>

Guidance**Comment**

consultees to understand and meaningfully contribute to the design of the proposals. The three stages of consultation, held between 2021 and 2022 provided consultees with the opportunity to influence the Project from early strategic options through to DCO submission.

Commencing consultation early has allowed the Project to be informed by the public and all consultees throughout the design process, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed. This is demonstrated at Chapters 4, 6, 7 and 8 of this report, and at Appendix C Non Statutory Consultation Report.

At statutory consultation, project information was available online and in hard copy (as appropriate) to support the consultation (information is still available on the project website in the document library)

This comprised of: Project Background Document, Newsletter, Consultation Banners, Visualisations (photomontages) Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) and Appendices, Project Development Options Report, Non Statutory Consultation Report, SoCC, s47 and s48 notices.

Para 69 - Applicants will often also require detailed technical advice from consultees and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore, applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.

Consultation with key stakeholders began in early 2020 and has been ongoing. Stakeholders have been engaged at an early stage of the process to discuss points raised in the Scoping Opinion and to reach agreement on these matters and further comments received since. A full list of the consultation carried out with key stakeholders to date and a summary of the matters discussed in relation to the ES is provided within ES Appendix 5.2 (**application document 6.3.5.2**).

Para 70 – To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods.

National Grid held non statutory consultation between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021, the report is provided in Appendix C.

Statutory consultation was held nearly a year later from 25 January 2022 to 21 March 2022.

Targeted consultation took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022.

Para 71 - Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.

Following the conclusion of each consultation National Grid continued to develop the project and identified amendments to the Order Limits.

National Grid undertook targeted consultation with affected s42(1)(d) consultees as required due to the changes to the Order Limits, and where interests in land were identified after the conclusion of consultation. See Appendix K3.

Para 72 - Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project.

The statutory consultation ran for eight weeks from 25 January 2022 to 21 March 2022. Allowing adequate time for consultees to respond to the statutory consultation.

Guidance	Comment
<p>Para 73 - Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially.</p>	<p>The project did not change substantially following the statutory consultation so, it was not necessary to repeat the community wide statutory consultation under s47 of the PA 2008 and as set out in the statutory consultation SoCC.</p>
<p>And</p> <p>Para 75 - If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a full re-consultation. Instead, the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes.</p>	<p>Chapter 8 of this report describes targeted consultation that took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022. The s47 notice was republished for the targeted consultation.</p>
<p>Para 74 - Where a proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application, the legitimacy of the consultation already carried out could be questioned.</p>	<p>This is not applicable. The project did not change to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application following the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Para 76 – In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the pre-application consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer’s Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included.</p>	<p>The SoCC included the following statement in Section 4.3 Further Consultation;</p> <p><i>‘If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC’.</i></p>
<p>Para 77 - Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>Prior to each non statutory and statutory consultation period, a consultation zone was agreed with the relevant local authorities, to ensure that the consultation process was proportionate to potential impacts of the project in the relevant areas.</p> <p>National Grid made communities aware of the consultation through methods detailed in Chapter 6 of this report. The variety of methods carried out were proportionate and were able to accommodate anticipated levels of interest in the project.</p>

The consultation report and responding to consultees

<p>Para 78 - Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Act.</p>	<p>This Consultation Report has been prepared in fulfilment of s37(3)(c) of the PA 2008.</p>
<p>Para 80 – The consultation report should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline; ● set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate; 	<p>Chapter 1 provides the overview of the process for consultation including the timeline.</p> <p>Chapters 3 and 6 provide details of compliance with legislation, guidance and relevant policies.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's Statement of Community Consultation; 	<p>Appendix E4 and E8 sets out the regard National Grid had to comments on both informal and formal consultation for the SoCC.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); 	<p>Responses have been thematically presented within this report with National Grid's response to those matters raised. See Chapters 7, 8 and 9.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed; 	<p>Chapter 4 describes how the proposals developed following non statutory consultation and how these were taken into consideration for statutory consultation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts; 	<p>Chapter 7 describes how the proposals developed including changes made following consultation and how these were taken into consideration.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and 	<p>National Grid complied with the advice of the local authorities in the development of the SoCC and that of the relevant Advice Note.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters. 	<p>This Consultation Report details how consultations (non statutory and statutory) and engagement have shaped the proposals pre-submission.</p>
<p>Para 81 – It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate.</p>	<p>A Consultation Summary report was published for the non statutory consultation, see Appendix B.</p>
<p>Para 82 - As with the consultation itself, it is likely that different audiences will require different levels of information. The local community may be particularly interested in what the collective view of the community is and how this has been taken into account. Consultees with highly technical interests may seek more detailed information on what impacts and risks have been mitigated or managed.</p>	<p>Consultation material was produced to reflect the audiences with whom National Grid was consulting. A suite of documents was published at the launch of the statutory consultation, including technical reports (describing the process undertaken and decisions made during the design of the project) and consultation materials. Their content ensured that there was sufficient information available to enable people and organisations to understand and comment on any aspect of the project's development and design. For consultees requiring more technical information the PEI Report provided a snapshot of the environmental survey work and assessment work that had taken place to</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>Para 83 –The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested. If helpful, this could be supplemented by events in the local area.</p>	<p>date. Within this report, feedback from the community and statutory stakeholders has been grouped into the geographical sections (from the feedback form) and themes and reported on that basis (See Chapter 7).</p> <p>A Consultation Summary report was published for the non statutory consultation, see Appendix B.</p>
<p>Para 84 - A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant impacts, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate. Applicants are also likely to have identified a number of key additional bodies for consultation and may need to continue engagement with these bodies on an individual basis.</p>	<p>As part of the design process and assessment of effects, all feedback received during the consultation stages has been carefully considered. Where feedback has been technical in nature, additional engagement has been undertaken and has informed the project design and content of the ES (or other documents as appropriate). This report explains how feedback received has been taken into account, cross-referring to further information contained in other documents such as ES Appendix 5.2 (application document 6.3.5.2) where appropriate</p> <p>The consultee responses received did not identify any bodies or organisations that were not already consulted during the statutory consultation.</p>
Environmental Impact Assessment	
<p>Para 90 - At an early stage the applicant needs to either inform the Secretary of State of their intention to submit an environmental statement along with its application, or where the developer is unsure whether an environmental statement is needed, that they intend to seek a screening opinion.</p>	<p>A Regulation 8(1)(b) (of the EIA Regulations 2017) notification was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) alongside a request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 which included an EIA Scoping Report (SR) on 10 May 2021 and confirmed that National Grid intended to submit a DCO Application in winter 2022/2023. See Appendix D3. The SoS adopted the Scoping Opinion on 18 June 2021 having consulted with the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.4 of the SoCC (included with the s46 notification) confirms an ES will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent.</p> <p>Thus, PINs were aware at an early stage that National Grid intended to submit an ES along with the DCO application.</p>
<p>Para 91 – The applicable EIA regulations prescribe as follows:</p>	<p>The SoCC included the following statement: <i>‘This project requires consent from the Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO). This document has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Act”) and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017.’</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 10 requires that the applicant’s Statement of Community Consultation must state whether the project falls within the scope of the Directive, and, if it does, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information (see paragraphs 93 and 94) 	

Guidance	Comment
<p>for requirements in relation to preliminary environmental information); and</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.2.4 of the SoCC confirms an ES will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 11 requires that publicity of project proposals under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 must also encompass the requirements of the EIA process and at the time of publishing the proposed application, applicants must notify all environmental consultation bodies. 	<p>National Grid consulted environmental consultees as required by s42(1)(a). In line with Advice Note Seven (PINs), National Grid published a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report alongside the consultation material. This presented the likely important effects of the project to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project and its effects so that they could provide detailed comments on the design and mitigation of the project.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Para 92 - To ensure consultation is meaningful, the pre-application consultation process for major infrastructure projects encourages applicants to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the proposed project. However, it may not be possible for applicants to share their environmental statements during the consultation process. It may also not be the most appropriate way to present the potential environmental impacts and mitigation steps. 	<p>National Grid included a PEI Report in the documents published for the purposes of the statutory consultation to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the project.</p> <p>The PEI Report details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely important environmental effects of the project. Each technical chapter has a section called Preliminary Assessment Key Parameters and Assumptions which sets out the assumptions. It is then followed by Further Assessment which says what else will be done as part of the ES. The PEI Report was available to download from the project website, to view at the deposit locations and available on request.</p>
<h3>Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)</h3>	
<p>Para 93 – For the pre-application consultation process, applicants are advised to include sufficient preliminary environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project. The information required may be different for different types and sizes of projects. It may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation. The preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement. However, if the applicant considers this to be appropriate (and more cost-effective), it can be presented in this way. The key issue is that the information presented must provide clarity to all consultees. Applicants should be careful not to assume that non-specialist consultees would not be interested in any technical environmental information. It is therefore advisable to ensure access to such information is provided during all consultations.</p>	<p>A PEI Report was published for statutory consultation and further environmental information published at targeted consultation.</p>
<p>Para 95 - When considering whether a project has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of certain European protected wildlife sites, the applicant must provide a report which should include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment.</p>	<p>National Grid has prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report which is included within the application for development consent (application document 5.3). This provides the information required for the SoS to undertake an appropriate assessment.</p>
<p>Para 96 - It is the applicant’s responsibility to consult with the relevant statutory bodies and, if they consider it</p>	<p>National Grid has consulted with Natural England on the preparation of the HRA Report (application document</p>

Guidance	Comment
necessary, with any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather evidence for such a report (to support a Habitats Regulations Assessment). This consultation should take place as early as possible in the pre-application process. One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan. The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft report in advance of formal submission of the application if it is provided in good time. Further advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments for major infrastructure projects is available from the Inspectorate's Advice Note 10.	5.3). The HRA Report identifies the other organisations that were consulted when gathering data and evidence to produce the assessment.

3.9 Compliance with PINs Advice Note Fourteen

3.9.1 Table 3.6 sets out how National Grid (the Applicant) has complied with the guidance in PINs Advice Note Fourteen (February 2021 - version 3).

Table 3.6 – How National Grid has Complied with the Guidance set out in PINs Advice Note Fourteen

Guidance	Comment
<p>1.1 An application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) must include a Consultation Report, which describes the consultation process carried out by the Applicant prior to submission of the application. It should demonstrate how the Applicant's pre-application duties set down in the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008) have been complied with. The Consultation Report should include information and evidence about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who was consulted and how the consultation was carried out; - how, and when, the project was publicised; and - how the responses were taken into account. 	<p>Chapters 3, 4 and 6 of this report provide an account of the non statutory and statutory consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008.</p> <p>Chapter 7 explains how National Grid has had regard to the consultation responses prior to submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>Chapter 8 provides information regarding the targeted consultation and how National Grid had regard to the responses received prior to submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>Chapter 9 provides an account of the additional engagement held after the targeted consultation how National Grid had regard to the responses received prior to submission of the DCO application.</p>
<p>2.1 The Consultation Report must explain how the Applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements set down in the PA2008; in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The requirement to consult with prescribed consultees (section 42); - the requirement to consult with the community (section 47); - the requirement to publicise the proposed application (section 48); and - the requirement to have regard to consultation responses (section 49). 	<p>Chapter 6 (Sections 6.3-6.5) – s42 consultation with prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and local authorities.</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Section 6.6): s42 consultation with PILs</p> <p>Chapter 6 (Section 6.8): s47 consultation with the local community (including non- prescribed organisations)</p> <p>Publicising the application was carried out in accordance with s48 of the PA 2008, which is described in Chapter 6 of this report (Section 6.10). A copy of the s48 notice is provided in Appendix H3.</p> <p>As might be expected, no responses were received that specifically identified themselves as being in response to the s48 statutory publicity, which in any event directed readers of that publicity to the same consultation materials as those provided to inform consultation responses pursuant to s42, s44 and s47.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>2.2 The report should also explain non-statutory consultation that takes place outside the requirements of the PA2008 so that the Secretary of State is given an understanding of all the consultation activity relevant to a particular project.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 of this report demonstrates the requirement to have regard to consultation responses (s49).</p> <p>Chapter 4 of this report describes non statutory consultation that took place over six weeks between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of this report describes targeted consultation that took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022.</p>
<p>2.3 Applicants should additionally use the Consultation Report to demonstrate compliance with section 50 of the PA2008 (the duty to have regard to any statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State) by illustrating how relevant statutory guidance has been followed. Where an applicant has diverged from any guidance this should be robustly justified in the Consultation Report</p>	<p>Table 3.5 details the how National Grid has complied with s50 of the PA 2008 and had regard to the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), DCLG (Ref. 1.4).</p>
<p>3.2 Introductory text should provide an overview including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary of the consultation activities undertaken; and - a table or timeline summarising both statutory and non-statutory consultation in chronological order. 	<p>Chapter 3 of this report provides a summary of all activities undertaken for non statutory, statutory and targeted consultations.</p>
<p>3.3 This section should explain the relationship between any initial strategic options stage, any subsequent non-statutory consultation that may have taken place, and the statutory consultation carried out under the PA2008.</p>	<p>Section 3 of this report provides details about the activities undertaken prior to non statutory consultation. Appendix A1 to this report details the key meetings that have been held prior to, during and after the non statutory consultation.</p>
<p>3.4 Many Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) evolve over an extended period of time with previous proposals that may have been consulted on then abandoned; in which case, a brief description of any historic consultation activity, including any information available about the scale and nature of the response at that time, would be of interest. A detailed planning history of the site is not necessary in this report.</p>	<p>Chapter 2 of this report provides a background to the project including historic consultation activity.</p>
<p>3.5 Where the pre-application consultation included more than one stage of statutory consultation then it is usually helpful to reflect this in the structure of the report. In this way, each stage of consultation can be presented and explained chronologically in a separate chapter or section of the report, including any non-statutory consultation that took place. This can also include separate summary schedules of consultation responses.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>3.6 The report should include a list of all persons and bodies that were consulted, and when they were consulted.</p>	<p>Appendix F2 to this report provides a list of prescribed local authorities consulted at s42 consultation.</p> <p>Appendix F1 to this report provides a list of prescribed parish councils consulted at s42 consultation.</p>
<p>3.7 It is helpful if the list is arranged according to the strand of section 42 consultee set out below, alongside</p>	<p>Appendix F1 to this report contains separate lists of prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(c).</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>the dates they were consulted. Specific advice about the nature of the information to be provided in respect of each strand is also set out below.</p> <p>Prescribed consultees (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(aa) and s42(1)(c))</p>	<p>S42(1)(aa) consultees are not applicable for this project as detailed in Chapter 6 of this report.</p>
<p>3.8 The list of the prescribed organisations should follow the order they are presented in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations). Any variations between the Applicant's list of prescribed consultees and the list of organisations set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations should be robustly justified.</p>	<p>Appendix F2 to this report provides a list of prescribed local authorities consulted at s42 consultation.</p> <p>Appendix F1 to this report provides a list of prescribed parish councils consulted at s42 consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of this report summarises responses received from prescribed consultees in the same order as listed in the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP) regulations and the regard had to these responses.</p>
<p>3.9 Where relevant, the list of prescribed consultees should also include the Marine Management Organisation – s42(1)(aa) and the Greater London Authority – s42(1)(c).</p>	<p>The proposed development is neither offshore or within the boundary of the GLA and as such these organisations were not included as prescribed consultees for this application. Nonetheless, the GLA was consulted in any case under section 42(1)(b) on a precautionary basis.</p>
<p>3.10 A short description of how s43 of the PA2008 has been applied in order to identify the relevant local authorities should be included. This could be supported by a map showing the site and identifying the boundaries of the relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>This is set out in Table 6.1 and a project location map was included in the consultation materials - see Appendix I11 and Figure 6.1.</p>
<p>3.11 The Applicant must demonstrate that diligent inquiry was undertaken to identify persons under s44 of the PA2008 and to ensure that an up to date Book of Reference is submitted. In that context, it is useful to set out the methodology for identifying persons in Category 3 (those who may make a relevant claim).</p>	<p>The Land Referencing Methodology is provided in Appendix J.</p>
<p>3.12 The Consultation Report should explain how many persons with an interest in land were consulted, under which category and when. It is not necessary to list the names of all individuals identified in the Book of Reference.</p>	<p>Chapters 6, 8 and 9 of this report details the how the PILs were consulted during statutory consultation, targeted consultation and additional engagement activities.</p>
<p>3.13 If additional persons with an interest in land were added and consulted following changes to the project boundary during the Pre-application stage, it is useful to describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How many additional persons with an interest in land were consulted; ● when they were consulted; ● how they were consulted; and ● what information they were consulted with. 	<p>The project boundary was changed in July 2022, and new PILs were identified and consulted as part of the targeted consultation that ran from 8 September 2022 to 19 October 2022.</p> <p>Further details can be found in Section 8.3 of this report.</p>
<p>3.14 The Secretary of State needs to be satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) preparation process. Evidence should be submitted as part of the Consultation Report which shows:</p>	<p>Five host authorities were consulted; Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Braintree District Council, Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SoCC; • what the local authorities' comments were; • confirmation that the local authorities were given 28 days to provide their comments; and • a description about how the Applicant had regard to the local authorities' comments. 	<p>Chapter 6 of this report /Appendix E4 and E8 detail the comments from the authorities and regard made to those comments.</p> <p>Formal consultation on the SoCC took place between the 9 November 2021 and 7 December 2021 which allowed the local authorities 28 days to provide their comments.</p> <p>Compliance with the SoCC is provided in Table 6.3.</p>
<p>3.15 Following the coming into force of The Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (the 2020 Regulations) Applicants no longer need to place paper copies of the SoCC on deposit at locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Instead, Applicants should make the SoCC available for inspection online. Evidence that this has been done should be provided in the Consultation Report, for example, a screen shot of the relevant webpage showing the published SoCC (including the full website address and relevant telephone number for enquiries as required by the 2020 Regulations) and confirmation that the public could access the webpage free of charge.</p>	<p>Appendix E12 contains evidence of the SoCC on the relevant webpage.</p>
<p>3.16 Copies of the published SoCC notice as it appeared in the local press should be provided along with confirmation of which local newspapers it was published in and when. If a scan of a notice is not clear, then it can be supplemented with a document containing the text of the notice. Where it was not possible to place the SoCC notice in a printed newspaper, then a screen shot of the notice as it was published in an online local newspaper publication should be provided (including the full website address and relevant telephone number for enquiries as required by the 2020 Regulations), ensuring the date of publication is visible.</p>	<p>Appendix H2 contains evidence of the SoCC notice in the local newspapers; the East Anglian Daily Times and the Colchester Gazette.</p>
<p>3.17 Where more than one SoCC was prepared for a project, e.g. where a SoCC was subject to one or more updates, the updated SoCC or SoCCs should be included together with a narrative about why the preceding SoCC was reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>One SoCC was prepared for this application, see Appendix E10.</p>
<p>3.18 Where there are any inconsistencies between the SoCC and the consultation carried out this should be clearly explained and justified e.g. where additional consultation took place that was not included in the SoCC or SoCCs.</p>	<p>Details of the SoCC and compliance is provided in both Chapters 5 and 6 of this report and Appendix E10.</p>
<p>3.19 A scanned copy of the s48 notice as it appeared in the local and national newspapers and journals, clearly showing the publication's name and date of publication, should be included in the report. If the scan is of poor quality this should be supplemented with a copy of the text. A description of where the notice was published, and confirmation of the time period given for responses should be included in the report.</p>	<p>Appendix H4 contains evidence of the s48 notice in the local newspapers, the East Anglian Daily Times and the Colchester Gazette. The s48 notice was also evidenced in the national newspapers, the Guardian and London Gazette.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>3.20 Where it was not possible to place the notice in printed newspapers, then screen shots of the notice as it was published in online newspaper publications should be provided (including the full website address and relevant telephone number for enquiries as required by the 2020 Regulations), ensuring the date of publication is visible.</p>	<p>Appendix H4 contains evidence of the s48 notice in the local newspapers.</p>
<p>3.21 Applicants should provide confirmation that the s48 notice was sent to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation bodies at the same time as the notice was published. See Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).</p>	<p>Enclosures were referenced at the bottom of the letter sent to prescribed consultees, including the s48 notice. See Appendix F3 for copy of the letter as sent.</p>
<p>3.22 Applicants may have been engaged in non-statutory consultation, e.g., early consultation with statutory bodies may have been undertaken when identifying options and in advance of statutory consultation under the provisions of the PA2008. Applicants may also have been engaged in non-statutory consultation that takes place after the statutory consultation following changes made to the project.</p>	<p>Pre-Consultation activities are summarised in Chapter 3 of this report, and further detail provided in Appendix A1. Chapter 8 describes the targeted consultation that took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022. The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).</p>
<p>3.23 In circumstances where statutory consultees were informed of non-material changes to the project, this should also be reported. It would also be helpful to provide a brief rationale about why the changes were considered to be non-material and an explanation of how consultees were informed. Where only some consultees were selected to be informed about a change, please justify the approach taken.</p>	<p>Chapter 8 of this report describes the targeted consultation that took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022. The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).</p>
<p>3.24 Any consultation not carried out under the provisions of the PA2008 should be clearly indicated and identified separately. Applicants should describe the non-statutory consultation that took place to the same level of detail as the statutory consultation. While it is not necessary for an Applicant to demonstrate how it has had regard to the consultees' comments made in response to non-statutory consultation, it is useful to understand how comments received influenced the project.</p>	<p>Feedback received and regard had to them is contained in Appendix C for the non statutory consultation, Chapter 7 of this report for statutory consultation, Chapter 8 for targeted consultation and Chapter 9 for the additional engagement in March 2023.</p>
<p>3.25 If targeted consultation takes place, please explain the nature and purpose of the consultation. For example, if it was geographically focused what consultees were included and the rationale for the geographic extent of the consultation. If a reduced number of prescribed consultees were consulted, please explain the rationale for the selection.</p>	<p>Chapter 8 of this report describes the process for and extent of targeted consultation that took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022. The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).</p>
<p>3.26 Consultation undertaken as part of the EIA process is separate to that required under the PA2008 e.g. statutory consultation on a Scoping Report following a Scoping Request to the Secretary of State. Applicants may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to that consultation should be addressed separately from the statutory consultation carried out under the provisions of the PA2008.</p>	<p>ES Appendix 5.2 (application document 6.3.5.2) includes a summary of responses received during the EIA process and how these were responded to.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<p>3.27 Appendices should be used to provide evidence that demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the PA2008. Careful consideration should be given to the structure and logic of the appendices so that they can be clearly signposted in the main body of the report. A helpful approach is to have separate appendices for each element of statutory consultation and publicity. Where multiple stages of consultation took place then it may be helpful to have a separate appendix for each stage, subdivided into the different strands of consultation.</p>	<p>The appendices have been used to provide supporting evidence to what has been detailed within this report to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the PA2008.</p> <p>Appendices are separated in a logical order which follows chronologically through from non statutory consultation, statutory consultation and targeted consultation.</p> <p>Information is grouped into different elements of the process. For example, Appendix E1-E12 contains the SoCC and all supporting information.</p>
<p>3.28 Evidence of non-statutory consultation should be assembled chronologically in a separate appendix.</p>	<p>The referencing system is clearly defined through the use of letters and numbers which are referenced within the body of the main report.</p>
<p>3.29 Using a referencing system that corresponds to the chapter or section headings in the report is also helpful.</p>	
<p>3.30 If a large volume of consultation responses were received and reported on, then it usually makes sense to include the summary response tables in an appendix or appendices. A chronological approach which demonstrates the journey through the consultation is usually easier for the reader to understand and navigate.</p>	
<p>4.1 It is necessary to demonstrate compliance with section 49 of the PA2008 by providing evidence that consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 of this report consists of summary of responses received to statutory consultation and National Grid’s regards had to those comments.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of this report provides a summary of responses received to targeted consultation and National Grid’s regards had to those comments.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of this report provides a summary of responses received to additional engagement in March 2023 and National Grid’s regards had to those comments.</p>
<p>4.2 If the level of response was significant it may be appropriate to group responses under headline issues. Care must be taken to ensure that in doing this the responses are not presented in a misleading way or out of context from the original views of the consultee. An explanation of the process by which consultation responses were grouped and organised (coded) is helpful, including any safeguards and cross checking that took place to ensure that the responses were grouped appropriately.</p>	<p>The coding methodology is included in Chapter 7 of this report.</p>
<p>4.3 A summary of the individual responses received should be provided and categorised in an appropriate way.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 of this report provides a summary of responses received to statutory consultation, including key themes and discussion points raised and National Grid’s regards had to those comments.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of this report provides a summary of responses received to targeted consultation, including key themes and discussion points raised and National Grid’s regards had to those comments.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of this report provides a summary of responses received to additional engagement in March</p>

Guidance	Comment
	2023, including key themes and discussion points raised and National Grid's regards had to those comments.
<p>4.5 The summary of the responses should identify comments that are relevant (directly or indirectly) to changes made to the project during the Pre-application stage. For example, changes to siting, route, design, form or scale of the scheme itself, or to mitigation or compensatory measures proposed.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 of this report contains details of all key themes raised as well as change requests, including those which were not taken forward.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of this report consists of summary of responses received to targeted consultation and National Grid's regards had to those comments.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of this report provides a summary of responses received to additional engagement in March 2023 and National Grid's regards had to those comments.</p>
<p>4.6 It is also necessary to explain why responses have led to no change, including where responses have been received after deadlines set by the Applicant.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 of this report contains details of all change requests including those which were not taken forward. Late responses have been identified in Chapter 7.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of this report includes a summary of responses received to targeted consultation and National Grid's regards had to those comments.</p> <p>Chapter 9 of this report provides a summary of responses received to additional engagement in March 2023 and National Grid's regards had to those comments.</p>
<p>5.1 If virtual consultation methods were planned, then this should be reflected in the SoCC. In the usual way, the relevant local authorities will have been consulted about this and their feedback reported in the Consultation Report.</p>	<p>See Chapters 5 and 6 of this report and Appendix E10 for the SoCC.</p>
<p>5.2 Where virtual consultation methods were deployed as a reaction to external circumstances then it is important that the views of the relevant local authorities are captured in the Consultation Report. If no review and update of the SoCC took place under the provisions of the PA2008, then this should be justified in the Consultation Report with reference to the views of the relevant local authorities about the approach adopted.</p>	<p>The SoCC describes the nature of the virtual exhibition and webinars. Following change to Government guidance regarding Covid-19, six additional face-to-face events were added to the schedule of events.</p> <p>Following a subsequent change in Government guidance and the removal of Plan B restrictions four public open events and two appointment only face-to-face events were added to the schedule of events.</p>
<p>5.3 In general, where virtual consultation methods are planned then the SoCC should explain any mitigation measures put in place for digitally disadvantaged members of the community e.g., the use of telephone surgeries.</p>	<p>See Chapters 5 and 6 of this report and Appendix E10 for the SoCC.</p>
<p>7.1 Applicants must ensure that the Consultation Report complies with data protection legislation e.g., personal data of individuals is treated appropriately. This may include redaction of personal data, sensitive/special category data and/or obtaining informed consent from the individuals concerned as appropriate.</p>	<p>National Grid is committed to protecting personal information. Whenever such information is provided, National Grid is legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).</p>
<p>7.2 As a general guideline, applicants should avoid including the following items in a Consultation Report or redact them in advance of submission:</p>	<p>Under the terms of the UK GDPR, individuals retain certain rights over how their personal data is retained and used by National Grid. For more information, see National Grid's full data privacy statement on the project website.</p>

Guidance	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Private home addresses of individuals or information that could lead to the identification of the location of a private individual;- Private email addresses and telephone numbers of individuals;- Sensitive or special category data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation;- Written signatures;- Photographs of the faces of individuals who have not given consent to have their image published, including images taken at consultation events; and- Information that could lead to the identification of a specific location of a protected species.	<p>All responses have been fully redacted to ensure confidentiality of addresses and contact details.</p>

4. Non Statutory Consultation

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 National Grid held a non statutory consultation between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021, the purpose of which was to:

- Reintroduce and provide an overview of the project, including the need for the project;
- Describe how the project was developed before project pause in 2013;
- Explain how National Grid reviewed and updated the proposals; and
- Gather feedback on those proposals and look ahead to next steps.

4.1.2 Table 4.1 provides an overview of key activities during the non statutory consultation. Full details are provided in the Non Statutory Consultation Report in Appendix C.

Table 4.1 – Summary of Non Statutory Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Details
31 March 2021 to 18 April 2021	Eight webinars	82 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars
5 March 2021, 7 March 2021 and 23 April 2021	Three telephone surgeries	Enabled people to book appointments with the project team to ask questions and find out more
22 February 2021 to 30 April 2021	Presentations were given to five district/county councils, 13 parish councils and two Members of Parliament (MPs)	The presentations explained the proposals, supported stakeholder relationships and promoted the non statutory consultation

4.1.3 A total of 537 feedback submissions were received during the consultation period from community stakeholders and consultees, along with members of the local community. This comprised of 243 paper response forms, 141 online response forms, 139 emails sent to the project inbox and 14 letters.

4.1.4 The approach to the consultation was set out in a draft consultation strategy, which was sent to all the host local authorities on 27 January 2021, and feedback discussed at a meeting on 1 March 2021. A final version of the Consultation Strategy was published as part of the non statutory consultation and can be found in Appendix I1.

4.2 Who National Grid Consulted

4.2.1 National Grid recognised that a significant amount of time had passed since work on the project was paused, and that all stakeholders should have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals regardless of whether or not they participated in the earlier consultations. The non statutory consultation was open to anyone with an interest in the project. Two consultation zones were developed to assist engagement with the local community.

- 4.2.2 The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which extended 1kilometre (km) from the proposals, captured stakeholders who may be most affected by the proposals. The PCZ was kept fully informed about the project and were actively engaged on the proposals.
- 4.2.3 The Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), which extended to at least 5km from the proposals (including the PCZ), captured stakeholders who were less likely to be affected by the project but may still be impacted. The SCZ was able to register for project updates and received a broad dissemination of information.
- 4.2.4 During the non statutory consultation, the following groups and stakeholders were consulted with:
- Parish councils representing parishes within both consultation zones and in the immediate vicinity;
 - MPs representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones;
 - Elected representatives in local authorities where the project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the non statutory consultation period as requested;
 - ‘Seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials; and
 - Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife.
- 4.2.5 Appendix I8 contains the full list of local interest groups and ‘seldom heard groups’ consulted with and Appendix I7 the letter they were provided with.
- 4.2.6 As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, digital methods of consultation were utilised allowing consultation to progress in line with Government advice on social distancing and face-to-face meetings. Digital consultation not only protects the health and wellbeing of both members of the public and the project team, but, paired with more traditional methods of communication, for example mailing of physical documents, meant that it was possible to ensure a robust consultation which was accessible for all members of society, irrespective of access to the internet.
- 4.2.7 National Grid’s consultation activities included:
- Setting up a project specific website, email, and dedicated telephone information line;
 - Mailing a consultation pack directly to over 3000 properties in the primary consultation zone within 1km of the proposals;
 - Producing materials to support consultation;
 - Holding online events including webinars, live chat and telephone surgeries;
 - Making information and materials available at three deposit locations in close proximity to the project; and
 - Media and social media promotional activity.

4.3 How National Grid Consulted

4.3.1 National Grid is committed to ensuring that any consultation process and associated communication is made accessible to as many parts of the community as possible. National Grid's consultation activities included:

Project Website, Email, and Information Line

4.3.2 National Grid set up a website to publish information on the project along with consultation materials as well as historical project information.

4.3.3 The website included links to additional resources along with project videos, infographics and animations. Project documents were laid out in a simple, visual and interactive format, with pointers and instructions throughout to aid easy navigation.

4.3.4 A dedicated email and telephone information line were set up and publicised (contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com and 0808 196 1515).

4.3.5 During the consultation period, the project website received 5,499 hits from 4,564 users.

Direct Mailing to the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ)

4.3.6 A consultation pack with project information was sent to 3,164 residential and business addresses within the PCZ (1km of the proposals) along with details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. The pack included:

- A summary newsletter providing details of the project website and how to access the consultation portal;
- Information about consultation events live chat sessions, video webinars, telephone surgeries and call-back appointments;
- Consultation response form with details of how to provide feedback; and
- Freepost envelopes.

Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ)

4.3.7 The properties within the SCZ (5km from the proposals) were able to access all materials and activities as detailed in this chapter. Publicity of the consultation for the SCZ was advertised via newspapers, posters, social media and other methods listed.

Materials Produced to Support Consultation

4.3.8 Additional materials supporting the consultation included:

- Consultation response form;
- Consultation summary newsletter;
- Consultation flyers (A4 and A5); and
- Project background document (to provide details of the proposals).

Consultation Activities

4.3.9 Government guidance relating to the coronavirus pandemic meant that it was not possible to hold face-to-face public exhibitions. Therefore, a series of online webinars were arranged. The purpose of these sessions was to complement information available in printed documentation and via the project website, and to provide an opportunity for consultees to ask questions. A total of eight webinars were held during the consultation period. Five presented a general overview of the proposals, whilst three area-specific webinars were held to focus on specific parts of the indicative alignment. Webinars were held over a variety of times, providing morning, afternoon and evening sessions throughout the consultation period to increase reach (see Table 4.2). Recordings of the webinars were available on request.

Table 4.2- Webinar Schedule

Webinar	Date(s)
Overview of the proposals	Wednesday 31 March 2021, 4pm-5pm
Overview of the proposals	Tuesday 6 April 2021, 7pm-8pm
Overview of the proposals	Thursday 8 April 2021, 11am-12pm*
Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham and Section C: Brett Valley)	Tuesday 13 April 2021, 7pm-8pm
Section D: Polstead and Section E: Dedham Vale Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)	Wednesday 14 April 2021, 7pm-8pm
Section F: Leavenheath and Assington and Section G: Stour Valley	Thursday 15 April 2021, 7pm-8pm
Overview of the proposals	Thursday 22 April 2021, 4pm-5pm
Overview of the proposals	Wednesday 28 April 2021, 4pm-5pm

*British Sign Language interpreter available

4.3.10 Throughout the consultation period, stakeholders and residents were invited to book telephone surgery/team call-back appointments with members of the project team. Slots were allocated at times that best suited those requesting appointments, Appointments were available as online meetings or via telephone, to accommodate those who were uncomfortable with online technology or without access to the internet. Three telephone surgeries were held during this consultation.

4.3.11 National Grid held two live chat sessions during the consultation period. Members of the public and other interested stakeholders were able to use a text message service on the website at advertised times to converse with the project team in real time. These live chat sessions aimed to replicate the opportunity visitors have to speak to members of the project team at a traditional face-to-face exhibition event.

Deposit Locations

4.3.12 Documents were available to view at the following locations from 13 April 2021 until the end of consultation.

- Braintree Library;
- Halstead Library;

- Sible Hedingham Library; and
- Sudbury Library.

Media and Social Media – Promotional Activity

- 4.3.13 The consultation was promoted via print media and social media advertising.
- 4.3.14 Newspaper adverts were placed in the East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich Star, West Suffolk Mercury, Colchester Gazette, and Essex County Standard with a combined circulation of more than 87,235. In addition, notices were placed in community news publications including LookOut Parish Magazine and Box River News to further advertise the consultation. The adverts were placed in print publications where practicable, and where available on the publication’s website. See Table 4.3.
- 4.3.15 The advertisements contained the following information and were generally half page prints.
- An introduction to the consultation with guidance on how to participate;
 - A list of upcoming webinar dates;
 - Contact details for the project team; and
 - Invitation to request hard copies of the project material.

Table 4.3 - Newspaper Advert Schedule

Publication	Format	Date(s)
East Anglian Daily Times	Paper copy	Monday 29 March 2021
East Anglian Daily Times	Paper copy	Monday 12 April 2021
East Anglian Daily Times	Online	Sunday 28 March 2021 to Wednesday 28 April 2021 (inclusive)
Ipswich Star	Paper copy	Monday 29 March 2021
Ipswich Star	Online	Sunday 28 March 2021 to Wednesday 28 April 2021 (inclusive)
West Suffolk Mercury	Paper copy	Monday 5 April 2021
West Suffolk Mercury	Online	Sunday 28 March 2021 to Wednesday 28 April 2021 (inclusive)
Colchester Gazette	Online	Monday 29 March 2021 to Sunday 11 April 2021 (inclusive)
Essex County Standard	Online	Monday 29 March 2021 to Sunday 11 April 2021 (inclusive)
LookOut Parish Magazine	Paper copy	Thursday 1 April 2021
Leavenheath Village Magazine	Paper copy	Thursday 1 April 2021
Box River News	Paper copy	Saturday 20 March 2021

- 4.3.16 Digital promotion of the consultation was conducted through digital marketing campaigns hosted by online news providers and via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Spotify.
- 4.3.17 Online adverts were placed in Essex Live, The East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich Star, West Suffolk Mercury, Colchester Gazette, and Essex County Standard, delivering a total of 134,000 impressions. Across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, ad campaigns ran from 1 April 2021 to 6 May 2021. The separate Spotify campaign ran between 25 March 2021 and 22 April 2021. Adverts were targeted at communities living close to the indicative alignment of the reinforcement, and encouraged interested parties to visit the project website, engage with the consultation and provide feedback

Additional Engagement Activities Undertaken

- 4.3.18 National Grid undertook several engagement activities leading up to and throughout the consultation period. Presentations were given (virtually) to five councils, 13 parish councils and two MPs with constituencies in the vicinity of the project (see Table 4.4). These presentations were given to explain the proposals, support stakeholder relationships and promote the non statutory consultation.

Table 4.4 - Local Authority and Parish Council Meetings

Date	Attendees
22 February 2021	Suffolk County Council (elected members)
2 March 2021	Essex County Council and Braintree District Council (elected members)
3 March 2021	Essex County Council (elected member)
4 March 2021	Braintree District Council (elected member)
11 March 2021	Essex County Council (elected member)
11 March 2021	MP for South Suffolk and the MP for Central Suffolk
15 March 2021	Layham Parish Council, Polstead Parish Council
16 March 2021	Raydon Parish Council, Higham Parish Council
16 March 2021	Mid Suffolk District Council, Babergh District Council
17 March 2021	Sproughton Parish Council
17 March 2021	Little Cornard Parish Council
23 March 2021	Boxford Parish Council
29 March 2021	Bulmer Parish Council
29 March 2021	The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council
30 March 2021	Burstall Parish Council, Hintlesham and Chattisham Parish Council
7 April 2021	Leavenheath Parish Council
22 April 2021	Polstead Parish Council
30 April 2021	Stoke by Nayland Parish Council

- 4.3.19 A copy of the Non Statutory Consultation Summary Report summarising the responses received to the non statutory consultation can be found in Appendix B.
- 4.3.20 The Non Statutory Consultation Report is provided in Appendix C.

4.4 Engagement with Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs)

- 4.4.1 The non statutory consultation, in addition to engagement with PILs on an individual basis, provided a platform from which feedback could be provided and the project discussed.
- 4.4.2 Methods of communication have been driven by the topic of discussion. To maintain the personal approach mentioned above, communication has often been either in person or by phone. Each appointment and phone conversation has been suitably recorded to act as an audit trail, and where meetings and calls have not been possible e-mail communication has been used. Where formal agreements are concerned, engagement has been in the form of both email and posting of hard copies. The project offers a general email inbox for any project related queries. Correspondence received is directed to the appropriate person in the project team to provide a suitable response.
- 4.4.3 To demonstrate National Grid's commitment to PIL engagement, statements of common ground between the project and certain PILs (such as commercial enterprises) are currently being worked on. These statements act as a commonly understood basis of the proposed project and contain factual information about the proposal relating specifically to the affected party.

4.5 Responses Received to the Non Statutory Consultation

Response Methods

- 4.5.1 Consultees could respond to the consultation by completing the consultation response form (online or via paper copy), through email to the project email address or by sending a response directly to the project's postal address:
- Email via contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com; and
 - Postal FREEPOST B TO T REINFORCEMENT.

Response Rate

- 4.5.2 A total of 537 feedback submissions were received during the consultation period from community stakeholders and consultees, along with members of the local community. This comprised of 243 paper response forms, 141 online response forms, 139 emails sent to the project inbox, and 14 letters.
- 4.5.3 There were 27 responses received from statutory organisations and local authorities.
- 4.5.4 A summary of matters raised and National Grid's response to them can be found in the Non Statutory Consultation Report in Appendix C.
- 4.5.5 Table 4.5 summarises the key themes raised during the non statutory consultation and National Grid's response to this.

Table 4.5 – Summary of the Key Themes Received During Non Statutory Consultation (Spring 2021) and National Grid’s Response

Theme	Summary of National Grid’s response
The extent of undergrounding.	The extent of undergrounding, within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural beauty (AONB) and parts of the Stour Valley, is proposed following careful consideration of environmental surveys, the feedback received during earlier consultations, the alternatives available and other factors such as the relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) and National Grid’s duties.
Undergrounding of existing lines.	The need case and funding for the Bramford to Twinstead project is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead project). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed through the Dedham Vale AONB and part of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2.5km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified.
Landscape and visual impact.	<p>The DCO proposals are subject to an EIA, which considers the effects on landscape and visual impact, including cumulatively with other future proposals that are being progressed near to Bramford Substation. The EIA will assess the impact arising from the project, identifying the potential for mitigation and ultimately feeding into the decision-making process.</p> <p>More generally, the route corridor was chosen because it would represent the least scale of change to the existing environment, as it allows the reinforcement to largely parallel the existing 400kV line, and to replace the existing 132kV line which is to be removed. The design also includes approximately 11km of underground cable. These measures reduce the visual effects of the new line within the existing landscape.</p>
Ecological impact.	Amongst National Grid’s duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. Indeed, the ongoing process of route design takes account of ecology and, where possible, seeks to reduce impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, through avoidance or mitigation. An EIA is being undertaken which will identify effects and mitigation, and National Grid is working closely with the relevant statutory bodies, for example Natural England.
Timing of consultation and relationship with other proposed developments.	<p>The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement has been described by the System Operator as critical in all future energy scenarios. The emergence of new proposals is not a reason to suspend work on the project.</p> <p>Cumulative effects with other proposed development will be assessed within the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) in accordance with legislation and Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen.</p>

4.6 Changes Made Following Feedback Received from Non Statutory Consultation

4.6.1 As a result of consultation feedback, engagement with PILs, further assessment, and refinements to the engineering design approach, the following is a summary of the changes to the plans following non statutory consultation:

- Confirming undergrounding in two sections of the route within the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley;
- Proposing a greater length of underground cables overall;
- Changing the route and configuration of pylons around Bramford Substation;
- Considering a further potential option of routeing the overhead line through Hintlesham Wood;
- Proposing a modified route for the underground section to the east of the Dedham Vale AONB;
- Proposing a modified route for the underground section in the Stour Valley;
- Proposing new locations or designs for three cable sealing end (CSE) compounds;
- Proposing to remove more of the existing 400kv overhead line running south from Twinstead Tee; and
- Proposing to build full tension gantries at three of the CSE compounds to reduce the overall number of terminal pylons along the route.

4.7 Ongoing Engagement

- 4.7.1 Appendix A1 provides an overview of engagement activities with stakeholders held prior to and during non statutory and statutory consultations.

5. Preparation for Statutory Consultation

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter describes the process undertaken to develop the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), including consultation on the draft SoCC, and how the SoCC was publicised. Chapter 6 of this report provides details of the statutory consultation and Table 6.3 demonstrates how National Grid carried out consultation in accordance with the SoCC.

5.2 Developing the SoCC

5.2.1 Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) requires developers to publish a SoCC that sets out how the Applicant proposes to consult people who may be impacted by the proposed application.

5.2.2 National Grid refined the engagement strategy and the SoCC alongside productive dialogue with the host authorities, which included both informal and formal consultation on the draft document.

5.2.3 Appendix E contains information on how the approach to statutory consultation evolved from the informal (Appendix E2) and formal (Appendix E6) draft SoCCs, through to the formal SoCC (Appendix E10) and following updated Government Guidance in early 2022 (Appendix E9 and Appendix E11).

5.2.4 The final published SoCC is provided in Appendix E10 and the section 47 notice is in Appendix H1.

5.3 Consulting Local Authorities on the SoCC

5.3.1 To support the preparation of the SoCC, National Grid consulted, under section 47(2) of the PA 2008, with each of the host authorities identified within section 43 (1) of the PA 2008, about the proposed content of the SoCC.

Informal Consultation

5.3.2 Prior to formal consultation under section 42(2) however, substantial engagement was held with the host authorities to ensure a productive and collaborative approach was taken to planning the statutory consultation.

5.3.3 The host local authorities were given a presentation on the draft SoCC on 7 July 2022, to give officers early sight of the consultation strategy.

5.3.4 An early draft SoCC (July 2021) was shared with the host authorities on 2 August 2021. Officers were invited to review and comment on the draft SoCC during an 'informal' 28 day consultation period, ending on 30 August 2021.

5.3.5 This early draft SoCC (July 2021) proposed that the statutory consultation would run for a six-week period from 3 November 2021 until 15 December 2021. The early draft SoCC

also included proposals for several face-to-face events and public exhibitions. Section 3.7.1 stated:

‘Subject to the government’s national and local COVID-19 laws and guidelines...we plan to hold a number of face-to-face events, in the form of public exhibitions and drop-in sessions. If at the time of consultation, legal requirements or government guidance on in-person events so as to become more restrictive, additional webinars will be added to the programme and advertised via leaflet drop and social media advertisement’.

5.3.6 All five host authorities responded with comments (with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitting a joint response). These comments were considered, and several amendments were made to the emerging SoCC. These changes were captured in a document entitled ‘Regard had to informal comments on proposed SoCC’ (provided at Appendix E4).

5.3.7 Amongst the comments received was a request from Essex County Council to either pull the six-week consultation period forward, or to push it back, to avoid consulting close to the Christmas and New Year period and prevent resourcing issues at the host authorities. It was noted that pushing the statutory consultation back into early 2022 would have the additional benefit of aligning with the publication of information on other National Grid projects, addressing requests raised separately during the non statutory consultation and elsewhere. Specifically, the ‘soft launch’ of East Anglia GREEN (referred to by its Network Options Appraisal reference of AENC/ ATNC). Accordingly, amongst the changes incorporated into the SoCC was a change to the start of statutory consultation from 3 November 2021 to 25 January 2022. The ‘Regard had to informal comments on proposed SoCC’ document (see Appendix E4) notes:

‘National Grid confirmed that the timescales for statutory consultation have been amended. Statutory Consultation will now take place on 25 January 2022 for a period of six weeks. This would avoid the holiday period and the associated issues with resourcing identified by Essex County Council. The decision to start Statutory Consultation later, as opposed to earlier as suggested, is to allow for information on other regional reinforcements (ATNC and AENC) to be available. This reflects feedback received during the non-statutory consultation stage.’

Formal Consultation

5.3.8 Following the informal engagement and consultation on the early draft SoCC (July 2021), in accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008, formal consultation on an updated draft SoCC (November 2021) took place between 9 November 2021 and 7 December 2021. The draft SoCC (November 2021) reflected the changes incorporated following informal consultation on the early draft SoCC (July 2021), including the 25 January 2022 start date. The draft SoCC (November 2021) also contained reference to planned exhibitions and face-to-face events, albeit again with the caveat that this would be ‘*subject to the Government’s national and local Covid-19 laws and guidelines*’.

5.3.9 All five local authorities responded with comments (with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils again submitting a joint response). These comments were taken into account, and several amendments were made to the consultation strategy and the emerging SoCC. These changes were captured in a document entitled ‘Regard had to formal comments on proposed SoCC’ (provided at Appendix E8).

5.3.10 Amongst the comments received was a request from Essex County Council, echoed by Suffolk County Council and Braintree District Council, to extent the statutory consultation

period from the proposed six weeks to eight weeks. Essex County Council's response reads:

'We are encouraged that the consultation is to take place to avoid the period before the festive break. Given current national circumstances doing such would be further prejudiced by issues very much outside the schemes control. However, and being mindful of this were the consultation to start in January it would be of benefit if you would consider lengthening the period in which comments could be made. There is no reason why the period cannot be extended beyond the as proposed 6 weeks, and I would say that current circumstances mean that people could well have other pressing issues to contend with or feel prejudiced attending any consultation meetings that do take place, so it would be advantageous if people are given more time to comment. This approach is common with other NSIPs we have been considering and I would ask that you carefully consider the same. Adding say a couple of additional weeks to the consultation period would not, in my professional opinion, result in any significant delay but could, on submission of the DCO, circumvent any comments on the consultation being considered as inadequate.'

- 5.3.11 Having regard to this feedback, National Grid was able to extend the statutory consultation period as requested, from the originally proposed six weeks to eight weeks.

Subsequent Engagement on Approach to Covid-19

- 5.3.12 Following the close of formal consultation on the draft SoCC (November 2021), the Government announced (on 8 December 2021) that England would move to 'Plan B' in response to the risks of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. As summarised above, the draft SoCC (November 2021) had proposed eight public consultation events along the route of the proposed reinforcement (albeit subject to Covid-19 laws and guidelines). National Grid reviewed the engagement strategy and took the decision to pivot the consultation to a digital first approach, to protect the health and safety of members of the public and staff. Given the change to digital first, National Grid increased the number of virtual events and added additional interactive content to the website.

- 5.3.13 National Grid issued a note to the host authorities on 20 December 2021 with information about this digital first approach (see Appendix E9), stating that:

'The planned public exhibitions and face-to-face events will be replaced with online and telephone-based alternatives and increased in number. This decision has not been taken lightly. It has been our intention throughout engagement on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to consult with stakeholders face-to-face, but the emerging situation and latest Government guidance mean the health and safety of the public and our team must take priority.'

- 5.3.14 The note went on to state that National Grid *'will continually monitor the situation and government guidelines. If restrictions ease within this period [National Grid] will assess whether some face-to-face events are possible'*.

- 5.3.15 Essex County Council responded on the 21 December 2021, stating:

'I think it is eminently sensible to adopt this approach. It is obviously regretted that in person events are unlikely to go forward, but this does fall into line with other consultations which have taken place on DCO proposals in the last 18 months and is in line with the as quoted advice. Without doubt the Health and Safety of those who wish to contribute should be a primary consideration. Whilst people may feel prejudiced by not attending in person events, taking to the attendant Team and looking at large scale plans and documents, this has to be set against practicalities that attendance at the same may

be impossible due to future restrictions, or may be uncomfortable for attendees for a raft of reasons. I welcome our commitment to monitor the situation as the consultation nears.'

- 5.3.16 Suffolk County Council responded on the 7 January 2022, acknowledging the revised approach and that the desire to safeguard staff was understandable. Suffolk County Council's response also invited National Grid to attend a face-to-face public meeting at a local venue in mid-February. National Grid responded on 20 January 2022, politely declining the invitation on the grounds that the busy schedule of statutory consultation activity would be underway at that time, and that maintaining the programme of engagement in accordance with the SoCC would be the priority.
- 5.3.17 No response was received from Babergh and Mid-Suffolk or Braintree District Councils.
- 5.3.18 The digital first approach (with no face-to-face events) was the position reflected in the SoCC that was published alongside the statutory consultation on 25 January 2022 (see Section 5.4 of this report).
- 5.3.19 At this point in time the SoCC was finalised in advance of the consultation.
- 5.3.20 However, following the Government's further announcement on 19 January 2022 that the 'Plan B' restrictions would be withdrawn, and their subsequent removal on 26 January 2022, National Grid wrote again to the host authorities on 31 January 2022. National Grid confirmed that six face-to-face events would be held from the 24 February 2022 and the events would be in addition to the scheduled digital events. This reflected National Grid's commitment to monitor the situation and incorporate some face-to-face events if possible.
- 5.3.21 Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council acknowledged receipt whilst Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council commented this *'is likely to be welcomed by communities'*. No response was received from Braintree District Council
- 5.3.22 An update to the host authorities regarding how the consultation strategy and SoCC responded to the rapidly changing Covid-19 situation is provided at Appendix E11.

5.4 Publication of the SoCC

- 5.4.1 In accordance with section 47(6)(za) of the PA 2008, the SoCC was made available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people likely to be impacted by the proposals. The SoCC was available for inspection:
- On the project website for the start of consultation on 25 January 2022;
 - As reference copies at the deposit locations along the route and at public events as detailed in Chapter 6 of this report; and
 - As a printed or alternative format copy upon request.
- 5.4.2 As set out above, the final published SoCC did not contain details of the six face-to-face events. These were further promoted through the project website and advertising.
- 5.4.3 The PA2008 under section 47(6)(a) states that the section 47 notice needs to be published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the project, Table 5.1 summarises the newspapers in which the SoCC notice was published and the dates on which it was published.

Table 5.1 – Newspapers Circulating in the Vicinity of the Proposed Development where the SoCC Section 47 Notice was Published

Newspaper	Date
East Anglian Daily Times	An incorrect version of the s47 notice was published in the East Anglian Daily Times on 18 January 2022. The correct version was published on 21 January 2022.
Colchester Gazette	18 January 2022

5.4.4 Appendix H2 provides a copy of the newspaper notices published which explained the project proposal, dates for consultation, how feedback could be provided and details of locations where materials could be found, including on the project website and at reference locations.

5.4.5 The project has therefore complied with all of the enacted requirements of section 47(6).

6. Statutory Consultation

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter outlines the work undertaken by National Grid after the non statutory consultation and introduces how requirements contained in sections 42 to 48 of the PA 2008 were met. The purpose of this chapter is to provide detailed information about how the consultation was compliant with the SoCC, the approach taken, and documents produced.

6.1.2 Chapter 6 is structured as follows:

- **6.2: Statutory consultation approach:** outlines the approach taken for statutory consultation including a summary of activities conducted;
- **6.3: Consulting with prescribed consultees under section 42(1)(a):** contains a summary of how section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees were consulted;
- **6.4: Consulting with prescribed consultees under sections 42(1)(b) and 43:** contains a summary of the section 42(1)(b) prescribed consultees identified and how they were consulted;
- **6.5: Consulting with prescribed consultees under section 42(1)(c):** contains a summary of why section 42(1)(c) prescribed consultees were not consulted;
- **6.6: Consulting Persons with an Interest in Land under sections 42(1)(d) and 44:** contains a summary of how persons with an interest in land (PILs) were consulted;
- **6.7: Notifying the Secretary of State under section 46:** contains a summary of the process for notifying the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) and supporting information and correspondence;
- **6.8: Consulting the local community under section 47:** sets out how National Grid has complied with its duty to consult;
- **6.9: Adhering to the commitments in the SoCC:** sets out how National Grid carried out the commitments made in the SoCC;
- **6.10: Publicising pursuant to section 48:** sets out how National Grid has complied with section 48 requirements;
- **6.11: Making information available and enquiry channels:** contains a summary of where project documentation was made available and contact information; and
- **6.12: Engaging seldom heard groups and key stakeholders:** contains a summary of the engagement held with seldom heard groups and other key stakeholders.

6.2 Statutory Consultation Approach

6.2.1 National Grid held a statutory consultation between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022.

6.2.2 The statutory consultation sought views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- Proposed route of the new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead line;
 - Extent of the underground cable and overhead line sections of the proposed 400kV reinforcement;
 - Location and form of cable sealing end (CSE) compounds;
 - Removal of the existing 132kV overhead line;
 - Location and form of a new grid supply point (GSP) substation at Butler’s Wood;
 - Construction methodology;
 - Likely environmental effects arising from the project;
 - Potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely important effects; and
 - Preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.
- 6.2.3 Two alternative options for passing a new 400kV overhead line in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) were also presented, referred to as Option 1 (around the woods) and Option 2 (through the woods).
- 6.2.4 The statutory consultation was open to anyone who was interested in the project. National Grid welcomed all views and has had regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.
- 6.2.5 Under section 47 of the PA 2008, National Grid has a duty to consult the local community. The SoCC detailed the approach to consultation. Two consultation zones were developed to assist engagement with the local community. These used the same buffers as the non statutory consultation. The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) extended 1 kilometre (km) from the draft Order Limits and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) extended to at least 5km from the draft Order Limits (and included the PCZ).
- 6.2.6 In addition to the local community, National Grid consulted with prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the PA 2008. PILs, under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 were also consulted with and details are provided in Appendix G1-G4.
- 6.2.7 As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, digital methods for consultation were utilised and developed for the non statutory consultation. National Grid decided to continue to use several digital engagement channels that were successful at non statutory consultation. These included:
- An interactive website;
 - Online webinars;
 - Video and telephone surgery sessions; and
 - Social media advertising.
- 6.2.8 National Grid recognised that some people may not have access to the internet and wanted to engage equally with all stakeholders, irrespective of access to digital communications. As such, it was proposed to use a blend of digital and traditional engagement channels for this public consultation.
- 6.2.9 As set out in Chapter 5 of this report, and reflecting the Covid-19 ‘Plan B’ measures in place in England in late 2021/ early 2022, National Grid proceeded with a digital first approach (with no face-to-face events initially proposed), to protect the health and safety of members of the public and staff. Given the change to digital first, National Grid

increased the number of virtual events and added additional interactive content to the website.

6.2.10 Following the removal of Plan B restrictions on 26 January 2022, National Grid confirmed that six face-to-face events (four public events and two appointment-only events) would be held from 24 February 2022, and the events were in addition to the scheduled digital events. This meant that it was possible to ensure a robust consultation which was accessible for all members of society, irrespective of access to the internet.

6.2.11 National Grid's consultation activities included:

- Setting up a project specific website, email, and dedicated telephone information line;
- Mailing a consultation pack directly to over 4,000 properties in the PCZ within 1km of the draft Order Limits;
- Producing materials to support consultation;
- Holding online events including 10 webinars and telephone/video call surgeries over 10 separate dates;
- Holding six face-to-face events; four public exhibitions and two bookable 'ask the expert' days;
- Making information and materials available at three deposit locations near to the proposals; and
- Print media and social media promotional activity.

6.3 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Section 42(1)(a)

6.3.1 Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 requires applicants to consult with all applicable 'prescribed' bodies. Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the "APFP Regulations").

6.3.2 Section 42(1)(aa) requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). As this is an inland development the MMO were not consulted for this project.

6.3.3 A full list of the bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a), as identified through Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations can be found at Appendix F1. Northern Gas Networks do not have assets affected by the project and were not previously consulted. However, for completeness, Northern Gas Networks were consulted at targeted consultation to meet s42 requirements (see Chapter 8).

6.3.4 On 19 January 2022, a consultation notification letter was sent (see Appendix F3), along with a copy of the section 48 notice, project newsletter, feedback form and a freepost envelope. The section 48 notice can be found in Appendix H3 and the other consultation materials can be found in Appendix I9 and I10.

6.3.5 Consultation responses from section 42(1)(a) consultees have been analysed and themes are presented in Section 7.4 of this report.

6.4 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Sections 42(1)(b) and 43

6.4.1 Section 42(1)(b) requires that each local authority within section 43 must be consulted. These are:

- A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area;
- A local authority ("A") is within this section if: (a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"), (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; and
- If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area.

6.4.2 Section 42(1)(b) local authorities are listed in Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 shows the section 42(1)(b) local authorities on a map.

6.4.3 On 19 January 2022, a consultation notification letter was sent to section 42(1)(b) consultees (see Appendix F2), along with a copy of the section 48 notice, project newsletter, feedback form and a freepost envelope. The section 48 notice can be found in Appendix H3 and the other consultation materials can be found in Appendix I9 and I10.

6.4.4 On 21 January 2022, a follow up email (see Appendix I5) was sent to all section 42(1)(b) local authorities.

6.4.5 Consultation responses from section 42(1)(b) consultees have been analysed and themes are presented in Section 7.4.

Table 6.1 - Section 42(1)(b) Local Authorities

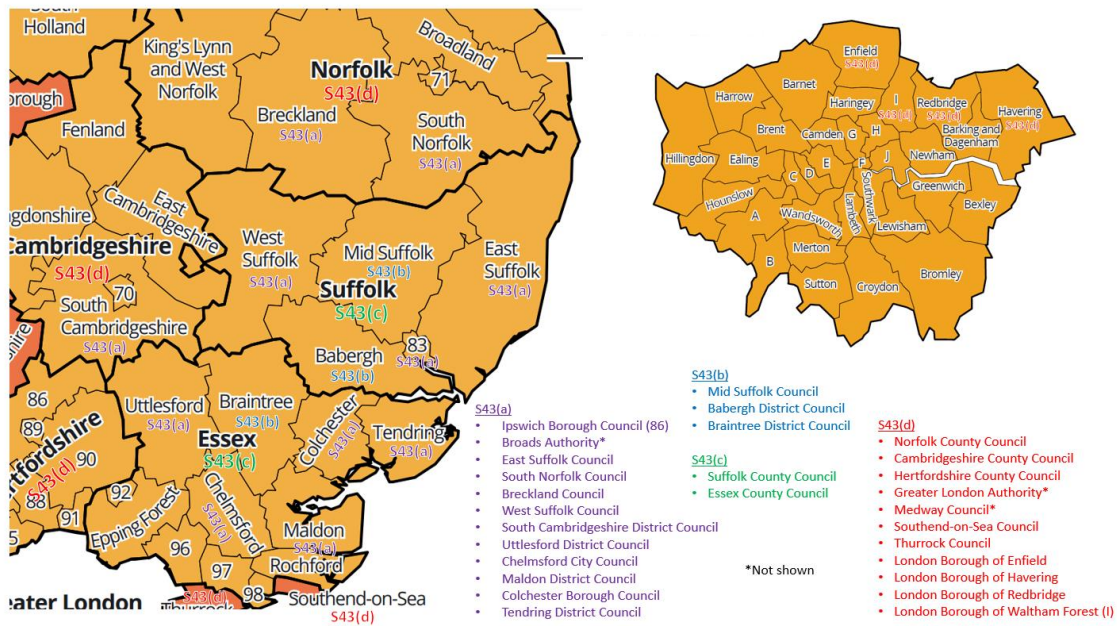
Type	Local Authority
	Ipswich Borough Council
	Broads Authority
	East Suffolk Council*
	South Norfolk Council
	Breckland Council
"A" s43 Consultees (lower-tier local authority, national park, London borough, etc. that shares a boundary with a "B" (host) authority))	West Suffolk Council**
	South Cambridgeshire District Council
	Uttlesford District Council
	Chelmsford City Council
	Maldon District Council
	Colchester Borough Council
	Tendring District Council

Type	Local Authority
"B" s43 Consultees (a lower-tier district council or a Unitary Council who is a host authority for the development and any associated development)	Mid Suffolk District Council
	Babergh District Council
	Braintree District Council
"C" s43 Consultees (an upper-tier County Council who is a host authority)	Suffolk County Council
	Essex County Council
	Norfolk County Council
	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Hertfordshire County Council
	Greater London Authority
	Medway Council
"D" s43 Consultees (an authority which is not a lower-tier district council - e.g - a national park authority or a London borough - and which shares a boundary with a "C" authority)	Southend on Sea Council
	Thurrock Council
	London Borough of Enfield
	London Borough of Havering
	London Borough of Redbridge
	Waltham Forest Council

*Formerly two separate councils which merged in April 2012 to form West Suffolk Council: Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

**Formerly two separate councils which merged in April 2019 to form East Suffolk Council: Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council.

Figure 6.1 Map of Section 42(1)(b) Local Authorities



6.5 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Section 42(1)(c)

6.5.1 Section 42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority (GLA) if the land is in Greater London. The project is not within the GLA and did not require consultation with the section 42(1)(c) consultee. Nonetheless, the GLA was consulted in any case under section 42(1)(b) on a precautionary basis.

6.6 Consulting PILs Under Sections 42(1)(d) and 44

6.6.1 Section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the PA 2008 sets out how a project must consult with PILs, i.e. those who own, occupy, have an interest in, or be able to make certain claims for compensation in respect of, land affected by a project.

6.6.2 Under section 44, PILs are split into three categories:

- **Category 1:** Where the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land;
- **Category 2:** Where the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is interested in the land, or has power to sell and convey the land, or to release the land;
- **Category 3:** Where the Applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim:
 - As a result of the implementing of the order;
 - As a result of the order having been implemented; or
 - As a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented.

- 6.6.3 National Grid carried out diligent inquiry to identify and consult with those with an interest in the affected land.
- 6.6.4 Desktop referencing was undertaken through extraction of Land Registry data, requests for land interest information from landowners and other desktop activities to identify open spaces and rights of way.
- 6.6.5 Land interest questionnaires (LIQs) were posted using Royal Mail in September 2021, November 2021, December 2021 and January 2022, to all parties to confirm their interest and request further information. This included a request for information about a recipient's own interests, associated third party interests and the spatial extent of the property. Included with the questionnaires were individual plans showing the extent of land ownership boundaries.
- 6.6.6 Site referencing was undertaken through site visits to understand the occupation details for properties (ownership, leases, tenants or occupiers) in addition to confirming details which had been gathered through desktop methods.
- 6.6.7 Where land ownership information could not be ascertained through desktop or site referencing methods, the land referencing team erected notices on site requesting information. The notice showed the land ownership boundary in question and provided details of how to contact the land referencing team with any relevant information. These notices were checked regularly for six weeks.
- 6.6.8 To identify Category 3 parties associated with Part 1 claims ahead of the section 42 consultation, technical specialists involved in preparing the EIA advised on the anticipated impacts of relevant environmental factors to inform where properties might have an adverse effect as a result of the operation of the project to check that those with a potential claim were included. At the point of statutory consultation, environmental assessments were still ongoing. Therefore, a precautionary approach was used to include all properties in the proximity of potential important noise effects based on previous project experience.
- 6.6.9 Where a PIL had contacted National Grid to advise they are to be represented by a land agent, their land agent was advised by email that the LIQ was recently issued to their client(s) and if requested provided a copy of the LIQ document. Land Agents were contacted to discuss the LIQ and request it be completed and returned unless their client had already provided the information.
- 6.6.10 A summary of the number of PILs consulted overall and how many fell into each category is shown in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 - Number of PILs Consulted

Date	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Statutory Undertaker	Total
19/01/2022	405	168	54	102	729
28/01/2022	3	0	0	0	3
03/02/2022	4	0	0	5	9
10/02/2022	1	0	0	0	1
18/02/2022	6	7	0	0	13
Total	419	175	54	107	755

- 6.6.11 A total of 729 PILs were notified of the consultation deadline in letters posted on 19 January 2022. Any newly identified PILs were notified weekly until 18 February 2022 when at least 28 days remained of the consultation window.
- Three letters were issued on 28 January 2022 as well as three re-issued to an alternative address due to being returned to sender;
 - Nine letters were issued on 3 February 2022 as well as three re-issued due to being returned to sender;
 - One letter was issued on 10 February 2022 as well as two re-issued due to being returned to sender; and
 - 13 letters were issued on 18 February 2022 as well as nine re-issued due to being returned to sender.
- 6.6.12 Consultation responses from section 42(1)(d) PILs have been analysed and themes are presented in Section 7.4 of this report.

6.7 Notifying the Secretary of State Under Section 46

- 6.7.1 Section 46 of the PA 2008 requires an applicant to notify the SoS of the proposed application for development consent. This must be done on, or before, the commencement of the statutory consultation under section 42, and the SoS must be supplied with the same information as is proposed to be used for the section 42 consultation.
- 6.7.2 On 21 January 2022, National Grid notified the Inspectorate under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) of the upcoming statutory consultation by email, formatted as a letter. Enclosed with the email (see Appendix D1) was the following information:
- Letters sent to section 42 consultees;
 - Section 47 notice;
 - Section 48 notice;
 - Community newsletter sent to PILs and section 47 consultees;
 - Feedback form;
 - Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) and associated plans and figures;
 - Visualisations – photomontages;
 - Plans and guide to the plans;
 - Project Background Document;
 - Project Development Options Report;
 - Non Statutory Consultation Report; and
 - Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 6.7.3 National Grid received email confirmation of receipt from the Inspectorate on 21 January 2022. Formal acknowledgement of the receipt of the section 46 letter was issued by email to National Grid on 25 January 2022, as published on the Inspectorate’s website (see Appendix D2).

6.7.4 Information regarding the section 46 notice is available on the Inspectorate's own website and project pages. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/bramford-to-twinstead/?ipcsection=docs>) and can also be found in Appendix D1 and D2.

6.8 Consulting the Local Community Under Section 47

6.8.1 Section 47 of the PA 2008 sets out an applicant's duty to consult the local community about a proposed application.

6.8.2 This was done in line with the SoCC, which was published on 18 and 21 January 2022 in two newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the land. See Section 5.4 of this report for more details. It could be accessed on the project website at the start of statutory consultation on 25 January 2022. See Appendix H2 and E12.

6.8.3 Two consultation zones were developed to assist engagement with the local community. The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which extends 1km from the draft Order Limits and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), which extends to at least 5km from the draft Order Limits (including the PCZ). Maps of both the primary and secondary consultation zones are available in the SoCC which can be found in Appendix E10.

6.8.4 National Grid committed in the SoCC to consult the following groups and individuals:

- Parish councils representing parishes within both consultation zones and in the immediate vicinity;
- Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones;
- Elected representatives in local authorities where the project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the statutory consultation period as requested;
- 'Seldom heard groups' within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials;
- Local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife;
- Prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the PA 2008; and
- Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44.

6.8.5 The SoCC is provided in Appendix E10 and Appendix I8 contains the full list of local interest groups and 'seldom heard groups' consulted with and the letter they were provided with. See Appendix H2 for section 47 notice as advertised in the newspapers.

6.9 Adhering to the Commitments in the SoCC

6.9.1 Table 6.3 outlines how the consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the SoCC.

Table 6.3 – How the Statutory Consultation was Undertaken in Accordance with the SoCC

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
2.2.2	Further information on the consultation activity between 2009- 2013 is available in the Project Development Options Report.	Section 4 of the Project Development Options Report (PDOR) outlines this information and is on the project website.
2.2.2	Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website.	The project website includes a section called 'Archived consultation documents (2009-2013)'.
2.2.2	Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12	Hard copy documents were available on request. All requests for posted documents were fulfilled, however, no requests subject to a printing charge were made during the consultation period.
3.1.1	The statutory consultation will run for eight weeks. It is expected to take place between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022.	Statutory consultation launched on the website on 25 January 2022. Relevant materials were available for the eight week duration of the consultation.
3.2.1	We will seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed route of the new 400kV electricity line; - Extent of extent of the underground cable and overhead line sections of the new 400kV reinforcement; - Location and form of CSE compounds; - Removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line; - Location and form of a new GSP substation at Butler's Wood; - Construction methodology; - Likely environmental effects arising from the project; - Potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects; and - Preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains. 	The feedback form breaks down the route into sections and Q17 at the end of the form is a catch all question that asks; <i>"Do you have any other comments about our proposals that you wish to give that you have not previously mentioned?"</i> .
3.2.2	Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments.	Each technical chapter has a section called Preliminary Assessment Key Parameters and Assumptions which sets out the assumptions. It is then followed by Further Assessment which says what else will be done as part of the ES.
3.2.3	We will make the full PEIR available on the project website.	The PEI Report is available in the document library on the project website.
3.2.3	Paper copies of the PEIR will be available for inspection at deposit points.	All three deposit points displayed the PEI Report.
3.2.3	Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12 We will also consult the following groups and individuals:	Copies were available on request by contacting the project team through the publicised channels. No requests from members of the public were made during the consultation period for the PEI report. Parish Councils, MPs, Elected Members and Local Interest Groups were identified and consulted.

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish councils representing parishes within both consultation zones and in the immediate vicinity; - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones; - Elected representatives in local authorities where the project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the statutory consultation period as requested; - 'Seldom heard groups' within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials; and - Local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife. 	Seldom heard groups were also identified and contacted.
3.3.4	In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act.	Prescribed Consultees were identified and consulted. Information can be found in Appendix F1-F3.
3.3.4	We will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44.	Persons with an interested in Land were contacted. Information can be found in Appendix G1. Additional s42 letters were issued after the initial mail out. Information can be found in Appendix G1. This details any letters that were returned to sender, all of which were re-issued to alternative addresses and none of the re-issues were returned to sender again. Information can be found in Appendix G4.
Table 3.1	<p>The following materials will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the project and provide their feedback</p> <p>Consultation pack: Summary newsletter with overview of the proposals and project map, project website details and instructions on how to access information at home, information about webinars and how to sign up, instructions on how to book telephone or video appointments with the project team and technical experts, information on how to give feedback and speak to the project team. Packs will also include feedback form with details how to provide feedback, freepost envelopes.</p>	<p>A consultation pack, containing a letter, summary newsletter, feedback form and free post envelope were sent to all addresses within the PCZ. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10.</p> <p>Consultation information was also provided in the deposit locations and available to download from the project website.</p>
Table 3.1	Project website - A dedicated consultation website	There was a dedicated project website available throughout the consultation.
Table 3.1	Project Background Document: - A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the project, its various components and where to find more detailed	The document was provided in the deposit locations and available to download from the project website.

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
	information or contact the project team. The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.	
Table 3.1	Project Development Options Report - A document outlining the development of the project and the rationale behind each component.	The document was provided in the deposit locations and available to download from the project website.
Table 3.1	Non statutory consultation report - A document outlining the non statutory consultation undertaken in March 2021, a summary of the feedback received and identifying how National Grid has had regard to that feedback.	The document was provided in the deposit locations and available to download from the project website. See Appendix C.
Table 3.1	Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the project.	The feedback form was available online and was posted directly to the primary consultation zone properties. See Appendix I10.
Table 3.1	Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the project. The consultation banners will be displayed in an online virtual consultation 'town hall'.	The banners were available on the project website both to download and in the virtual room.
Table 3.1	Audio guide of consultation banners. To assist those with visual impairments, audio guides will be provided upon request, summarising the key components of the project and how to provide feedback.	The audio guide was available to download from the project website.
Table 3.1	Project Maps - Paper copy and digital mapping will be made available to assist understanding of the proposals.	Maps were available for download from the project website, and an interactive map forms part of the project website home page. Paper copies were made available on request during the consultation period and all requests were fulfilled.
Table 3.1	PEIR details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the project.	The PEI Report was available to download from the project website, to view at the deposit locations and available on request via the published channels.
3.4.2	All consultation material will be available on the project website.	The project website contained all the consultation material for the statutory consultation and materials relating to previous consultations.
Table 3.2	Website features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive project map with layers that can be added and removed; - Interactive project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to detailed, technical maps; - Virtual consultation 'town hall'; 	The project website contained the following digital materials and images of these are provided in Appendix I13. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive project map with layers that could be added and removed; - Interactive project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to detailed, technical maps;

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project videos, infographics and animations; - FAQ's; - Online Feedback Form; - Webinar sign up form; - Video and telephone appointments to 'ask the experts'; - Contact details; and - Accessibility – the project website will be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A virtual 'town hall' which contained the exhibition banners; - Videos, infographics and animations; - FAQs, feedback form, webinar sign-up, telephone/video call appointments sign-up were all available via the project website; - Contact details were clearly shown on the project website and on consultation materials; and - The project website was compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers with guidance on using screen readers in the navigation section of the website.
3.5.1	<p>We will continue to use a number of digital engagement channels that were successful at non statutory consultation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An interactive website; - Online webinars; - Video and telephone surgery sessions; and - Social media advertising. 	All channels were continued into the statutory consultation.
3.5.3	<p>We will direct mail the consultation pack (outlined in Table 3.1) to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ. The PCZ contains approximately 4,000 addresses.</p>	A consultation pack, containing a letter, summary newsletter, feedback form and free post envelope were sent to all addresses within the PCZ.
3.5.5 – 3.5.6	<p>The consultation will be advertised in the following local newspapers to provide details of where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the public exhibitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Anglian Daily Times; - Ipswich Star; - West Suffolk Mercury; - Colchester Gazette; - Halstead Gazette; - Braintree and Witham Times; and - Essex County Standard. 	Adverts were placed in the newspapers listed in Appendix I2.
3.5.8	<p>Online advertisements will also be placed in these publications, with the addition of Essex Live.</p>	Online adverts were placed in the publications listed in Sections 3.5.5 - 3.5.6 of the SoCC, including Essex Live. Due to the nature of the adverts evidence is not provided in the appendices.
3.5.9	<p>We will work with parishes along the route to advertise the consultation in parish magazines and on local parish websites where possible.</p>	An email was sent to the distribution list of parishes offering paper copies of consultation materials, including the posters. See Appendix I5 for the email as sent.
3.5.10	<p>The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers (as well as in the London Gazette), giving details about the consultation in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act.</p>	The s48 notice was published in the East Anglian Daily Times, Colchester Gazette, The Guardian and The London Gazette, see Appendix H4.

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
3.5.10	Site notices will also be placed at key locations along the route of the project.	Site notices were placed at 11 locations along the route. A site notice location plan and photographs can be found in Appendix H5 and H6.
3.5.11	Adverts will be placed on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to help raise general awareness and target different demographics, including those who might not otherwise engage with the consultation.	Social media adverts were placed as described, see Appendix I3.
3.5.12	Posters will be sent to parish councils to display locally, to raise awareness of the consultation.	An email was sent to the distribution list of parishes offering paper copies of consultation materials, including the posters. See Appendix I5 for the email as sent.
3.5.13	In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website. Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps can telephone the project team on 0808 196 1515	The telephone number was established at the outset of consultation, however, there were no calls in relation to the materials during the consultation period.
3.5.14	Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £220 for the whole suite of consultation documents.	Hard copy documents were available on request. Twelve requests for hard copies of the technical documents were received and provided. No requests subject to a printing charge were made during the consultation period. Hard copies of documents were also provided at the face-to-face events.
3.5.15	We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis to take into account individual circumstances.	The project team were committed to consider such requests, however, no such requests were made during the consultation period.
3.5.16	Requests for paper copy or alternative format of documents can be made by contacting the project by email at contact@bramford-twinstead[REDACTED] or by calling 0808 196 1515.	The email and phone number were operational throughout consultation.
3.6.2	Ten webinars will be held throughout the statutory consultation period (as outlined in Section 3.7), members of the public will also be invited to book a video or telephone appointment (as outlined in Section 3.8). These surgeries will be bespoke sessions where members of the public can ask questions of relevant technical experts.	Ten webinars were held and 38 people attended, further information is provided in Table 6.7.
3.6.3	To assist those without access to the internet, all advertisement will make clear how members of the public can request paper copies of the consultation information and encourage stakeholders to make use of the telephone and video sessions.	Newspaper adverts and the s48 notice detailed how people could engage with the consultation. See Appendix I2 and Appendix H4.
3.6.4	If at the time of consultation, or during the consultation, government guidance on in-person events changes so as to become less restrictive, some in-person events may be	Following the easing of restrictions in January 2022, four public exhibitions were announced as well as two face-to-face appointment sessions. All

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
	reinstated and advertised via leaflet drop and social media advertisement. Further steps may also be taken where necessary to ensure continued fair participation for all in the consultation process.	sessions took place and details of events and attendance are contained in Table 6.9.
3.7.1	Ten project webinars will be held throughout the consultation period at the following dates and times:	Ten webinars were held and 38 people attended, further information is provided in Table 6.7.
3.7.2	The webinars will provide information about the proposals presented by the project team and will allow members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.	Completed webinars are recorded and uploaded to the project website.
3.7.4	Members of the public can sign up for a webinar online through our consultation website, by email using our email address or over the phone using our freephone number.	Members of the public were able to sign up for webinars as described. A webinar recording was also available on the project website for the duration of the consultation and a month afterwards. The webinar recording is viewable on the project website.
3.8.2	Appointments will take place through video conferencing software, or the telephone for those without access to the internet and are designed to address specific questions or queries, with technical experts. Members of the public can book an available appointment from the list below, online on our consultation website, or by calling or emailing us. We will also make additional appointment sessions available if demand is high.	Video and telephone appointments were offered on 10 dates and were advertised in the newspaper adverts and online, as well as through posters- see Appendix I12.
3.9.1	<p>We will offer virtual briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run up to or during the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of Parliament, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone; - Elected representatives of district and county councils; - Parish councils where all or part of the parish fall inside the PCZ; and - Local planning authority officers. 	The proposed stakeholder briefings took place as described, and details are provided in Table 6.12.
3.9.2	We will meet with other organisations and individuals on request	The project team considered all meeting requests made throughout the consultation period. Meetings were held as necessary including with local residents.
3.10.1	<p>Paper copies of the project background document, project development options report, non statutory consultation report, PEIR, newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be made available at the locations below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sible Hedingham Library; - Sudbury Library; and - Hadleigh Library. 	Information as described was available at the deposit locations. See Appendix I14.

Where in SoCC	Commitment as it appears in the SoCC	How National Grid fulfilled this commitment
Table 3.6	The ways in which our approach to consultation will assist in engaging with seldom heard groups is set out in the Table 3.6 in the SoCC.	<p>A consultation pack, containing a letter, summary newsletter, feedback form and free post envelope was sent to all addresses within the PCZ. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10. Maps were available to download from the project website, and an interactive map formed part of the project website home page. Paper copies were made available on request, however, no such requests were made during the consultation period.</p> <p>Consultation information was provided in the deposit locations and available to download from the project website.</p> <p>The project website contained the following digital materials and images of these are provided in Appendix I13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive project map with layers that could be added and removed; - Interactive project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to detailed, technical maps; - A virtual townhall which contained the exhibition banners; - Videos, infographics and animations; - FAQs, feedback form, webinar sign-up, telephone/video call appointments sign-up were also available from the project website; and - Contact details were clearly shown on the project website and on consultation materials. <p>The project website was compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers with guidance on using screen readers in the navigation section of the website.</p>
3.12.1	The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. The channels available and the hours of operation are set out in Table 3.7 of the SoCC. Please note that the hours of operation refer to the times during which a response can be expected, however both the email address and telephone number will be able to receive emails and calls 24 hours a day.	All communications channels were available as described in the SoCC.

6.10 Publicising Pursuant to Section 48

- 6.10.1 Section 48 of the PA 2008 sets out how an applicant must publicise its proposed application for development consent. A copy of the section 48 notice can be found in Appendix H3 which demonstrates the clearly specified time period for responses, stating that:
- ‘National Grid must receive all responses by 23:59 on 21 March 2022 to ensure their consideration’.*

- 6.10.2 The statutory publicity requirements complied with Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. This requires that the applicant must publish a notice:
- (a) For at least two consecutive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;
 - (b) Once in a national newspaper; and
 - (c) Once in the London Gazette.
- 6.10.3 Table 6.4 provides a summary of the newspapers in which the section 48 notice was published and the dates the notices were published. Appendix H4 contains section 48 adverts as published in the newspapers.

Table 6.4 – Newspapers where the Section 48 Notice was Published

Newspaper	Dates
East Anglian Daily Times	21 January 2022 and 27 January 2022
Colchester Gazette	18 January 2022 and 25 January 2022
The Guardian	25 January 2022
London Gazette	25 January 2022

- 6.10.4 Copies of the section 48 notice were also placed at 11 locations along the route. Table 6.5 provides the location of each site notice. A site notice location plan and photographs can be found in Appendix H5 and H6.

Table 6.5 – Site Locations where the Section 48 Notice was Published

Number	Location
Location 1	Hedingham Road, Gestingthorpe, Wickham St Paul, Essex
Location 2	Old Road, Wickham St Paul, Essex
Location 3	Sudbury Road, A131, Twinstead, Essex
Location 4	Junction of Lorkin's Lane, Twinstead, Twinstead Road, Lamarsh and Loshouse Farm Road, Twinstead, Essex
Location 5	Dorking Tye, Assington, Suffolk
Location 6	Stoke Road, Leavenheath, Suffolk
Location 7	Millwood Road, Polstead, Suffolk
Location 8	Pond Hall Road, Hadleigh, Suffolk
Location 9	Burstall Hill, Burstall, Suffolk
Location 10	Bramford Footpath 001, Bramford, Suffolk
Location 11	Hadleigh Road, Burstall, Suffolk

- 6.10.5 In accordance with Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) all prescribed section 42(1)(a)

consultees including environmental bodies were sent a copy of the section 48 notice. Appendix F1 contains a list of all section 42(1)(a) stakeholders.

6.11 Making Information Available and Enquiry Channels

6.11.1 A range of consultation materials were developed to support the statutory consultation as identified in the SoCC (Appendix E10).

Direct Mailing to the Primary Consultation Zone

6.11.2 A consultation pack with project information was sent to all properties within the primary consultation zone (1km of the proposals) along with details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. The pack included a letter with; website details and instructions on how to access information at home; consultation newsletter with an overview of the proposals and project map; information on webinars and how to sign up; information on how to book telephone or video appointments with the project team and technical experts; information on how to give feedback and speak to the project team; and how to request feedback form and freepost envelopes. Materials can be found in Appendix I7, I9 and I10.

Secondary Consultation Zone

6.11.3 The properties within the secondary consultation zone (within 5km of the proposals) were able to access all materials and activities as detailed in this chapter. Publicity of the consultation for the SCZ was through newspapers, posters, social media and all other forms as listed.

Materials Produced to Support Consultation

6.11.4 A suite of documents was published at the launch of the statutory consultation, including technical reports and consultation materials. Their content ensured that there was sufficient information available to enable people and organisations to understand and comment on any aspect of the project's development and design.

- **Project Background Document** - A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the project, its various components and where to find more detailed information or contact the project team. The document was written in non technical language that is readily accessible to the general public;
- **PDOR** - A document outlining the development of the project and the rationale behind each component;
- **Non Statutory Consultation Report** - A document outlining the non statutory consultation undertaken in March 2021, a summary of the feedback received and identifying how National Grid has had regard to that feedback. See Appendix C;
- **Feedback form** - Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the project. See Appendix I10;
- **Consultation banners** - Summary consultation banners were produced to provide an overview of key components of the project. Banners were designed to assist the understanding of the plans and allow for further discussion with members of the project team during telephone or video appointments. The consultation banners were also displayed in the online virtual consultation 'town hall';

- **Audio guide of consultation banners** - To assist those with visual impairments, audio guides were provided upon request, summarising the key components of the project and how to provide feedback;
- **Project maps** - Paper copy and digital mapping were made available to assist understanding of the proposals;
- **Guide to interaction with project maps** - to assist with the interpretation of project plans and included details about what was available and what was shown on each plan. This guide was available online and hard copies were available upon request; and
- **PEI Report**– PEI Report details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely important environmental effects of the project.

Online Activities

- 6.11.5 National Grid set up a website to publish information on the project along with consultation materials as well as historical project information. Features of this website can be found in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6- Website Features

Function	Rationale
Interactive project map with layers that can be added and removed	To enable members of the public to see how different components of the project fit together and how they interact with the existing landscape.
Interactive project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to detailed, technical maps.	To enable members of the public and other stakeholders to access detailed maps of the proposed reinforcement.
Virtual consultation ‘town hall’	To present all consultation banners and information in the familiar format of a town hall public consultation.
Project videos, infographics and animations	To provide a simple, concise overview of key information.
FAQs	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the team or attend an in-person event.
Online feedback form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online.
Webinar sign up form	To enable members of the public to sign up to webinars.
Video and telephone appointments to ‘ask the experts’	To enable members of the public to book a video or telephone surgery appointment.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the project team.
Accessibility	To be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation.

- 6.11.6 Ten project webinars were held throughout the consultation period as detailed in Table 6.7.

Table 6.7- Project Webinars

Webinar	Date(s)	Attendees (numbers)
Overview of the proposals	31 January 2022 10am-11am*	3
Overview of the proposals	3 February 2022 6pm-7pm	4
Section AB: Bramford Substation/ Hintlesham and Section C: Brett Valley	8 February 2022 7pm -8pm	3
Section D: Polstead and Section E: Dedham Vale AONB	9 February 2022 7pm -8pm	7
Section F: Leavenheath and Assington, Section G: Stour Valley and Section H: GSP Substation	10 February 2022 7pm – 8pm	5
Construction and environmental impacts	16 February 2022 7pm - 8pm	5
Overview of the proposals	18 February 2022 4pm - 5pm	3
Section AB: Bramford Substation/ Hintlesham and Section C: Brett Valley	21 February 2022 10am – 11am	3
Section D: Polstead and Section E: Dedham Vale AONB	23 February 2022 10am – 11am	2
Section F: Leavenheath and Assington, Section G: Stour Valley and Section H: GSP Substation	24 February 2022 10am – 11am	3

*British Sign Language interpreter available

- 6.11.7 To allow members of the public to speak directly with the project team on an individual basis, National Grid set up dedicated ‘ask the experts’ appointment sessions over ten different dates. These appointments took place through video conferencing software, or the telephone for those without access to the internet and are designed to address specific questions or queries, with technical experts.
- 6.11.8 Members of the public were able to book an appointment online via the project website, or by calling or emailing the project team. National Grid also committed to make additional appointment sessions available if demand was high. Details of appointments can be found in Table 6.8.

Table 6.8- ‘Ask the Experts’ Appointment Sessions

Date	Time	Appointments booked
1 February 2022	9am - 5pm	1
7 February 2022	5pm - 8pm	2
11 February 2022	3pm – 7pm	1
14 February 2022	3pm – 7pm	0
15 February 2022	9am – 1pm	0

Date	Time	Appointments booked
22 February 2022	3pm – 7pm	0
2 March 2022	9am – 1pm	4
10 March 2022	10am – 3pm	1*
15 March 2022	9am – 5pm	1
18 March 2022	3pm – 7pm	2

*This meeting was rearranged to take place on 15 March 2022 instead

Public Events and Face-to-Face Activities

6.11.9 Following the removal of ‘Plan B’ Covid-19 restrictions on 26 January 2022, National Grid added a further six face-to-face events from 24 February 2022. These were in addition to the scheduled digital events. Details of public events and face-to-face activities can be found in Table 6.9.

Table 6.9- Public Events and Face-to-Face Activities

Public Exhibitions	Date and time (s)	Attendees (numbers)
Nayland Village Hall	25 February 2022 10am-6pm	58
Hadleigh Town Hall	3 March 2022 12pm-8pm	38
Hintlesham and Chattisham Community Hall	4 March 2022 10am-4.30pm	58
Sudbury Masonic Hall	5 March 2022 10am-5pm	57
Ask the Experts (appointment only)	Date and time (s)	Number of appointments
Twinstead Village Hall	10 March 2022 9am-2pm	12
Hintlesham and Chattisham Community Hall	11 March 2022 9am-2pm	13*

*One appointment cancelled, and one appointment didn’t attend.

6.11.10 During the consultation period people were able to submit their feedback on the proposals for the project. This could be done in the following ways:

- Online via the project website;
- By post using the freepost envelope (which were available upon email or telephone request); and
- By email (contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com).

6.11.11 A copy of the response form can be found in Appendix I10.

6.11.12 Consultation responses received by any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, were not formally recorded as part of the consultation. Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, could have been accepted in exceptional

circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation, however, there were no such responses.

- 6.11.13 Feedback submissions sent by post were accepted for up-to five working days after the formal closing date of the consultation.
- 6.11.14 A response was received from Historic England on 13 May 2022, and Cadent Gas Limited on 21 June 2022, these responses were accepted and included within the analysis of feedback received in Chapter 7 of this report.
- 6.11.15 The channels identified in Table 6.10 were available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. The hours of operation referred to the times during which a response can be expected, however both the email address and telephone number were able to receive emails and calls 24 hours a day.

Table 6.10- Channels for Contacting the Project Team

Method	Contact Details	Hours of Operation
Online	[REDACTED]	24 hours
Email	contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com	9am-5pm weekdays
Telephone	0808 196 1515	9am-5pm weekdays, 24 hours to leave a voicemail

Deposit Locations

- 6.11.16 Documents including the SoCC were available to view at the following locations from 25 January 2022 until the end of consultation as stated within the SoCC. The deposit locations and the SoCC were published on the project website.
- 6.11.17 The locations were chosen as they gave an even spread of deposit points across the eastern, central and western parts of the route and details can be found in Table 6.11. Two consultations (informal and formal) with the relevant local authorities were held on the SoCC, including details of the proposed deposit point locations. National Grid did not receive any comments from local authorities on the proposed locations from these consultations.

Table 6.11- Deposit Locations

Location	Address	Opening Times
Sible Hedingham Library	169 Swan Street Sible Hedingham CO9 3PX	Monday – 9am to 1pm
		Tuesday – Closed
		Wednesday – Closed
		Thursday – 2pm to 7pm
		Friday – Closed
		Saturday – 9am to 5pm
		Sunday – Closed
Sudbury Library	Market Hill, Sudbury CO10 2EN	Monday - 9am to 5pm
		Tuesday – 9am to 7:30pm

Location	Address	Opening Times
		Wednesday - 9am to 5pm Thursday - 9am to 5pm Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday - 9am to 5pm Sunday – 10am-4pm
Hadleigh Library	29 High Street, Hadleigh IP7 5AG	Monday - Closed Tuesday – 9am to 5pm Wednesday - 9am to 5pm Thursday - 9am to 6pm Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday – 9:30am to 5pm Sunday – 10am to 4pm

Additional Engagement Activities Undertaken

- 6.11.18 National Grid undertook several engagement activities leading up to and throughout the statutory consultation period. Presentations were given (virtually) to four councils, five parish councils and two MPs with constituencies in the vicinity of the project (see Table 6.12). These presentations were given to explain the proposals, support stakeholder relationships and promote the statutory consultation.

Table 6.12 - Local Authority and Parish Council Meetings

Date	Attendees
21 January 2022	MP for Central Suffolk
21 January 2022	MP for South Suffolk
25 January 2022	Suffolk County Council
26 January 2022	Braintree District Council
07 February 2022	Little Cornard and Assington Parish Councils
22 February 2022	Babergh District Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council
10 March 2022	Alphamstone and Lamarsh Parish Council*
10 March 2022	Gestingthorpe Parish Council*
11 March 2022	Hintlesham and Chattisham Parish Council*

*These meetings were held as part of the 'Ask the Experts' appointment sessions

6.12 Engaging Seldom Heard Groups and Key Stakeholders

- 6.12.1 Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason. National Grid undertook research to identify local seldom heard organisations and worked with local authorities and other bodies as needed to identify additional groups. The approach was defined as part of the development of the SoCC, giving local planning authorities (LPAs) the opportunity to influence this strategy. The methods and tools as identified within the SoCC are included in Table 6.13.

6.12.2 A list of seldom heard groups that were consulted can be found in Appendix I8.

Table 6.13 - Seldom Heard Engagement Tools

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
The elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10; ● Options to engage through conventional communications channels including the postal service and the telephone; ● Telephone “ask the expert” appointments; ● Important information available in both digital and non-digital formats and alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print provided upon request; ● Engagement with community groups serving that demographic; ● Paper copies of materials available at deposit points along with contact details for the project team, who could provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online; and ● Telephone call backs were available for stakeholders with further questions or who would have liked to have discussed the project further with the project team.
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audio guide of consultation banners available upon request; ● Important information provided in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request); ● Option to enlarge text on project website; ● Telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments; and ● Telephone call backs were available for stakeholders with further questions or those who would have liked to have discussed the project further with the project team.
People with limited mobility/disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10; ● Online engagement through the consultation website and webinars to remove the need for travel; ● Important information provided in both digital and non-digital formats and alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print provided upon request; ● Telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system which took into consideration individual needs; ● Providing British Sign Language signing at a webinar, which were recorded and placed on the project website; and

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Telephone call backs were available for stakeholders with further questions or who would have like to have discussed the project further with the project team.
Youth (13-15) age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement with community groups and appropriate bodies (such as schools and colleges) serving that demographic; ● Online engagement; ● Social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project; and ● Video and telephone 'ask the expert' appointments, with a booking system
15-19 and 20-39 age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement with community groups and appropriate bodies (such as schools and colleges) serving that demographic; ● Online engagement; ● Social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project; and ● Video and telephone 'ask the expert' appointments, with a booking system.
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility; ● Video and telephone 'ask the expert' appointments, with a booking system providing a variety of dates and times social media engagement; and ● Telephone call backs were available for stakeholders with further questions or who would have liked to have discussed the project further with the project team.
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online engagement; ● Social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project; and ● Options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility.
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10; ● Video and telephone 'ask the expert' appointments, with a booking system, removing the need to travel; and ● Telephone call backs were available for stakeholders with further questions or who would have liked to have discussed the project further with the project team.
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as black, asian and minority ethnic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement with community groups serving that demographic.
ESL (English as a Second Language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultation material provided in alternative languages (upon request); and

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Translation/interpreter facilities provided during video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments (upon request). <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement with community groups and representatives serving that demographic; ● Paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10; and ● Video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would have liked to have discussed the project further with the project team.
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement with community groups and representatives to engage seldom heard groups who may also be digitally excluded; ● Paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. See Appendix I7, I9 and I10; ● Telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system; and ● Telephone call backs were available for stakeholders with further questions or who would have liked to have discussed the project further with the project team.

7. Responses to Statutory Consultation

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Statutory consultation was held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 and provided the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to see how the project had evolved since the non statutory consultation, and comment on further detailed engineering design and environmental assessment work. The statutory consultation closed at 23:59 on the 21 March 2022.

7.1.2 A total of 577 feedback submissions were received during the consultation period from community stakeholders and consultees, along with members of the local community. This comprised of 425 feedback forms (248 paper response forms, 177 online response forms), 138 emails sent to the project inbox and 12 letters.

7.1.3 All responses, including those which were received after the close of consultation, were taken into consideration in the reporting of feedback received. A total of four feedback forms, two letters from members of the public as well as four letters from statutory consultees were received after the consultation had closed. These were comprised of:

- Polstead Parish Council;
- East Suffolk Council;
- Historic England; and
- Cadent Gas.

7.1.4 Chapter 7 is structured as follows:

- **7.2: Responses Received to the Statutory Consultation:** outlines the s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) consultees who responded to the consultation;
- **7.3: Consultation Response Form:** contains a breakdown of the response form and the types of questions asked;
- **7.4: Analysing Responses to the Statutory Consultation:** details the methodology and how responses were handled and feedback analysed;
- **7.5: Responses to Closed Questions:** presents and discusses the results of the closed questions on the feedback form;
- **7.6: Findings from the Statutory Consultation:** presents and discusses the feedback gathered via the open questions on the feedback form, or via other open formats; and
- **7.7: Summary of Changes made Following Feedback Received from Statutory Consultation:** outlines the changes made to the scheme further to feedback received.

7.2 Responses Received to the Statutory Consultation

- 7.2.1 Responses were received from 39 section 42 (1)(a) consultees. A full list of the section 42(1)(a) consultees who were consulted and those who responded can be found in Appendix F1.
- 7.2.2 Responses were received from seven section 42(1)(b) consultees. A full list of the section 42(1)(b) consultees who were consulted and those who responded can be found in Appendix F2.
- 7.2.3 Responses were received from five non-prescribed consultees and key stakeholder organisations. A full list of the non-prescribed consultees and key stakeholder organisations who were consulted and those who responded can be found in Appendix I8.

7.3 Consultation Response Form

- 7.3.1 The response form asked a total of 26 questions, including a mix of closed and open questions. The closed questions asked about certain aspects of the project and, where appropriate, an open question followed which invited consultees to give further information on their chosen response.
- 7.3.2 The response form can be found in Appendix I10 and consisted of 13 sections:
- **About the Project** - Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 and Q5 (closed questions);
 - **Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham** - Q6 (closed), Q7 (open) and Q8 (closed);
 - **Section C: Brett Valley** - Q9 (open);
 - **Section D: Polstead** - Q10 (closed/open);
 - **Section E: Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** - Q11 (open);
 - **Section F: Leavenheath and Assington** - Q12 (open);
 - **Section G: Stour Valley** - Q13 (closed) and Q14 (open);
 - **Section H: Grid Supply Point (GSP) Substation** - Q15 (open);
 - **Environmental Areas** - Q16 (open);
 - **Anything Else?** - Q17 (open);
 - **About You** - Q18 (closed);
 - **How are we Doing?** - Q19, Q20, Q21, Q22 and Q23 (closed); and
 - **Inclusion And Diversity** - Q24, Q25 and Q26 (closed).
- 7.3.3 The closed (quantitative) questions are further detailed in Section 7.5, while comments received during the open (qualitative) questions are detailed in Section 7.6.
- 7.3.4 Feedback on the reinforcement proposals could be provided through the questions and comment boxes in the feedback form (either online or in hard copy) or otherwise as a bespoke response issued by email or letter.

7.4 Analysing Responses to the Statutory Consultation

- 7.4.1 Following the close of the consultation, National Grid reviewed all the responses received.
- 7.4.2 The responses to the closed questions were analysed to help the project team understand the proportion of respondents that chose each option and to see if there was a majority response. The outcome of this analysis is set out in Sections 7.5 and 7.6 of this report. The percentages on the graphs in Section 7.5, have been rounded up or down to provide the percentage and as the totals are not always equal to 100%.
- 7.4.3 To analyse the responses received to the open questions, a coding framework was used based on the structure of the consultation response form. This enabled the grouping of responses into themes such as *'Leavenheath / Assington'* or *'GSP Substation'*. A response to an open text question could receive multiple codes to highlight different themes covered. A classification tree was created to code all written/longform feedback – this comprised of letters, emails and the free text sections on the response form.
- 7.4.4 Underneath themes, classification categories were created based on the scope of the consultation and issues raised at previous consultation events. In addition, new classifications were added on an ad-hoc basis as feedback was received allowing for further breakdown of themes. Classification categories included *'Environmental Impact'*, *'Construction Traffic'* or *'Heritage'*.
- 7.4.5 Each category was broken down into further sub-sections. This comprised of the sentiment of the comment (positive, negative, neutral) and whether the comment can be considered a suggestion. A number of categories (such as visual impact) were also split into the sections of the Order Limits being used at this consultation, so that comments could be coded as being specific to a certain area of the project.
- 7.4.6 All responses, regardless of their origin (including those received after the consultation period), were analysed by the project team and assigned codes based upon the content of the response(s) provided in a consistent manner applying the methodology outlined above.
- 7.4.7 The approach to coding bespoke responses was the same as for analysing the feedback form responses, namely a read-through, followed by the identification of *'Change Requests'* (specific requests to change elements of the proposed reinforcement design) and then a thematic coding of the remaining feedback. The issues raised in the thematic coding are presented in this chapter, alongside a response from technical experts at National Grid.

7.5 Responses to Closed Questions

- 7.5.1 This section presents and discusses the feedback gathered through the closed questions on the feedback form.
- 7.5.2 National Grid has had regard to the feedback provided through the closed response questions, using these to help guide understanding of public sentiment and the key areas of interest to assist as the proposals have been developed.

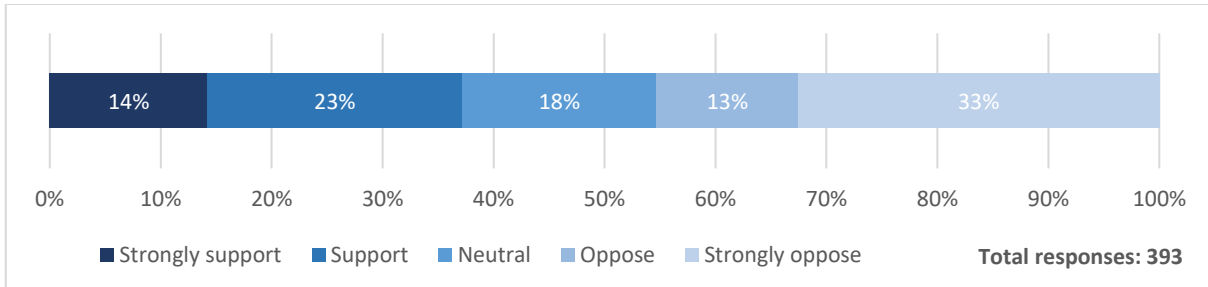
About the Project - Question 1

- 7.5.3 In response to question 1, which sought to gauge respondents' perceptions on the plans to use a mixture of overhead lines and underground cables, almost half of respondents (46%) stated they either *'Oppose'* or *'Strongly oppose'*. Meanwhile, just over a third of

respondents (37%) stated that they ‘Support’ or ‘Strongly support’, with the remaining 18% of respondents remaining neutral.

7.5.4 A total of 393 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.1.

Figure 7.1- ‘What do you think about our plans to use a mixture of overhead lines and underground cables?’

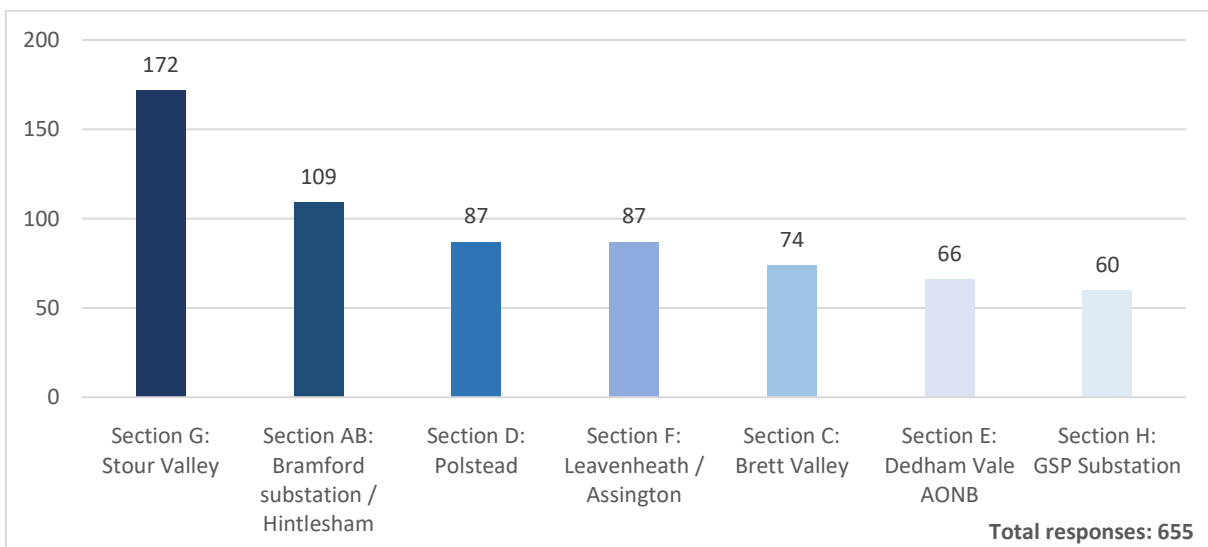


About The Project - Question 2

7.5.5 In response to question 2, when asked if respondents were interested in a specific section of the draft alignment, Section G: Stour Valley was identified as the section with most interest (26%). This was followed by 17% of interest shown towards Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham. Section D: Polstead and Section F: Leavenheath and Assington had equal levels of interest (13%), closely followed by Section C: Brett Valley, Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and Section H: GSP Substation with interest levels of 11%, 10% and 9% respectively.

7.5.6 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 392 respondents answered this question resulting in 655 responses. See Figure 7.2.

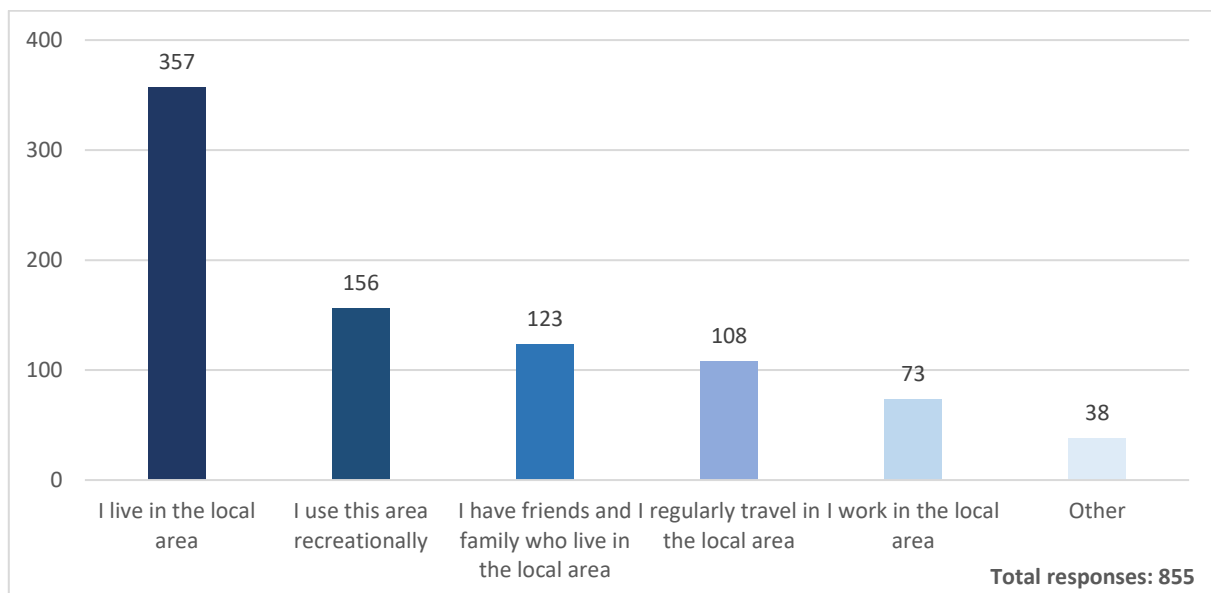
Figure 7.2 - ‘To make it easier for you to comment on our proposals, we have split the draft alignment (proposed route) of the reinforcement into a number of sections. Do you have a specific section of the draft alignment that you are interested in?’



About the Project - Question 3

- 7.5.7 In response to question 3, regarding the reasons respondents had a particular interest in this/these section(s) of the draft alignment, 42% of respondents stated that they live in the local area. The next most popular reason was that the area is used recreationally with 18% of respondents selecting this option. This was closely followed by 14% and 13% of respondents having friends and family who live in the area and regularly travel in the area respectively. A smaller proportion of respondents work in the area with 9% of respondents selecting this.
- 7.5.8 The remaining 4% of respondents selected 'Other'. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and responses comprised of affected land/business owners, local councillor and wildlife trust representatives.
- 7.5.9 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 388 respondents answered this question resulting in 855 responses. See Figure 7.3.

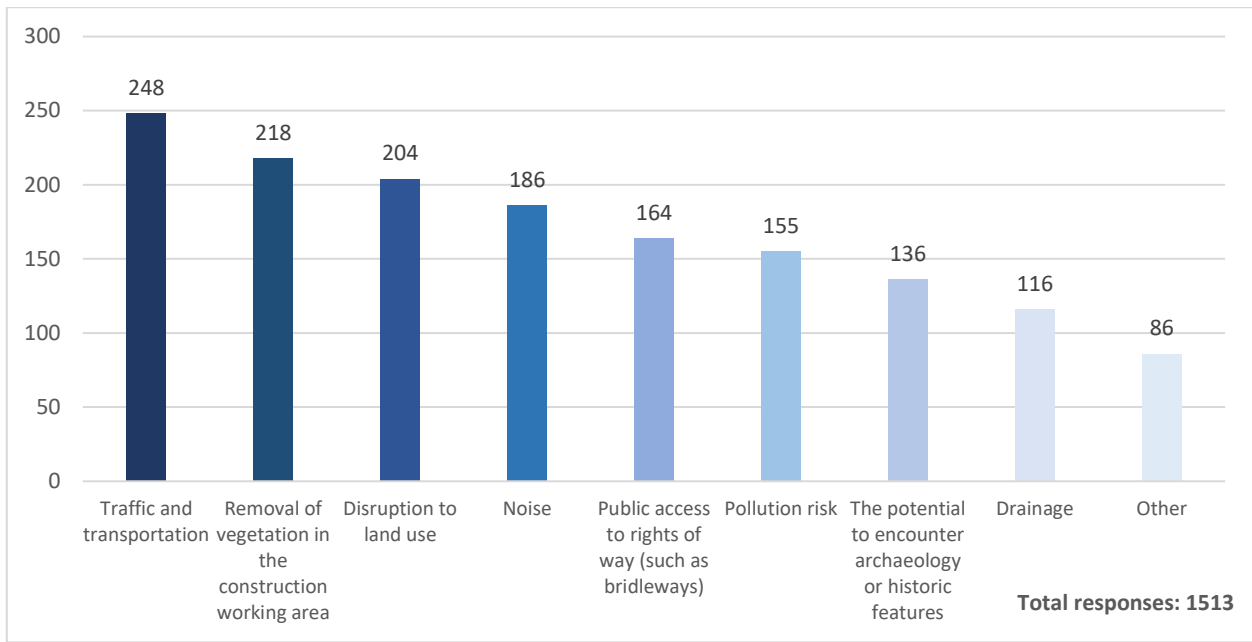
Figure 7.3 – 'Why do you have a particular interest in this/these section(s) of the draft alignment?'



About the Project - Question 4

- 7.5.10 In response to question 4, where respondents were asked if they had any key concerns regarding the construction stage of the reinforcement, the most common concern was 'Traffic and transportation' totalling 16% of total responses. This was closely followed by all other concerns as detailed in Figure 7.4, with the least popular concern being 'Drainage' totalling only 8% of total responses.
- 7.5.11 The remaining 6% of responses were 'Other'. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and response themes comprised of: construction impacts, disturbance of business, environmental concerns and health impacts.
- 7.5.12 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 355 respondents answered this question resulting in 1513 responses. See Figure 7.4.

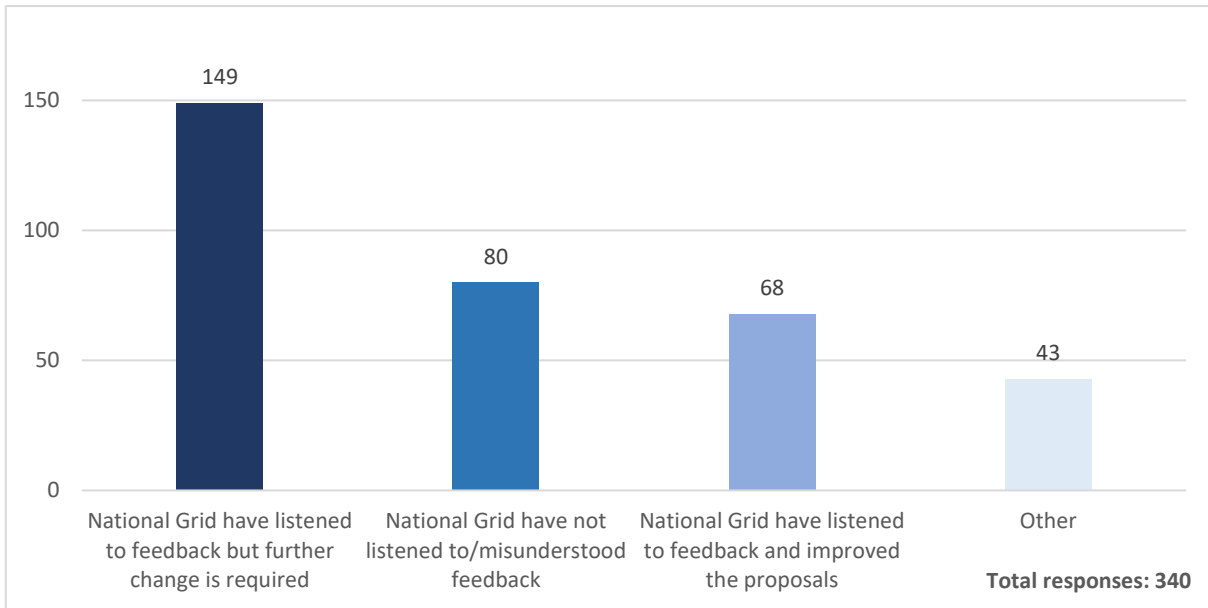
Figure 7.4 – ‘Do you have any key concerns regarding the construction stage of the reinforcement? Please tick all that apply.’



About the Project - Question 5

- 7.5.13 In response to question 5, where respondents were asked to indicate whether they thought the changes made are an improvement on what was presented previously, the most popular opinion was that feedback has been listened to, but further change is required with 44% of respondents choosing this option. Just under a quarter (24%) of respondents indicated that they thought feedback has not been listened to or understood whilst a fifth of respondents (20%) thought that feedback had been listened to.
- 7.5.14 The remaining 43 respondents (13%) selected ‘Other’. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of not being aware of the previous plans or consultations, ‘Don’t know’, and comments that not enough options have been considered.
- 7.5.15 A total of 338 respondents answered this question resulting in 340 responses. See Figure 7.5.

Figure 7.5 – ‘Do you think these changes (as set out on page 34 of the project background document and in the project development options report) are an improvement on what we presented previously?’

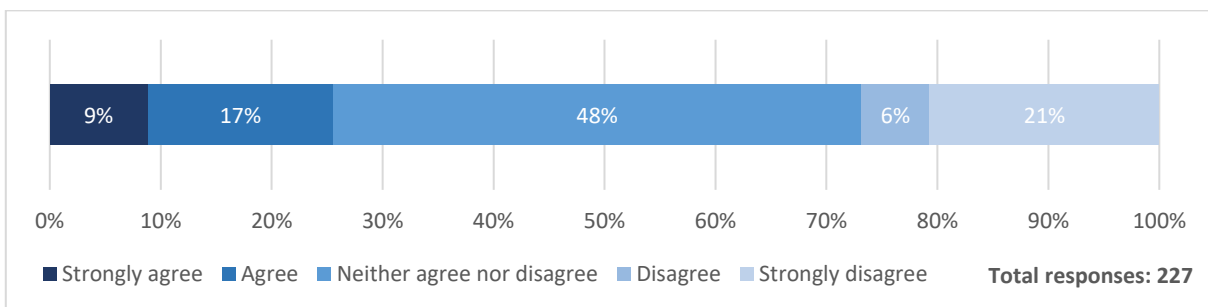


Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham - Question 6

7.5.16 In response to question 6, where respondents were asked to what extent they agree with the proposed changes to the alignment of the proposed reinforcement at Bramford Substation, the almost half of respondents (48%) neither agreed nor disagreed. Just over a quarter of respondents (27%) disagreed with the proposed changes by selecting ‘Disagree’ (6%) or ‘Strongly disagree’ (21%) whilst the remaining 26% agreed with the proposed changes by selecting ‘Agree’ (17%) or ‘Strongly agree’ (9%).

7.5.17 A total of 227 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.6.

Figure 7.6 – ‘To what extent do you agree with our proposed changes to the alignment of the proposed reinforcement at Bramford substation?’

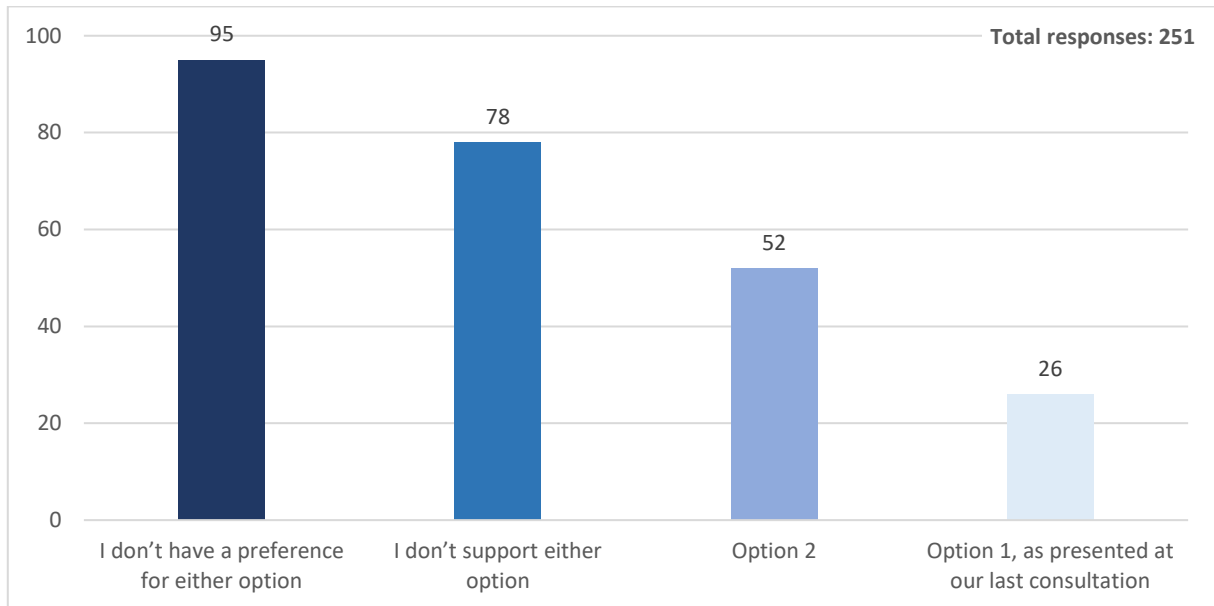


Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham - Question 7

7.5.18 In response to question 7, where respondents were asked which of the two route options they preferred, the largest proportion (38%) indicated that they did not have a preference. This was followed by 31% of respondents who did not support either option. Just over a fifth (21%) of respondents showed preference for Option 2 whilst the remaining 10% of respondents preferred Option 1, as presented at the last consultation.

7.5.19 A total of 251 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.7.

Figure 7.7 – ‘Which of the two route options do you prefer?’



7.5.20 Respondents were then asked to explain more about why they chose the option they did. Of the responses provided to this freeform question, common discussion points comprised of:

- Respondents not being able to comment as they were unfamiliar with the area in question;
- Preference for the least disruptive option in terms of human, visual and environmental impacts; and
- Comments that all of the cables should be underground in this area.

7.5.21 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report.

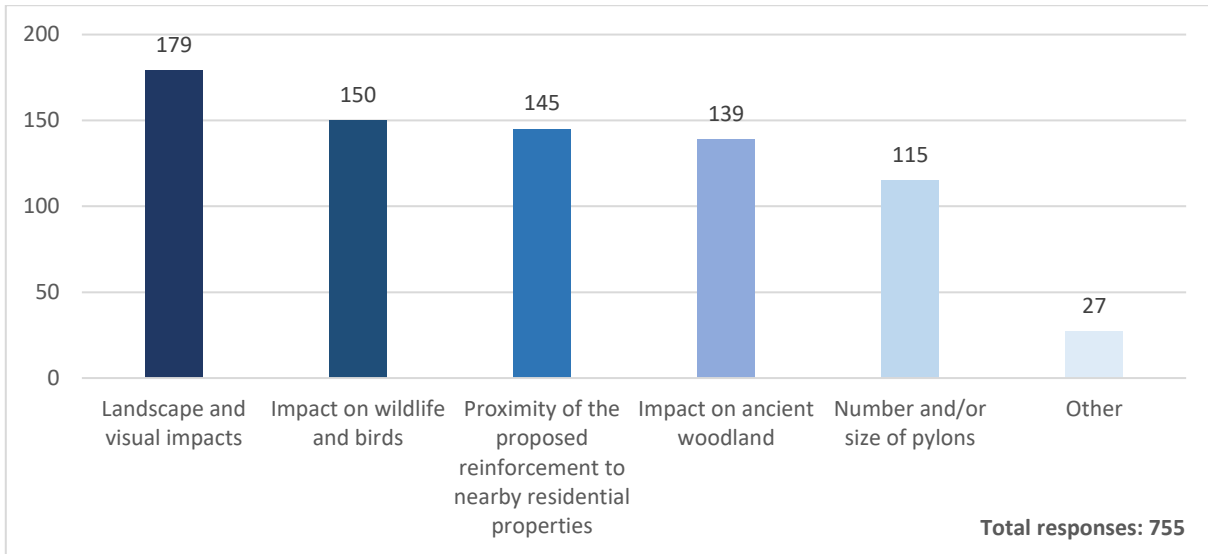
Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham - Question 8

7.5.22 In response to question 8, where respondents were asked which out of given options were the most important in deciding how to route the proposed reinforcement in this area, the most common option was ‘Landscape and visual impacts’ with just under a quarter (24%) of respondents selecting this. ‘Impact on wildlife’, ‘Proximity of the proposed reinforcement to nearby residential properties’ and ‘Impact on ancient woodland’ all followed this with 20%, 19% and 18% of respondents selecting these respectively. The least important option was ‘Number and/or size of pylons’ with only 15% of respondents choosing this.

7.5.23 The remaining 4% of respondents selected ‘Other’. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of ‘All of the above’, ‘No comment’ and the impacts on the environment, people and operations.

7.5.24 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 250 respondents answered this question resulting in 755 responses. See Figure 7.8.

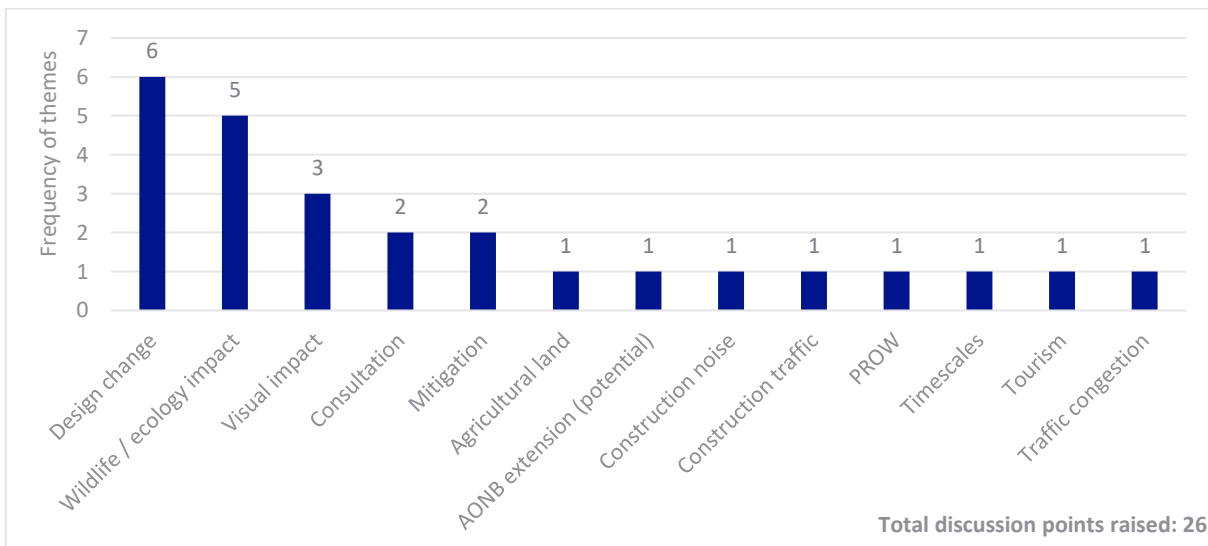
Figure 7.8 – ‘Which of the options would you consider most important when deciding how to route the proposed reinforcement in this area?’



Section C: Brett Valley - Question 9

- 7.5.25 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about Section C: Brett Valley, the most frequent theme was ‘*Design change*’ requests or suggestions (23%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of wildlife/ecology impacts with 19% of total themes closely followed by visual impacts (12%).
- 7.5.26 A total of 13 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 26 discussion points. See Figure 7.9.
- 7.5.27 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report, Table 7.2.

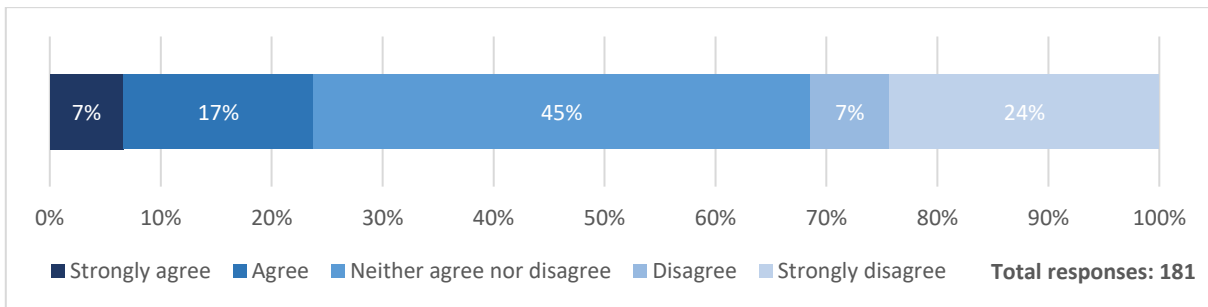
Figure 7.9 – ‘Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in this section?’



Section D: Polstead - Question 10

- 7.5.28 In response to question 10, where respondents were asked to what extent they agree with the new location of the cable sealing end (CSE) compound, the largest proportion of responses (45%) indicated that they *'Neither agree nor disagree'*. 31% of respondents disagreed with the new location of the CSE compound with just under a quarter of total respondents selecting *'Strongly disagree'* (24%) and only 7% of total respondents selecting *'Disagree'*. The remaining 24% of respondents agreed with the new location with 17% of total respondents agreeing and only 7% of total respondents selecting *'Strongly agree'*.
- 7.5.29 A total of 181 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.10.

Figure 7.10 – *'To what extent do you agree with the new location of the CSE compound?'*

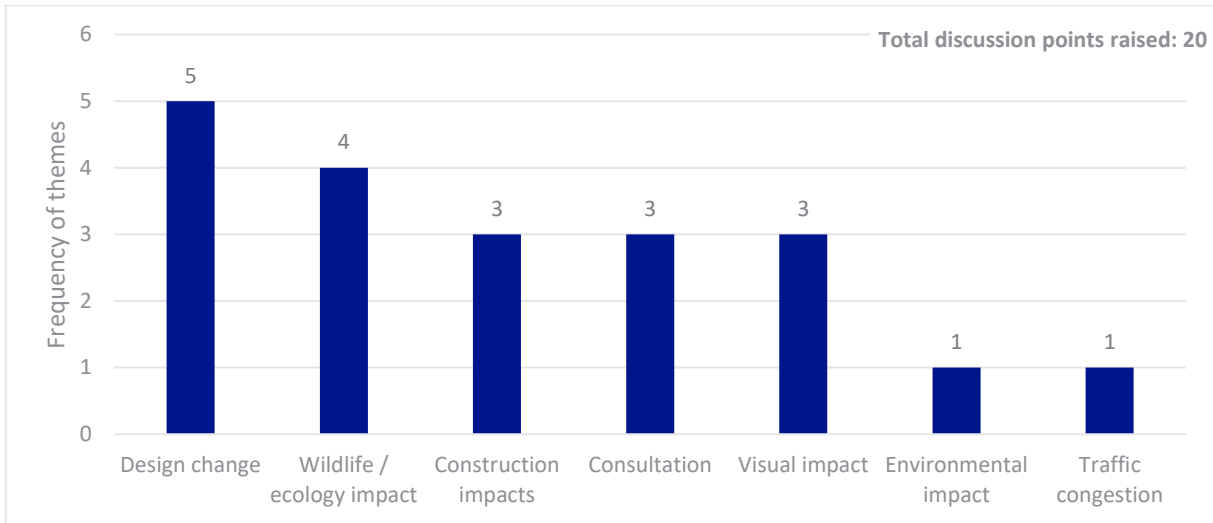


- 7.5.30 Respondents who indicated that they disagreed with the new location of the CSE compound were then asked to explain why. Of the responses provided to this freeform question, common discussion points comprised of:
- Comments that all cables should be underground, including statements that there would then be no need for the CSE compound;
 - The location is situated too close to the AONB; and
 - Visual impacts as a result of the location of the CSE compound.
- 7.5.31 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report.

Section E: Dedham Vale AONB - Question 11

- 7.5.32 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about Section E: Dedham Vale AONB, the most frequent theme was *'Design change'* requests or suggestions (25%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of wildlife/ecology impacts with 20% of total themes closely followed by consultation, construction impacts and visual impacts, each with 15% of themes.
- 7.5.33 A total of seven themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 20 discussion points. See Figure 7.11.
- 7.5.34 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report, Table 7.4.

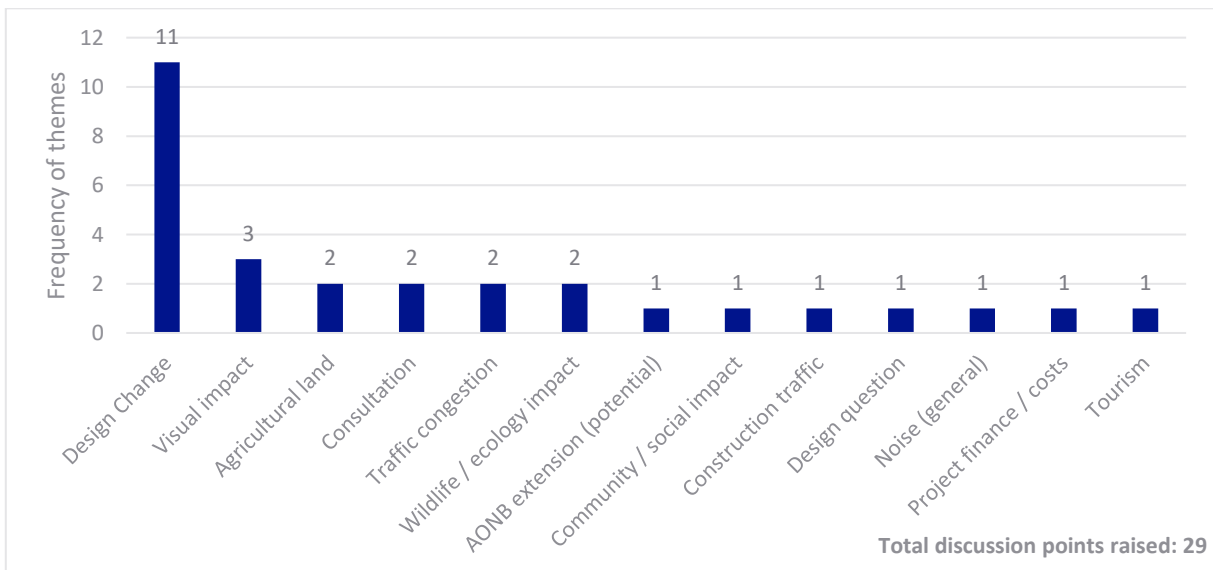
Figure 7.11 – ‘Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in this section?’



Section F: Leavenheath and Assington - Question 12

- 7.5.35 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about Section F: Leavenheath and Assington, the most frequent themes were ‘*Design change*’ requests or suggestions (38%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of visual impacts with 10% of total themes closely followed by consultation, agricultural land, wildlife/ecology impacts and traffic congestion each with 7% of themes.
- 7.5.36 A total of 13 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 29 discussion points. See Figure 7.12.
- 7.5.37 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report, Table 7.5.

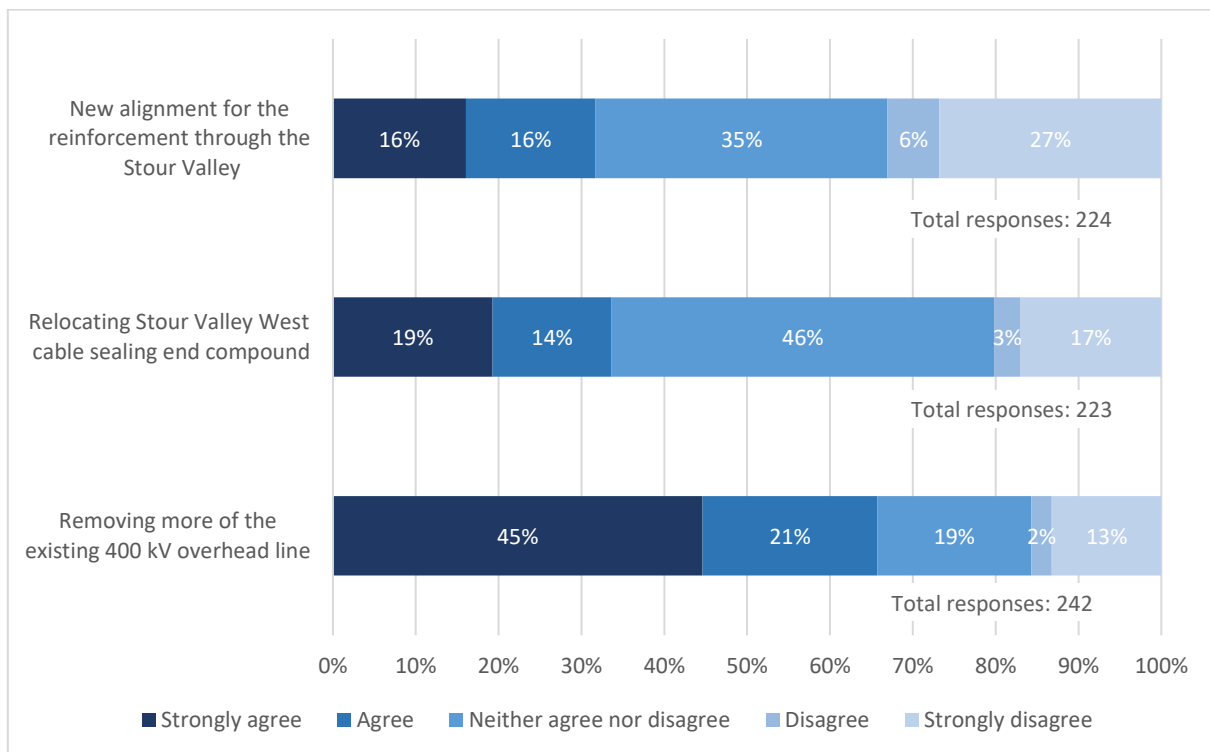
Figure 7.12 – ‘Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in this section?’



Section G: Stour Valley - Question 13

- 7.5.38 In response to question 13, where respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed with the changes in this section, each option received varying results.
- 7.5.39 The ‘*New alignment for the reinforcement through the Stour Valley*’ received 32% of agreement with equal levels of ‘*Strongly agree*’ and ‘*Agree*’. There was almost an equal amount of disagreement (33%) with 27% of respondents indicating strong levels of disagreement compared to the 6% who just ‘*Disagree*’.
- 7.5.40 A total of 224 respondents answered this part of the question. See Figure 7.13.
- 7.5.41 The ‘*Relocating Stour Valley West CSE Compound*’ received high levels of neutrality with 46% of respondents indicating that they ‘*Neither agree nor disagree*’. A third of respondents (33%) agreed with this change (19% in strong agreement and 14% who ‘*Agree*’) compared to a fifth (20%) which disagreed (17% in strong disagreement and 3% who ‘*Disagree*’).
- 7.5.42 A total of 223 respondents answered this part of the question. See Figure 7.13.
- 7.5.43 The ‘*Removing more of the existing 400kV (kilovolt) overhead line*’ received the highest levels of agreement with the majority of respondents (66%) choosing to either ‘*Agree*’ (21%) or ‘*Strongly agree*’ (45%). This change also received the lowest levels of disagreement with only 15% of respondents choosing to either ‘*Disagree*’ (2%) or ‘*Strongly disagree*’ (13%). The remaining 19% of respondents indicated that they ‘*Neither agree nor disagree*’.
- 7.5.44 A total of 242 respondents answered this part of the question. See Figure 7.13.

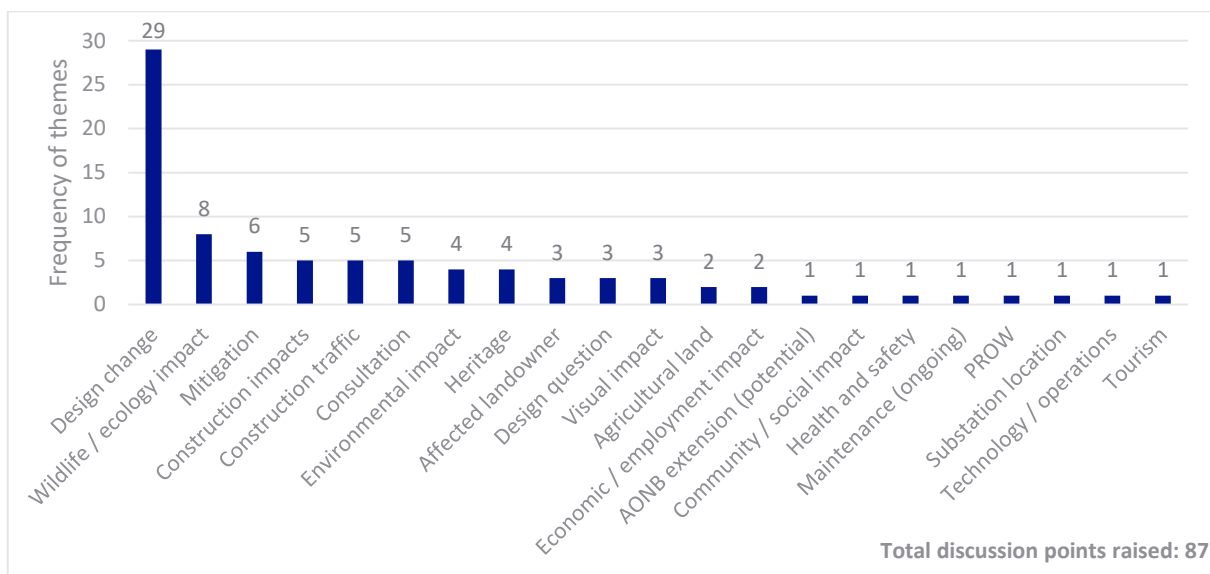
Figure 7.13 – ‘*To what extent do you agree with our changes in this section?*’



Section G: Stour Valley - Question 14

- 7.5.45 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about Section G: Stour Valley the most frequent themes were ‘*Design change*’ requests or suggestions (33%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of wildlife/ecology impacts with 9% of total themes, closely followed by consultation, construction traffic, mitigation and construction impacts, each with 6% of themes.
- 7.5.46 A total of 21 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 87 discussion points. See Figure 7.14.
- 7.5.47 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report, Table 7.6.

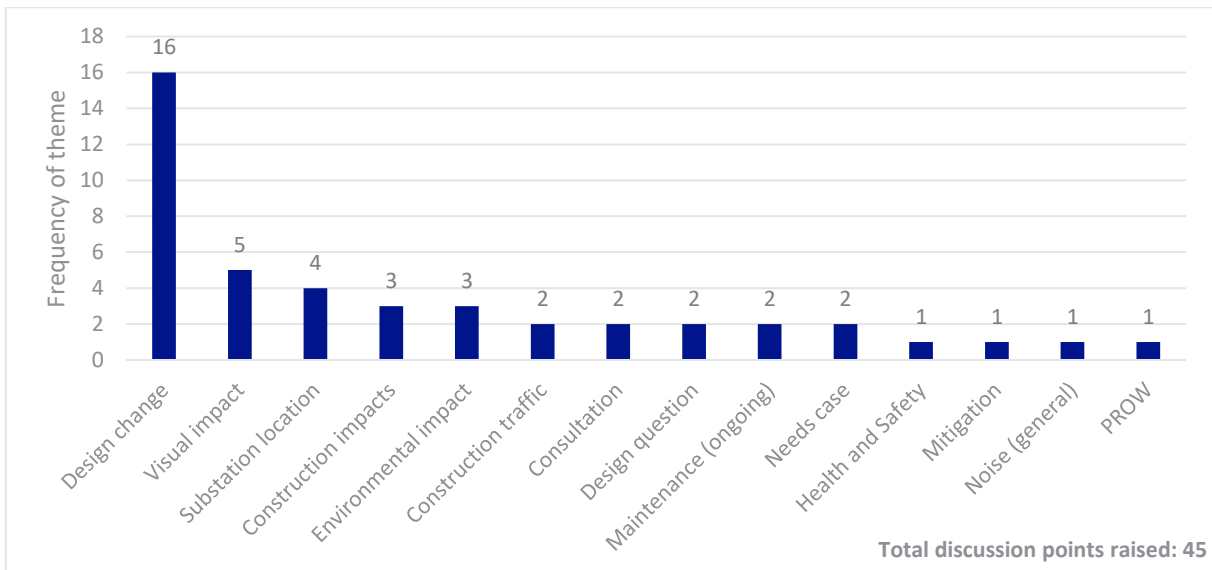
Figure 7.14 – ‘Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in this section?’



Section H: GSP Substation - Question 15

- 7.5.48 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about Section H: GSP Substation the most frequent themes were ‘*Design change*’ requests or suggestions (36%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of visual impacts with 11% of total themes closely followed by substation location (9%).
- 7.5.49 A total of 14 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 45 discussion points. See Figure 7.15.
- 7.5.50 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report, Table 7.7.

Figure 7.15 – ‘Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in this section?’



Environmental Areas - Question 16

7.5.51 In response to question 16, where respondents were asked if they had any further comments about the plans to deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement as part of the proposed reinforcement, common discussion points comprised of:

- Respondents welcoming the plans with comments that this element is very important to the proposals;
- Comments that the measures are not enough and more are needed. Suggestions were also sometimes provided;
- Comments that the ‘*Environmental areas*’ should have been communicated and consulted on; and
- Statements that more information on the environmental and mitigation plans is required and further surveys are conducted.

7.5.52 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report.

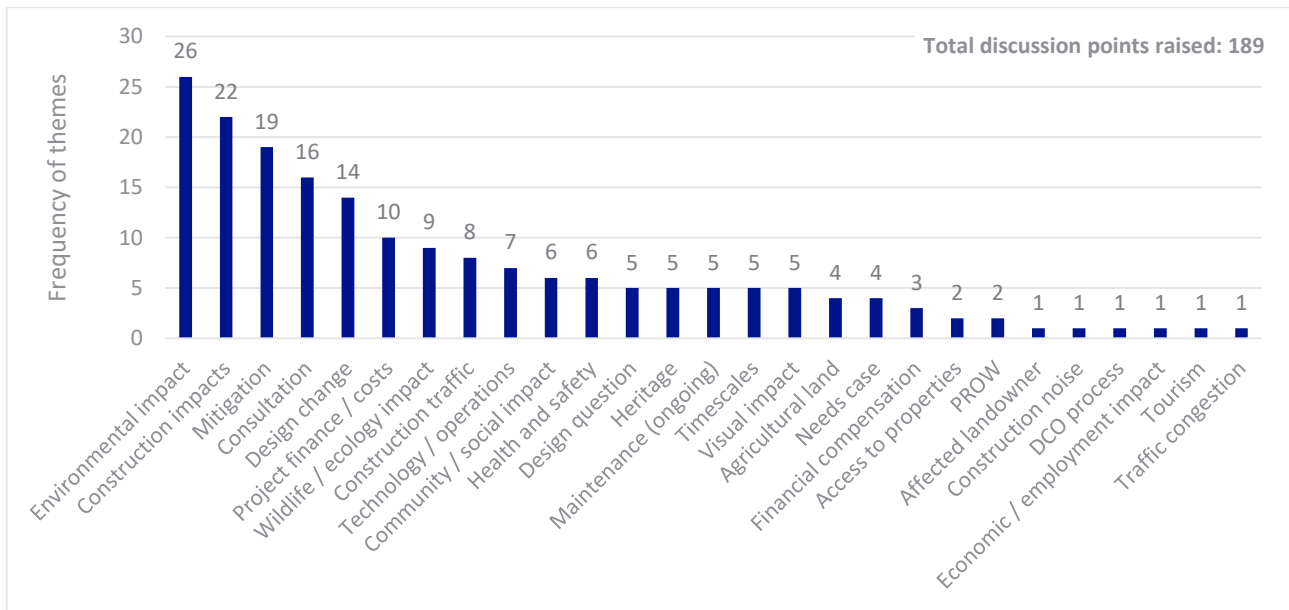
Anything Else - Question 17

7.5.53 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment the proposals, the most frequent themes were the general environmental impacts of the proposals (14%). Other significant topics about the project in general and comprised of construction impacts with 12% of total themes closely followed by mitigation (10%).

7.5.54 A total of 27 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 189 discussion points. See Figure 7.16.

7.5.55 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 7.6 of this report.

Figure 7.16 – ‘Do you have any other comments about our proposals that you wish to give that you have not previously mentioned?’



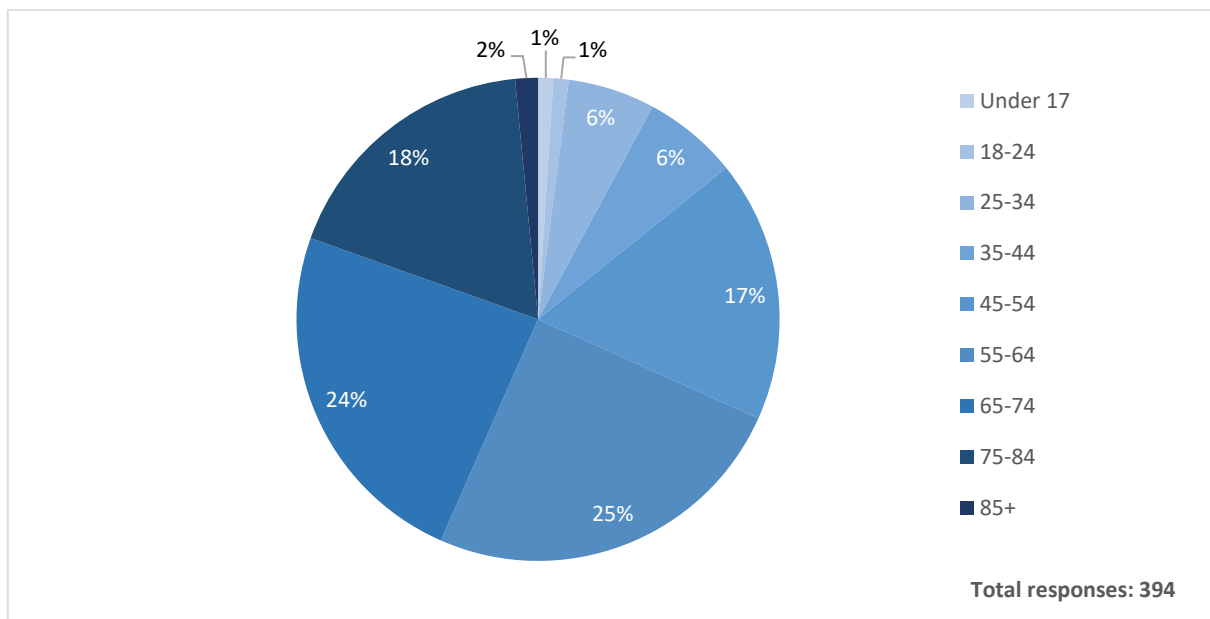
About You - Age Group

7.5.56 In an ‘About You’ section of the consultation response form, age data of respondents was captured. Feedback was received from respondents ranging from Under 17 to the 85+ categories.

7.5.57 The highest number of responses were received from those in the age groups of 55-64 (25%) and 65-74 (24%). The next most represented age group was 45-54 and 75-84, both with 18% of representation each. The age groups 25-34 and 35-44 each received 6% representation. Meanwhile, the lowest represented groups were those aged 17 and under, 18-24 and 85+ with 10%, 1% and 2% respectively.

7.5.58 A total of 394 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.17.

Figure 7.17 - Age Group



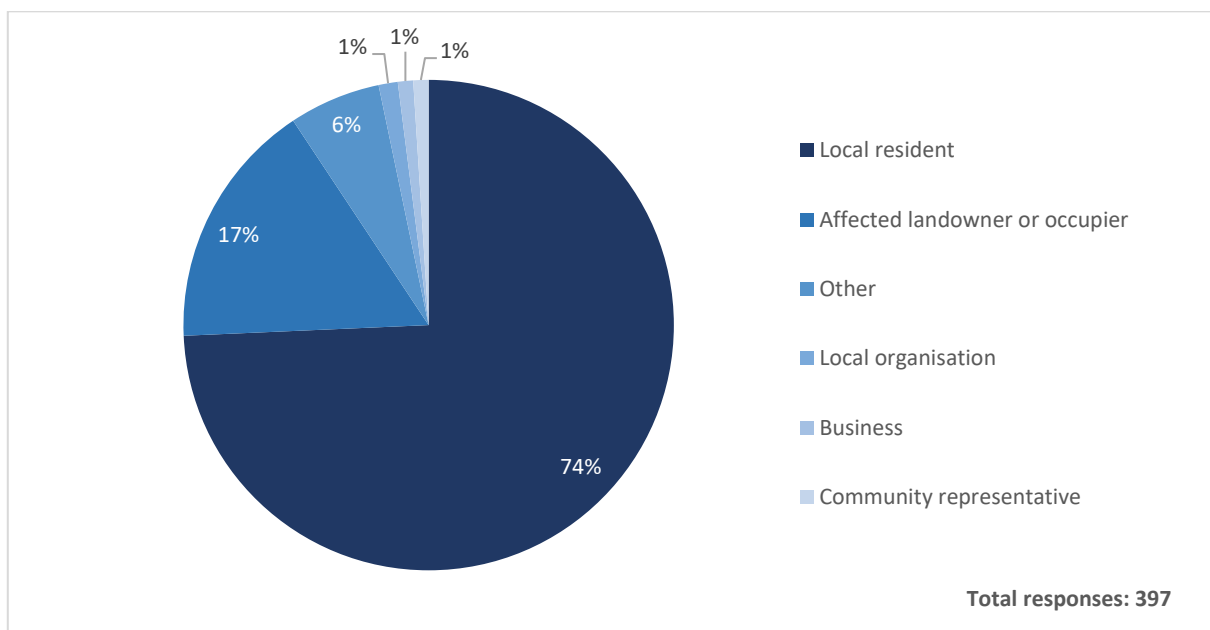
About You - Question 18

7.5.59 In response to question 18, where respondents were asked the capacity in which they were responding to the consultation, almost three quarters (74%) of respondents indicated that they were *'Local residents'* whilst 17% of respondents can be categorised as *'Affected landowner or occupier'*. 6% of respondents selected the option of *'Other'* and these are summarised in 7.5.59. A small percentage of responses were received from *'Local organisations'*, *'Businesses'* and *'Community representatives'*, with 1% representation from each.

7.5.60 Some of the common *'Other'* responses comprised of councillors, land agents and environmental representatives.

7.5.61 A total of 397 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.18.

Figure 7.18 – *'In what capacity are you responding to the consultation?'*



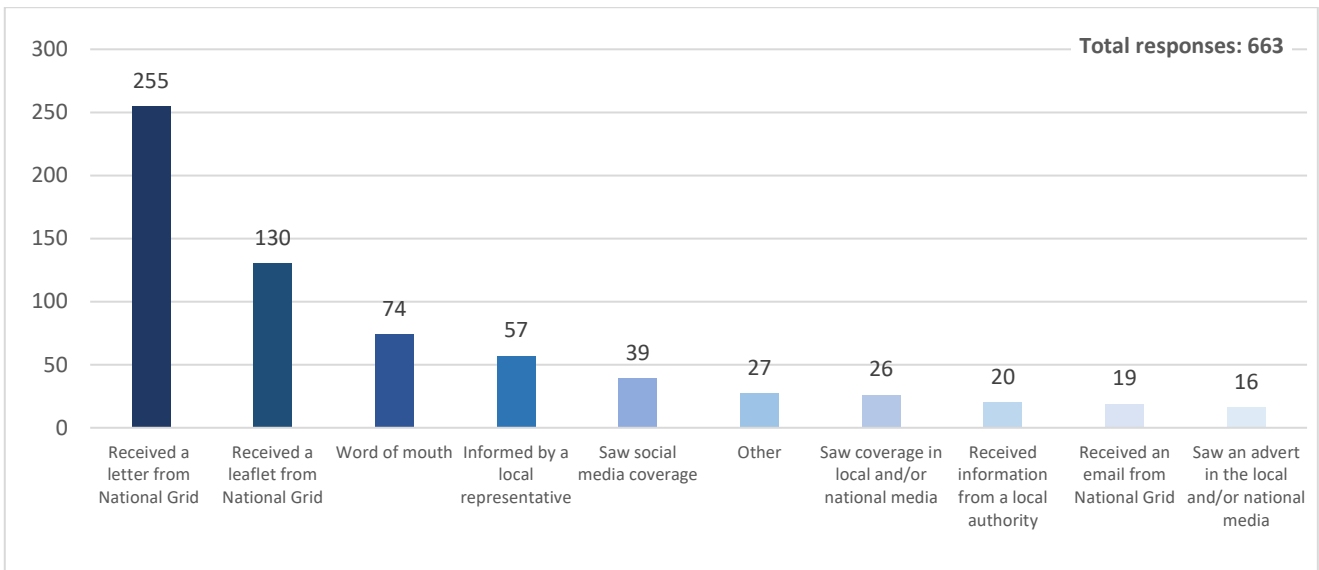
How Are We Doing - Question 19

7.5.62 In response to question 19, where respondents were asked to indicate how they heard about the consultation, the most popular method was by receiving a letter from National Grid with 38% of responses for this option. Receiving a leaflet from National Grid was the next most popular method with a fifth (20%) of total responses selecting this. The least popular method of publicity was seeing an adverts in the local and/or national media with only 2% of total responses choosing this option. Other feedback methods and responses numbers are detailed in Figure 7.19.

7.5.63 11% of respondents selected *'Other'*. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of community newsletter, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report), attended webinars and exhibitions.

7.5.64 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 401 respondents answered this question resulting in 663 responses. See Figure 7.19.

Figure 7.19 – ‘Please let us know how you heard about this consultation by ticking one or more of the following boxes.’

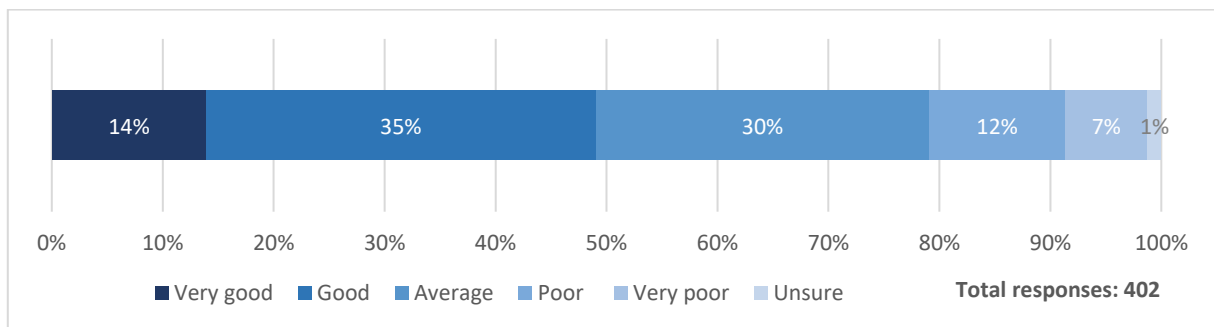


How Are We Doing - Question 20

7.5.65 In response to question 20 where respondents were asked to rate the information provided as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand, almost half of respondents (49%) rated the information as ‘Good’ or ‘Very good’. A further 30% of respondents rated the information as ‘Average’ with only 1% ‘Unsure’. The remaining 19% of respondents felt that the presented information was ‘Poor’ or ‘Very poor’.

7.5.66 A total of 402 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.20.

Figure 7.20 – ‘Please rate the information included as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand.’

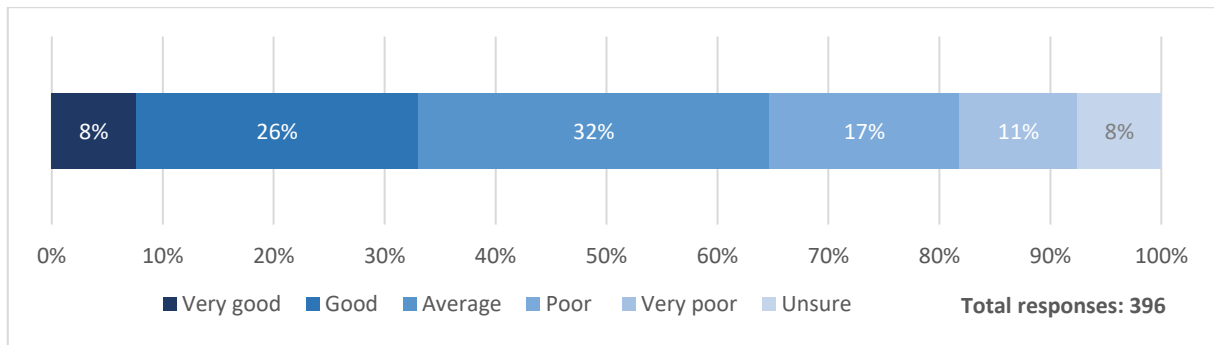


How Are We Doing - Question 21

7.5.67 In response to question 21 where respondents were asked to rate how well the consultation was promoted and advertised to the public, the largest proportion of respondents (34%) selected ‘Good’ or ‘Very good’. This was closely followed by 32% of respondents stating that the promotion and advertisement was ‘Average’ with a further 8% being ‘Unsure’. The remaining 28% of respondents selected ‘Poor’ or ‘Very poor’.

7.5.68 A total of 396 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.21.

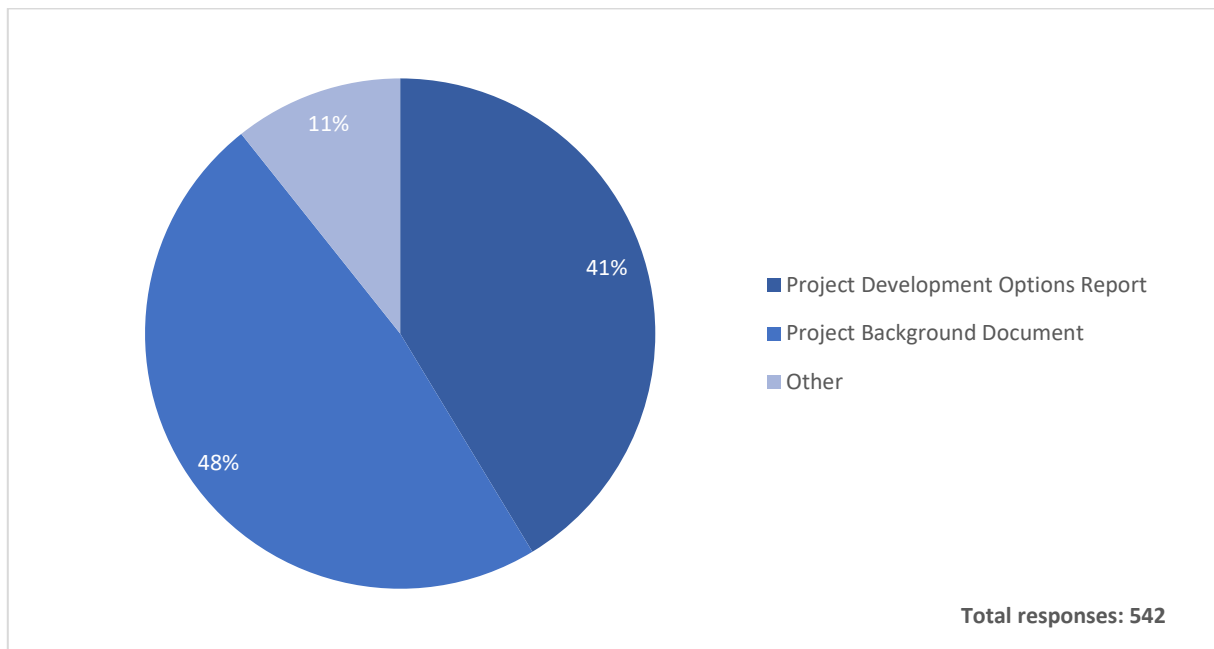
Figure 7.21 – ‘Please rate how well this consultation was promoted and advertised to the public.’



How Are We Doing - Question 22

- 7.5.69 In response to question 22, where respondents were asked which of the consultation documents had been viewed during the consultation process, almost half of responses (48%) indicated that the Project Background Document had been viewed. The Project Development Options Report (PDOR) was viewed by 41% of respondents.
- 7.5.70 The remaining 11% of respondents selected ‘Other’. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of community newsletter, PEI Report, attended webinars and exhibitions.
- 7.5.71 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 335 respondents answered this question resulting in 542 responses. See Figure 7.22.

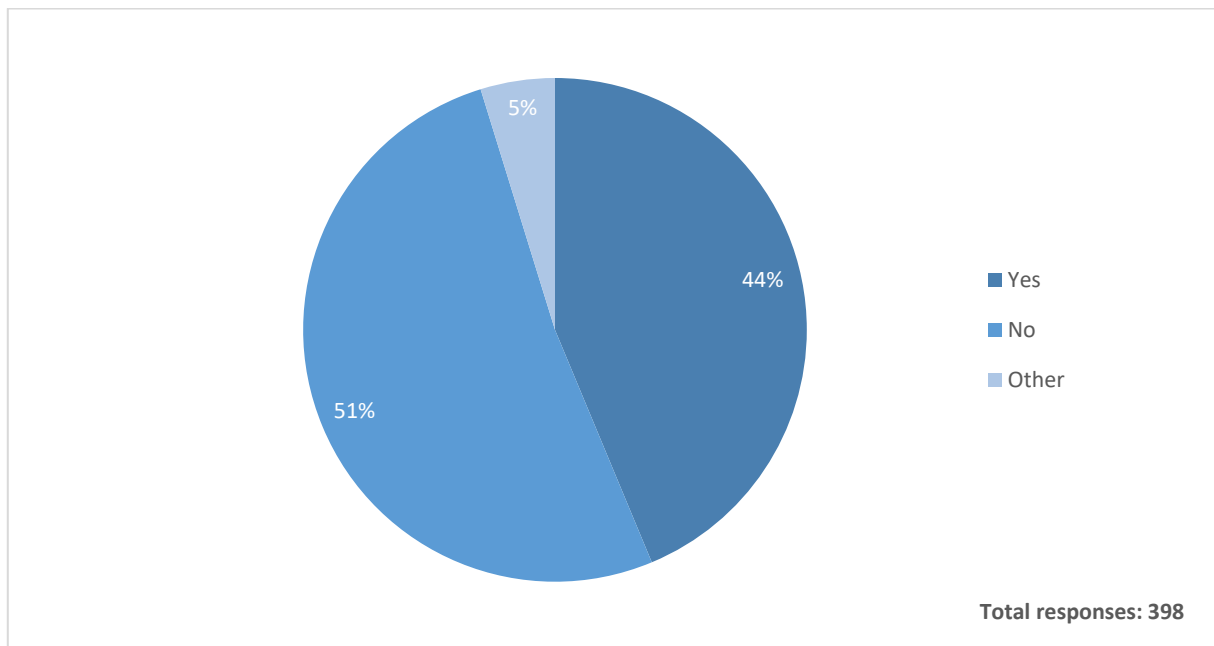
Figure 7.22 – ‘Which consultation documents have you viewed during the consultation process?’



How Are We Doing - Question 23

- 7.5.72 In response to question 23, where respondents were asked if they had previously taken part in any other consultations held by National Grid on the reinforcement, just over half (51%) of respondents indicated that they had whilst 44% indicated that they had not.
- 7.5.73 The remaining 5% of respondents selected 'Other'. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of 'not being able to remember', visits on site and comments that land agents have.
- 7.5.74 A total of 398 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.23.

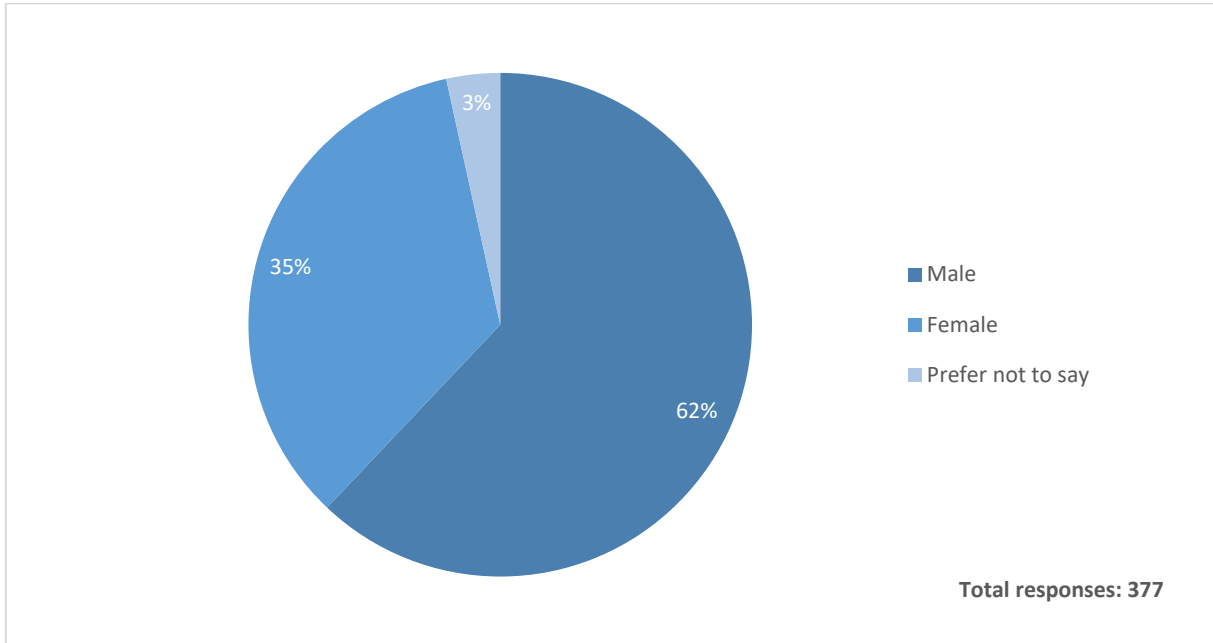
Figure 7.23 – 'Have you previously taken part in any other consultations held by national grid on the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement, such as the non statutory consultation in 2021?'



Inclusion And Diversity - Question 24

- 7.5.75 In response to question 24 where respondents were asked to indicate their gender 62% of responses were from males, compared to 35% from females. A further 3% of respondents did not wish to provide their gender.
- 7.5.76 Males made up the majority of respondents and were over-represented whereas females were under-represented.
- 7.5.77 A total of 377 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.24.

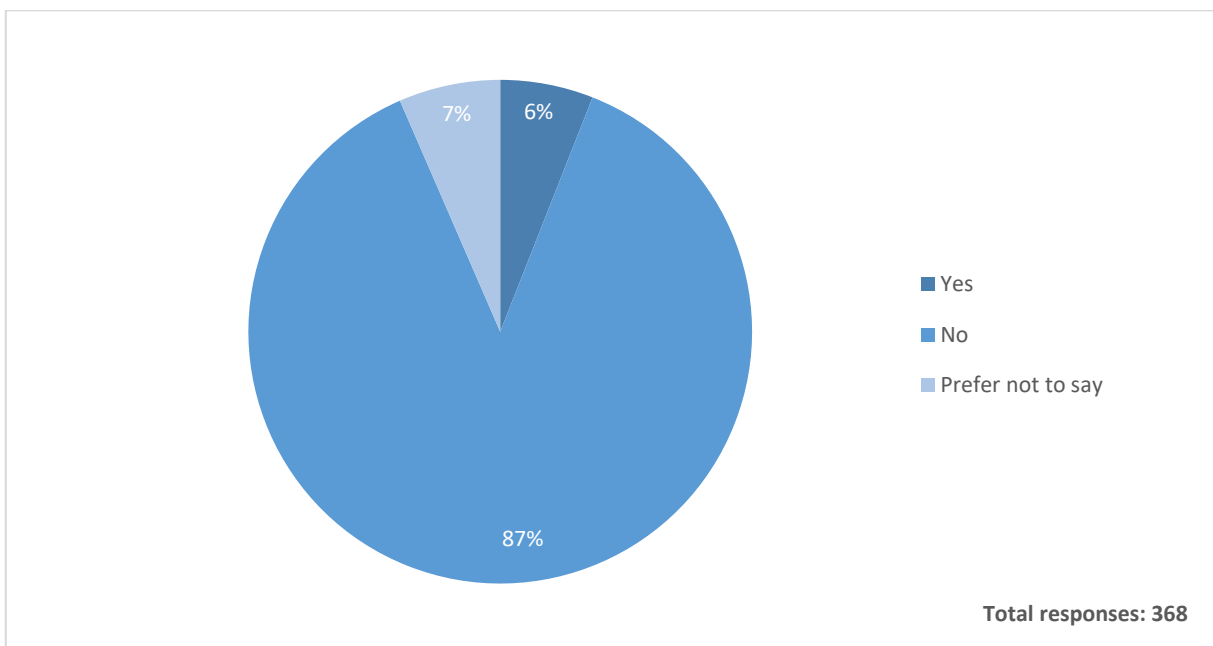
Figure 7.24 – ‘What is your gender?’



Inclusion And Diversity - Question 25

- 7.5.78 In response to question 25, where respondents were asked if they consider themselves to have a disability, the majority of respondents (87%) indicated that they did not, whilst a small proportion (6%) indicated that they did. The remaining 7% of respondents did not wish to answer.
- 7.5.79 A total of 368 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.25.

Figure 7.25 – ‘Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?’

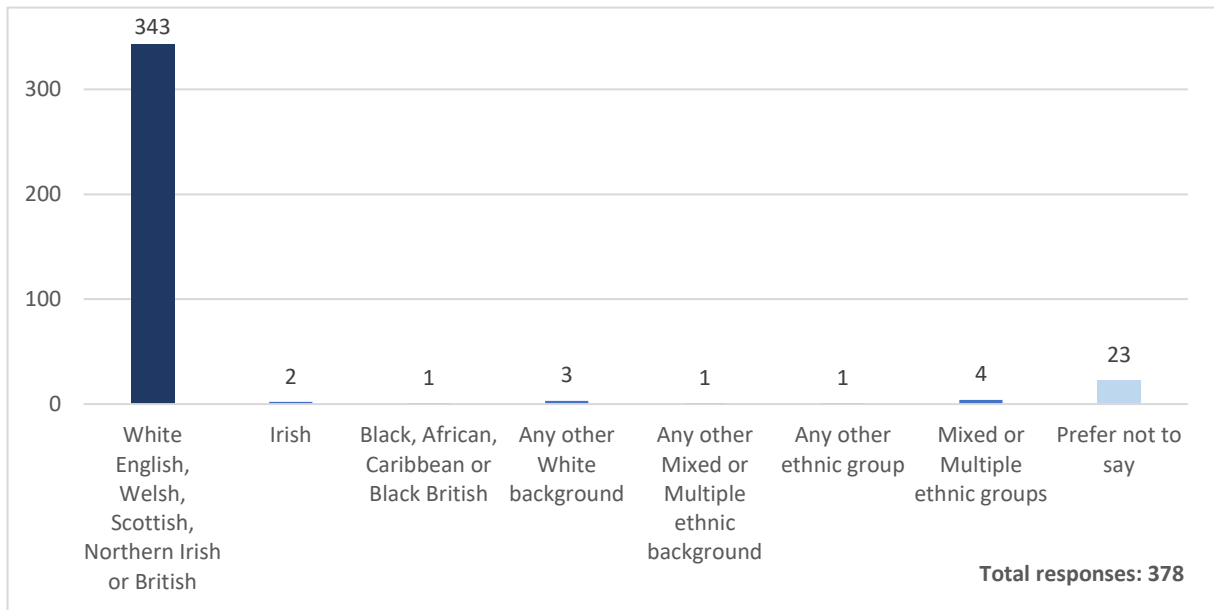


Inclusion And Diversity - Question 26

7.5.80 In response to question 26 where respondents were asked how they would describe their ethnic background, the majority of respondents (91%) indicated that they were ‘*White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British*’. 6% of respondents did not wish to provide their ethnic background.

7.5.81 A total of 378 respondents answered this question. See Figure 7.26.

Figure 7.26 – ‘How would you describe your ethnic background?’



7.6 Findings from the Statutory Consultation

7.6.1 National Grid has complied with section 49 of the 2008 Act by demonstrating in this chapter that it has had regard to all of the responses received at statutory consultation and the comments raised. This consultation report has also been prepared in fulfilment of section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.

7.6.2 This section presents and discusses the feedback gathered via the open questions on the feedback form, or via other open formats provided by respondents (e.g., letters/emails).

7.6.3 This section begins by identifying key themes which have emerged from the analysis of the feedback, which give a high-level understanding of the primary areas of interest and/or concern amongst respondents. All responses, regardless of their origin (including those received after the consultation period), were analysed using the methodology as described in Section 7.4 of this report.

7.6.4 Tables 7.1 to 7.8 provide a summary of the key themes raised during the consultation and how National Grid has considered or addressed these.

7.6.5 Table 7.1 to Table 7.7 relate directly to the sections as identified in the consultation response form and the GSP substation. Table 7.8 contains a summary of comments on all other general matters raised (non-location specific).

Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham

Table 7.1 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section AB)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Access to Properties							
AB1	Pylon PCB13 - access to remove these pylons may pass respondents property and the proposed road to be used is the only access to the affected properties.				X	<p>National Grid confirms that the plan is to remove the existing pylon 'PCB13'. Access to PCB13 would be via temporary access routes – from either Duke Street or Chattisham Hall Farm. This arrangement provides resilience as multiple access routes are provided to the pylon. In the event of any disturbance to access, National Grid would notify the affected properties in advance and work to manage this with their occupants.</p> <p>A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (application document 7.6) has been developed to reduce the effects on the local community.</p>	N
Agricultural Land							
AB2	Should not be sited on agricultural land / concerned about negative impact on farming operations as a result of the proposals.			X	X	<p>National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be directly affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be established.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement (ES) assesses the effects on agricultural and soil- ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11). The outcome of the assessment is that there would be no significant effects on farming during operation.</p>	N
Community / Social Impact							
AB3	Options will result in a negative impact on local residents / local community.	X		X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14:</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p>	
AB4	Option 1 will result in a negative impact on local residents / local community.			X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken as part of the ES, which sets out the potential landscape effects of Option 1 on local communities and identifies areas for potential mitigation planting to reduce visual impacts. The LVIA can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p>	N
AB5	Be aware of current and planned population increases in and around Hintlesham.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes these comments and is aware of proposed developments in and around Hintlesham. It should be noted that the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is needed to help meet future energy demands in the UK, including those resulting from increases in population.</p>	N
AB6	The proposed route passes very close to a planning application to build 350 houses off Pond Hall Road in Hadleigh.				X	<p>National Grid is aware of a proposal being put forward by a developer during the local plan review. It should be noted that there are no minimum distances prescribed in UK law between overhead lines and homes, as long as electrical safety clearances are maintained. National Grid will ensure that all electrical safety clearances are maintained between the overhead lines forming part of the proposed development and residential properties.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AB7	Support Option 1 due to Option 2 being closer to Hintlesham.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB8	Prefer Option 2 as it is further from homes / farms and residents (Option 1 is too close to these receptors).		X	X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB9	Support Option 2 to avoid a resident's house being surrounded by pylons.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB10	Potential for new powerlines to disrupt telecommunications and broadcast signals (mobile reception, TV, and radio signals).			X		<p>All overhead lines are designed to comply with the EU Directive on electromagnetic compatibility (EMC). The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs). These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-5. EMC relates to the possibility that EMFs, principally at radio frequencies, emitted by the proposed overhead line might interfere with existing electric or electronic equipment in the vicinity impacting local businesses. Radio frequency emissions from overhead lines are limited by design, through technical specifications and this has been checked by an independent competent body who have certified this is the case. In normal operation, electricity transmission equipment does not interfere with mobile, TV or radio reception. There are many thousands of homes and businesses throughout the UK located close to overhead lines using these services without issue.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Construction Impacts							
AB11	Adverse impact traffic levels in local area / disruption caused by construction works, such as noise, vibration, light and dust – this needs to be mitigated.	X		X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also sets out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities. These include measures to turn off machinery when not in use, identifying construction routes suitable for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and good practice soil measures to reduce dust.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p>	N
AB12	Prefer Option 2 but no reason provided.			X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB13	It is imperative that reinforcement works around the Bramford Substation do not compromise the construction and operation of EA3 or the operation of EA1 offshore wind farms.	X				<p>As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, National Grid undertook a cumulative effects assessment (CEA) which is provided in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) and associated appendices: ES Appendices 15.3 to 15.5 (application documents 6.3.15.3 to 6.3.15.5). National Grid is maintaining a dialogue with the windfarm developer (East Anglia Three Ltd) and is progressing a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (application document 7.3.21)</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Consultation							
AB14	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.	X			X	National Grid welcome the respondents' views and are pleased that they felt the consultation activities had listened to their views.	N
AB15	Have no preference for either option / either Option 1 or 2 are fine to be progressed.				X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	N
AB16	Don't know enough to comment on a preferred option.				X	National Grid published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which was compliant with statutory consultation requirements. National Grid opened multiple communication channels to ensure adequacy of consultation and provide opportunities to inform and provide feedback on the proposals. An eight-week statutory consultation was held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. To raise awareness and provide information on proposals, the following channels of communication were been used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage (providing access to plans, visualisations, and technical documents (e.g., the PEI Report)); • Project webinars (10 held between 31 Jan 2022 and 24 Feb 2022, including with British sign language (BSL) interpreter); • 'Ask the experts' sessions (10 held between 1 Feb 2022 and 18 March 2022); • Deposit locations displaying hard copy consultation materials: Hadleigh Library / Sible Hedingham Library / Sudbury Library; • S47 notices placed in the following newspapers: East Anglian Daily Times on 21 January 2022 and Colchester Gazette on 18 January 2022; • S48 notices placed in the following newspapers: East Anglian Daily Times on 21 and 27 January 2022, Colchester Gazette on 18 and 25 January 2022, The Guardian, and The London Gazette on 25 January 2022; • Following the Government's announcement on 19 January 2022 and subsequent removal of Covid-19 Plan B restrictions on 26 January 2022, National Grid held six face-to-face events (four public events and two 	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>appointment only events) from the 24 February 2022, in addition to the scheduled digital events; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A freephone telephone number and email address were provided for interested parties to raise queries or request additional information or clarifications. 	
AB17	Criticism of options presented / adequacy of consultation (only two options).			X	X	<p>Following feedback from consultees and feedback received during non statutory consultation, National Grid reviewed previously discounted options in this area. This review identified an additional option at Hintlesham Woods which was presented as part of the statutory consultation. These were presented as Hintlesham Woods Option 1 and Hintlesham Woods Option 2 in statutory consultation material (the PDOR and the PEI Report). Further detail on each option was provided in Section 4.3 of the PEI Report.</p> <p>National Grid sought further feedback on both options as part of statutory consultation to assist in identifying the most appropriate solution for this section of the route which strikes the right balance.</p> <p>National Grid provided extensive material as part of the statutory consultation to assist stakeholders and members of the public engage with the proposals. National Grid also provided a number of opportunities for stakeholders and members of the public to engage with the project team to assist in resolving queries through both virtual and face-to-face means. In addition, a freephone telephone number and email address were provided for interested parties to raise queries or request additional information or clarifications.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB18	Further consultation and discussion of potential routes as alternatives to Option 1 or Option 2 are needed.			X	X	<p>Alternative alignments further north of Hintlesham village have been considered and ruled out based on factors including their likely impact on the SSSI.</p> <p>Following feedback on the landscape and visual impact of the indicative alignment presented at the non statutory consultation to the north of Hintlesham Woods, National Grid reviewed previously discounted options in this area. This review identified two options – Hintlesham Woods Option 1 and Hintlesham Woods Option 2 in statutory consultation material.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB19	In previous consultation (10 years ago) Option 1 was the preferred option - now Option				X	<p>National Grid reviewed previously discounted options in this area following feedback received during the non statutory consultation. Respondents were concerned about the effect on land use and also the landscape and visual effects of</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	2 has been brought back but not clear as to why. Public support was the reason given details requested of this public support for Option 2.					<p>the option that went to the north of Hintlesham Woods (Option 1). As a result of the back check, National Grid sought feedback on a second option that goes through the woodland (Option 2) during statutory consultation.</p> <p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	
AB20	Two applications seem to have been omitted from the list of 'Major Developments within 10km (kilometres) of the project' - namely the Tye Lane Solar Farm and the Pigeon Investment 100MW (Megawatt) Storage Battery east of Bramford Substation.				X	<p>The long list of proposed developments presented within the PEI Report was completed at the end of October 2021 and is in ES Appendix 15.3 (application document 6.3.15.3). The applications referred to were submitted after that. As new developments are added to the planning registers all the time the ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) and associated appendices: ES Appendices 15.3 to 15.5 (application documents 6.3.15.3 to 6.3.15.5) include any additional proposed developments identified since October 2021 and January 2023 and where applicable these are assessed in the CEAs.</p> <p>The CEA long list at ES Appendix 15.3 (application document 6.3.15.3) includes the EDF Solar Farm and the Bramford Power Ltd Battery storage applications and is based on the Planning Inspectorate's (PINs) advice note 17 which involves identifying a long list of 'other reasonably foreseeable development' that could interact with the project. National Grid will continue to review proposed developments within the Study Area to see if any new applications need further consideration.</p>	N
AB21	The proposal for Option 1 is in breach of the Holford Rules.			X		<p>The Holford Rules suggest, if possible, avoiding areas with the highest environmental value. National Grid identified a second option following feedback received during the non statutory consultation. The Holford Rules have been an important consideration during the development of both options. Further details on the application of the Holford Rules can be found in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).</p>	N
AB22	Unhappy with the way that Option 1 (opposed to) is presented as a 'realignment of existing pylons' when it is actually a completely new additional route. This has			X		<p>At both non statutory and statutory consultations, the material referred to Option 1 in the same way <i>'build a new section of overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood and divert the existing 400kV line onto these pylons. The new 400kV overhead line would reuse the existing pylons through the woods.'</i></p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	misled many people as it was not made sufficiently clear that this was the case, and this affects the suitability and fairness of the questionnaire.					<p>This accurately reflects the proposals for Option 1, i.e., the new section of overhead line is proposed around the north of Ramsey Wood (albeit this would operate as part of the existing line), while the existing line between Ramsey Wood and Hintlesham Wood would be retained (albeit this would be re-strung and operate as part of the new line). This was made clear on the General Arrangement Plans (application document 2.10) submitted as part of the statutory consultation material.</p> <p>This is also shown on the various suites of plans that accompany the application including the Location Plan (application document 2.2).</p>	
AB23	Do not feel that the impact of the Option 1 route on the countryside has been sufficiently considered - seen as only impacting on a few people and the Environmental Report focuses on listed properties.			X		<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for the purposes of the project includes an assessment of likely significant effects on both views and communities. The impact on views is presented in ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7). ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also sets out the potential visual effect on communities.</p>	N
Design Change							
AB24	Cables should be underground in this section.	X		X	X	<p>As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms. The project proposes underground cable at the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley.</p> <p>Elsewhere along the alignment, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. Further information is available in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AB25	All existing overground pylons in this section should be removed / underground existing lines.			X	X	<p>The needs case and funding for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified.</p> <p>Approximately 25km of the existing 132kV overhead line would be removed as part of the proposals so that the proposed 400kV overhead line can utilise its alignment. In Section AB: Bramford / Hintlesham, the existing 132kV overhead line from Burstall Bridge does not converge with the existing 400kV until south-west of Hintlesham Woods, meaning that this stretch of 132kV line will be removed with no new overhead line directly replacing it.</p> <p>National Grid has a Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead project.</p>	N
AB26	Suggest that route should swing further north around Hintlesham and asks what health issues would be introduced to the village population via overhead lines?				X	<p>National Grid previously considered four potential route corridors between Bramford and Twinstead Tee. Following the feedback from statutory consultees, several of these corridors were ruled out, largely due to the impact on the countryside.</p> <p>Two corridors were considered to the north of Corridor 2 – namely Corridor 3 and 4. Both were considered but ruled out due to their proximity to conservation areas, heritage assets, designated special landscape areas (SLAs) and the potential for impacts on aviation activities in the area. Both corridors were deemed likely to impact on the operations at Elmsett Aerodrome, while Corridor 4 would also compromise safe operations at Monks Eleigh and Newton. Selection of Corridor 4 would also impact an area which currently does not have pylons, while Corridor 2 offers an opportunity to run parallel to an existing 400kV overhead line.</p> <p>Corridor 2 was considered the 'least worst' by a large proportion of the consultees. The decision to progress with Corridor 2 was presented in the Selection of Preferred Corridor Report, which was published in June 2011.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>The proposed new 400kV overhead line is located to the north of Hintlesham, and the proposed removal of the existing 132kV line is to the south.</p> <p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these polices, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>	
AB27	Oppose both options / don't go near these locations.			X	X	<p>National Grid notes the feedback received. National Grid has previously considered alternative corridors for the project. Corridor 2 was identified as the preferred corridor.</p> <p>Two variations to Corridor 2 were considered, one of which (Corridor 2B) is preferred as this would allow a greater paralleling of the new 400 kV overhead line with the existing 400 kV overhead line westwards out of Bramford Substation. The discounted option (Corridor 2A), while avoiding Hintlesham Wood, would introduce a new overhead line to the north of Burstall Bridge, where there is currently no overhead line, and affect more visual receptors. The preferred corridor was therefore Corridor 2B.</p> <p>Both Option 1 and Option 2 lie within this preferred corridor.</p> <p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB28	Alternatives to the Option 2 route exist and the benefits of the Option 2 route do not outweigh the impacts on the			X	X	<p>National Grid reviewed previously discounted options in this area following feedback received during the non statutory consultation. Local landowners were concerned about the effect on land use and also the landscape and visual effects of the option that went to the north of Hintlesham Woods (Option 1). As a result of the</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).					<p>back check, National Grid sought feedback on a second option (Option 2) during statutory consultation.</p> <p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>The ecological effects, including the effects on designated sites and non-designated sites are assessed within ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).</p>	
AB29	Option 1 should not pass so close to the rear of Rams Farm. Look at moving the pylons to the other side of the field or at least halfway between woodland and property.			X	X	The design of the overhead line considered the proximity to Rams Farm while also maintaining a buffer between the construction footprint of pylons and the root systems of the ancient woodland.	N
AB30	If Option 1 is selected, can pylon in the corner of the field to the north-east of Ramsey Wood be moved further away?			X		National Grid is not seeking approval of specific fixed pylon locations as part of the consent but is requesting Limits of Deviation (LoD) within which the final components would lie. National Grid undertook an investigation as to whether the pylon could be moved as requested. The pylon location cannot move into the next field, or into the bank of trees to the east for several reasons including that it would be closer to SSSI and ancient woodland and would likely result in the loss of trees or works within the root zone of the ancient woodland.	N
AB31	Suggested alternative pylon positions near Bramford Substation. RB2 moved to east and RB3 moved to opposite side (west) of Burstall Street.			X		National Grid considered the alternative pylon positions as suggested. The change to 'RB2' would not be best practice from an engineering perspective, due to the lengthening of the wire span between pylons. This would also result in a higher pylon being necessary, which would be more visible and no improvement on the existing design. Pylon RB2 would also still be in the field and not on the track (Public Right of Way (PRoW)). As a result of these investigations, it was concluded that such a redesign would not be beneficial and may result in further impacts.	N
AB32	New and old pylons appear offset, increasing visual				X	These comments have been considered as part of the iterative design process. Visual impacts have been an important factor taken into consideration in the	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	impact. Review this to minimise the visual impact.					<p>optioneering process and further information can be seen in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p> <p>National Grid is not seeking approval of specific pylon locations as part of the consent but is requesting LoD within which the final components would lie. The General Arrangement Plans (application document 2.10) show the indicative location of pylons and the Work Plans (application document 2.5) shows the LoD which allow for flexibility during construction to take into account ground conditions and other similarly unexpected circumstances.</p>	
AB33	Suggest use of T-pylons to reduce the visual impact of the project in this area.				X	<p>Although the low-height steel lattice pylon and the T-pylon would be lower in height (with potential benefits on distant views), introducing a notably different type of pylon design to the existing 400kV standard steel lattice pylons in the landscape would have greater adverse effects on close views. The standard steel lattice pylons would also have a greater span which would allow the design to pass over sensitive features more easily, resulting in less habitat loss than low-height steel lattice pylons or T-pylons. National Grid has concluded that the standard steel lattice pylon will be the preferred pylon design to take account of ground conditions.</p>	N
AB34	Consider alternative routeing to avoid Hintlesham Woods SSSI.	X			X	<p>In Section AB: Bramford / Hintlesham, the existing 132kV overhead line from Burstall Bridge does not converge with the existing 400kV until south-west of Hintlesham Woods. National Grid considered a number of options around Hintlesham. This included a corridor which split into two options around Hintlesham village (Corridor 2A to the south of Hintlesham and Corridor 2B to the north of Hintlesham) and an underground cable option.</p> <p>It was concluded that Corridor 2B (to the north of Hintlesham village) was preferred, as this would allow a greater paralleling of the new 400kV overhead line with the existing 400kV overhead line westwards out of Bramford Substation, resulting in a lower magnitude of change on landscape and visual receptors than a new line to the south of Hintlesham village (see ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3)).</p>	N
AB35	Suggest routeing new line to the north of Orchard Lands / alongside existing line.	X		X	X	<p>National Grid has considered the alternative pylon routeing as suggested. The outcome of the investigation into this design revealed that running the overhead lines alongside each other in this area would increase landscape and visual impacts on the community, resulting from the loss of trees / woodlands necessary to permit the amended alignment. This alignment would also introduce four new pylons to Walnut Farm, two of which are in close proximity to the property. As a result of these investigations, National Grid has concluded that such a redesign would not be beneficial and may result in further impacts.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AB36	Two temporary access tracks required for pylon removal should be combined to reduce impact on landscape planting.	X				The request was considered by the design team and following further discussions, the access tracks to the northern side of Bramford Substation are to be rationalised into a single access track. There are also adjustments to the access track to the west of Bramford Substation.	Y
AB37	Location of temporary construction compound south-west of EA1 substation would sever the access track to the sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) pond. Also risk of runoff from the compound. Suggest relocation.	X				The request was considered by the design team and following further discussions, the construction compound has been moved into the field to the south of the access track, closer to pylon RB1.	Y
AB38	Need further consideration of potential landscape planting following the removal of the pylons near to the EA1 substation. Type of planting and access requirements for maintenance would be required.	X				National Grid will continue to engage with the relevant stakeholders and consider ways to approach planting in this area.	N
AB39	Southern line (new line) proposed to pass Orchard Lands should be undergrounded to minimise the cumulative impact of powerlines in this area.				X	As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The project proposes underground cable within the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. Further information is available in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).	N
Design Question							
AB40	All appropriate surveys in Hintlesham Woods need to be undertaken as soon as	X			X	Surveys at Hintlesham Woods commenced in summer 2021 and continued throughout 2022. The results of the surveys are presented in the ES Chapter 7:	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	possible / detailed surveys are required.					Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) and its accompanying appendices (application documents 6.3.7.1 to 6.3.7.9).	
AB41	What is the distance between equipment associated with the scheme and the boundary of Rams Farm?			X		<p>The nearest section of the Order Limits for Option 1 would be approximately 75m (metres) from Rams Farm boundary.</p> <p>The nearest section of the Order Limits for Option 2 would have been approximately 600m from the Rams Farm Boundary.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
Environmental Impact							
AB42	Proposals will impact designated sites - e.g., SSSI, ancient woodland and an RSPB reserve.		X	X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received during, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the SSSI, ancient woodland and the RSPB reserve.</p>	N
AB43	Option 1 will impact designated sites - e.g., SSSI, ancient woodland and an RSPB reserve.			X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the SSSI, ancient woodland and the RSPB reserve.</p>	N
AB44	Option 2 will impact designated sites - e.g., SSSI, ancient woodland and an RSPB reserve.	X			X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the SSSI, ancient woodland and the RSPB reserve.	
AB45	Request that National Grid provide them with a 'backcheck', or that National Grid publish a new optioneering report justifying the selection of the current options around Hintlesham Woods SSSI ahead of other corridors.	X				Following feedback during non statutory consultation, National Grid reviewed previously discounted options in this area. This review identified an additional option at Hintlesham Woods which was presented as part of the statutory consultation. National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8. The options appraisal is presented in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).	N
AB46	The draft Order Limits extend substantially into Hintlesham Little Wood (SSSI unit 5), and it is unclear as to why this is necessary?	X				The draft Order Limits presented at the statutory consultation were a combination of both Option 1 and Option 2 draft Order Limits. The Order Limits have since been refined down and are presented as part of the application material. Option 1 required Order Limits within Hintlesham Woods (unit 3 Ramsey Wood and unit 5 Hintlesham Great Wood) as this would involve the proposed 400kV overhead line using the existing pylons and alignment through Hintlesham Woods using the existing maintained swathe through the woodland. The existing 400kV overhead line would be re-routed (transposed) to the north and west of the woodland on newly constructed pylons. Option 2 required Order Limits within Hintlesham Woods (unit 5 Hintlesham Great Wood) as this would involve routeing the proposed 400kV overhead line parallel to the existing 400kV overhead line to the south, with pylons located outside of the woodland and the overhead line oversailing the woods. This would require a new swathe through the woodland both during construction and an area to be maintained during operation.	N
AB47	Need to further consider the issue of ongoing maintenance, repair, and	X				ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) includes an assessment of operation and maintenance activities on habitats and species.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	refurbishment in relation to other sensitive wildlife sites.						
AB48	Do not agree with the assessment of the magnitude of the environmental and wildlife impacts at Hintlesham Woods.	X				The assessment of magnitude is based on CIEEM's (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) independent methodology guidance.	N
AB49	Additional information is needed, and detailed surveys need to be carried out (including for ancient coppice stools).	X		X		Surveys commenced in summer 2021 and continued throughout 2022. The results of the surveys are presented in the ES Appendix 7.4 (application document 6.3.7.4). Detailed surveys identifying ancient coppice stools have not been undertaken at Hintlesham Woods as a decision was made not to proceed with Option 2. Details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	N
AB50	Request that the area to the north and west of Ramsey Wood be included in the additional environmental surveys.			X		The area to the north and west of Ramsey Wood is included within the ecological survey area for the project. The results of the ecological surveys can be found in ES Appendices 7.1 to 7.9 (application documents 6.3.7.1 to 6.3.7.9) which support ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
AB51	PEI Report contains details of the extent of impacts of the scheme on species (bats and hazel dormice) that are not proven to be there.			X		A suite of site surveys has been undertaken to identify habitats for bats and dormouse. These surveys confirmed the presence of these species within the Order Limits. Surveys have been undertaken in accordance with CIEEM's independent methodology guidance. The assessment on protected species is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7). In addition, the ES Appendices Bat Survey Report and Dormouse Survey Report (application documents 6.3.7.7 and 6.3.7.8) provide further information on the presence of these particular species in the Order Limits.	N
Financial Compensation							
AB52	Potential negative impact of Option 1 on the value of property, deterring potential buyers aware of the works.			X	X	National Grid acknowledges that the proposed development may cause concern to landowners. National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>All affected landowners will be compensated on a fair and reasonable basis for any rights acquired, and any impacts on the retained property will be considered in line with the Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code.</p>	
AB53	The compensation offered by National Grid is inadequate.				X	<p>National Grid will pursue voluntary agreements with affected landowners. Compensation offered for voluntary land rights is benchmarked against other similar utility providers.</p> <p>If a voluntary agreement cannot be reached, then the Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of their property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works. Compensation for compulsory acquired rights is governed by statute.</p>	N
Health and Safety							
AB54	Options may result in a negative impact on health / health of residents.			X	X	<p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>	N
AB55	Option 1 may result in a negative impact on health / health of residents / safety of residents.			X	X	<p>Please see National Grid's response to AB54.</p> <p>The Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent demonstrates how Option 1 meets these requirements.</p>	N
AB56	Need to think about safety and potential damage during severe weather events.				X	<p>Overhead lines are designed to remain generally robust and operational in the worst weather conditions in the UK. Although overhead lines are more susceptible to disruption from lightning and high winds, they are also comparatively easy and</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>cost-effective to repair and maintain compared to underground cables. It should also be noted that the majority of the existing National Grid network is made up of overhead lines, which have been proven to be a reliable form of electricity transmission in the UK climate.</p> <p>Major accidents and disasters have been considered as part of the EIA including the effects of extreme weather in ES Appendix 5.3 (application document 6.3.5.3).</p> <p>Storms of sufficient severity to cause damage to infrastructure are very rare in the UK. Overhead lines could be subject to high wind speeds; however, these are designed to meet current safety standards. If in an extreme scenario the overhead line were to be damaged, the monitoring system would detect the fault within milliseconds and the circuit would be tripped and there would be no resulting risk of electrocution or fire. Lightning could potentially strike overhead lines; however, these have earthing protection against lightning strikes. The project is designed to existing National Grid standards, which include consideration of high temperatures. Overhead lines are also designed to withstand temperatures to as low as -25°C with no effects to operation.</p> <p>National Grid undertakes regular inspections of the overhead line using thermal imaging to assess damage to the overhead line from weather. This means damage caused by low or high temperatures or snow/ice would be identified and repaired prior to failure of the line.</p>	
AB57	Option 1 passes close to my property and will have a negative impact on property owner and their family (health etc.).			X	X	<p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. Throughout the development of the proposals, National Grid have carefully evaluated the potential impacts of the project on health and wellbeing, and where appropriate identified means of mitigating any impacts.</p> <p>As part of the EIA, consideration has been made to how the construction and operation of the project could impact on receptors such as air quality, noise and vibration, along with how these might impact on physical health. The CEMP (application document 7.5) and CEMP Appendix A (application document 7.5.1) set out a number of good practice measures to reduce the risk of impacts on health. Where appropriate, the relevant chapter of the ES sets out further proposed mitigations during construction and operation.</p> <p>With specific regard to EMFs, the UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. It is National Grid's policy to ensure that all of its equipment comply fully with those exposure limits.</p> <p>National Grid's approach is to ensure that all assets comply with those policies, which are set by Government on the advice of their independent advisors. The proposed overhead line has been designed to ensure it and the existing overhead line are fully compliant with these policies and guidelines. This ensures that health concerns are properly and adequately addressed. The evidence concerning compliance with these policies as specified in EN-5, including the numerical guidelines will be fully and publicly documented in the DCO submission.</p> <p>Finally, National Grid recognise that the development, construction and operation of major infrastructure projects can cause stress, uncertainty and anxiety that may impact on people's mental health. Throughout the development phase of the project National Grid have therefore tried to clearly communicate the proposals, including through the establishment of dedicated contact channels, a project website and by holding multiple rounds of public consultation as the plans became more refined. As the project has progressed, National Grid have sought to provide certainty on the plans wherever possible.</p> <p>All of the consultations have included easily-accessible information on the plans at that stage, along with opportunities to engage directly with the project team (such as via webinars, Ask the Experts appointments and public exhibitions). Where appropriate, National Grid have tailored this approach to suit the needs of individuals, such as by offering home visits or individual meetings. Despite this, National Grid acknowledge that they cannot respond positively to every request to change the proposals that National Grid receive, and that some will disagree with the decisions made. However, National Grid will always be happy to engage with those interested to discuss the plans and explain the rationale behind decisions.</p>	
Heritage							
AB58	Negative impact on heritage buildings / listed buildings resulting from a new line of overhead pylons.		X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of protecting (amongst other things) buildings of historic interest, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The EIA includes an assessment of the effects of the project on the historic environment, including listed buildings. The assessment identified the potential for significant effects on the setting of listed buildings and whether any additional mitigation is required to offset likely significant effects. The	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>effects on listed buildings can be found in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8).</p> <p>National Grid has engaged with Historic England (formerly English Heritage) on the RCS (October 2009) (application document 7.2.3) and on the COR (May 2012) (application document 7.2.4) and their views were taken into account when developing the project. National Grid have continued to work with them regarding the heritage implications of the proposals, including regarding appropriate mitigation, particularly around Hintlesham Hall (a Grade I listed building). An underground option was considered and discounted as part of the COR (May 2012) (application document 7.2.4).</p>	
Mitigation							
AB59	Unclear how the loss of irreplaceable Ancient Woodland will be mitigated.			X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>Option 2 was likely to have an effect on the ancient woodland (irreplaceable habitat) and this was one of the factors as to why this option was not taken forward into the application.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the ancient woodland.</p>	N
AB60	Concern over the age of data used in the PEI Report - some of which is out of date and/or doesn't include up to date information.			X	X	<p>National Grid has used the latest information available from desk records (as of July 2022) and this has been supplemented by field surveys in 2021 and 2022. Professional judgement and industry guidance has been used to confirm that the data sources are appropriate age for the assessment.</p>	N
AB61	Take this opportunity to improve and enhance the area (e.g., ensure the mitigation of impacts).	X		X	X	<p>The EIA assesses the effects of the project on the environment and will identify the need for any mitigation. In addition, National Grid has set itself a target of delivering at least 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) in environmental value on all construction projects, meaning that as a result of measures taken, the biodiversity rating of the area should be enhanced by at least 10% greater than prior to the construction of the project.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AB62	Regarding Hintlesham Hall, any harm to the setting of this highly graded heritage asset will require significant mitigation. Support for greater compensatory mitigation measures in terms of the reinstatement of parkland to the front of the Hall which would greatly enhance its current setting and note that the current proposed planting falls some way short of this aspiration / more needed.		X	X	X	ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) assesses the effects on Hintlesham Hall. The assessment has concluded that there the project would not result in substantial harm to the Hall. National Grid has discussed the mitigation strategy for Hintlesham Hall with Historic England, including additional planting proposals and reinstating some of the historic parkland features and this has been agreed with Historic England in the SoCG (application document 7.3.3).	N
AB63	The mitigation hierarchy should be applied. If the SSSI cannot be avoided, then mitigative measures need to be put in place at Hintlesham Wood in respect of the breeding bird interest feature and the impact on lowland mixed deciduous woodland.	X				<p>National Grid notes the feedback received and confirms that the mitigation hierarchy has been applied.</p> <p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on Hintlesham Woods including breeding bird interest and lowland mixed deciduous woodland. It also sets out the need for any additional mitigation.</p>	N
AB64	Need to work in discussion with residents on mitigation plans, current plans are a desk exercise without discussion with landowners and understanding of their situation.			X		The non statutory consultation and statutory consultation have both provided landowners with an opportunity to provide feedback on the project. National Grid also employed external land agents to engage with landowners which has taken place throughout development of the project and will continue to be done on a face-to-face basis with the affected landowner directly or with their professional representative. National Grid has had regard to the feedback received as part of developing the final proposals for the project during consultation and landowner engagement. National Grid undertook a suite of environmental surveys as part of developing an understanding of the baseline environment which has been used as the basis of the EIA alongside desk-based data to design the appropriate mitigation and enhancement proposals.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Project Finance / Costs							
AB65	Support Option 1 as it is the most economical / makes most sense in terms of cost.				X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	N
AB66	Support Option 2 as it is the most economical / makes most sense in terms of cost.			X	X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	N
PRoW							
AB67	The impact on PRoW amenity along the bridleway at Bullen Lane, which coincides with the vehicular access along Bullen Lane, should be considered.	X				All designated PRoWs within the Order Limits have been identified, and any potential temporary closures applied for are detailed in the DCO. Access along Bullen Lane would be temporarily diverted during construction with access only altered while construction activities occur. Temporary diversions at Bullen Lane will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns. Locations of the PRoW affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).	N
Substation Location							
AB68	Bramford Substation is being overengineered.				X	Bramford Substation is a key asset for the region. The electricity network in East Anglia was largely developed in the 1960s. It was built to supply regional demand, centred around Norwich and Ipswich, and fed from the Bramford Substation. Bramford Substation is therefore an important connection for the power infrastructure in East Anglia. Future generating capacity as a result of offshore wind and nuclear developments are to be brought inland to Bramford. However, the connection west of Bramford does not current have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the electricity transmission network by 2030 (to meet the Government's energy targets)	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						while working to the required standards. The network needs to be strengthened here to increase the network capability in the region to carry the electricity generation proposed in East Anglia. The connections into Bramford Substation are therefore necessary to permit this new generated electricity to connect into the National Grid to meet the future energy requirements of consumers.	
Tourism							
AB69	Negative impact of new pylons on tourism and visitor related businesses in the Bramford area.			X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) preserving natural beauty, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. Embedded measures include underground cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and the removal of the existing 132kV line, which will further reduce the effects of the project. Once the new line is built and reinstatement and enhancement planting has matured, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant effects on visitor attractions. Construction-phase effects, such as on views and increased traffic on local roads, are anticipated to be localised and short in duration. National Grid assessed the likely effects on socioeconomics in the Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1). This concluded that there were unlikely to be significant socio-economic effects (including on tourism) but that there could be cumulative effects with other projects. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid undertook a CEA which is provided in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) and associated appendices: ES Appendices 15.3 to 15.5 (application documents 6.3.15.3 to 6.3.15.5).	N
Visual Impact							
AB70	Options will result in a negative visual impact / visual intrusion from overhead lines.	X		X	X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8. A LVIA has been undertaken as part of the ES, which sets out the potential landscape effects of Option 1 and identifies areas for potential mitigation planting to reduce visual impacts to local receptors. The LVIA can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AB71	Concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple overhead lines near Bramford Substation / cumulative effect in this section.	X		X	X	National Grid notes the feedback received and all feedback has been taken into consideration as part of the iterative design process. The list of developments as part of the cumulative assessment are presented on ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15). This chapter considers the landscape and visual effects of the project cumulatively with other proposed developments that are being progressed in the area around Bramford Substation.	N
AB72	Concerned about the cumulative impact of further planned solar farms and battery storage in the area around the Bramford Substation, having an adverse landscape and visual impact.				X	Cumulative effects, including cumulative landscape and visual effects, with the project and other proposed developments are presented in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15).	N
Wildlife / Ecology Impact							
AB73	Support route Option 1 (around Ramsey Wood) as this has the least impact on designated site, ancient woodland and vegetation / least intrusive.	X		X	X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	N
AB74	Support route Option 2 (passing through Hintlesham Wood) and following the existing powerline - less intrusive / disruptive impact.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods. As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	N
AB75	Options will result in a negative impact on animals / wildlife / ecology.	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to understand the existing conditions. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any relevant mitigation.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						National Grid is using the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Metric 3.1 to calculate the habitat affected on the project and as part of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project.	
AB76	Option 1 will result in a negative impact on animals / wildlife / ecology.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the results of the assessment on ecology (including animals and wildlife) and measures to avoid or reduce impacts on animals, wildlife and ecology wherever possible.</p>	N
AB77	Option 2 will result in a negative impact on animals / wildlife / ecology.		X		X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N
AB78	Concerned about the 'swathe' required for Option 2, which would become a long-term barrier to connectivity of the woodland and species habitats and nesting areas, as a result of the need to maintain the trees at reduced heights in this area.			X	X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>Option 2 was designed so that the pylons sit outside of the woodland, therefore the swathe of woodland management would be limited to the width required to avoid vegetation interfering with the overhead line during its operation. The vegetation beneath the line would be managed to be kept at a certain height, but this would still provide habitat connectivity between the areas of woodland and nesting areas in line with standard woodland management techniques.</p>	N
AB79	Prefer Option 2 as Option 1 encloses Ramsey Wood which may be barrier to	X		X	X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	wildlife (e.g., birds) trying to access it.					As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.	
AB80	Coppicing of ancient or veteran trees would not be considered to cause 'no permanent loss of ancient woodland'. A detailed assessment should be carried out regarding exactly which trees will require management, their age, veteran or ancient status, historic management and likely impacts from changes in management. This statement that there will be 'no permanent loss of ancient woodland' seems to contradict statements in the PEI Report.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>No ancient trees have been identified within the Order Limits. The assessment on ancient woodland is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).</p>	N
AB81	Concerns that changes in management of veteran or ancient trees is likely to result in permanent loss of ancient woodland, which cannot be mitigated, as well as concerns raised about impacts to breeding birds, bats, and hazel dormouse.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>No ancient trees have been identified within the Order Limits. The assessment on ancient woodland and protected species is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).</p>	N
AB82	Support Option 2 as it has the potential to bring wildlife / ecology benefits (e.g., encouraging additional flora and fauna to the woods).				X	<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AB83	It is unclear as to why both breeding birds and terrestrial invertebrates within designated sites are not considered in this assessment of population importance.	X				National Grid undertook breeding bird surveys at Hintlesham Woods and habitat suitable for invertebrates has been identified as part of the habitat surveys. The results of both surveys and the assessment on breeding birds and terrestrial invertebrates, particularly with relevance to designated sites, is reported in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
AB84	Option 1 may impact negatively on the RSPB Wolves Wood.			X		<p>National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.</p> <p>As a result of further work and feedback received, Option 2 was later removed from the project design. Further details of this decision are found in Chapter 8.</p> <p>No effects are anticipated from either option on Wolves Wood. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).</p>	N

Section C: Brett Valley

Table 7.2 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section C)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Agricultural Land							
C1	Concerned about negative impact on farming operations in the Brett Valley as a result of the proposals.			X	X	<p>National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be directly affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be established.</p> <p>The ES assesses the effects on agriculture and soil in ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11). The outcome of the assessment is that there would be no significant effects on farming during operation.</p>	N
AONB Extension (Potential)							
C2	The Brett Valley should be an AONB.				X	<p>The Brett Valley is not currently designated as part of an AONB. Natural England is the body that would determine any future changes to the AONB boundary and has advised National Grid that the application should be based on the current Dedham Vale AONB boundary. The Brett Valley is currently designated as an SLA, which is considered as part of the landscape assessment presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p>	N
Construction Noise							
C3	Concerned about noise and other disruption during construction of the project. Use screening where possible to minimise impacts of workforce working on the scheme, on adjacent landowners and residents.			X		<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities. These include measures to turn off machinery when not in use, identifying construction routes for HGVs and good practice soil measures to reduce dust. Where the assessment identifies areas where there could be the potential for significant noise effects, there may be the need for mitigation such as noise barriers to reduce noise during construction.</p> <p>Screening is not appropriate outside compound areas due to the time and cost to install fencing across the entire Order Limits which would be disproportionate to the impact.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p>	
Construction Traffic							
C4	Concerned about HGVs / e.g., HGVs using Benton Street into Hadleigh, which has a 7.5T weight limit.				X	<p>National Grid notes these comments and they have been considered when developing the final construction traffic routes presented as part of the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and assessed within ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12).</p> <p>The construction traffic routes show that Benton Street is not proposed as part of the HGV route due to the existing weight limit.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic. As part of this, National Grid will provide clear signage during construction so that construction traffic uses the agreed routes.</p>	N
Consultation							
C5	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.				X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
C6	Criticism of consultation / proposals don't reflect consultation held so far (e.g.,				X	National Grid opened multiple communication channels to ensure adequacy of consultation and provide opportunities to inform on the proposals. An eight-week statutory consultation was held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. As part of this process, all feedback forms and correspondence have been considered in the development of the project design. National Grid has considered all potential	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	changes haven't been made based on feedback).					design changes and made decisions on these based on balancing engineering, environmental and community impacts. For example, bringing back two options at Hintlesham Woods as a result of feedback received during the non statutory consultation period. National Grid has demonstrated through the publication of the consultation documents that it has taken into account the feedback received in consultation.	
Design Change							
C7	Cables should be underground in this section.	X		X	X	As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The project proposes underground cable at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere along the route, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. The cost of underground cables is considerably higher than overhead lines. National Grid has to balance its duties and responsibilities. That includes balancing the need to be economic and efficient and keep costs down, with a duty to preserve amenity. The relevant NPS (EN-5) makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms, taking account of the specific local environment and context.	N
C8	All existing overground pylons in the Brett Valley should be removed / undergrounded.				X	The needs case and funding for Bramford to Twinstead is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified. National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
C9	Power cables should be undergrounded from the south side of the A1071, near Layham and Hadleigh.				X	This suggestion would mean undergrounding the cables in Section C: Brett Valley. The response to C7 sets out the position of National Grid regarding further undergrounding.	N
C10	The Dedham Vale East CSE Compound should be relocated to be east of Upper Layham.			X	X	<p>A change was made to the CSE compound location following feedback from the non statutory consultation and shown as part of the statutory consultation in March 2022. The change provided more undergrounding and increased the distance from the AONB boundary to reduce effects on the direct setting of the AONB.</p> <p>Following feedback received, National Grid considered the potential relocation of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound further east as part of their change control process. This included the potential relocation of the CSE compound in the vicinity of Layham Quarry as proposed by stakeholders during statutory consultation. Layham Quarry is approximately 2.1km north-east of the location of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound shown at non statutory consultation in March 2021.</p> <p>Whilst a further move from the location presented in the statutory consultation to Layham Quarry would locate the CSE compound further away from the AONB boundary, the extra cost associated with the extra underground cabling would not be justified in terms of policy or National Grid's statutory duties. In addition, the working area for an underground cable route to Layham Quarry would be constrained by the two blocks of woodland at Millfield Wood and the existing operational overhead line.</p> <p>The CSE compound is located between the woodland blocks (Millfield Wood located to the south and north of the CSE compound) and therefore benefits from the screening provided by the trees.</p>	N
C11	Suggestion to move the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound to the east of Hadleigh railway line.			X	X	This is not possible as the Hadleigh railway line (railway walk) is approximately 5km north-east of the location of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound.	N
C12	Route should be realigned to follow the main roads.				X	National Grid has adopted a strategy to follow the existing overhead line infrastructure such as the existing 132kV overhead line where practicable, making use of this existing corridor as the focus for the reinforcement. These measures therefore reduce the visual effects of the new overhead line within the existing landscape.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Mitigation							
C13	Mitigation doesn't go far enough in this section / more environmental mitigation needed (no details given).			X	X	<p>Embedded measures have been included within Section C: Brett Valley including removal of the 132kV overhead line and landscape planting around Dedham Vale East CSE Compound.</p> <p>The ES documents the likely significant effects that are anticipated as a result of the project. Where a significant effect has been identified, the assessment presents the proposed mitigation that would be implemented to reduce the effect. Mitigation measures are described in ES Chapter 16: Environmental Management and Mitigation (application document 6.2.16). This approach is in accordance with standard EIA methodology and guidance.</p>	N
C14	<p>The CSE compound- the rest of the field should be used to attract wildlife, particularly dormice, bats, and hedgehogs. There should be a pond to attract amphibians and dragonflies and wildflower plantings.</p> <p>There should be no public access to protect the wildlife. Ecologists should monitor these developments regularly and their findings published.</p> <p>These plans are a very important part of this project, and we support them wholeheartedly. The field in which the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound is proposed to be situated near Millfield Wood is an ideal location for these plans to be implemented.</p>				X	<p>The area around the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound has been identified as an Environmental Area, which is an area for environmental mitigation and enhancement. This area has therefore been identified for biodiversity, landscape and visual purposes. The land would be used for landscape planting to soften the effects of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound and to enhance existing habitats.</p> <p>National Grid welcomes support on this matter.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
PRoW							
C15	Potential inconvenience to road and footpath users resulting from the project.				X	<p>Through the draft DCO, National Grid is seeking a statutory power allowing for the temporary stopping up, alteration or diversion of streets or PRoWs shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7) or within the Order Limits. In relation to the streets and PRoWs listed in Schedule 7 of the draft Order, National Grid must first consult with the relevant street authority</p> <p>The locations of the PRoWs affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7). All designated PRoWs crossing the working area will be managed with 'access only' and closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns.</p> <p>For road users, the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) sets out the proposed construction routes and assesses the effects of the project on the local road network. It also identifies where there is a need for additional mitigation measures. The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic.</p> <p>There would likely be very small numbers of vehicles used during operation. These would be associated with inspections of equipment or with maintenance and refurbishment activities and are unlikely to affect road and footpath users.</p>	N
Timescales							
C16	Get on with the project / sooner this is done the better.				X	National Grid welcomes the comments in support of delivering the project and the appreciation of the needs case. National Grid is working in an efficient manner to deliver the project as soon as practicable. However, there are strict legal and regulatory processes which must be followed before the project is able to be delivered.	N
Tourism							
C17	Consider the potential impact on tourism (e.g., the landscape and Benton End School (Cedric Morris)).	X			X	The Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1) submitted to PINs in May 2021 concluded that the project was unlikely to have significant effects on tourism and it was scoped out from being required as a standalone topic in the ES. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid has provided information	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>regarding tourism within the Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9).</p> <p>Embedded measures include undergrounding cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and removal of the existing 132kV overhead line will reduce the effects of the project on landscape. Once the new line is built and reinstatement planting has matured, it is not anticipated that there will be any effects on visitor attractions. Construction-phase effects, such as on views and increased traffic on local roads, are anticipated to be localised and short in duration. These will be reduced through good practice measures identified within the CEMP (application document 7.5).</p>	
Traffic Congestion							
C18	Traffic impacts resulting from the scheme must be considered.				X	The Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12) assess the effects of the project on traffic. The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic. National Grid will provide clear signage during construction so that construction traffic uses the agreed traffic routes.	N
Visual Impact							
C19	Please ensure that the new overhead powerlines don't deviate to the south of the existing lines / follow the existing route to be in keeping with those already there.			X	X	The proposed overhead lines run largely parallel to the existing 400kV overhead line, largely utilising the alignment of the existing 132kV, which will be removed. Deviations from the route are required due to the local topography and other geographic factors in the area, for example avoiding properties which lie along the line of route.	N
C20	Overground pylons are unsightly / visually intrusive.			X	X	The higher cost of underground cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. Further information is available in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1). The route corridor was chosen because it would represent the least scale of change to the existing environment, as it allows the Proposed Alignment to largely parallel the existing 400kV line, and to replace the existing 132kV overhead line which is to be removed. These measures reduce the visual effects of the new overhead line within the existing landscape. In the Brett Valley, the number of overhead lines will remain the same, albeit the smaller 132kV line is to be replaced with a larger 400kV	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						overhead line. A landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken as part of the EIA, and the results can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	
C21	Adverse visual impact of pylons and overhead lines on views to and from the Dedham Vale AONB.				X	National Grid is proposing to underground through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and into Section D: Polstead and parts of Section G: Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting. The Setting Study has informed the location of the CSE compounds. The impact on views is presented in ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7).	N
Wildlife / Ecology Impact							
C22	Concerned about the impact of the scheme on wildlife (including consideration of nesting animals).				X	The application for development consent is supported by an EIA, which considers (amongst other environmental features) effects of the reinforcement on wildlife (ecological receptors) and will identify if further mitigation is required, subject to ongoing discussion with statutory environmental consultees. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to support the assessment, which is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
C23	Please use bird warning orbs over the River Brett.				X	While bird orbs/line marking has been shown to be an effective way of reducing wildfowl strikes (collision with overhead lines) in particular for swan species, there is no evidence (desk study or previous field survey data) to suggest that the River Brett and its local environment support large numbers of wildfowl, geese, swan, duck species or provides an important migration route for those species which may benefit from such provision. There are no line markings/bird orbs on the existing lines in the area and no evidence to suggest that the existing overhead line impacts the bird species already present in the River Brett area. The efficiency of line marking/bird orbs for non-wildfowl species is highly limited and varies between individual species. The bird species likely to be present in the River Brett area are highly unlikely to be adversely affected by the additional of a second parallel overhead line in the landscape, and would unlikely benefit from bird orb/line marking.	N
C24	The construction corridor crosses or passes near to several important County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in this section, some of which have				X	The PEI Report ecological assessment considered CWS up to 1km from the Order Limits. Sites beyond this distance were considered unlikely to be significantly affected as a result of the project. Sites within the 1km distance were assessed within the PEI Report and are also considered in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	not be adequately considered within the PEI Report at this stage.						
C25	Updated surveys needed on dormouse populations and habitats.				X	National Grid undertook dormouse surveys during the 2022 season to supplement the existing information on dormouse habitats and populations already held by the project. This information has been used to further inform the understanding of the baseline environment and to support the draft dormouse European Protected Species Licence application. The survey results and the draft licence application can be found in ES Appendix 7.8 (application document 6.3.7.8).	N
C26	Concerned about the excavation of the banks of the River Brett to build a bailey bridge - this could have an impact on local river ecology and riparian mammals. No certainty at this stage that the impact on riparian mammals will be negligible.				X	A temporary bailey bridge is proposed at the River Brett for the duration of construction activities. This is proposed to be a clear span structure with the abutments set back from the riverbank to reduce effects on the riparian habitat. The design of the bridge will be provided to the Environment Agency (EA) as part of the application for the relevant Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) during detailed design, outside the DCO process.	N

Section D: Polstead

Table 7.3 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section D)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Agricultural Land							
D1	The CSE compound location will take away valuable agricultural land / negative impact on farming.				X	<p>National Grid notes these concerns and they have been reviewed alongside other factors as part of the optioneering process to find the best option for those which could be affected. The likely effects on soils and agricultural land, including Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and ecosystem services has been assessed and quantified in ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11). While the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (application document 7.5.1) contains a number of commitments regarding the protection and reinstatement of soil.</p> <p>A small amount of agricultural land take will be required as part of the operational requirements. Some of this is identified as being BMV land, however this is a small proportion to the total high-quality agricultural land in Essex and Suffolk.</p> <p>National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be established.</p>	N
D2	Negative impact of proposals on farming / orchards in this area - commercial viability questionable.			X		<p>National Grid notes these concerns and all variables have been reviewed alongside factors such as farming viability as part of the optioneering process to find the best option for those which could be affected.</p> <p>National Grid has had regard to all feedback received from consultees and other stakeholders. Potential design changes have been assessed from an engineering, environmental and community impact perspective. Regard was also had to National Grid's statutory duties and the wider needs case for the project. Through this change control process and dialogue with landowners, design changes have been made where practicable, such as a route alteration at Willow Farm to reduce impacts on the orchard.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to work with all landowners including farmers and orchard owners who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is</p>	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be established.</p> <p>The ES assesses the effects on agriculture and soil in ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11).</p>	
Construction Traffic							
D3	Concerned about increased traffic in the Polstead area.				X	The Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12) assess the effects of the project on traffic. The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic. During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage so that construction traffic uses the agreed routes. There will be very limited traffic associated once the project is operational through maintenance.	N
Consultation							
D4	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.		X	X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
D5	Need more information on CSE compound design / no indication of compound appearance.			X	X	As part of the statutory consultation, National Grid published General Arrangement Plans (application document 2.10) which provided a detailed overview of the current proposals as well typical design and layout plans for Dedham Vale East, Dedham Vale West, Stour Valley East, and Stour Valley West CSE Compounds which presented an indicative view of the design in layout (top looking down) and elevation (side view). National Grid also published visualisations which provided a photomontage of what the CSEs might look like within the landscape. Design drawings are included as part of the DCO application, with a requirement included in the draft Order requiring the authorised development (including CSEs) to be carried out in general accordance with those design drawings.	N
Design Change							
D6	Cables should be underground in this section.	X		X	X	As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms. The project proposes underground cable at the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere along the alignment, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. Further information is available in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).</p> <p>Where overhead lines are proposed in Section D: Polstead the draft alignment closely parallels the existing 400kV overhead line, which will reduce the scale of change in the landscape.</p>	
D7	All existing overground pylons in the Polstead section should be removed / undergrounded.			X	X	<p>The needs case and funding for Bramford to Twinstead is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified.</p> <p>National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.</p>	N
D8	Reroute to the south of Orchard at Polstead Heath.			X		<p>National Grid considered the proposed change to the alignment in this area. However, it was noted that this would then bring the route closer to a property which is to the south-west of the current Proposed Alignment. This could in turn lead to increased impact on that property, while also increasing the length of undergrounding by 50m. It should also be noted that the existing route passes through an area which may be planted for orchard use in future, while the amended route would pass through an area which is currently used for cereal crops. Therefore, the impact of realigning the cable is greater as this affects an</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						existing area of farmland which is in use, compared to one which is being considered for future orchard planting.	
Health and Safety							
D9	Please adhere to Public Health England policy that there should be 100m between 400kV powerlines and settlements, residential properties, and schools.	X				<p>There are no minimum distances prescribed in UK law between overhead lines and homes. As such it is not correct to say that there is a Public Health England policy specifying a specific distance. Any implications on landscape and visual receptors, on residential amenity, or arising from concerns over EMFs, are robustly assessed and balanced as part of the decision-making process.</p> <p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p> <p>National Grid's approach is to ensure that all of assets comply with those policies, which are set by Government on the advice of their independent advisors. The proposed overhead line has been designed to ensure it, and the existing overhead line are fully compliant with these policies and guidelines. This ensures that health concerns are properly and adequately addressed. The evidence concerning compliance with these policies as specified in EN-5, including the numerical guidelines will be fully and publicly documented in the DCO submission.</p>	N
Needs Case							
D10	This project isn't needed / is not justifiable.				X	<p>The existing electricity transmission network in East Anglia does not have the capability or capacity required to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the network by 2030 while working to the required standards. There is therefore a need to reinforce the electricity network in the region to address this.</p> <p>Further details on the need for the project can be found in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Substation Location							
D11	The Dedham Vale East CSE Compound needs to be moved away from residential properties at Millwood Road.				X	Following feedback from the 2021 non statutory consultation, National Grid reviewed the location of Dedham Vale East CSE Compound (the above ground infrastructure that facilitates the transition between underground cable and overhead line) to see whether it should be sited in a location further east away from the AONB boundary. An alternative location for this CSE compound was identified at Millfield Wood, approximately 1km from the AONB boundary. This location benefits from existing woodland to the south and north which would be retained and will assist with filtering the views of the CSE compound from the properties in Polstead Heath. In addition, the area around the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound has been identified as an area for embedded planting (for biodiversity, landscape and visual purposes). The land would be used for landscape planting to soften the effects of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound and to reduce habitat loss, bearing in mind local species and appropriate habitat types. On balance the proposed location is considered to be the most suitable.	N
D12	Consideration should be given to moving the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound to Layham Quarry / Gravel Pit.	X	X	X	X	<p>Following feedback received, National Grid has considered the potential relocation of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound further east which would result in more undergrounding. This has included the potential relocation of the CSE compound to Layham Quarry. Layham Quarry is approximately 2.1km north-east of the location of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound shown at non statutory consultation in March 2021.</p> <p>A change was made to the CSE compound location following feedback and shown as part of the statutory consultation in March 2022. The change provided more undergrounding and increased the distance from the AONB boundary to reduce effects on the direct setting of the AONB.</p> <p>Whilst a further move from the location presented in the statutory consultation to Layham Quarry would locate the CSE compound further away from the AONB boundary, the extra cost associated with the extra underground cabling would not be justified in terms of policy or National Grid's statutory duties. In addition, the working area for an underground cable route to Layham Quarry would be constrained by the two blocks of woodland at Millfield Wood and the existing operational overhead line.</p> <p>The existing CSE compound (as presented in the statutory consultation) is in a location which benefits from existing woodland blocks (Millfield Wood located to the south and north of the CSE compound) which filters views of the CSE compound from the properties in Polstead heath.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
D13	The CSE compound is proposed within unspoilt countryside. Planning permission would not be granted for residential development, yet this compound is acceptable.			X	X	Please see response to D11 which explains why Dedham Vale East CSE Compound is located at Millfield Wood. It should also be noted that the reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead is one of a number of network reinforcements needed to deliver 50GW (Gigawatt) of offshore wind by 2030. It is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and needs to meet the requirements set out within the relevant NPS (EN-1 and EN-5). Further details on the need for the project and compliance with the NPS can be found in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).	N
D14	The CSE compound is in a prominent location and highly visible / insufficient screening of the CSE compound is offered.			X	X	The Dedham Vale East CSE Compound location benefits from existing woodland to the south and north which would be retained and will assist with filtering the views of the CSE compound from the properties in Polstead Heath. In addition, the area around the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound has been identified as an area for environmental mitigation and enhancement (for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes). The land would be used for landscape planting to soften the effects of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound and to mitigate habitat loss. A landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken and is provided in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). The proposed planting will further help to filter the CSE compound at this location.	N
D15	Concerned about impact of proposed CSE compound on children / families / residents.				X	<p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, including CSE compounds are compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. Further information is provided in the Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2).</p> <p>The CSE compound would be set within a relatively flat area, typically 85m by 50m, surrounded by security fencing both during the construction of and operation. The overhead line and CSE compounds would be subject to annual inspection to check for visible faults or signs of wear. The inspections would confirm when refurbishment is required and indicate if plant/tree growth or development were at risk of affecting safety clearances. The CSE compound would contain equipment that would be monitored remotely. Site inspections would include visual checks for</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						signs of damage or wear of the condition of non-mechanical equipment, structures, and buildings. Further information on security is included in the CEMP (application document 7.5) and CoCP (application document 7.5.1).	
Visual Impact							
D16	Negative visual impact of scheme on this area, which is an attractive landscape and should be afforded the same protections as the adjacent AONB.			X	X	While National Grid has a duty to have regard to preserving amenity, at the time of assessment Section D: Polstead was not designated as part of an AONB. Natural England is the body that would determine any future changes to the AONB boundary and has advised National Grid that the application and the ES should be based on an assessment of the current Dedham Vale AONB boundary. The landscape effects of the project are presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). National Grid undertook a study to look at the setting of the AONB as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2) and the setting has been considered when undertaking the assessment of effects on the AONB in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N
D17	Adverse visual impact of pylons and overhead lines on views to and from the Dedham Vale AONB.	X			X	National Grid is proposing to underground through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and into Section D: Polstead and parts of Section G: Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting. The Setting Study has informed the design of the project. The impact on views is presented in ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7).	N

Section E: Dedham Vale AONB

Table 7.4 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section E)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Construction Impacts							
E1	Concerned about damage to landscape resulting from installation of underground cables.	X		X	X	National Grid is proposing to use ducting to install the underground cables which would reduce the duration that any trenches are open during construction. National Grid has identified trenchless crossings at locations where there are particular environmental sensitivities – for example the River Stour. The working areas would be reinstated at the end of construction and will include reinstatement of hedgerows and other planting. The full assessment of the effects of the project on the landscape can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). The Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (application document 7.8) includes details regarding the planting proposals.	N
E2	Further consideration should be given to the position of staging areas, and the use of local B roads to move equipment especially heavy machinery.				X	The construction compounds are located near to the large work areas such as the CSE compounds, GSP substation and the trenchless crossings where there will be a focus of construction activity. There is also a main construction compound located off the A134, which has been located roughly central to the project and on a main road to reduce construction traffic using smaller roads. The CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed to reduce disruption to the local community. Clear signage will be provided to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed route and stays within the speed limit for construction traffic. National Grid emphasise to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas they are working in. National Grid will do as much as it reasonably can to keep disturbance to the local community to a minimum.	N
E3	Time of year that the works are carried out is an important consideration (no details given).				X	The CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contains a list of relevant good practice measures relating to biodiversity, including removal of vegetation outside of bird nesting season or under supervision of an ecologist. The CoCP forms part of the CEMP (application document 7.5) and compliance with this is secured by Requirement.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Consultation							
E4	Comment supportive of proposal (i.e., underground new cables in this section) / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
E5	Further consultation is needed on this section / take this section out of the current consultation and consult separately to the rest of the scheme.	X				<p>Statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC, which itself was subject to extensive consultation with the host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and prepared in accordance with all applicable Planning Act (PA) 2008 statutory requirements pursuant to the PA 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 as well as other relevant guidance.</p> <p>The material published for statutory consultation was based on the information available at that time and was of sufficient detail to enable informed feedback to be provided on the emerging scheme proposals. National Grid had regard to all such feedback as part of the continuing development of the scheme up to the time of submitting the DCO application.</p> <p>All views expressed in response to the statutory consultation (and indeed all other consultation and engagement activities undertaken by National Grid as part of the development of the project proposals) have been considered and taken into account as set out in this chapter of the report.</p> <p>There will also be further opportunities for consultees, stakeholders and other members of the public to make representations as part of the DCO examination.</p>	N
E6	Unhappy with investigative surveys undertaken so far (e.g., wildlife) - areas seem to have been missed.				X	National Grid notes this comment and can confirm that it has undertaken the necessary ecological surveys required to support the EIA based on recommendations and methodology set out in independent guidance. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) and ES Appendix 7.2 (application document 6.3.7.2) outline the methodology that has been used in the surveys. A habitat survey has been undertaken for the extent of the Order Limits, other than where land access has not been granted, where detailed aerial photographs have been used. This has informed the availability of habitats with the potential for protected species. A suite of protected species surveys has also been carried out, and these have informed ongoing discussions with ecological stakeholders and discussions on protected species licencing.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Design Change							
E7	Existing cables should be underground in this section.		X	X	X	<p>The needs case and funding for Bramford to Twinstead is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV overhead line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV overhead line and 2km of existing 400kV overhead line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing overhead lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified.</p> <p>With the removal of the existing 132kV overhead line and undergrounding of the proposed 400kV overhead line there would be one less overhead line in the landscape at Dedham Vale AONB.</p> <p>National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.</p>	N
E8	Relocate Dedham Vale East CSE Compound east of Upper Layham.			X	X	<p>Following feedback received, National Grid has considered the potential relocation of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound further east which would result in more undergrounding. This has included the potential relocation of the CSE compound in the vicinity of Layham Quarry. Layham Quarry is approximately 2.1km north-east of the location of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound shown at non statutory consultation in March 2021.</p> <p>A change was made to the CSE compound location following feedback from the non statutory consultation and shown as part of the statutory consultation in March 2022. The change provided more undergrounding and increased the distance from the AONB boundary to reduce effects on the direct setting of the AONB.</p> <p>Whilst a further move from the location presented in the statutory consultation to Layham Quarry would locate the CSE compound further away from the AONB boundary, the extra cost associated with the extra underground cabling would not be justified in terms of policy or National Grid's statutory duties. In addition, the working area for an underground cable route to Layham Quarry would be constrained by the two blocks of woodland at Millfield Wood and the existing operational overhead line.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						It is felt that the existing CSE compound (as presented in the statutory consultation) is in a good location which benefits from existing woodland blocks (Millfield Wood located to the south and north of the CSE compound) which filters views of the CSE compound from the properties in Polstead heath.	
E9	Relocate Dedham Vale East CSE Compound east of Hadleigh railway line.			X	X	This is not possible as the Hadleigh railway line (railway walk) is approximately 5km north-east of the location of the Dedham Vale East CSE Compound. This would incur additional cost which would not be justified compared to the impacts that would result.	N
E10	Underground cables between Polstead and Leavenheath (i.e., Dedham Vale section) are not needed. Environmental damage and cost far outweigh the visual impact, and pylons are already found in this area.				X	<p>National Grid considered the potential to install pylons in the Dedham Vale AONB. However, National Grid consider that the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is appropriate in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties, in designated sites such as the AONB. This reflects National Grid's duty to have regard to preserving amenity, which includes the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality, and the relevant NPS, which recognises that at particularly sensitive locations, undergrounding may be preferred to overhead lines.</p> <p>National Grid is proposing to use ducting to install the underground cables which would reduce the duration that any trenches are open during construction and therefore limit the environmental impact during construction. The working areas would be reinstated following construction along with reinstatement of any planting, in accordance with the LEMP (application document 7.8).</p>	N
E11	Avoid the AONB altogether / route should go around the AONB.				X	<p>National Grid considered options to avoid Dedham Vale AONB altogether, including consideration of options to the north of Dedham Vale AONB and provided detail at statutory consultation.</p> <p>Corridor 2 was seen as an 'opportunity corridor' as it used the existing overhead line routes which already pass-through Dedham Vale AONB. Corridor 2 would replace the 132kV overhead line with a new 400kV overhead line giving rise to a lower scale of effect on landscape and views than other corridors, however building a new 400kV overhead line on the 132kV route adjacent the existing 400kV overhead line would still give rise to effects.</p> <p>The previous work was reviewed along with a review of the existing baseline environment. Boxford lies to the north of Dedham Vale AONB and most of the village is designated as a conservation area. This, along with other identified constraints meant that an alternative option would need to lie further north than this and would result in potentially doubling the length of the connection through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB, with the associated effects of the additional length</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						of the line on the environment. The review reaffirmed the conclusions of the previous corridor appraisal work, that a route that lies completely outside of Dedham Vale AONB was unsuitable both due to the likely environmental impacts and due to the cost of the additional length. Therefore, the current option, of an underground cable through the northern part of Dedham Vale AONB is still preferred. Further details on the options appraisal can be found in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).	
Environmental Impact							
E12	Ensure protection of the AONB / avoid detrimental impact on the Dedham Vale AONB.				X	<p>National Grid is a statutory undertaker and under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, has a duty which states <i>'in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.'</i></p> <p>National Grid has committed to underground cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and removal of the existing 132kV line will further reduce the effects of the project.</p> <p>National Grid has assessed the impacts on designated landscapes, including the AONB. This includes consideration of the setting of the AONB as defined in ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). The full assessment of the effects on the AONB can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p>	N
Traffic Congestion							
E13	Traffic impacts resulting from the scheme must be considered (e.g., HGVs should not be using single track lanes).				X	<p>National Grid is aware of the narrow roads within the area and has considered existing road conditions when developing the final construction traffic routes presented as part of the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7). To make sure disruption to the local community is limited, the CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed which sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic. During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed routes and stays within the speed limit imposed for construction traffic. National Grid emphasises to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas they are working in.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Visual Impact							
E14	CSE compound infrastructure should be screened by tree planting / landscaping.	X			X	In addition to the natural screening provided by site topography and existing woodland areas, tree planting is proposed around each CSE compound to help filter views of the infrastructure.	N
E15	The proposed undergrounding is inadequate to mitigate adverse visual impacts of pylons and overhead lines on views to and from the Dedham Vale AONB.				X	<p>National Grid is proposing to underground through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB into Section D: Polstead and parts of Section G: Stour Valley. The extent of undergrounding is proposed following careful consideration of the feedback received during earlier consultations, the alternatives available, and other factors which need to be taken into account, including National Grid's duties and obligations. Elsewhere along the route, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing and maintaining them, mean that underground cables are not considered justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties.</p> <p>National Grid undertook a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting. The full assessment of the effects on the AONB can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p>	N
E16	Potential for Dedham Vale East CSE Compound to have impact on Grade II listed White Hall. Further analysis of the impact is needed.	X		X		National Grid has had extensive engagement with Historic England and will continue to work with them regarding the heritage implications of the proposals, and any appropriate mitigation. An EIA has been undertaken, which includes assessment of the project on the historic environment. This includes an assessment on heritage assets and their setting including Grade II listed buildings, such as White Hall. ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) includes details of the assessment of historic buildings and mitigation where this has been identified as being required.	N
Wildlife / Ecology Impact							
E17	Impacts to River Box from underground cable installation - There is limited information at this time of the impacts of the damming and over pumping of an 80m swathe of the River Box. Further details	X		X	X	Following feedback received, National Grid has confirmed a trenchless crossing for the River Box and therefore there is unlikely to be an impact on migratory species, including European Eels as a result of this.	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	are required as to how impacts to migratory species including European Eel, which are a Critically Endangered (CR) species will be avoided, mitigated, and compensated.						
E18	Impact on wildlife needs to be considered when carrying out works.	X			X	<p>The application for development consent is supported by an EIA, which considers effects of the reinforcement on wildlife (ecological receptors) and will identify if mitigation is required, subject to ongoing discussion with statutory environmental consultees. A suite of surveys has been undertaken to support the assessment, which is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).</p> <p>The CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contains a list of relevant good practice measures relating to biodiversity, including removal of vegetation outside of bird nesting season or under supervision of an ecologist. The CoCP (application document 7.5.1) forms part of the CEMP (application document 7.5) and compliance with this is secured by requirement.</p>	N
E19	Understand the visual landscape benefits of using underground cabling throughout the AONB but oppose further undergrounding due to impacts to ecology along the cable corridor. The negative impacts of underground cables on the natural heritage of the AONB and impacts to hazel dormouse, which are the Dedham Vale AONB flagship species for nature recover, should be fully considered against any potential for positive visual landscape impacts.				X	<p>National Grid consider that the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is appropriate in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties in designated sites such as the AONB. This reflects National Grid's duty to have regard to preserving amenity, which includes the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality, and the relevant NPS, which recognises that at particularly sensitive locations, undergrounding may be preferred to overhead lines. The assessment of the effects on the AONB can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6), the effects of the reinforcement on ecology, including hazel dormouse is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7). A suite of surveys has been undertaken to support the assessment. The dormouse report and draft licence can be found in ES Appendix 7.8 (application document 6.3.7.8).</p> <p>National Grid have presented the proposals for mitigation (and where applicable enhancement) planting within the LEMP (application document 7.8). The planting proposals have been produced by landscape architects with inputs from ecologists to make sure that the planting proposed is suitable for the landscape and appropriately mitigates the effects that have been identified.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
E20	Environmental mitigation needs to be considered to provide compensatory habitat.				X	<p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any required mitigation. Preliminary 'Environmental Areas' were presented as part of the statutory consultation material, and these have been refined as part of the application.</p> <p>National Grid has set itself a target of delivering at least 10% BNG in environmental value on all construction projects. The gain will be calculated using the DEFRA Metric 3.1 compared to baseline (existing) levels. The 10% BNG is in addition to required mitigation or compensation.</p>	N

Section F: Leavenheath and Assington

Table 7.5 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section F)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Agricultural Land							
F1	Undergrounding cuts through farm fields, making access and cultivation difficult. Negative impact on farming (wheat and crop cultivation) operations and long-term viability.			X	X	<p>National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis, if negative impact on farming operations can be established.</p> <p>It should also be noted that underground cables are designed to be positioned below plough depth, thereby these should not affect cultivation or use of the land above for crop or livestock holding. National Grid cables will be a minimum of 900mm (millimetres) deep from ground level to the top of the protective tiles installed immediately above the underground cables. Crops can be farmed over the top of the cables, though deep rooting trees may not be planted over the cables.</p> <p>The ES assesses the effects on agriculture and soil, ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11).</p>	N
F2	Difficult to see how agricultural land where cabling is undergrounded will be reinstated - feel it will take years to recover.			X	X	<p>Overhead lines, rather than underground cables, is the principal proposed technology in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington.</p> <p>Where underground cables have been proposed along the route and land being returned to agricultural use, the appropriate soil conditions (for example through the replacement of stripped layers and the removal of any compaction) will be recreated. National Grid cables will be a minimum of 900mm deep from ground level to the top of the protective tiles installed immediately above the underground cables. Crops can be farmed over the top of the cables, though deep rooting trees may not be planted over the cables. The CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contains a list of relevant good practice measures which will be undertaken during construction relating to agriculture and soils.</p> <p>Where an open cut trench is used, the recovery time of the land depends on the existing state of the land, local geology etc. which may affect the ability for the land to recover to its previous state.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AONB Extension (Potential)							
F3	Proposals should consider the potential extension of the Dedham Vale AONB in developing plans further.	X			X	<p>At this time, Dedham Vale AONB has not been extended and there is no defined boundary of any potential future extension of the designated AONB.</p> <p>Any potential future extension of the designated AONB would be the responsibility of Natural England to determine. Natural England has advised the project that decisions should be based on the effects on the existing Dedham Vale AONB as currently designated and its setting (in line with the current NPS). Natural England also advised that it recognises that parts of the Stour Valley will have a role as part of the setting of the AONB. As the status of the request to extend the AONB remains undecided and based on discussions with Natural England, National Grid is not proposing to treat any area outside of the existing Dedham Vale AONB boundary as designated within its application for development consent but has considered the setting of the AONB, including the contribution that the Stour Valley makes to this.</p>	N
Community / Social Impact							
F4	Concerned about impact of the scheme on local residents / community.	X		X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also sets out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p>	N
Construction Traffic							
F5	Temporary accesses for construction may need to be	X		X	X	The proposed temporary access routes have been proposed to allow for the removal of the existing 132kV overhead line and the installation of the new 400kV	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	reconsidered / consider impacts.					line. ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) includes an assessment of the impact of the access tracks on visual amenity.	
Consultation							
F6	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.			X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
F7	Criticism of consultation material - spelling mistake on map of proposed project.				X	National Grid accepts and acknowledges this error and confirms that 'Levenheath' should read Leavenheath on the maps associated with the statutory consultation.	N
Design Change							
F8	Cables should be underground in this section.	X	X	X	X	As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms. Section F: Leavenheath and Assington is not designated and therefore there is no policy justification for undergrounding in this section. In addition, there is the existing 400kV overhead line which the proposed 400kV overhead line would parallel through this section and the existing 132kV overhead line would be removed. This would result in a reduced magnitude of change in this section. National Grid has concluded that when taking into account all of their duties and the baseline environment in this section, that overhead lines should remain the preferred approach in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington.	N
F9	All existing overground pylons in this section should be removed / undergrounded.			X	X	The needs case and funding for Bramford to Twinstead is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV overhead line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV overhead line and 2km of existing 400kV overhead line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing overhead lines is not required	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified.</p> <p>National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.</p>	
F10	Section is too close to the AONB for use of pylons and overhead lines / should be underground in proximity of AONB.	X		X	X	National Grid has undertaken a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting. The Setting Study has informed the decision on underground cables and overhead line at this location.	N
F11	Cables should run overground to either side of the woodland, rather than underground through it.				X	It is unclear which section of woodland the respondent is referring to. There are two that cross the Order Limits in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington, one to the south of Assington and the other near Ash Ground. Overhead lines are proposed in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington therefore would be able to span woodland areas during operation. There are two woodland areas in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington and to divert around these would require a longer length of overhead line and more angle pylons. During construction, a 20m width would need to be coppiced with a graduated arc either side. This will allow access through the trees for constructing the overhead line. The woodland would be allowed to regenerate following construction and the swathe would be maintained similar to the existing 132kV which currently crosses both woodland areas.	N
F12	The CSE compound should be moved away from houses, extending the underground section to the other side of the A134.				X	<p>The extent of undergrounding, and the locations of the CSEs, is proposed following careful consideration of the feedback received during earlier consultations, the alternatives available and other factors which need to be taken into account, including National Grid's duties and obligations. The location of the Dedham Vale West CSE Compound is considered to be appropriate within the landscape, where it is adjacent to a large commercial fruit farm with associated infrastructure. This locally reduces landscape sensitivity and helps to screen views from the AONB. The A134 is over 3km away from the current CSE compound location, which would be an increased cost that National Grid does not consider is justified in terms of the magnitude of the effect in this location.</p> <p>For the Dedham Vale West CSE Compound, National Grid has included land within the Order Limits for landscape planting around the CSE compound to filter and soften views of the electrical infrastructure.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
F13	Move the Eco-balancing land to another local area such as the valley where land is less used and banks onto the river.				X	National Grid consulted on 'Environmental Areas' as part of the statutory consultation. Some of these areas were for mitigation to offset potential significant effects from the project. Other areas were for environmental gain as part of meeting National Grid's target of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project. National Grid has reviewed feedback that was given during the consultation to refine the proposed areas presented in the application for development consent. In some cases, the land is required for mitigation (to offset a significant effect) on landscape and views, for example helping to screen the overhead line. In these cases, the planting cannot be moved to another area as it is needed at that location. Mitigation areas are shown on ES Figure 16.1 (application document 6.4). Further details on the enhancement proposals can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	Y
F14	The 400kV line should follow exactly the same route as the existing 132kV line north of Hill View.				X	National Grid notes these comments and has considered the routeing the new 400kV overhead line in the vicinity of Hill View. The existing 132kV overhead line comprises pylons of approximately 28m in height, whereas the new 400kV reinforcement will comprise pylons of approximately 50m in height, which is the same as the existing 400kV overhead line. In the vicinity of Hill View, the 400kV overhead line must deviate from the 132kV route as pylons would be unable to fit within the safety clearances of the existing environment and properties in the area. Therefore, the route deviates within Order Limits to the south of Hill View, in order to accommodate the existing environment whilst meeting technical and safety constraints.	N
F15	Pylon RB40 should be moved north towards PCB65.			X	X	National Grid is not seeking approval of specific fixed pylon locations as part of the consent but is requesting LoD within which the final components would lie. National Grid considered the potential relocation of pylon RB40 towards PCB65. This was investigated by National Grid engineers, but it was decided that to achieve the clearances required, the pylon would still be located in the middle of the field, and it would not be possible to locate it close to the field boundary, due to the 400kV clearance requirements between the two pylons.	N
F16	Undergrounding in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington would allow construction access via Haul Road.				X	Please see National Grid's response to F8. Undergrounding to permit a haul road to be used during construction was not considered a sufficient justification for undergrounding the route in this area, due to National Grid's need to balance its duties and responsibilities in terms of weighing-up cost and amenity.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
F17	Dedham Vale West CSE Compound should be moved further west to Leavenheath.				X	Please see F12, which explains National Grid's reasoning for not relocating the Dedham Vale West CSE Compound further to the west.	N
F18	Access road: would be a considerable improvement if this were moved to run along the eastern side of the field, alongside the apple orchard.				X	Having had regard to this consultation feedback, National Grid is able to confirm that the proposed access road has been moved in this area to run along the eastern side of the field alongside the apple orchard.	Y
Design Question							
F19	Is the proposed alignment and design in this section a result of opposition from landowners / farmers?				X	Meaningful consultation has taken place with local landowners and stakeholders throughout the development of the proposals, including during the non statutory and statutory consultation phases (in 2021 and 2022 respectively) and the targeted consultation (in autumn 2022). Feedback received has been taken into consideration in designing the project where practicable. It should be noted that the alignment in this section has been designed to parallel the existing 400kV overhead line and the 132kV line (to be removed) in order to reduce the scale of change in the landscape.	N
Noise (General)							
F20	Concern about additional noise resulting from the pylons (e.g., crackling) and the impact on horses and riders.				X	The proposed overhead line would be of the same design and configuration, and would operate in the same way, as the existing 400kV overhead line. The noise behaviour of the new overhead line, in dry, wet, or damp weather, would be the same as the existing 400kV overhead line. National Grid will be using the current quietest suitable conductor system that is available and does not expect there would be significant effects due to noise from the operation of the new overhead line. All fixtures and fittings associated with the overhead line would be sourced according to National Grid technical specifications which include requirements to make sure any noise due to the effect of the wind and any noise due to corona discharge is reduced through good design. This is ensured through testing before these are registered for use on the transmission system. Any noise from the existing overhead line would not change as a result of the project. National Grid therefore would not anticipate any impact on equestrians from the overhead line system as a result of noise emissions, during normal operation.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Project Finance / Costs							
F21	Cost is the main factor driving the proposed scheme. Considerations should be made for the long-term future.				X	<p>National Grid's duties and responsibilities include balancing the need to be economic and efficient and keep costs down, with a duty to preserve amenity. The cost of underground cables is considerably higher than overhead lines. The relevant NPS (EN-5) makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms, taking account of the specific local environment and context.</p> <p>The project proposes underground cable within the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere along the route, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. The reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead is one of a number of network reinforcements needed to deliver 50GW of offshore wind by 2030. Additional onshore reinforcements identified in the region in the Network Options Assessment (NOA) 2022 are needed in addition to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.</p>	N
Tourism							
F22	Concerned about impact of the proposed reinforcement on leisure and tourism.			X	X	<p>Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) preserving natural beauty, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. Embedded measures include underground cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and the removal of the existing 132kV line, which will further reduce the effects of the project. Once the new line is built and reinstatement planting has matured, it is not anticipated that there will be any effects on visitor attractions. Construction-phase effects, such as on views and increased traffic on local roads, are anticipated to be localised and short in duration.</p> <p>The Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1) submitted to PINs in May 2021, concluded that the project was unlikely to have significant effects on tourism and it was scoped out from being required as a standalone topic in the ES. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid has provided information regarding tourism within the Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Traffic Congestion							
F23	Traffic impacts resulting from the scheme must be considered (e.g., HGVs should not be using single track lanes).	X			X	To make sure disruption to the local community is limited, the CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed in consultation with the relevant highways authorities (RHAs). During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed route and stays within the speed limit for construction traffic. National Grid emphasises to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas they are working in.	N
F24	Particular consideration should be given to routing HGVs along Little Cornard Lane as the proposed road off of Spout Lane is inappropriate for HGVs.	X			X	National Grid notes the respondents' concern about the suitability of the route for HGVs involved with the construction of the project. The CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed in consultation with the RHAs. During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed route – including where there are restrictions. Regarding Spout Lane - National Grid notes this concern. An alternative route from B1508 overhead line access and cable haul road has been included, which will allow access to 132kV works.	Y
Visual Impact							
F25	Overground pylons are unsightly / visually intrusive.	X		X	X	The relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances. Nonetheless, in Section F: Leavenheath and Assington, National Grid proposes the removal of the existing 132kV line and paralleling of the new 400kV line with the existing one, which will reduce the scale of change in the landscape. Consideration of landscape and visual impacts can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N
F26	The proposed undergrounding is inadequate to mitigate adverse visual impacts of pylons and overhead lines on views to and from the Dedham Vale AONB.	X			X	National Grid undertook a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting. The outputs of this study have informed the assessment presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N
F27	Concerned about visual impact of Dedham Vale West CSE Compound. Needs to be			X	X	National Grid undertook a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	screened from view and concerned how long this will take.					<p>The Setting Study has informed the location of the CSE compounds. The impact on views is presented in ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7).</p> <p>For the Dedham Vale West CSE Compound, National Grid has included land within the Order Limits for landscape planting around the CSE compound to filter and soften views of the proposals. This will reduce effects on views and on the setting of the Dedham Vale AONB.</p>	
Wildlife / Ecology Impact							
F28	Positioning of the pylon towers may need to be reconsidered due to their impact on wildlife (e.g., badger setts).			X	X	<p>National Grid is not seeking approval of specific pylon locations as part of the consent but is requesting LoD within which the final components would lie. The General Arrangement Plans (application document 2.10) shows the indicative location of pylons, and the Work Plans (application document 2.5) shows the LoD which allow for flexibility during construction to take account of ground conditions and other similarly unexpected circumstance. These have been identified through technical discussions with engineering and environmental specialists to balance the different project requirements and constraints. These discussions will continue as the detailed designs progress to identify the best positioning of the pylons prior to construction.</p> <p>ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) outlines the impact assessment in relation to ecological receptors (wildlife) including badgers. In some locations, project commitments have been made to avoid environmental constraints such as a badger sett, see ES Chapter 4: Project Description (application document 6.2.4).</p>	N
F29	Updated surveys needed on Dormouse populations and habitats.				X	<p>National Grid undertook dormouse surveys for the project throughout 2021 and 2022, which have supplemented the desk-based survey data available for this species. Further details can be found in the dormouse survey report and draft licence in ES Appendix 7.8 (application document 6.3.7.8).</p>	N

Section G: Stour Valley

Table 7.6 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section G)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Affected Landowner							
G1	Location of CSE compound has a significant impact on land (no details given) which belongs to client operating a commercial shooting business.			X		As no details were provided as to the land concerned, it has been assumed that the feedback referred to the same land as referenced in G56. National Grid therefore points to response G56.	N
G2	Revised proposal (Coppins Route) has brought a pylon closer to a residential property – was previously unaffected.				X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment to the south of Ansell's Grove. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G3	Concerned about impact of the proposed construction and development on the water supply (from well) and soakaway at 's Farm – potential disturbance.			X		The potential impacts and effects on groundwater from the project during construction and operation have been assessed and are presented in ES Appendix 10.2 (application document 6.3.10.2). The assessment includes private water supplies such as the one at Ansell's Farm, and ES Appendix 10.2 identifies and provides for different assessment scenarios as appropriate based on the specific combination of the individual project construction activities at the different locations. Where the assessment identifies potential impacts, these are assessed to determine the likely effects and whether any mitigation is required. In relation to Ansell's Farm, the assessment has not identified any potential impacts on groundwater and therefore significant effects on groundwater and therefore the water supply are not anticipated. In addition, the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) sets out good practice measures including relating to groundwater and protection of private water supplies	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Agricultural Land							
G4	Route passes through land owned by respondent - concerned about impact.			X		National Grid remains committed to working with landowners to reduce impacts on their land where it has been possible to do so. The impacts of the project have been thoroughly assessed in terms of the impacts on landscape. Landowner discussions continue with regard to access to land affected by the route and National Grid will seek agreement through negotiation of terms and mitigate concerns raised, providing compensation as required.	N
G5	Concerned about use of land which is designated as Higher Country Stewardship Land.	X		X	X	The current Higher Country Stewardship Land agreements are made between landowners and DEFRA (UK Government) with funds coming from (formerly) the European Union. Depending on the construction type, it is possible that these areas may need to be crossed. If National Grid is unable to mitigate the impacts on these, then there is a potential to discuss compensation on an individual basis.	N
AONB Extension (Potential)							
G6	Proposals should consider the potential extension of the Dedham Vale AONB to Stour Valley in developing plans further.	X	X	X	X	At this time, Dedham Vale AONB has not been extended and there is no defined boundary of any potential future extension of the designated AONB. Any potential future extension of the designated AONB would be the responsibility of Natural England to determine. Natural England has advised the project that decisions should be based on the effects on the existing Dedham Vale AONB as currently designated and its setting (in line with the current NPS). Natural England also advised that it recognises that parts of the Stour Valley will have a role as part of the setting of the AONB. As the status of the request to extend the AONB remains undecided and based on discussions with Natural England, National Grid is not proposing to treat any area outside of the existing Dedham Vale AONB boundary as designated within its application for development consent but has considered the setting of the AONB, including the contribution that the Stour Valley makes to this.	N
Community / Social Impact							
G7	Concerned about impact of proposed route in the Stour Valley on resident children / families.	X		X	X	National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable. The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also sets out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside these.</p> <p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>	
Construction Impacts							
G8	Concerned about the effects of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) / horizontal boring.	X			X	National Grid has committed to undertaking trenchless crossings at four locations across the Order Limits. These locations have been identified because of sensitive features that could experience greater effects if an open cut method was used. HDD is one of the techniques that could be used for constructing trenchless crossings. The choice will be dependent on the required depth of cables, length and site conditions such as geology. Whichever technique is chosen, construction would be undertaken in accordance with the good practice measures in the CEMP (application document 7.5) which would reduce risk of pollution or other environmental effects that could occur.	N
G9	Regarding the temporary junction near Cripple Corner the building is not designed to withstand heavy machinery				X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including concerns raised about the suitability of the existing road network. As a result of this, National Grid presented a potential haul road off the A131 to avoid local road network restrictions such as Cripple Corner. National Grid undertook a targeted	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	being used adjacent. What investigations have been carried out to identify risks to the structure, what monitoring is proposed to take place?					consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8. Vibrations due to construction traffic are assessed in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).	
G10	What will happen if structural damage to my property is discovered to have occurred following the works?				X	Individuals concerned about the works impacting on the structural integrity of their property should contact National Grid to discuss the potential for a pre-condition survey for their property.	N
G11	Tunnelling would not be successful due to local geology in the Stour Valley.				X	With regard to underground cabling, National Grid undertook surveys of the local geology and has spoken with landowners regarding the proposed undergrounding. Where geological constraints have been identified, these have been considered by National Grid in the proposed engineering design. The proposed undergrounding methodology comprises cables pulled through ducts laid in open-cut trenches, alongside trenchless sections which will be delivered via a technique such as HDD.	N
G12	Concerned about impacts of construction on Lamarsh Church and HGVs passing the church and causing damage. Avoid HGV construction traffic using Henny Road.				X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed to reduce disruption to the local community. This outlines measures to reduce impacts on the local road network and adjacent communities. Henny Road is one of the construction routes but is already used by HGVs including farm machinery.	N
Construction Traffic							
G13	Concerned about impact of construction traffic on leisure users (e.g., horse riders, cyclists, and walkers).	X		X	X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed in consultation with the RHAs, to make sure disruption to the local community and leisure users is limited. During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed route and stays within the speed limit for construction traffic. With respect to designated PRoWs including bridleways, crossing the working area will be managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. The locations of the PRoW affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
G14	Consider alternative access arrangements around Little Cornard / construction traffic management needed in Stour Valley.	X		X	X	Little Cornard is not on the proposed construction traffic routes. The CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed in consultation with the RHAs to reduce the impact of construction traffic on local communities. During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed route and stays within the speed limit for construction traffic. National Grid emphasises to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas they are working in.	N
G15	Surface of road between Little Henny and Twinstead is to be used for access by construction traffic and should have an improved surface to facilitate this.				X	Highway maintenance is the responsibility of the RHAs. National Grid is working with them to capture any required good practice measures which will be presented within the CTMP (application document 7.6) submitted with the application for development consent.	N
G16	National Grid should withdraw Figure 12.1 and publish a revised "Access Point Location and Routeing" plans for local parishes, making clear that this recognises the assurances previously given.	X				National Grid notes these comments however will not withdraw previous versions of plans from published documents. As part of the consultation process, regard is had to all feedback which is considered as part of the iterative design process. Figure 12.1 showed the proposed construction routes for seeking feedback during the statutory consultation. This figure has been updated to reflect the application proposals. Further details on the construction routeing and how these routes have been chosen can be found in the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and commitments to reduce impacts to the road network can be found in the CTMP (application document 7.6).	N
G17	Dissatisfied with the assessment of construction vehicle movements, including poor evidence base, plus lack of engagement with the highway authorities (Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council).	X				The assessment presented within the PEI Report is based on the information available at the time. National Grid has since undertaken baseline traffic surveys and as more detailed review of the local road network to support the baseline presented within the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7). National Grid has also held thematic meetings with the RHAs at Essex and Suffolk County Councils to agree the methodology used within the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and the ES. The updated assessment of construction vehicles movements can be found in the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Consultation							
G18	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
G19	Further consultation is needed on this section / take this section out of the current consultation and consult separately to the rest of the scheme.	X			X	In response to the extensive feedback, National Grid received during non statutory and statutory consultations, including potential route options, National Grid reviewed its options. A further targeted consultation including updates within Section G: Stour Valley was undertaken in autumn 2022 with statutory consultees and members of the public (see Chapter 8 of this report).	N
G20	National Grid should have presented several alternatives for the route in the Stour Valley Section.	X			X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. This included a review of the options identified by respondents and identified a preferred option to the south of Ansell's Grove, including a trenchless crossing. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G21	Criticism of suggested alternative routes that have been put forward by respondents.				X	National Grid has a statutory duty to consider all feedback which it receives during the consultation period. This includes considering responses at an individual level as well as from community organisations. As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment to the south of Ansell's Grove. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G22	The map appears to show an existing pylon route to the junction of Spout Lane (lane not named) with Slough Lane (a 7ft wide track also not named), marked red for modification. Not one there.				X	National Grid notes this and will ensure that the arrangement in this area accurately reflects conditions on the ground in any future mapping used to show this section of route.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	There is a pylon adjacent to the side of Slough Manor, at the other end of Slough Lane, from which the pylons travel downwards across a field towards the B1508, Sudbury to Bures road.						
Design Change							
G23	Cables should be underground in this section.	X	X	X	X	National Grid's proposal includes undergrounding the new 400kV cable in parts of the Stour Valley. Targeted consultation held in autumn 2022, asked for feedback on a proposed change to the route of the underground cable between Moat Lane and the Stour Valley West CSE Compound, further detail is provided in Chapter 8.	N
G24	Do not agree with new alignment - previous plan had route running north of Henny Back Road through an unused field (south of Ansell's Grove route).			X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents, including the proposed northern route, and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphasstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G25	All existing overground pylons in the Stour Valley should be removed / undergrounded.		X	X	X	The needs case and funding for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed through the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 2.5km of existing 132kV line and 2.5km of existing 400kV line will be removed, meaning a substantial reduction in wirescape). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified. Although National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
G26	Suggest realignment of underground cabling into empty fields to avoid impact on property.	X		X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G27	Concern around plant access - Relocate the Stour Valley East CSE Compound nearer to Dorking Tye to allow better plant / machinery access.				X	This location for the Stour Valley East CSE Compound was considered during the preliminary options appraisal and was ruled out as this area does not benefit from natural screening and would be more visible in the landscape. The application site for the Stour Valley East CSE Compound makes use of a natural depression on the edge of the Stour Valley and the presence of existing vegetation to screen the site. Following a backcheck and review to consider alternative sites, the conclusion was reached that the original (2012) option remained the preferred option, as it reduces the length of cable required and the existing woodland would partly screen the compound site.	N
G28	Support for suggested alternative routes put forward by respondents.	X		X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	N
G29	Suggest alternative routeing to along the northern boundary of Rhyne Park Farm adjacent to the back road lane, and then subsequently across currently unused land on the west side of Moat Lane.			X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	N
G30	Request to move the access route at 'Cripple Corner' away from the current location opposite Ivy Cottage / Scotts			X	X	National Grid has considered the request regarding moving the access route from the location opposite Ivy Cottage / Scotts Cottage. National Grid introduced a proposed new temporary haul road from the A131 which will remove a lot of	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	Cottage to an alternative location. Noting potential construction impacts on properties as a result of the planned works.					construction traffic from the local road network. This was consulted on as part of an updated design during the targeted consultation in autumn 2022 (see Chapter 8). Individuals concerned about the works impacting on the structural integrity of their property should contact National Grid to discuss the potential for a pre-condition survey for their property.	
G31	Provision of new road from Spout Lane (Little Cornard) for works vehicles is not necessary / a concern - access to Stour Valley East CSE Compound should be off Bures Road B1508.				X	National Grid notes this concern. An alternative route from B1508 overhead line access and cable haul road has been included in an updated design and will allow access to 132kV works.	Y
G32	Stour Valley East CSE Compound should be moved to near the TV masts, with the final pylon beforehand reduced in height.				X	Several potential locations were identified and considered for the Stour Valley East CSE compound. The assessment identified that the proposed location, to the south of Sawyer's Farm and west of Upper Road, is the preferred option from both a technical and environmental perspective. The 2020 PDOR identified several locations for the Stour Valley East CSE Compound. This list of locations included site Options 4 and 5. The long list of options was reviewed from a technical and environmental perspective, with a shortlist of options being assessed in further detail. This assessment identified Option 1 to be the preferred option as it reduces the length of cable required and the compound is partially screened by existing woodland. This screening helps to reduce the landscape and visual effects. In addition, further planting is included as an embedded measure within the design to further screen the CSE compound from surrounding viewpoints. National Grid consider this to be a suitable site for the CSE compound.	N
G33	Route should be revised to go north of Rhyne Park Farm, Hill Farm House and the spinneys in Chambers Field.			X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alhamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	N
G34	Suggest alternative alignment (proposed southern route).			X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						respondents, including the proposed southern route, and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	
G35	Suggest Alternative alignment (proposed northern route).				X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alterative alignments proposed by respondents, including the proposed northern route, and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G36	Suggest alternative alignment (modified south of Ansells Grove route).				X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alterative alignments proposed by respondents, including the proposed modified route south of Ansells Grove, and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G37	Proposed access route to sealing end compound from the top of Spout Lane is not practical, alternative route should be via farm track on the other side of the field.				X	National Grid notes this concern. An alternative route from B1508 overhead line access and temporary access road will allow access to 132kV works.	Y
G38	Avoid using land at Scotts Farm as a temporary construction vehicle route due to impact on landowner's farm.			X		The proposed construction access is to avoid 'Cripple Corner' which has a tight curved alignment which would be problematic for large equipment to use. As such it is an engineering requirement to provide the construction access which bypasses Cripple Corner. Following feedback and further consideration of the constructability of the project, National Grid introduced a proposed new temporary haul road from the A131. This was consulted on as part of an updated design during the targeted consultation in autumn 2022 (see Chapter 8).	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						Landowner discussions continue with regard to access to land affected by the route and National Grid will seek to reach agreement through negotiation of terms and mitigate concerns raised, offering compensation as appropriate.	
G39	Further screening of the CSE compound (Stour Valley West) would be beneficial.	X	X	X	X	Further planting is included as an embedded measure within the design to further screen the CSE compound from surrounding viewpoints. Further details can be found in the LEMP (application document 7.8).	Y
G40	Moving the cable at Rhyne Park Farm north towards Twinstead Road will allow the footpath to remain open.			X	X	In response to the extensive feedback, National Grid received during non statutory and statutory consultations, including potential route options, National Grid reviewed its route options and considered opportunities to maintain the PRoW during construction. A further targeted consultation (see Chapter 8 of this report) was undertaken in autumn 2022 with statutory consultees and members of the public.	N
G41	Oppose Coppins Route on environmental and countryside stewardship grounds - alternative route should be found through 'less valuable' land.			X	X	National Grid notes this response. As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents, including the proposed northern route, and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G42	Low growing tree varieties should be planted underneath the overhead lines.	X			X	National Grid cannot plant trees beneath overhead lines. However, hedgerow and scrub planting is possible, and would be maintained to ensure that it does not interfere with the operation of the overhead line infrastructure.	N
G43	Suggest there are better alternative areas for BNG than c.40 acres to the west of the Stour Valley East CSE Compound (ENV12).			X	X	National Grid consulted on 'Environmental Areas' as part of the statutory consultation. Some of these areas were for mitigation to offset potential significant effects from the project. Other areas were for environmental gain as part of meeting National Grid's target of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project. National Grid has reviewed feedback that was given during the consultation to refine the proposed areas presented in the application for development consent. At Stour Valley East CSE Compound – there is a combination of both embedded planting, mitigation planting and enhancement planting proposed. At present, the area is 48 hectares / circa 120 acres. National Grid is focussing such areas around	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>permanent infrastructure, such as the CSE compound, as this will be easier to maintain and also help the long-term screening of the infrastructure.</p> <p>Further details on these proposals can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).</p>	
G44	Move Stour Valley East CSE Compound further east.			X	X	Relocation of the Stour Valley East CSE Compound was considered during preliminary options. The initial studies concluded that the Stour Valley East CSE Compound could be located to the south of Sawyer's Farm and west of Upper Road, as this location took advantage of a natural depression on the edge of the Stour Valley and the presence of existing vegetation to screen the site. Following a backcheck and review to consider alternative sites, the conclusion was reached that the original (2012) option remained the preferred option, as it reduces the length of cable required and the existing woodland would partly screen the compound site.	N
G45	Remove access from B1508 by Dunstead Farm (for Dedham Vale East CSE Compound). Too dangerous.			X	X	National Grid is grateful for this feedback. A potential alternative access was brought forward for further evaluation, and it is now proposed that the access track to the Stour Valley East CSE Compound will be from further north on the B1508, close to the location of the 132kV line (which is to be removed). Targeted consultation was undertaken in autumn 2022 regarding the proposals in the Stour Valley and further information is provided in Chapter 8 of this report.	Y
G46	Oppose undergrounding in Stour Valley section.				X	A mix of new 400kV overhead line and underground cables are proposed for this section of the route. Following feedback from the statutory consultation National Grid held a targeted consultation in autumn 2022 that proposed to change the route of the of the underground cables between Moat Land and The Stour Valley West CSE Compound. National Grid remain committed to underground the route of the reinforcement in parts of the Stour Valley. The outcome of the targeted consultation can be found in Chapter 8 of this report.	N
G47	Sparrows Farm: considerable opportunities for biodiversity gain following the removal of the six pylons – allowing for expansion of ancient woodland close to where the pylons now stand.			X		National Grid is grateful for this suggestion. National Grid has currently located environmental gain in areas around the permanent structures so that this is potentially easier to maintain in the long term. However, where additional gain may be required, National Grid is also considering whether additional areas of biodiversity gain can be undertaken through landowner agreements.	N
G48	Suggest alternative location for Stour Valley East CSE	X				National Grid considered the proposed relocation of the CSE compound. Pylon 4YL068 is located adjacent to the railway line and approximately 300m north of the	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	Compound – near pylon 4YL068 (close to River Stour).					<p>Order Limits. This was dismissed as it would lie within the River Stour floodplain, which would increase flood risk to the CSE compound and could result in loss of floodplain.</p> <p>The suggested location is located outside of the AONB, but within the Stour Valley Project Area (SVPA). The Stour Valley is considered to be part of the setting of the AONB. This change would result in more spans of overhead line being retained within the Stour Valley than the current location.</p> <p>For these reasons National Grid does not propose to relocate the CSE compound near to pylon 4YL068.</p>	
G49	Environmental Mitigation area suggested on the Bures / Little Cornard boundary will benefit very few residents in its present suggested location. Suggest that an area is selected across the road to the north of the area where the new cables are placed underground.				X	<p>The environmental area near the Bures / Little Cornard boundary appears to be the one adjacent to the Stour Valley East CSE Compound. Approximately half of this area is embedded planting to help screen the CSE compound. The other half is environmental gain. National Grid has sought to locate these near the permanent infrastructure, such as CSE compounds, which will help with screening the site further and also may make the long-term operation and maintenance of the environmental gain area easier to manage.</p> <p>National Grid has reviewed feedback that was given during the consultation to refine the proposed areas presented in the application for development consent. Further details on the planting proposed and whether this is for mitigation or enhancement, can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).</p>	N
G50	Oppose the Coppins Farm route – Alternatives: Pass through the fields behind the church. Or avoid crossing the Henny Back Road and the Brook by pushing the route further away from Alphamstone.				X	<p>As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents, including the proposed to locate the project away from Alphamstone. A route to further north of Alphamstone was identified as the preferred option and also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.</p>	Y
G51	National Grid needs to reconsider carefully its own 2021 south of Ansell's Grove route with the necessary short extension to a new compound location near Pylon 4YLA5 – either at the north side of				X	<p>As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment to the south of Ansell's Grove. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	Henny Back Road as proposed by SVU in 2012 or south of Henny Back Road in the location National Grid has most recently proposed in January 2022.					National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	
Design Question							
G52	Concerned about potential changes in scheme design from the current proposals (e.g., current underground sections being removed).	X			X	As part of the consultation process, regard is had to all feedback which is considered as part of the iterative process to meet statutory obligations. National Grid has committed to undergrounding sections of the new overhead infrastructure through the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. In addition, as a result of feedback from the statutory consultation, National Grid reviewed the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	N
G53	Plans are unclear regarding removal of the 132kV section from Twinstead to the GSP substation / The 132kV pylons owned by UK Power need to be removed.	X	X	X	X	The stretch of existing 132kV overhead line between the diamond crossing and the GSP substation is not owned or controlled by National Grid (i.e., west of the diamond crossing). It is owned and operated by UK Power Networks (UKPN). The removal of this section of overhead line is not required for the route of the new 400kV overhead line.	N
G54	Need more information on the 'modification' works planned on the 400kV line near Twinstead Church.				X	Stretches of existing line are being modified to ensure that the equipment used is up-to-date and suitable. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 4: Project Description (application document 6.2.4).	N
Economic / Employment Impact							
G55	Concerned about impact on local economy / e.g., on passing trade such as the local pub (Lamarsh Lion) and holiday lets businesses.	X	X	X	X	Embedded measures include underground cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and the removal of the existing 132kV line, which will further reduce the effects of the project. Once the new line is built and reinstatement planting has matured, it is not anticipated that there will be any effects on visitor attractions.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>Construction-phase effects, such as on views and increased traffic on local roads, are anticipated to be localised and short in duration. The ES includes a number of assessments, ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6), ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12), ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) -with the impacts of these to be reduced through good practice measures (further detailed in the EIA).</p> <p>Compensation may be discussed further if there is evidence of a negative commercial impact as a result of the works.</p>	
G56	Concerned about use of land proposed for storage compounds. This is currently used for a shooting business and there is a risk of negative impact on the commercial activity of the shoot. More detail is needed on how this area will be used and managed in the future.			X	X	<p>National Grid has and will continue to work with landowners to understand potential impacts on commercial activities and to reduce disruption. Storage compounds would require only temporary land take and National Grid will reinstate the land after use.</p> <p>It should be noted that the level of disruption to the shooting activities would be dependent on the time of year when the works are taking place and are therefore dependent on the construction programme. Compensation may be discussed further if there is evidence of a negative commercial impact as a result of the works.</p>	N
Environmental Impact							
G57	Concerned about impact of project on trees and vegetation (including Ancient Woodland, wetland, and wildflowers).	X		X	X	<p>During the routeing and options appraisal process, National Grid sought to avoid ancient woodland. As the route became refined, surveys were undertaken to identify habitats, and these were considered as part of the more detailed route refinement. Further information regarding the impact on habitats including ancient woodland can be found in the ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) including details of the surveys undertaken.</p>	N
G58	The Stour Valley landscape needs to be protected.	X	X	X	X	<p>Undergrounding is proposed in parts of Section G: the Stour Valley. The extent of undergrounding in the Stour Valley has been informed, in part, by the extent of the setting of the nearby Dedham Vale AONB, and the siting of the Stour Valley East CSE Compound. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).</p>	N
G59	Oppose the alternative suggested 'Northern Route' due to impact on buildings	X			X	<p>Please see response G50 for National Grid's response to consideration of new route proposals.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	and landscape within the suggested corridor.						
G60	Concerned about the potential impact of drilling / scheme construction on local watercourses (rivers and streams) for example pollution of these.				X	The effects of the trenchless crossing are assessed in ES Appendix 10.2 (application document 6.3.10.2). This concludes that with the good practice measures that are set out in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) that there is unlikely to be an impact on local watercourses.	N
Health and Safety							
G61	Concerned about the potential impact of drilling / scheme construction on local watercourses (rivers and streams) for example pollution of these.				X	The effects of the trenchless crossing are assessed in ES Appendix 10.2 (application document 6.3.10.2). This concludes that with the good practice measures that are set out in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) that there is unlikely to be an impact on local watercourses.	N
Heritage							
G62	Oppose the alternative suggested 'southern route' as this affects listed properties and other infrastructure within the suggested corridor.	X		X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents, including the proposed southern route, and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.	Y
G63	Concerned about impact of proposal on historical artefacts / need to preserve archaeological and heritage features in the Stour Valley.	X	X	X	X	National Grid undertook a suite of archaeological surveys to help understand the baseline environment within the Stour Valley. The results of the survey and the impact assessment is summarised in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8). Mitigation measures are outlined within the Archaeological Framework Strategy (AFS) (application document 7.9) and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).	N
G64	Oppose the proposed 'south of Ansells Grove route' due to impact on listed buildings and	X		X	X	As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid relooked at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	landscape within the suggested corridor.					<p>respondents and identified a new alignment to the south of Ansell's Grove. This also includes a trenchless crossing to avoid vegetation removal in the Stour Valley. National Grid undertook a targeted consultation regarding this change and the feedback on this is presented in Chapter 8.</p> <p>Underground cables are proposed in parts of the Stour Valley and therefore there would be limited effects on listed buildings and landscape once the project is constructed and the vegetation has been reinstated. The impact assessment for listed buildings and landscape can be found in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) and ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p>	
G65	Are National Grid aware of the presence of a Roman Villa behind St Barnabas Church in Alphamstone? Potentially other archaeological finds associated with this could be in the Stour Valley area. Be aware of this when planning boring for underground cables.				X	<p>National Grid welcomes the information which has been provided. The Roman Villa is noted within the historic environment baseline presented in ES Appendix 8.1 (application document 6.3.8.1). National Grid undertook a suite of archaeological surveys to help understand the baseline environment within the Stour Valley. The results of the survey and the impact assessment is summarised in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8). In addition, National Grid has produced an Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10), describing the archaeological mitigation works proposed for the project.</p>	N
Maintenance (Ongoing)							
G66	Consider the impact of storms / severe weather which may damage cables / trees or structures falling onto overground cables.				X	<p>Overhead lines are designed to remain generally robust and operational in the worst weather conditions in the UK. Although overhead lines are more susceptible to disruption from lightning and high winds, they are also comparatively easy, quicker and cost-effective to repair and maintain compared to underground cables, therefore allowing National Grid to restore services faster. It should also be noted that the majority of the existing National Grid network is made up of overhead lines, which have been proven to be a reliable form of electricity transmission in the UK climate.</p> <p>Major accidents and disasters have been considered as part of the EIA including the effects of extreme weather in ES Appendix 5.3 (application document 6.3.5.3).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Mitigation							
G67	Consider use of mitigation areas to link wildlife corridors (e.g., River Stour to Spout Lane).				X	National Grid is seeking to reconnect habitats as part of the mitigation and BNG proposals. National Grid has investigated and will continue to investigate potential conservation projects that would benefit river valleys and seeks to work in partnership with organisations to develop these.	N
G68	Field containing pylon 4YL068 should be used for mitigation.				X	National Grid is seeking to reconnect habitats as part of the mitigation and net gain proposals. National Grid has investigated and will continue to investigate potential mitigation sites including the suggested site at pylon 4YL068.	N
G69	Landscaping and planting should be provided to reduce visual impact of the infrastructure.				X	Additional planting is proposed on the project to help reduce the visual impact of the project. Further details can be found in the LEMP (application document 7.8).	Y
G70	Biodiversity enhancement should be located away from the areas surrounding Causton Estate and Corn Hall.				X	National Grid consulted on 'Environmental Areas' as part of the statutory consultation. Some of these areas were for mitigation to offset potential significant effects from the project. Other areas were for environmental gain as part of meeting National Grid's target of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project. National Grid has reviewed feedback that was given during the consultation to refine the proposed areas presented in the application for development consent. In some cases, the land is required for mitigation (to offset a significant effect) on landscape and views, for example helping to screen the overhead line. In these cases, the planting cannot be moved to another area as it is needed at that location. The location of mitigation measures at Stour Valley East primarily aim to mitigate landscape and visual infrastructure whilst achieving biodiversity gain. Further details on the planting proposed and whether this is for mitigation or enhancement, can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
G71	What mitigation is proposed for Ivy Cottage due to its proximity to the temporary junction? We are concerned about safety during the temporary works.				X	The location of the temporary access track has been moved further away from the property and Ivy Cottage is no longer within the Order Limits.	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
G72	The site ENV12 which is proposed for environmental mitigation is used as a 'shoot' by locals. Environmental mitigation should be provided elsewhere instead.				X	<p>ENV12 is the environmental area adjacent to the Stour Valley East CSE Compound. Approximately half of this area is embedded planting to help screen the CSE compound. The other half is environmental gain. National Grid has sought to locate these near the permanent infrastructure, such as CSE compounds, which will help with screening the site further and also may make the long term operation and maintenance of the environmental gain area easier to manage.</p> <p>National Grid has reviewed feedback that was given during the consultation to refine the proposed areas presented in the application for development consent. Further details on the planting proposed and whether this is for mitigation or enhancement, can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4)</p> <p>National Grid continue to work with the current landowner to secure National Grid ownership of the land and associated rights. As part of that process National Grid will explore potential future opportunities for the local community to continue to use the land safely.</p>	Y
PRoW							
G73	Potential for proposal in Stour Valley to inconvenience road and footpath users / affect PRoW.	X		X	X	<p>Through the draft DCO, National Grid is seeking a statutory power allowing for the temporary stopping up, alteration or diversion of streets or PRoWs. In relation to the streets and PRoWs listed in Schedule 7 of the draft Order, National Grid must first consult with the relevant street authority. The locations of the PRoW along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).</p> <p>All designated PRoW crossing the working area will be managed with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns.</p> <p>For road users, the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) sets out the proposed construction routes and assesses the effects of the project on the local road network. It also identifies where there is a need for additional mitigation measures. The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic.</p> <p>There would likely be very small numbers of vehicles used during operation. These would be associated with inspections of equipment or with maintenance and refurbishment activities and are unlikely to affect road and footpath users.</p>	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Substation Location							
G74	Concerned about the location and visibility of the Stour Valley West CSE Compound. Now much closer to homes and will have higher environmental impact than the original proposed route.				X	<p>National Grid has considered the proposed location of the CSE compound, as well as potential alternatives, in the context of feedback received and National Grid's various other duties and responsibilities.</p> <p>The proposed site benefits from landform and existing vegetation to help screen the features, and further planting is included as an embedded measure within the design to further screen the CSE compound from surrounding viewpoints. This site is still considered, on balance to be the most appropriate from an overall environmental perspective.</p>	N
Technology / Operations							
G75	Does underground cabling affect what the land above can be used for? E.g., can hedgerows be planted across the top of underground cables?		X	X	X	<p>Underground cables are designed to be positioned below plough depth, thereby these should not affect cultivation or use of the land above for crop or livestock holding. National Grid cables will be a minimum of 900mm deep from ground level to the top of the protective tiles installed immediately above the underground cables. Crops can be farmed over the top of the cables, though deep rooting trees may not be planted over the cables.</p>	N
Tourism							
G76	Consider potential impacts on leisure and tourism in the Stour Valley / need for access for ramblers and visitors.	X		X	X	<p>Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) preserving natural beauty, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. Embedded measures include underground cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and the removal of the existing 132kV line, which will further reduce the effects of the project.</p> <p>Once the new line is built and reinstatement planting has matured, it is not anticipated that there will be any effects on visitor attractions. Construction-phase effects, such as on views and increased traffic on local roads, are anticipated to be localised and short in duration. The ES includes a number of assessments, ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6), ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12), ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) with the impacts reduced through good practice measures in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1).</p> <p>In terms of access for ramblers, all designated PRowWs have been identified, and any potential temporary closures applied for/detailed in the DCO. This includes any</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						restrictions resulting from vehicular access, with all designated PRoWs crossing the working area managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns. The locations of the PRoW affected along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).	
Visual Impact							
G77	Need more information on CSE compound design / location and visibility of CSE compound (e.g., how high is it?).			X	X	<p>National Grid provided typical design and layout plans for each of the four CSE compounds at statutory consultation. These drawings included cross-sections of the compounds, including detailed measurements – including the height of the structures.</p> <p>Details of the CSE compounds can be found in the relevant Design and Layout Plans (application documents 2.11.7 and 2.11.8). The land area for a CSE compound is expected to be around 85m by 50m and would contain full line tension gantries that would be approximately 15m high. The Photomontages (application document 5.8) provide visualisation of the CSE compounds. The locations of the CSE compounds have been informed by an understanding of topography and the potential for natural screening. The proposals will include embedded planting around the CSE compounds. In addition, the EIA includes assessment of landscape and visual impacts which will identify the need for any additional mitigation and the LVIA can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).</p>	N
G78	Concerned about the visual impact of haul roads during construction / seek to reduce access track requirements.	X				ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) assesses the impact of the project (including access tracks) on visual amenity. Temporary haul roads would be constructed within the working area to provide access for construction vehicles along the working area and to limit construction vehicles using the local road network. It is currently assumed that all temporary haul roads would have the topsoil stripped and hardcore placed on top of the subsoil. Temporary access routes would be reinstated to the previous land use at the end of construction.	N
G79	Overground pylons in the Stour Valley are unsightly / visually intrusive.	X			X	National Grid proposes to underground the new 400kV line in parts of the Stour Valley in order to reduce its visual impact on the landscape. National Grid has also proposed to remove the 132kV overhead line east of Twinstead Tee, and an	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						approximately 2.5km section of the existing 400kV overhead line south of Twinstead Tee within Section G: Stour Valley, as set out in the application.	
Wildlife / Ecology Impact							
G80	Need more information on CSE compound impact on wildlife / animals.			X		The Order Limits at both CSE compounds have been designed to make use of the arable fields and to avoid sensitive habitats. For example, the Order Limits around Stour Valley West CSE Compound have been drawn to avoid Alphamstone Complex and Pebmarsh House Local Wildlife Sites and make use of the adjacent arable field. Further information regarding the impact of the project wildlife and animals can be found in the ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
G81	Concerned about impact on grazing animals (including relocation due to construction).	X		X	X	National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. This includes providing prior warning of works which may result in the need to move livestock. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis, if negative impact on farming operations can be established. Particular agricultural matters can also be written into voluntary land agreements.	N
G82	Concerned about impact on wildlife / protected species (e.g., bats, badgers, voles, dormice, birds etc.) Additional surveys and consideration of impact is needed.	X		X	X	During the routeing and options appraisal process, National Grid sought to avoid designated wildlife sites. As the route became refined, surveys were undertaken to identify habitats and areas supporting protective species that were considered as part of the more detailed route refinement. Specific commitments have been made that would avoid or reduce effects to protected species, for details see ES Chapter 4: Project Description (application document 6.2.4). Further information regarding the impact of the project on wildlife and animals (including protected species. Bats, badgers, voles, dormice, birds) can be found in the ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) including details of the surveys undertaken.	N
G83	Concerned about width of land area needed for undergrounding (80m versus 20m for overhead pylons). Resulting in damage to root ecosystems and loss of and severance of important habitat				X	Underground cables require a larger footprint than overhead lines as the cables need to be spaced wider apart to allow heat to dissipate. Vegetation will need to be removed to install the cables. This would be reinstated after construction, noting that trees cannot be planted over the cables due to the roots potentially interfering with the operation of the cables. Therefore, in general there is not anticipated to be a long-term effect on habitats.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	features (hazel dormouse and bats).					ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presented the assessment of the impacts of the project on habitats and species. An application for the draft dormouse license is provided in ES Appendix 7.8 (application document 6.3.7.8), and draft bat license in ES Appendix 7.7 (application document 6.3.7.7). These include the mitigation measures for these species.	
G84	Avoiding damage to or loss of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient hedgerows, veteran trees, and unimproved species-rich grassland, must be fully considered within the ES.	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The options appraisal process has sought to avoid areas of ancient woodland and other important habitats. Impacts on irreplaceable habitats are set out in the ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
G85	Serious concerns that the proposals in their current iteration will have major negative impacts on biodiversity in the Stour Valley. Need to consider how biodiversity enhancements could contribute to the Essex and Suffolk Nature Recovery Network.				X	National Grid is proposing a trenchless crossing to the south of Ansell's Grove, which will seek to avoid effects on woodlands and habitats within the Stour Valley. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the results of the impact assessment on biodiversity. National Grid has set itself a target of delivering at least 10% BNG in environmental value on all construction projects, meaning that as a result of measures taken, the biodiversity rating of the area should be at least 10% greater than prior to the construction of the project. National Grid is working with environmental partners to best deliver enhancements on the project.	N
G86	Concerned about the potential impact of water discharges into local watercourses and rivers, during construction.			X		Temporary discharges may be required relating to short term localised removal of rainwater or localised surface water dewatering and over-pumping when constructing the foundations of pylons or the CSE compounds. It is anticipated these would be local discharges to ground (after using settlement tanks) and not to watercourses and rivers. Further details on reducing risks of water pollution can be found in the CEMP (application document 7.5). The trenchless crossing at the River Stour, the railway and the River Box may require drill pits within the floodplain. These may require dewatering and could occur over a period of six months. If this is required, a discharge consent application will be made to the EA.	N
G87	Concerned about potential spread of invasive and non-native species from Stour			X		Invasive species have been identified as part of the habitat surveys undertaken on the project. Good practice measures to reduce the risk of spreading invasives species can be found in ES Appendix 7.6 (application document 6.3.7.6).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	Valley (e.g., Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed) as a result of construction.						

Section H: GSP Substation

7.6.6 This section addresses comments pertaining to the proposed GSP made to the statutory consultation. It demonstrates the regard had to the feedback on the GSP insofar as it is part of the DCO application, and on the basis that it is delivered pursuant to a future DCO. Please note however that a separate planning permission (ref: 22/01147/FUL) was issued by Braintree District Council on 25 October 2022 for the GSP pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990, which may be implemented separately and in advance of the DCO. The GSP design approved via the planning permission was influenced by the feedback received during the statutory consultation on the DCO design. The planning permission is compatible with the powers being sought via the DCO.

Table 7.7 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Section H)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Construction Impacts							
H1	Construction of GSP substation compound may be disruptive – concerned about disruption to local residents (including mud on roads and road closures) and local wildlife.	X		X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p>	N
H2	Hours of construction will need to be carefully planned to minimise disruption / nuisance to nearby areas.				X	<p>The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours. The CEMP (application document 7.5) and the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contain good practice measures that would be employed during construction to reduce disruption and nuisance, such as employing best practicable means (BPM) to reduce noise.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
H3	Manage and minimise construction disruption and operational impacts from the GSP substation on Nether House Farm and other listed buildings in the vicinity, such as noise, vibration, and visual intrusion.		X			The ES assesses the effects on listed buildings in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8). The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures and any additional mitigation required to reduce the effects on local residents. These include measures to turn off machinery when not in use and using noise fencing around noisy construction activities. The GSP substation includes a noise enclosure as an embedded measure for reducing noise during operation. The noise assessment is presented in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).	N
Construction Traffic							
H4	Concerned about service vehicle parking and storage areas for construction of the GSP substation.				X	The temporary construction compound areas and parking would all lie within the Order Limits within the GSP substation site. Potential construction traffic impacts, such as those associated with deliveries and parking, and measures to reduce effects of these are set out in the CTMP (application document 7.6).	N
H5	Works required for undergrounding 132kV cable at Old Road will cause an adverse impact on this protected lane.				X	The proposed works at Old Lane have been located where there is an existing access track as this will reduce the effects on the protected lane. Further details on the impact of the project on protected lanes can be found in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8).	N
Consultation							
H6	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place – feel listened to.	X			X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
H7	Please ensure that you listen to feedback / listen to local objections.				X	National Grid has opened multiple communications channels to ensure adequacy of consultation and provide opportunities to inform on the proposals. An eight-week statutory consultation was held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. National Grid has had regard to all feedback received from consultees and other stakeholders, including in relation to the GSP substation. Potential design changes have been assessed from an engineering, environmental and community impacts perspective. Regard was also had to National Grid's statutory duties and the wider needs case for the project.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Design Change							
H8	Put all overhead lines in the area underground within a 3-mile radius of Wickham St Paul.			X	X	The needs case and funding for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed through the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2.5km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified. Although National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.	N
H9	Set the GSP substation 50m back from the road to allow for mitigation.	X		X	X	<p>National Grid is seeking LoD within which to construct the project, including the GSP substation. The designs shown in the Design and Layout Plan (application document 2.11.1) are indicative and illustrative, rather than showing the final design. This allows a main works contractor in the future to construct the GSP to their own detailed design, and also to provide the necessary flexibility to manage risks around unforeseen conditions at the site during design and construction. The proposed LoD would allow a GSP design that is set further back from the road than the indicative design shown in the statutory consultation material.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, moving the GSP substation further back from the road will push it further west into the field. Moving the GSP substation further west would mean that it is more visible from receptors to the west, including Wickham St Paul and the PRoW. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). Planting proposals are set out in the LEMP (application document 7.8).</p> <p>No design change was immediately introduced, although the LoD at the GSP site were later adjusted to allow a design that is set back further from the A131.</p>	Y
H10	Set the GSP substation further back from the road to enable tree planting to take	X	X	X	X	National Grid has considered this request. The reasons given for ruling this out are set out in H9.	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	place (incl. deciduous / native trees).					No design change was immediately introduced, although the LoD at the GSP site were later adjusted and landscape mounding introduced, to allow a design that is set back further from the A131 and is screened from views from the east.	
H11	The GSP substation should be built underground.			X	X	<p>The GSP substation will be built at ground level to benefit from natural air taking any radiated heat away. Building the structure at ground level ensures accessibility throughout construction and ongoing maintenance. It also reduces unacceptable safety risks of managing an underground structure.</p> <p>In addition to the issues of burying or placing two transformers underground the GSP substation must also be designed so that UKPN can switch their connected circuits on and off for future conditions they will encounter. Switching, and the connections required to enable this functionality, require interconnecting air insulated electrical equipment that takes up a significant amount of space. Therefore, to underground the entire GSP substation would mean a disproportionately large excavation and removal of the resulting soil which does not represent good value for money for the consumer.</p>	N
H12	Mitigation should incorporate access improvements to the River Stour.				X	ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12) assesses the effects on access such as PRowWs. This has not identified any significant effects to PRowWs along the River Stour and therefore no mitigation is required to the River Stour.	N
H13	Lower the position of the GSP substation (i.e., recessed into the ground) - so that it is less visible.	X		X	X	National Grid is seeking LoD within which to construct the project, including the GSP substation. The designs shown in the Design and Layout Plans (application document 2.11.1) are indicative and illustrative, rather than showing the final design. This allows a main works contractor in the future to construct the GSP substation to their own detailed design, and also to provide the necessary flexibility to manage risks around unforeseen conditions at the site during design and construction. Possible detailed designs for the GSP substation could incorporate a degree of lowering of the ground level. Notwithstanding this, National Grid has made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131. This will be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road.	N
H14	GSP substation should use minimal lighting except when work or maintenance are being carried out / be aware	X		X	X	The GSP substation would require security lighting, which would be used outside of daylight hours. This would require trigger (i.e., not continuous) and be on a timer. Such security lighting would be low lux level light-emitting diode (LED) type luminaires with directable light output and passive infrared sensor (PIR) motion activated lighting at the access gates to facilitate safe entry at night.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	of light pollution from GSP substation compound.					The existing woodland to the north and south of the site will screen the site from nearby properties. The effects of lighting are assessed within ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	
H15	Mitigation planting is needed to the west and around the GSP which should join Butler's Wood and Waldegrave Woods together - create continuous ecological corridor.	X	X	X	X	National Grid is proposing to undertake planting to the west of the GSP substation to improve connectivity between the two woodland areas. Further details can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	Y
H16	The proposals already include a new pylon at 4YL081. Both circuits can be connected via downloads from 4YL081 to the two transformers proposed for the GSP substation. Such an approach can remove the need to connect one transformer to downloads from 4YL080 and thus enable the compound to be repositioned.	X			X	National Grid has considered the proposed changes to the transformer connections and has concluded that these proposals are unable to be accommodated. This is because such an arrangement would require another CSE compound on the northern circuit, to the west of the main GSP substation compound, outside of the woodland boundary. It would increase impact on receptors on the west including PRowS, listed buildings and residential properties. Additionally, this would also increase costs (additional CSE compound) and programme timescales (increased outage and build sequence complexity).	N
H17	Suggest relocation of GSP substation to Hedingham Steam Railway Museum in Sible Hedingham.				X	National Grid previously considered the proposed location at Hedingham Steam Railway Museum. This location was not progressed as the proposed location between Butler's Wood and Waldegrave Wood was preferred due to it having the lowest impact on the landscape character of the area, visual amenity, ecology and the historic environment, as well as being the least constrained from a technical perspective.	N
H18	Planting for screening will be required to the east of the site, possibly on the other side of the A131, to mitigate the GSP substation.	X		X	X	National Grid has made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These will be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road and from Wickham St Paul.	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
H19	Consider running a public footpath alongside / around the compound area.	X				This was considered by National Grid but not considered to be appropriate or feasible. Additional PRoWs around/near the GSP substation are not required mitigation – it should also be noted that the proposed works will not result in permanent closure or diversion of PRoWs in the vicinity.	N
H20	Include undergrounding the 400kV line running across the landscape from the Twinstead Tee to the Substation.				X	The needs case and funding for the project is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines other than where this is required to facilitate the proposed works. Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed through the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley as part of the new reinforcement, no stretches of existing line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2.5km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified. Although National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead project.	N
H21	The gantry which is due to link with pylon 4YL080 should be moved to the west further within the site demonstrating that the site was not only designed based on engineering requirements but is also sensitive to its landscape setting.				X	<p>The project is an NSIP, which means that National Grid is seeking LoD within which to construct the project, including the GSP substation. Flexibility is required to manage risks around unforeseen conditions at the site during design and construction.</p> <p>The location of the CSE compound is influenced partly by engineering requirements and constraints, and partly by the opportunities to partially screen it with landscaping.</p> <p>National Grid has made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These will be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road and from Wickham St Paul. Planting proposals are set out in the LEMP (application document 7.8).</p>	N
H22	Suggest overhead line removal west of diamond crossing (132kV line) - no longer needed and should not remain.	X	X	X	X	The stretch of existing 132kV overhead line between the diamond crossing and the GSP substation is not owned or controlled by National Grid. It is owned and operated by UKPN. The removal of this section of overhead line is not required for the route of the new 400kV overhead line.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
H23	The area of mitigation planting east of the GSP substation on the eastern side of the A131, should be extended further to the south alongside the A131 to provide additional noise and visual screening.				X	National Grid has made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These will be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road and from Wickham St Paul. Planting proposals are set out in the LEMP (application document 7.8). There is also a commitment to include a noise enclosure around the super grid transformer, which will reduce noise at source. Further details can be found in ES Appendix 14.4 (application document 6.3.14.4).	N
Design Question							
H24	Not enough information about the design of the GSP substation / need more information about the size, scale etc.			X		Indicative drawings of the GSP substation, were made available as part of the statutory consultation material and are similarly part of the suite of DCO application drawings. These provide an indication of how the GSP substation is expected to be constructed, as well as the LoD within which the final footprint and design will fall.	N
H25	The GSP substation compound is excessively large – is there a reason for this?				X	The GSP substation is designed to accommodate the relevant infrastructure and sufficient safety clearances. Some areas outside of the substation are construction areas, LoD and Order Limits. See the Design and Layout Plans (application document 2.11.1).	N
Environmental Impact							
H26	Reduce the size of the compound and keep destruction of trees and hedges to a minimum (e.g., reduce length of gantry).				X	The GSP substation has been positioned in the arable field between the two woodland areas with a buffer to protect the tree roots. There will be no loss of trees. The hedgerow will require a new gap to create the access off the A131, the design of which will be governed by meeting highways standards for safety. National Grid is intending to replant and enhance other sections of the hedgerow to compensate for this impact. The GSP substation is designed to allow for sufficient safety clearances. Some areas outside of the substation are construction areas, LoD and Order Limits. See the Design and Layout Plans (application document 2.11.1).	N
H27	Good drainage is needed as part of the development / concern about flood risk due to GSP substation development.				X	The GSP substation will be designed to 'greenfield rates' meaning that there is no discernible change in flood risk as a result of its development. The assessment is presented within the Flood Risk Assessment (application document 5.5).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
H28	Proposed tree planting around the GSP substation would offset the carbon footprint of the development.	X				<p>A proportionate carbon assessment is included within ES Appendix 4.3 (application number 6.3.4.3) which considers the carbon embodied within the construction materials and typical values associated with a similar sized construction project.</p> <p>It is worth also noting that the project is being delivered to allow the UK to meet its future energy needs with low carbon electricity.</p>	N
Health and Safety							
H29	Safety concern about the GSP substation being visible and distracting drivers passing on the nearby road (A131).				X	<p>It is not anticipated that the presence of a GSP would cause a dangerous distraction to drivers. Nonetheless, as part of the proposed GSP substation, embedded planting is proposed around the GSP substation and further planting would be undertaken to improve the hedgerow along the A131 to help screen the site. The planting would comprise a mixture of native trees and shrubs.</p> <p>No design change was immediately introduced, although the LoD at the GSP site were later adjusted and landscape mounding introduced, to allow a design that is set back further from the A131 and is screened from views from the east.</p>	Y
Maintenance (Ongoing)							
H30	Redesign the access track so that it is less intrusive / access track is too wide and needs to be narrower space for trackway when deliveries are needed.			X		The access track as proposed, has been designed in accordance with the requirements of the proposals.	N
H31	Is there potential to access the GSP substation site from Butler's Wood as this land is currently for sale.				X	National Grid will be landowner of the site and confirm there will be no public access across the site from the A131 for safety reasons. Accessing the site from Butler's Wood would also require loss of trees to allow an access route to be constructed – the current proposal permits access from the A131 without a loss of woodland habitat. Accessing through the woods is also likely to have an impact on visibility splays for the access road which require suitable clearances.	N
Mitigation							
H32	Preferred previous proposal for a small bank behind the existing hedge which would	X		X	X	National Grid has made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These will	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	be planted with low shrubs and trees.					be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road and from Wickham St Paul.	
Needs Case							
H33	Not convinced that the GSP substation is needed.				X	The project involves removing the existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead and generally using this alignment for the new 400kV overhead line. The 132kV overhead line is owned by UKPN, the distribution network operator (DNO) in this area. The GSP substation is needed to connect the remaining 132kV overhead line into the network to prevent a disruption in local power supply when the 132kV line is removed as part of the project.	N
H34	Concerned that the substation will encourage the siting of solar panel farms.			X	X	<p>The substation is a GSP, the function of which would be to draw power from National Grid's network and step this down from 400kV to 132kV, before feeding the power into the lower voltage network owned by UKPN, the DNO in this area. The specific role of the GSP substation would be to facilitate the removal of approximately 25km of existing 132kV overhead line which runs from Burstall Bridge (Suffolk) to Twinstead (Essex).</p> <p>The GSP substation is not being designed for the purpose of connecting tertiary connections. Should any separate applications be brought forward in the future, such as solar farms, these would be considered on their own merit by the appropriate determining authority.</p>	N
Noise (General)							
H35	Issue of base noise of the transformers used in the GSP substation - depending on the type, have heard they cause considerable noise when the switch gear is used - is this the case? Monitor and mitigate vibration and noise from the GSP substation where possible.	X	X	X	X	<p>All fixtures and fittings associated with the overhead line would be sourced according to National Grid technical specifications which include requirements to make sure any noise is reduced. This is ensured through testing before these are registered for use on the transmission system.</p> <p>Vibrations dissipate very quickly with distance and given the distance between the GSP substation and the nearest properties (approximately 300m) it is unlikely that there would be significant effects in terms of vibration.</p> <p>The GSP substation design has enclosures around the super grid transformers as an embedded measure to reduce operational noise. With this embedded measure in place and given the distance of the nearest property (approximately 300m), there are unlikely to be any significant noise effects during operation. Further details on noise and vibration can be found in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
PRoW							
H36	Concern about access to pylons near Wickham St Paul – impact on PRoWs and object to closure of these during construction.				X	All PRoWs will be identified, and any potential temporary closures applied for/detailed in the DCO. This includes any restrictions resulting from vehicular access, with all designated PRoW crossing the working area managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns. The locations of the PRoW along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).	N
Substation Location							
H37	Is 'G18' the location of the proposed GSP, and where will the access track run?				X	G18 is from the feedback form mapping and shows the location of a viewpoint for the photomontages used in the consultation materials. The GSP substation is shown to the east of this, as a purple rectangle. The access track for the GSP substation is off the A131 to the south of Butler's Wood.	N
H38	Not in favour of location close to AONB.			X	X	The proposed location is to the west of the A131 and is approximately seven miles from the Dedham Vale AONB as such the GSP substation is unlikely to have any significant effects on the AONB.	N
H39	Will the new 400kV route replace the existing overhead powerlines?				X	The existing 400kV overhead line which passes to the north of Wickham St Paul is to be retained and will not be removed as part of the proposal. The new 400kV electric line will be undergrounded in parts of the Stour Valley, terminating once it connects into the existing 400kV overhead line approximately 2km south of Twinstead Tee. This will replace the 132kV overhead lines between Burstall Bridge in Suffolk, up to and including the diamond crossing near Twinstead.	N
H40	Suggest the GSP substation should be named "Butler's Wood GSP or Waldegrave Wood GSP" such that the good name of any local community is not blighted by association with energy industrialisation and this development.	X			X	The GSP substation has not currently been given a name within the application. It would be named as part of the operation and maintenance systems so that the control centre can easily identify which substation is referenced. Standard policy is to name substations after local villages, so that emergency services can find them easily.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Visual Impact							
H41	Visual intrusion from the GSP substation should be kept to a minimum / improved screening.	X	X	X	X	The proposed screening for the GSP substation includes making use of the existing Butler's Wood and Waldegrave Wood to reduce the visual impact of the GSP substation from the north and south. In addition, the hedgerow along the A131 will be improved, and additional planting is proposed to the west of the GSP substation which will further help to screen the site.	N
H42	Concerned about the visibility of the GSP substation compound in the Wickham Farmland Plateau and this having a significant impact on the landscape character.				X	The GSP substation has been positioned in the arable field between the two woodland areas (Waldegrave and Butler's Wood) which will help screen the site from surrounding areas. National Grid has also made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These will be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road and from Wickham St Paul. Planting proposals are set out in the LEMP (application document 7.8). Further planting is also proposed as part of the BNG proposals to the west of the site. Further details can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
H43	Issue that screening will not be established immediately as it will take time for trees to mature and provide visual screening of the GSP substation site.				X	The GSP substation is positioned between two areas of existing woodland (Waldegrave and Butler's Wood) which will provide existing screening for the site. National Grid has also made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These will be planted to help screen the GSP substation in views from the road and from Wickham St Paul. However, National Grid does acknowledge that there is time taken for vegetation to mature in order to provide the screening.	N
H44	Proposed screening to the east of the site will be ineffective due to the proximity of overhead lines limiting the height of screening vegetation and the large visibility splay clearances required for the vehicle access point.				X	The hedgerow reinforcement and planting along the A131 will need to meet safety standards for both electrical clearances from the existing overhead line and in terms of visibility splays required for safety by the RHAs. However, National Grid consider the additional planting and low bunding proposed will be effective in screening the site. No design change was immediately introduced, although the LoD at the GSP site were later adjusted and landscape mounding introduced, to allow a design that is set back further from the A131 and is screened from views from the east.	Y
H45	Use a mix of deciduous trees, backed with evergreen conifer planting to ensure the GSP	X				Proposed species mixes are set out within the LEMP (application document 7.8). These include native species of local provenance in accordance with ecological	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	substation is screened year-round.					objectives for the area. The final species mixes will be agreed with the LPAs as part of the final landscaping plans.	

Section X: Non-Location Specific

Table 7.8 – Summary of Statutory Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Non-Location Specific)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Access to Properties							
X1	Request some notice is given if anyone needs to come on site, so that the horses can be brought inside to allow access.			X		National Grid will continue to engage with landowners through the design and construction works, which will include communicating activities that are due to take place on their land with sufficient notice that arrangements can be put in place for moving livestock.	N
X2	The applicant should demonstrate how emergency service access (fire, police, ambulance) has been considered in the proposals and how impacts on these have been identified and will be mitigated.		X	X		National Grid has held discussions with the emergency services as part of the routeing of the abnormal indivisible loads, which have informed the proposed routeing. The CTMP (application document 7.6) includes measures to reduce disruption to the local road network and the emergency services that use these.	N
Affected Landowner							
X3	Landowner has a 24-inch gas main and 440v line crossing their land - have informed National Grid of this previously but have never received a reply to their concerns.			X		National Grid thanks the landowner for the information. National Grid has obtained the service records from the relevant statutory undertakers for utilities such as gas and electricity and has considered the locations of these as part of the designs. National Grid has also consulted statutory undertakers as part of the protective provisions discussion on the project and whether any diversions are necessary.	N
Agricultural Land							
X4	Where underground cabling is proposed, will there be an increase in ground temperature around cables,			X	X	Underground cables are larger than overhead conductors, which is to reduce the electrical resistance and therefore the amount of heat produced. Furthermore, special insulation is used to maintain the cable rating. Substantial engineering	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	with the potential to affect agricultural land or habitats?					measures are taken to reduce as much as possible the loss of heat energy from buried cables. Underground cables are designed to be positioned below plough depth (a minimum of 900mm deep from ground level to the top of the protective tiles installed immediately above the underground cables). Crops can be farmed over the top of the cables, so there should be no effect to cultivation or use of the land above for crop or livestock holding.	
X5	The proposals will be taking away valuable agricultural land / disrupt farming operations.	X		X	X	National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be directly affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be established. The ES assesses the effects on agriculture and soil in ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11).	N
X6	Project should be suspended while the conflict in Ukraine continues - it will lead to a loss of arable farmland used for food production, which will interfere with supplies. This area is the <i>'breadbasket of England'</i> .			X		National Grid appreciates the wider context of geopolitics. National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed to limit disruption where practicable. Once construction is complete and the land reinstated, farming activities will be able to continue beneath overhead lines (as demonstrated by the land use below the existing 400kV overhead lines) and over the underground cables. There will be a small amount of productive land lost as a result of the permanent infrastructure i.e., the GSP substation and CSE compounds, however this needs to be balanced with the project need which will help the UK with British Energy Security Strategy <i>'Security of Supply'</i> – with more electricity delivered from self-sufficient sources, less volatile to global forces. It should be noted that the proposed reinforcement is needed in all future energy scenarios set out within the NOA 2022.	N
X7	Loss of farmland used for food production will mean more imports, which is worse for the environment (i.e., transportation emissions).			X		National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. Once construction is complete and the land reinstated, farming activities will be able to continue beneath overhead lines (as demonstrated by the land use below the existing 400kV overhead lines) and over the underground cables.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						There will be a small amount of productive land lost as a result of the permanent infrastructure i.e., the GSP substation and CSE compounds, however this needs to be balanced with the project need which will help the UK with British Energy Security Strategy 'Security of Supply' and with helping the UK to meet its Net Zero target to reduce carbon emissions.	
Community / Social Impact							
X8	Concerned about impact of proposed route on children / families / residents.	X	X	X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p> <p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in the Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>	N
X9	Please control costs as these impact on customers' energy				X	National Grid is funded by a price control mechanism which is agreed with and set by Ofgem. National Grid pays up front the many millions of pounds it costs to build a	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	bills / concerned about high energy prices.					new power transmission line. The cost is then gradually passed to customers through their electricity bills. The cost of developing projects including the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is therefore ultimately passed to the bill paying consumers of electricity. Amongst National Grid's duties and obligations is the requirement to be economic and efficient, keeping costs down in the interests of consumers. Therefore, while the costs of projects are passed on to consumers, National Grid must strike the right balance and ensure that the costs to consumers are managed. National Grid is regulated by Ofgem, a non-ministerial Government department and an independent National Regulatory Authority, whose role is to protect consumers through delivering a greener, fairer, energy system.	
X10	Increased risk of crime during construction.				X	National Grid will secure the working areas during construction and further information is contained in the CEMP (application document 7.5). This will include, where appropriate, fencing the working area and providing security.	N
X11	Some people will find themselves surrounded by pylons - both the existing and new lines.			X	X	National Grid undertook a number of studies and consultation as part of deciding on the best route for the project. National Grid's proposals largely follow the 132kV overhead line (which would be removed as part of the project). This would reduce the magnitude of change in the landscape and allow the new overhead line to largely parallel the existing 400kV overhead to further reduce the effect. However, there are some locations such as to the west of Bramford Substation, where a small number of properties will lie between the two overhead lines, due to existing site constraints preventing the proposed new line be routed on the same side as the existing one.	N
X12	The Green Infrastructure (GI) documentation needs to demonstrate how the GI has been designed to provide recreational facilities for different user and age groups.		X	X		One consultation response was received from Essex County Council advising that the project's overall GI strategy should align with the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020) and the Essex Green Infrastructure Standards (2021). Having regard to these documents, the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4) outlines how National Grid are seeking to deliver a 10% BNG across the project and also wider gains such as to recreational users. While the project is broadly compliant with Essex's strategies mentioned, such documents carry less weight in the assessment as they are not development plan documents (DPDs) and, in any event, as the project is an NSIP, policy assessment should be undertaken primarily in the context of the relevant NPS.	N
X13	Commitment needed to employment and skills principles for all developments in order to maximise benefits and opportunities for		X	X		Drawing from experience from other National Grid projects, it is likely that approximately 10% of the workforce could be secured from the local labour market. Furthermore, National Grid promotes the use of local supply and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the main contractors. In addition, National Grid also	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	residents. A statement / Employment and Skills Plan, and a Memorandum of Understanding should be provided, setting out commitment to providing Employment and Skills to local residents (including a financial contribution).					works with schools and local authorities to encourage the next generation of engineers and help the long term unemployed to develop new skills. The Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1) submitted to PINs in May 2021, concluded that the project was unlikely to have significant effects on employment and skills and these were scoped out from being required as standalone topics in the ES. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid has provided information regarding skills and employment within the Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9).	
Construction Impacts							
X14	Need to mitigate the impacts of construction and minimise disruption (including noise, dust and visual impacts).	X	X	X	X	National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable. The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities. The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities. The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.	N
X15	Concerned about loss of land during construction.			X	X	National Grid will need to use land for construction purposes for a temporary period which will then be reinstated. The nature of the project itself means that very little land would be required on a permanent basis.	N
X16	Concerned about the potential to encounter ecological constraints during the construction phase.	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to understand the existing conditions, and to understand where ecological constraints are located. The iterative design process sought to avoid areas of highest concern, for examples through changes to the route alignment or changes to the method e.g. trenchless crossings.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						The LEMP (application document 7.8) and the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contain a list of relevant good practice measures to avoid or reduce risks to habitats and species. In addition, the LoD allow for some flexibility during design and construction to further avoid ecological constraints that may be identified later in the project.	
X17	There are many other access points along the A1071 that would not impact on the residents on the road. The location is close to a property.				X	National Grid is aware that respondents have expressed concerns about the temporary access route and access points onto the A1071. Following these comments, National Grid undertook a backcheck of access points onto the A1071, this resulted in a confirmation that this access would be needed therefore the Order Limits still include this access point.	N
X18	Concerned about impact of overnight working.		X	X	X	Construction working hours will be dependent on the nature of the construction activity as well as the location of the specific work being carried out, being sensitive to the circumstances and seeking to avoid or reduce disturbance and effects. The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours. There are only anticipated to be a small number of limited instances where overnight working would be required. The ES contains an assessment of effects based upon those permitted hours of working, and the CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out details of the measures proposed to reduce disturbance to people and local communities during construction. It also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.	N
X19	Concerned about the potential for weather damage during construction.				X	The overhead line designs which are employed in England and Wales remain generally robust in the worst weather conditions. They are also comparatively easy and cost-effective to repair and maintain. National Grid will ensure that its contractor is aware of adverse weather conditions which may affect construction, with remedial action taken as necessary.	N
X20	The hours of construction are for 12 hours a day Monday - Friday and then for 10 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays. It is noted that drilling is the noisiest of the undergrounding mechanisms. Sound travels far down the				X	The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours. ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) assesses the effects of noise on nearby receptors. National Grid has identified the hours that it requires within the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1) for delivering the construction programme as efficiently and quickly as possible. The working hours mean that the project is anticipated to be constructed over a 4-year programme. Shortening the working hours would	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	valley. Can the Sunday working be compressed to finish at 4pm and give residents some respite from noise pollution?					potentially extend the working programme and put at risk the delivery of the project by 2028. Good practice measures will be in place to reduce noise pollution during working hours, and these are set out within the CEMP (application document 7.5).	
X21	The project will affect many private and business properties where equines are accommodated. The welfare of these horses during works will also need to be considered, and thus such properties highlighted at an early stage in project planning.				X	National Grid concurs that the welfare of the horses is an important consideration. National Grid and its contractors are working closely with affected landowners to understand any specific concerns or requirements as part of seeking to limit disruption, and where unavoidable giving as early warning as possible of any anticipated impacts.	N
X22	Need to consider the impact on sequestered carbon during construction of the scheme / consider greenhouse gas emissions.			X	X	National Grid notes these comments. As the project is not proposing to significantly change land use (other than at the limited areas of operational land at the GSP substation and the CSE compounds), there is unlikely to be a long-term effect on sequestered carbon. The good practice measures in the CEMP (application document 7.5) mean that soil quality and structure will be maintained during construction. This means when soil and vegetation is reinstated there are no significant effects on sequestered carbon anticipated. Further details on soil functions can be found in ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11).	N
X23	Need to consider the impact of the potential workforce required and where they will be accommodated (overnight stays etc.) during the phases of the construction period.		X	X		As the project is about constructing a high voltage overhead line, National Grid needs to employ suitably qualified contractors to implement the project in the main. Drawing from experience from other National Grid projects, it is likely that approximately 10% of the workforce could be secured from the local labour market. The remaining 90% would come from outside of the area and it is assumed that they would be based in local accommodation such as hotels and rental accommodation. The Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9) demonstrates that there is sufficient bed space available locally to support the numbers of workers anticipated on the project (up to 350 at peak).	N
X24	If works are likely to be of long duration, and/or continue into the late evening or night-time hours (23:00 to 07:00) an		X	X		The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	application for a Control of Pollution Act 1961 – Section 61 prior consent for noisy works should be made and the local authority should be notified.					The CEMP (application document 7.5) includes a section on reducing noise effects, especially those at night and includes a commitment to undertake Section 61 applications where required during construction. The relevant local authority and local residents will also be kept informed of the need for any requirements for late evening or night-time working.	
X25	An appropriately scoped, high-level mineral resource assessment needs to be carried out, in order to assess the <i>'Restriction of access to mineral reserves'</i> and take <i>'into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place'</i> as requested through the ES by PINs and NPS ENV-1 respectively.		X	X		The Minerals Resource Assessment can be found in ES Appendix 10.3 (application document 6.3.10.3). This outlines why National Grid does not think that the project restricts mineral reserves in accordance with the NPS and local policy.	N
X26	Essex County Council would like to see the drainage plan for the GSP substation and its compliance with Essex SuDS design guide as part of this separate planning application. Where the DCO application seeks approval without GSP substation planning application Essex County Council would ask to submit a detailed drainage strategy to cover surface water management from this section of the development.		X	X		The GSP substation will be designed in line with the commitments to the Essex SuDS design guide as described in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) which contains a list of relevant good practice measures relating to drainage and surface water management. The CoCP (application document 7.5.1) forms part of the CEMP (application document 7.5) and compliance with this is secured by requirement.	N
X27	Would be useful to know further details in relation to the		X	X		The Greenhouse Gas Assessment for the project is presented in ES Appendix 4.2 (application document 6.3.4.2). The appendix outlines the methodology used and the results of the assessment.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	lifecycle carbon footprint of the scheme.						
X28	Consider potential impact on protected lanes as a result of widening or other modifications to permit use by construction traffic.	X				Protected lanes are considered within ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8). Some of the protected lanes are crossed by the Order Limits and others will have increased traffic along them during construction. However, once construction is complete any temporary works will be removed, and the protected lane reinstated. A temporary haul road has been introduced to the project design, which would remove some of the construction traffic from the local road network to the west of the proposed project area.	Y
X29	Need information regarding the size and location of construction laydown / compound areas and their operating hours.	X				Details of the possible size and location of construction laydown and compound areas are included indicatively on the General Arrangement Plans (application document 2.10) which have been submitted as part of the DCO application. The Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1) specifies the permitted working hours.	N
X30	Careful consideration is needed of the risks of potential soil contamination and the presence of underground gases.	X				ES Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology (application document 6.2.10) presents the assessment undertaken regarding the risks of contaminated land. The risk is generally considered to be low on the project and good practice measures to reduce risks from contamination are outlined in the CEMP (application document 7.5).	N
X31	Where diversions of gas apparatus to facilitate the scheme are needed, the statutory undertaker would require adequate notice - please note that high pressure apparatus diversions may take two years to plan.	X				The comment is noted. The project design has sought to take account of third-party gas assets including through dialogue with the undertakers.	N
X32	The statutory undertaker requires that a C4/conceptual design study has been carried out (as minimum) to establish appropriate diversion routes,	X				National Grid is aware of the requirements and will adhere to these.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	prior to any application being made.						
X33	Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of gas supply apparatus, the statutory undertaker will require appropriate protection for retained apparatus and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. Operations within the statutory undertakers existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and will necessitate a Deed of Consent being put in place. Any proposals for work in the vicinity of existing apparatus will require approval by Plant Protection under the Protective Provisions and early discussions are advised.	X				National Grid is aware of the requirements. National Grid intends to include protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers in Schedule 14 of the DCO.	N
X34	The applicant should be aware of pipeline safety issues, including: HSEs ' <i>Avoiding Danger from Underground Services</i> ' - Ensuring that pipelines remain accessible during and after works; - Confirm actual depth and position under supervision - ground cover above pipelines should not be reduced or	X				National Grid is aware of the requirements and will adhere to these.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	increased; and - Any excavations within 3m of High-pressure pipeline or 10m of above ground installation (AGI) should be established on site with a representative from the statutory undertaker.						
X35	There are a number of considerations where new services cross pipelines which should be followed.	X				National Grid is aware of the requirements and will adhere to these.	N
Construction Noise							
X36	Do the CSE compounds emit noise when operating? If so, they should be located away from residential properties.				X	The CSE compounds would not generate significant noise outside the compound perimeter. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).	N
Construction Traffic							
X37	Concerned about potential safety issues for road users resulting from construction traffic using narrow lanes / protected lanes.	X	X	X	X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and will be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.	N
X38	Concerned about potential road closures and disruption due to construction activities, resulting in a negative impact on access to services.		X	X	X	National Grid is committed to delivering the project safely and in some cases, this will involve closing roads or implementing traffic management to keep road users safe. Impacts on the road network will be discussed with the RHAs. The CTMP (application document 7.6) provides further details on the good practice measures proposed to reduce impacts and disruption on the local road network. Traffic management will be delivered in accordance with the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1) and the accompanying plans confirm which roads would be affected, as shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X39	Support use of haul roads as part of the scheme construction.	X	X	X	X	National Grid is proposing the use of temporary access routes where appropriate, to allow construction traffic to deliver the development of the project.	N
X40	Consider the impact of increased traffic for construction and maintenance on nearby rail infrastructure (e.g., the private level crossing at Lamarsh School Lane). Traffic management and asset protection plans are needed to mitigate these impacts and engagement with Network Rail is needed to protect infrastructure and future rail operations.	X				National Grid is and will continue to have discussions with Network Rail to protect its railway assets and operations. Further details can be found in the SoCG with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (application document 7.3.8).	N
X41	DCO Management Plans should be provided as part of the scheme, detailing how construction traffic access should be managed through robust evidence-based measures (i.e., CTMP, CWTP, AMP and an updated version of the CoCP) protecting vulnerable and non-motorised users.		X	X		<p>National Grid has prepared a suite of management plans as part of the application for development consent. These include the CEMP (application document 7.5) supported by the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), the CTMP (application document 5.7), a Materials and Waste Management Plan (MWMP) (application document 7.7) and a LEMP (application document 7.8).</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 5.7) includes the good practice measures to reduce the effects of the project on the local road network and its users. It also contains measures to encourage car sharing and other measures that are sometimes separated out into a separate construction worker traffic plan.</p> <p>During construction, National Grid will provide clear signage to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed route and stays within the speed limit for construction traffic. National Grid emphasises to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas that are worked in.</p>	N
X42	The applicant needs to confirm that the data providing the estimated number of vehicles includes peaks such as construction / removal of haul roads or concentrated		X	X		National Grid notes these comments and can confirm that construction traffic forecasts reflect the estimated peaks of construction and associated activities and that all traffic assessments include these numbers. Further details on the traffic assumptions can be found within ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	activities, such as large concrete pours.						
X43	Detailed requests regarding CTMP, Traffic Surveys, Transport Assessment and Construction Worker Travel Plan.		X	X		National Grid undertook baseline traffic surveys as part of the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7). The types of surveys and the locations of these followed standard guidance set out by the Department for Transport (DfT) and was agreed in advance with the Local Highway Authorities. National Grid has also produced CTMP (application document 7.6) which has been shared in draft form with the Local Highway Authorities. The CTMP (application document 5.7) includes the good practice measures to reduce the effects of the project on the local road network and its users. It also contains measures to encourage car sharing and other measures that are sometimes separated out into a separate construction worker traffic plan.	N
X44	Pipeline crossings should only be crossed by construction traffic at agreed locations and there should be a review of crossing points, by ground type, crossing frequency and vehicle type.	X				National Grid is aware of the requirements and will adhere to these.	N
Consultation							
X45	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcome the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
X46	Criticism of consultation questionnaire / questions are misleading.				X	In addition to the questionnaire, National Grid provided alternative means of communication to submit comments (letter and email) plus the option to append further sheets to the feedback form. Questions were designed to encourage responses and included options for freeform comment as well as gauging a percentage figure through closed responses.	N
X47	Proposals don't reflect consultation held so far (e.g., changes haven't been made based on feedback).	X		X	X	Statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC, which itself was subject to extensive consultation with the host LPAs and prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements pursuant to the PA 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 as well as other relevant guidance.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>The material published for statutory consultation was based on the information available at that time and was of sufficient detail to enable informed feedback to be provided on the emerging scheme proposals. National Grid had regard to all such feedback as part of the continuing development of the scheme up to the time of submitting the DCO application.</p> <p>All views expressed in response to the statutory consultation (and indeed all other consultation and engagement activities undertaken by National Grid as part of the development of the project proposals) have been considered and taken into account as set out in this chapter of the report.</p> <p>Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley.</p> <p>There will also be further opportunities for consultees, stakeholders and other members of the public to make representations as part of the DCO examination.</p>	
X48	Need further information / clearer information on the scheme and its impacts are needed / improved clear mapping.	X	X	X	X	<p>National Grid provided a suite of materials for statutory consultation including a PEI Report, describing the likely significant effects associated with the project. An interactive map was available on the website and the project team were available via email or telephone to answer any questions.</p> <p>The ES includes assessments that present the likely significant effects of the project on the environment, as well as measures proposed to mitigate the effects. The application also includes a suite of plans including Location, Lands, Special Category and Work Plans (application documents 2.2 - 2.5) a guide to plans will also be submitted (application document 2.1).</p>	N
X49	Criticism of consultation process / being misled about the scheme / don't trust it will make a difference / criticism of the scheme.	X	X	X	X	<p>Statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC which itself was subject to extensive consultation with the host LPAs and prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements pursuant to the PA 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 as well as other relevant guidance.</p> <p>The material published for statutory consultation was based on the information available at that time and was of sufficient detail to enable informed feedback to be provided on the emerging scheme proposals. National Grid had regard to all such feedback as part of the continuing development of the scheme up to the time of submitting the DCO application.</p> <p>All views expressed in response to the statutory consultation (and indeed all other consultation and engagement activities undertaken by National Grid as part of the</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>development of the project proposals) have been considered and taken into account as set out in this chapter of the report.</p> <p>Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley.</p> <p>There will also be further opportunities for consultees, stakeholders and other members of the public to make representations as part of the DCO examination.</p>	
X50	Consultation did not consider the potential for solar farms being developed in the area.		X		X	The needs case for the project is driven by the need for network reinforcement, to bring low carbon electricity from where it is generated to homes and businesses. Should any separate applications be brought forward by developers in the future, be these for solar farms or anything else, these would be considered on their own merit by the appropriate determining authority.	N
X51	Ensure that feedback is listened to / consider objections via direct engagement with people affected.	X	X	X	X	This Consultation Report provides details of the pre-application consultation, engagement and publicity that National Grid undertook. It sets out how the project has evolved in response to feedback received during the pre-application consultation (non statutory, statutory and targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022). All feedback from the consultations has been taken into consideration during the development of the scheme, with all three consultations setting out responses received and National Grid's regard to those responses. Where changes have been made these are also identified in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of this report.	N
X52	Can't consider previous proposals as didn't receive documents from previous consultation / cannot access these.			X	X	<p>In accordance with requirements of the PA 2008 and informed by inputs from key stakeholders on the engagement methods used, National Grid undertook multi-stage pre-application consultations, allowing consultees several opportunities to provide feedback as the proposals evolved</p> <p>Information regarding the previous consultations is available on the project website in the document library. Details of how to contact the project team can also be found on the project website.</p> <p>A period of non statutory consultation was held for six weeks, between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. That consultation re-introduced the project, explained how National Grid had reviewed the previous proposals, and sought the views of the public and stakeholders.</p> <p>Statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 and provided the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>see how the project has evolved since the non statutory consultation, and comment on further detailed engineering design and environmental assessment work.</p> <p>Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley.</p> <p>Should the application for the DCO be accepted by PINs, there is an opportunity to continue to be involved in the planning process by registering as an Interested Party through the PIN's website project page. https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/bramford-to-twinstead/</p>	
X53	Criticism of consultation timing - not enough time to consider plans / no face-to-face meetings until late in the process.	X		X	X	<p>The consultation was carried out in full compliance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. This also followed the initial non statutory consultation in 2021, meaning that initial plans were already shared with the public. The non statutory consultation period ran from 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021 to provide a sufficient period of time for responses. This was in excess of the 28-day minimum consultation period required by Regulation 4(3) of Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (APFP Regulations).</p> <p>Before undertaking statutory consultation, National Grid engaged extensively with local authorities on the development of the SoCC, which is the process that guides statutory consultation. This process is detailed in Chapter 5 of this report. However, in summary National Grid responded to feedback received on the methodology for consultation and as a result, National Grid changed the timing and length of the consultation.</p> <p>National Grid intended to host a fully face-to-face consultation. However, in response to the rising numbers of Covid-19 cases as a result of the Omicron variant and the Government's Plan B restrictions, to protect the safety of staff and members of the public, National Grid pivoted to a digital first consultation. This decision was taken in consultation with LPAs. As soon as Government guidance was updated and it became safe to host face-to-face events, these were reinstated.</p> <p>The below sets out the actions undertaken during statutory consultation between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage (providing access to plans, visualisations, and technical documents (e.g., the PEI Report); • Project webinars (10 held between 31 January 2022 and 24 February 2022, including with BSL interpreter); 	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Ask the experts' sessions (10 held between 1 February 2022 and 18 March 2022); • Deposit locations displaying hard copy consultation materials: Hadleigh Library / Sible Hedingham Library / Sudbury Library; • S47 notices placed in these newspapers: East Anglian Daily Times on 21 January 2022 and Colchester Gazette on 18 January 2022; and • S48 notices placed in these newspapers: East Anglian Daily Times on 21 and 27 January 2022, Colchester Gazette on 18 and 25 January 2022, The Guardian, and The London Gazette on 25 January 2022. <p>Following the Government's announcement on 19 January 2022 and subsequent removal of Plan B restrictions on 26 January 2022, National Grid held six face-to-face events (four public events and two appointment only events) from the 24 February 2022, in addition to the scheduled digital events.</p> <p>Further to this, a freephone telephone number and email address were provided for interested parties to raise queries or request additional information or clarifications.</p> <p>Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley.</p>	
X54	Too much time / cost being spent on this in meetings / legalities - will add to scheme costs.				X	National Grid notes this comment. The project is a NSIP which requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) via a DCO process. This means that the application must demonstrate that adequate consultation has been undertaken. This process ensures that there is sufficient opportunity from pre-application engagement through undertaking various rounds of consultation. At each stage, all feedback has been taken into consideration to develop the design to achieve a better outcome.	N
X55	Consultation did not consider the cumulative effect of other projects being delivered in the area (e.g., East Anglia GREEN).	X	X	X	X	National Grid's East Anglia GREEN is a separate DCO project from the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. However, East Anglia GREEN was included within the CEA presented in the PEI Report at the statutory consultation. It is also included in the updated CEA presented in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15).	N
X56	Criticism of visualisations used in the consultation materials - shows summer foliage which minimises the impact of the infrastructure.				X	National Grid is aware that only summer photomontages were available during the statutory consultation. This was due to the timing of the statutory consultation which did not allow time for winter photographs to be taken to produce the photomontages in time. Summer and winter Photomontages (application document 5.8) have been included within the application for development consent.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X57	Insufficient space available in feedback forms to provide meaningful feedback to the consultation.				X	It should be noted that the feedback form stated that <i>'If you need additional space please use extra paper, clearly marking which question you are responding to'</i> . As such, there was an option to leave further comments, should the respondent wish to do so.	N
X58	Query over the reliability and accuracy of the traffic data collection and modelling, with this being based on 2013 data.		X	X		National Grid undertook up to date baseline traffic surveys during spring and autumn 2022 and this data has been used for the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) and the assessment presented in ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12).	N
X59	Detailed comments provided to the Preliminary Environmental Report (PIER).	X		X		National Grid is grateful for the feedback and has considered the advice when developing the application for development consent. Further details can be found in the SoCG with the EA (application document 7.3.4).	N
X60	Would like to be kept up to date on the scheme please.	X	X	X	X	The respondents that have requested to be kept informed of the project have been logged. It should be noted that where respondents have provided feedback anonymously, this will not be possible. However, National Grid have a project website which includes updates and any further information on the project development.	N
DCO Process							
X61	This application should be considered alongside the Tilbury route due April 2022 which again will significantly impact on the landscape and environment of the SLA.				X	National Grid is consulting on the East Anglia GREEN proposal (from Tilbury) separately from the Bramford to Twinstead corridor, which is subject to a separate DCO application and on different timescales. However, the timing of the Bramford to Twinstead consultation was timed to be alongside the launch of East Anglia GREEN to provide high level information about that project alongside the Bramford to Twinstead proposals. East Anglia GREEN is considered within ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15), which presents the output of the effects of both projects combined on the landscape and environment.	N
Design Change							
X62	Suggest greater use of underground cables (no location given).	X	X	X	X	As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The project proposes underground cable within the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere along the route, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers,	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						and the environmental implications of installing underground cables and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient.	
X63	Suggest underground cables should be used on the entire proposed route / the whole scheme should be undergrounded.	X	X	X	X	Please see response to X62 for National Grid's response to this matter.	N
X64	Suggest routeing the cables offshore out at sea / should consider routeing the power cables undersea.	X		X	X	Offshore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) projects are typically very costly and unlikely to deliver the same level of network capability when compared with equivalent onshore projects, so the benefits and costs of these types of projects needs to be weighed up against the impacts of onshore construction. More generally, the Government is currently conducting an Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), examining how power from offshore generation and interconnectors can come onshore in a more coordinated way.	N
X65	All existing overground pylons should be removed / existing lines should be sited underground.			X	X	The needs case and funding for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to work on existing overhead lines (other than where this is required to facilitate the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement). Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed through the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line will be put underground (although approximately 25km of existing 132kV line and 2.5km of existing 400kV line will be removed). This is because undergrounding existing lines is not required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed new line, and therefore the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified. Although National Grid has a VIP project, which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative and does not apply to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.	N
X66	Please ensure that PRowS / footpaths are kept open alongside access tracks during construction.			X	X	All designated PRowS affected along with proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7) and any potential temporary closures applied for/detailed in the DCO. All designated PRowS crossing the working area will be managed with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions will be	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns.	
X67	You are burying all of the Viking Link converter in Lincolnshire. Burying the cabling from Bramford to Twinstead is child's play in comparison.				X	<p>The statutory duties that influence how National Grid develops the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement do not apply in the same way to the Viking Link, which is being developed within a different commercial environment.</p> <p>The engineering characteristics of Viking Link are also substantially different. The onshore element of Viking Link comprises a continuation of the direct current (DC) undersea cable from Denmark, with different cost and engineering implications to alternating current (AC) electric lines (such as the Bramford to Twinstead project).</p>	N
X68	If both 400kV lines were placed underground, then presumably both could be in one trench?				X	National Grid has to balance its duties and responsibilities. That includes balancing the need to be economic and efficient and keep costs down, with a duty to preserve amenity. Underground cables are larger than overhead conductors and need to be separated further apart to reduce the electrical resistance and therefore the amount of heat produced (i.e., a greater overall footprint). Due to the separation distances between the cables to allow heat to dissipate two 400kV underground electric lines could not be buried in a single trench.	N
X69	Suggest upgrading the existing lines instead, as this would be more cost effective.				X	<p>Before building any new electricity lines, National Grid look first and foremost at whether they can deliver more capability by upgrading the existing network. National Grid have already upgraded the existing 400kV lines between Bramford and Twinstead to carry more electricity and will continue this work on the transmission network to Rayleigh. National Grid will also be upgrading the lines between Pelham and Twinstead and Twinstead to Tilbury via Braintree and Rayleigh, and between Norwich and Bramford. National Grid will also be increasing the voltage of the electricity line running from Waltham Cross south into London to carry more electricity into the capital by that route. In addition, National Grid will be installing new power control devices at Burwell, Pelham and Rye House to move more electricity to where it's needed via that route. These improvements will increase the transfer capability of the transmission network here in East Anglia from 3.5GW to just under 6GW, but that still doesn't deliver the network capability that is needed in the region by the end of this decade.</p> <p>Placing uprated power cabling (400kV as opposed to 132kV) would not work due to the different heights and sizes of the pylons. To carry a 400kV rating, the pylons would need to be larger (approximately 54m high as opposed to 28m high for the 132kV system) this is to allow for sufficient clearance. Therefore, this option is not feasible from an engineering perspective. However, National Grid has designed the</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						project so that the 400kV overhead line route follows a similar path to that of the 132kV overhead line. As such, this will reduce the scale of change in the landscape.	
X70	Underground cabling should use tunnelling (HDD) construction rather than open trenches (cut and cover).	X	X	X	X	<p>The application for development consent describes where commitments have been made for trenchless crossings. Trenchless crossings are only suitable over short distances, as the longer the crossing, the deeper and more spread out (greater footprint) the cables need to be. Trenchless crossings also have different impacts compared to open cut methods, for example they take longer to construct and are more expensive. They can result in different effects such as noise and vibration and risks to groundwater.</p> <p>The ES has assumed HDD, as this is a common technique used for this type of project. However, National Grid is not seeking consent for a specific technique, as it intends to use the most suitable method based on factors such as the local geological conditions and sensitive features.</p>	N
X71	Trenching should be a second preference to boring				X	<p>National Grid notes this response. The ES has assumed HDD, as this is a common technique used for this type of project. However, National Grid is not seeking consent for a specific technique, as it intends to use the most suitable method based on factors such as the local geological conditions and sensitive features.</p> <p>The choice will be dependent on the required depth of cables, length and site conditions such as geology. Whichever technique is chosen, construction would be undertaken in accordance with the good practice measures in the CEMP (application document 7.5) which would reduce risk of pollution or other environmental effects that could occur.</p> <p>With regard to underground cabling, National Grid undertook surveys of the local geology and has spoken with landowners regarding the proposed undergrounding. Where geological constraints have been identified, these have been considered by National Grid in the proposed engineering design. The proposed undergrounding methodology comprises cables pulled through ducts laid in open-cut trenches, alongside trenchless sections which will be delivered via a technique such as HDD.</p>	N
X72	Proposed scheme should use 'superconducting cable' technology.				X	<p>At present superconductor technology remains in its infancy and has only been trialled in a limited number of circumstances globally. It is not at a level where it can provide the capacity, voltage level or distance required by this project. While National Grid is monitoring how this technology develops in the future, for the moment it is not a deployable technology that could be considered for any current projects. Alternative technologies are addressed in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X73	Proposed scheme should use T-pylon / modern pylon technology.			X	X	National Grid had considered alternative designs for the pylons, include the new monopole 'T-pylon' which is being used on the Hinkley Connection Project, and lower-height lattice pylons, which are bulkier versions of the regular lattice designs. National Grid has decided that as the new pylons would run alongside and parallel to the existing 400kV overhead line, that standard lattice pylons (to match existing) would be more suitable within this landscape. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).	N
X74	Consider establishing wetland habitat as part of plans for BNG.				X	National Grid undertook baseline surveys to inform the type of habitats that are provided at the environmental areas. The designs are based on what is appropriate given the local landscape character and the habitats that would develop based on site conditions. The proposals for each environmental area are set out within the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
X75	Undergrounding cables isn't necessary / happy for both existing line and new line to be built above ground.				X	The extent of undergrounding is proposed following careful consideration of the feedback received during earlier consultations, the alternatives available and other factors which need to be taken into account, including National Grid's duties and obligations. That includes balancing the need to be economic and efficient and a duty to have regard to preserving amenity, which includes the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality.	N
X76	Replace the existing 132kV powerline with a 400kV one along its whole length.				X	The proposed 400kV route follows the same route as the 132kV overhead line where practicable. However, there is some deviation from the 132kV route where necessary for clearance, topographical reasons and to avoid environmental constraints.	N
Design Question							
X77	There is no mention of any further potential lines. With the increase in wind farms is there a chance of further lines being required. Can you confirm that no further lines be it overhead or underground will be required - especially not a third line from Bramford to Twinstead.	X		X	X	National Grid is seeking consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. The NOA 2022 identifies other projects that are anticipated within the region that are required to meet future electricity demand and distribution needs. These would be progressed under separate applications as appropriate. ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) assesses the effects of the project in combination with other known development. National Grid is in the process of carrying out routeing and siting assessments and consultation with stakeholders on other projects in East Anglia identified in NOA 2022. The ongoing optioneering work for projects such as East Anglia GREEN, does not currently indicate a tripling of the Bramford to Twinstead route.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X78	<p>What is the financial impact of the proposals to build the substation at Wickham St Paul on the following aspects?</p> <p>A) Local tourism; and B) Local agriculture.</p>			X		<p>The GSP substation close to Wickham St Paul is to be located in between two existing areas of woodland (Waldegrave Wood and Butler's Wood). It will occupy a field which already includes a 400kV overhead line. Other than the loss of this field, which is a matter for agreement with the landowner, the screening of the GSP substation by the two existing woods, together with two earth bunds (east and west) and associated planting would reduce the visibility of the site from elsewhere so that there is unlikely to be any effect on tourism.</p> <p>The Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1) submitted to PINs in May 2021, concluded that the project was unlikely to have significant effects on tourism and it was scoped out from being required as a standalone topic in the ES. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid has provided information regarding tourism within the Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9).</p>	N
X79	<p>Have you been granted permission to remove the 132kV pylons, as these are under the authority of UKPN?</p>				X	<p>UKPN owns and operates the regional distribution network which makes up the 132kV and lower voltage wires and cables that take power from National Grid's substations and deliver it to homes and businesses in the region. As part of this reinforcement, National Grid has agreed with UKPN that it will remove the 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and the diamond crossing near Twinstead Tee. This is included within the application for development consent, which if granted would give National Grid the powers to remove this section of the 132kV overhead line.</p> <p>The stretch of existing 132kV overhead line between the diamond crossing and the GSP substation is not owned or controlled by National Grid. It is owned and operated by UKPN. The removal of this section of overhead line is not required for the route of the new 400kV overhead line and is not included within the application for development consent. Therefore, National Grid would not be granted powers to remove this section of overhead line.</p>	N
X80	<p>High pressure gas pipeline and medium pressure gas mains are within the red line boundary. Where diversions are necessary, adequate notices and consents will be required.</p>	X				<p>National Grid has been in dialogue with the utilities supplier in order to manage and mitigate risks associated with the hazard pipelines. The utility records have been considered as part of the design of the Order Limits. The relevant consents and approvals will be sought from the statutory undertakers prior to construction.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X81	Further clarity needed on what 'removal' of 132kV and 400kV powerlines means - is this just the powerline cables, or does it include the pylons themselves and their structures in entirety.	X				The overhead lines including the pylons and intervening conductors would be removed. Pylon bases will be excavated down to 1.5m.	N
Economic / Employment Impact							
X82	Consider opportunities to use local suppliers/ manufacturers as part of the development of the proposed schemes. Maximise opportunities for local businesses.		X	X	X	The construction of the proposed reinforcement will be a highly technical construction project and will require specialised contractors with the required expertise and experience, sourced via a competitive tender. However, drawing from experience from other National Grid projects, it is likely that approximately 10% of the workforce could be secured from the local labour market. Furthermore, National Grid promotes the use of local supply and SMEs through the main contractors.	N
Environmental Impact							
X83	Positive reaction to the removal of overground pylons / reduction in number of pylons is positive for the environment.				X	National Grid notes the response.	N
X84	Concerned about a negative impact on AONB and other key habitats / assessment of potential impacts on AONB is needed.	X	X	X	X	The application for development consent is supported by an EIA, which considers effects of the reinforcement on the AONB and habitats and has identified if further mitigation is required. The results of this assessment are presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
X85	Scheme will lead to an increased risk of flooding during construction.				X	The project is not expected to increase flood risk. Further details can be found in the Flood Risk Assessment (application document 5.5).	N
X86	Scheme will cause a negative impact on landscape / amenity.	X	X	X	X	National Grid has embedded a number of measures into the design that will reduce the effects of the project on landscape and amenity. These include undergrounding in the areas of highest sensitivity and value for landscape and amenity i.e., Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. It also includes removal of the 132kV	N

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						<p>overhead line so that in the main, the new 400kV overhead line can parallel the existing line to reduce the magnitude of change.</p> <p>ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) sets out the potential visual effect on landscape and views. Amenity is considered in part in a number of chapters and then drawn together in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15).</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on amenity during construction, including measures to reduce dust, noise and general disturbance.</p>	
X87	Support for the removal of the 132kV line / redundant 132kV pylons must be removed.	X	X	X	X	<p>UKPN owns and operates the regional distribution network which makes up the 132kV and lower voltage wires and cables that take power from National Grid's substations and deliver it to homes and businesses in the region. As part of this reinforcement, National Grid has agreed with UKPN that it will remove the 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and the diamond crossing near Twinstead Tee. The removal of the 132kV overhead line will allow the new 400kV overhead line to be aligned along this route for the most part.</p> <p>The stretch of existing 132kV overhead line between the diamond crossing and the GSP substation is not owned or controlled by National Grid. It is owned and operated by UKPN. The removal of this section of overhead line is not required for the route of the new 400kV overhead line.</p>	N
X88	Concerned about the impacts of digging through the AONB and the potential to need to dig again in the future for servicing underground lines.	X			X	<p>National Grid proposes to underground the project in Dedham Vale and parts of the Stour Valley. Where the sections of route are undergrounded, link pillar boxes will be provided to permit maintenance access to the underground cables. This therefore allows access to a section of cable and may avoid the need to dig up the route for future servicing.</p>	N
X89	The construction of pylons (whilst drilling foundations) is damaging to the environment.				X	<p>The construction of the pylons may require drilling to provide a stable foundation for the pylons. The impact of construction of the pylons, including impacts of piling (such as noise and vibration), are assessed within ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).</p>	N
X90	Protect grassland habitats should not be replaced with trees.		X	X	X	<p>National Grid has worked with ecologists and landscape architects to understand the baseline environment (e.g., where there are existing good quality habitats) and to identify areas of lower ecological value that would benefit from enhancement as part of National Grid's commitment to deliver 10% BNG. The designs have looked at building on the existing landscape character and proposed copses (in keeping with the current landscape) and where woodland planting is proposed, this is in areas</p>	N

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						where there was woodland historically. The proposals are set out within the LEMP (application document 7.8) and the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	
X91	Environmental matters need to be a top priority.	X		X	X	The Government and the Regulator (Ofgem) expect National Grid to find a balance when developing proposals, taking account of the duties set out in the Electricity Act 1989 to be efficient, coordinated and economical and to have regard to the desirability of preserving amenity. When looking at the costs of a new connection, National Grid is guided by the laws, policies and regulations that have been set by Government on behalf of electricity consumers and society. National Grid is required through those to balance affordability to the electricity bill payer with the impact of the proposals on the environment. It is for the Government, through the planning process, to judge whether the balance is right.	N
X92	When removing the 132kV line will all foundations be removed?			X		Pylon foundations are to be removed to a depth of approximately 1.5m below ground level.	N
X93	Further reference/ guidance documents need to be considered and used as part of the assessment. Dedham Vale AONB and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks (July 2016), Managing a Masterpiece Evaluation Report (Dec 2013), Valued Landscape Assessment Stour Valley Project Area (March 2020).		X	X		These documents have been considered when drafting the ES. Further details can be found in the guidance listed in ES Appendix 2.1 (application document 6.3.2.1).	N
X94	We note that the Government's biodiversity metric will be used and seek feedback on the evaluation process to deliver natural capital benefits – clarification on whether the project will be using National Grid's own evaluation process, or a		X	X		The biodiversity baseline was quantified during the EIA and design process using the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (DEFRA). This information has been used to calculate the loss in biodiversity units as a result of construction of the project, as well as the number of biodiversity units which are needed to achieve at least 10% BNG. Wider environmental benefits have been considered in a qualitative way. Further details can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N

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	similar metric would be helpful.						
X95	Concerned about the potential impact of drilling / scheme construction on local watercourses (rivers and streams). Further consideration needs to be given to the mitigation measures that will be used in respective instances. Detail is sought on the proposed crossing and mitigation and enhancement measures.	X		X		The CEMP (application document 7.5) describes the measures that would be used to reduce the risk of construction on watercourses. These measures include limiting the length of watercourse affected, avoiding refuelling near the watercourse and using a pipe and flume to maintain water flow and reduce risk of flooding upstream. The effects would be short term (during construction), and there would be no long-term effects once the channel and riparian habitat are reinstated.	N
X96	The relevant permits and licences will need to be in place for any dewatering and associated discharge for the trenching and excavations.	X				National Grid has been engaging and will continue to engage closely with the EA and other relevant bodies, with regards to any environmental licences, permits and other consents which are required for dewatering and the discharge of water into drains, public sewers and other watercourses. The Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1) includes powers in relation to the latter, exercisable only in certain circumstances and with the consent of the person to whom the drain, public sewer or watercourse belongs.	N
X97	Careful controls need to be put in place during the works in order to ensure that water quality isn't impacted by pollution / contamination. This includes changes to the water supply to sensitive wildlife sites and private residences.	X	X	X		The CEMP (application document 7.5) describes the measures that would be used to reduce the risk of pollution on watercourses and also groundwater sources. These measures include setting works back away from watercourses where practicable and refuelling machinery away from watercourses.	N
X98	Given the hydrological connectivity between these rivers the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, this impact pathway could have an LSE and therefore mitigation measures within the	X				National Grid has updated the HRA Report (application document 5.3) to include an AA in line with the advice about excluding mitigation measures at Stage 1 in the HRA process. This concludes that at Stage 2, with good practice measures in place, there would be no LSE on the SPA and Ramsar.	N

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	<p>CoCP and the CEMP are required. As such, the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) should proceed to the Appropriate Assessment (AA) stage. Alternatively, the applicant could further assess the 'likely significant effect' without mitigation to determine whether proceeding to the AA stage is required.</p> <p>We consider that should suitable mitigation measures of best practice be secured at the AA stage through both the CoCP and CEMP, we consider that based on the information provided to date that the proposal would be unlikely to result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question.</p>						
X99	Further information is required in order to determine the significance of the impacts on designated sites, and the scope for mitigation.	X				<p>Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The process of route design has taken into account of the local ecology and, where practicable, has sought to reduce impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, through avoidance or mitigation. An EIA has been undertaken to identify effects and mitigation, and National Grid has worked closely with the relevant statutory bodies.</p> <p>Designated sites are considered as part of the EIA, which assesses the effects on both designated and non-designated sites. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the results of the assessment and any mitigation required to offset likely significant effects on designated sites.</p>	N
X100	Consultee provided a detailed account of Local Planning	X				National Grid is grateful for the feedback and has considered the advice when developing the application for development consent. Legislation and policy and how	N

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	Policy and relevant Legislation Management Plans.					this has been addressed is covered within ES Appendix 2.1 (application document 6.3.2.1).	
X101	The applicant should assess any potential effects for each respective SSSI that could be impacted by the scheme, as part of a SSSI impact assessment for the proposed application.	X				Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The options appraisal sought to avoid designated sites where practicable. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) describes the effects on designated sites, including SSSI and the proposed mitigation.	N
X102	Appropriate mitigation should be secured to avoid impacts upon the European site(s) occurring there should be no additional impacts upon the SSSI interest features of these sites.	X				National Grid notes this and the HRA Report (application document 5.3) supports this conclusion.	N
X103	Within the underground section, the replacement planting of hedgerows above the cable will not be like-for-like as shallow rooting species will be required. Similarly, please note that the approach to allow the swathe from the haul road and cable trenches is not a like-for-like replacement. Further compensation may therefore be required beyond the baseline.	X	X			National Grid confirms that where the proposed cables would cross a hedgerow, it is generally assumed that the working area would be 60m to undertake the works. Construction would include removal of the hedgerow and the roots to allow excavation of the cable trenches and temporary access route. Once construction is complete, the hedgerow gap would be replanted with shallow rooting hedgerow species. The DEFRA Metric (3.1) recognises that reinstatement of the hedgerow would lead to a deficit in the calculation and therefore, additional planting is required to offset the effect. National Grid has also committed to reaching at least 10% BNG target.	N
X104	The draft Order Limits contain land parcels which form part of a live agri-environment scheme which is currently delivering benefits for nature,	X				National Grid confirms that consideration must and will be given to these issues depending on further detail and working alongside the relevant landowners on a case-by-case basis.	N

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	including the management of priority habitats. Consideration must therefore be given to any permanent and/or temporary impacts from the proposals on the scheme and implications for the agreement holder in terms of any necessary relocation of options, derogations, pay back of grant funding, scheme penalties etc.					Landowner discussions continue with regard to land affected by the route and National Grid will seek agreement through negotiation of terms and mitigate concerns raised, providing compensation as required.	
X105	Whilst a Preliminary Environmental Report has been provided, statutory consultation is taking place prior to completion of the LVIA and a landscape chapter in the ES. Therefore, the landscape and visual impacts of the proposals have not yet been fully assessed and therefore important information is still needed to draw definitive conclusions about the effects of the scheme and their significance for the AONB.	X				The DCO process requires applicants to consult on proposals at a stage where the comments can influence the designs and at a time when the environmental assessment is still preliminary. The PEI Report set out the likely significant effects for each topic, including landscape and visual. The landscape and visual assessment, including effects on the AONB, is presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N
X106	PEI Report does not specifically address effects on the defined special qualities of the AONB. As such Natural England strongly recommends that these effects are specifically assessed and presented within the LVIA and Landscape ES chapter. This is a request we routinely make in	X				National Grid confirms that the defined special qualities of the AONB have been assessed within ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N

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	relation to NSIPs and to date this has always been accepted.						
X107	It would be helpful for National Grid to advise whether reinstatement can be immediately followed by a resuming of previous agricultural land use or whether a period of post-reinstatement settlement of soils is required and how long that it expected to be.	X				The timing of reinstatement will be dependent on the circumstances, such as the works required, the location and the land use type e.g., grassland. Land recovery is also dependent on these factors. National Grid will work with landowners post-construction with regards to reinstatement.	N
X108	Natural England seek clarity on the decommissioning phase of the project.	X				<p>There are no plans to decommission the project. While the design life of the project is currently at least 40 years, this is likely to be significantly extended given the probable increase in electricity demand in the future and the typical life of some components being longer than 40 years (for example a pylon would typically last 80 years before requiring full refurbishment).</p> <p>The high-level environmental assessment presented in ES Chapter 4: Project Description (application document 6.2.4), concludes that there would be no new or different significant effects compared to those identified in the chapter assessments during construction.</p>	N
Financial Compensation							
X109	Negative impact of additional pylons, such as devaluation of property – what is to be done for those affected?			X	X	National Grid acknowledges that any proposed new work may cause concern to landowners. Diminution in property value known as ‘injurious affection’ and any other appropriate heads of claim will be considered on an individual basis in accordance with current legislation. The Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of their property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works.	N
X110	Work with landowners and help with funding for Environmental Land				X	National Grid confirms that while National Grid’s works may coincidentally align with these applications and help with general ELMS, the funding comes from central Government rather than Ofgem.	N

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	Management Schemes (ELMS).						
X111	Compensation should be paid to the AONBs for operational and construction impacts. Suggest this is done via the Stour Valley Environment Fund, AONB Sustainable Development Fund and resource for the AONB team.	X			X	National Grid is proposing to underground through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and parts of Section G: Stour Valley and to also remove the 132kV overhead line. The combination of these embedded measures means that there will be an overall benefit to the AONB during operation. ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the effects of the project on landscape character and views. The viewpoint assessment can be found in ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7) and has not identified any long-term residual effects on the AONB once vegetation has re-established. Therefore, there is no justification for compensation. However, National Grid will continue to work with stakeholders including the AONB Partnership as part of delivering its commitment to 10% BNG This may include funding initiatives within the AONB through existing funds.	N
Health and Safety							
X112	Concerned about health risks associated with pylons / powerlines (e.g., EMR, cancer).	X		X	X	The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these polices, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in the Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.	N
X113	Concerned about an increased risk of fire from the scheme.			X	X	National Grid will follow all relevant health and safety policies when working on the project in order to reduce the risk of fire. The project has been designed to National Grid design and safety standards and therefore the components are at low risk of fire during operation.	N
X114	Concern around the safety of both people and animals following completion of the works.				X	The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific	N

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						bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, will be fully compliant with these polices, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in the Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.	
X115	Concerned about health and safety risks associated with construction traffic directly passing residents homes.			X	X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and will be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to residents who live alongside the roads during construction.	N
X116	Health and wellbeing is a key concern.			X	X	<p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. Throughout the development of the proposals, National Grid have carefully evaluated the potential impacts of the project on health and wellbeing, and where appropriate identified means of mitigating any impacts.</p> <p>As part of the EIA, consideration is made to how the construction and operation of the project could impact on receptors such as air quality, noise and vibration, along with how these might impact on physical health. The CEMP (application document 7.5) and CEMP Appendix A (application document 7.5.1) set out a number of good practice measures to reduce the risk of impacts on health. Where appropriate, the relevant chapter of the ES sets out further proposed mitigations during construction and operation.</p> <p>With specific regard to EMFs, the UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. It is National Grid's policy to ensure that all of its equipment comply fully with those exposure limits.</p> <p>National Grid's approach is to ensure that all assets comply with those policies, which are set by Government on the advice of their independent advisors. The proposed overhead line has been designed to ensure it and the existing overhead</p>	N

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						<p>line are fully compliant with these policies and guidelines. This ensures that health concerns are properly and adequately addressed. The evidence concerning compliance with these policies as specified in EN-5, including the numerical guidelines will be fully and publicly documented in the DCO submission.</p> <p>Finally, National Grid recognise that the development, construction and operation of major infrastructure projects can cause stress, uncertainty and anxiety that may impact on people's mental health. Throughout the development phase of the project National Grid have therefore tried to clearly communicate the proposals, including through the establishment of dedicated contact channels, a project website and by holding multiple rounds of public consultation as the plans became more refined. As the project has progressed, National Grid have sought to provide certainty on the plans wherever possible.</p> <p>All of the consultations have included easily-accessible information on the plans at that stage, along with opportunities to engage directly with the project team (such as via webinars, Ask the Experts appointments and public exhibitions). Where appropriate, National Grid have tailored this approach to suit the needs of individuals, such as by offering home visits or individual meetings. Despite this, National Grid acknowledge that they cannot respond positively to every request to change the proposals that they receive, and that some will disagree with the decisions made. However, National Grid will always be happy to engage with those interested to discuss the plans and explain the rationale behind decisions.</p>	
X117	Satisfied with the approach taken in preparing the EIA and the conclusions drawn.	X				National Grid notes this feedback from the statutory consultee.	N
Heritage							
X118	Consider that there may be negative impact on heritage assets, archaeological remains or listed buildings.	X	X	X	X	<p>ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) assesses the effects of the project on heritage assets including archaeological remains and listed buildings.</p> <p>National Grid has held a number of meetings with Historic England and the County Archaeological Advisors regarding the heritage implications of the proposals, and the proposed mitigation measures are set out in the AFS (application document 7.9) and the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).</p>	N
X119	Suggest undertaking trial trenching along the line of route, prior to any		X	X		National Grid undertook a programme of archaeological surveys including geophysics which has helped the programme of trial trenching. The interim results of surveys have been shared with the County Archaeological Advisors. The results	N

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	undergrounding - so that heritage and archaeological assets can be identified and protected as required.					have informed the archaeological mitigation set out in the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).	
X120	Ensure assessment of heritage and archaeological assets is undertaken in line with policy, with appropriate protections put in place during construction and to mitigate indirect impacts (e.g., noise / vibration).		X			The assessment presented in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) is in accordance with policy and guidance. National Grid undertook a suite of archaeological surveys to help inform the baseline environment and has sought to avoid known historic assets through the routeing studies. Where avoidance is not practicable, a programme of mitigation is proposed using methods such as strip map and sample and excavation. Indirect effects such as noise and vibration during construction would be managed through the good practice measures set out in the CEMP (application document 7.5).	N
X121	The CoCP needs to link to the AFS and CEMP. It is recommended that separate sections should be added into the CoCP to deal with this. A separate point should be included stating that each of the archaeological areas will be signed off by the Local Authority archaeologist prior to construction commencing. HO2 should be offset by appropriate archaeological evaluation.		X	X		The AFS (application document 7.9) is a standalone document and includes the general approach to managing archaeological risks on the project. Adding separate sections to the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) would just duplicate the text in the documents. The AFS has been updated to incorporate the comment about areas being signed off by the Local Authority archaeologist and also a link to measure H02.	N
X122	Further archaeological, geological, and palaeontological surveys are needed to identify assets within the scheme area.	X				National Grid confirms that archaeological surveys, including geo-environmental and paleoenvironmental assessments, have been undertaken to inform the baseline studies. These are summarised in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8).	N
Maintenance (Ongoing)							
X123	Concerned about the access needed for maintenance over the long term.			X	X	The typical lifespan of an overhead line and the CSE compounds would be at least 40 years, depending on use and location whilst a pylon would typically last 80 years before requiring full refurbishment. Over this time, the overhead line and CSE	N

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						compounds would be subject to annual inspection from the ground (using a small van) or by helicopter to check for visible faults or signs of wear. The inspections would confirm when refurbishment is required and indicate if plant/tree growth or development were at risk of affecting safety clearances. National Grid will seek to secure through voluntary agreement all necessary land and access rights needed to construct, operate and maintain the project. Powers of compulsory acquisition will be sought in the DCO to be used as a fallback where it is not possible to secure necessary rights voluntarily	
X124	Underground cables are more resilient to weather events / increasing storms and intense weather.	X			X	Overhead lines are designed to remain generally robust and operational in the worst weather conditions in the UK. Although overhead lines are more susceptible to disruption from lightning and high winds, they are also comparatively easy and cost-effective to repair and maintain compared to underground cables. This is one of the reasons that the majority of the existing National Grid network is made up of overhead lines which are very reliable forms of power distribution.	N
X125	There is an increasing need for network resilience due to climate change.				X	National Grid's proposals are to allow low carbon electricity (nuclear and wind) to be generated and linked into the National Grid.	N
X126	Need for surface improvements on Green Lane.			X		Highway maintenance is the responsibility of the RHAs. The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures in relation to the local road network. This will include assessing the condition and suitability of roads before construction and then monitoring for any damage that is caused as a result of the project.	N
X127	Overhead cables will cost more in the longer term / underground cables are cheaper to maintain.				X	Overhead pylons are comparatively easy and cost-effective to repair and maintain compared to underground cables.	N
Mitigation							
X128	Hope that the plans to deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement are delivered as proposed.	X	X	X	X	The mitigation will be secured as part of the DCO, e.g., through the management plans such as the CEMP (application document 7.5). National Grid will be legally required to implement the DCO as consented. National Grid has also committed to delivering at least 10% BNG on the project in line with its corporate commitments. Details of the enhancements can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N

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X129	Not approving of / convinced by plans to deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement to be delivered as proposed.			X	X	The mitigation will be secured as part of the DCO, e.g., through the management plans such as the CEMP (application document 7.5). National Grid will be legally required to implement the DCO as consented. National Grid has also committed to delivering at least 10% BNG on the project in line with its corporate commitments. Details of the enhancements can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
X130	Environmental enhancement and biodiversity should be aimed much higher target (i.e., more than 10%).	X		X	X	National Grid has set itself a target of delivering at least 10% BNG in environmental value on all construction projects, meaning that as a result of measures taken, the biodiversity rating of the area should be at least 10% greater than prior to the construction of the project. National Grid also has a statutory duty to be economic and efficient.	N
X131	Environmental enhancements are nice to have, but need to be aware of increased costs resulting from these.			X	X	National Grid has a target to deliver at least 10% BNG on the project. As part of the development of these proposals, National Grid will be working with its contractors so that environmental enhancements are delivered in a manner which is consistent with National Grid's statutory duties and licence obligations, including to be economic and efficient.	N
X132	Environmental mitigation and enhancement plans are vague and there is no binding commitment to them being delivered / need more information on what is being done.	X	X	X	X	National Grid consulted on 'Environmental Areas' as part of the statutory consultation. Some of these areas were for mitigation to offset potential significant effects from the project. Other areas were for environmental gain as part of meeting National Grid's target of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project. The mitigation will be secured as part of the DCO, e.g., through the management plans such as the CEMP (application document 7.5). National Grid will be legally required to implement the DCO as consented. Details of the enhancements can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
X133	Ensure that any environmental damage as a result of construction (e.g., to plants / trees) is mitigated and subsequently monitored (such as via a verified management plan).	X	X	X	X	The ES assesses the potential for likely significant effects on the project. Where identified, measures will be put in place to manage these, and they will be secured through the management such as the CEMP (application document 7.5) or other management plans. As the effects are generally temporary (during construction) and standard, tried and tested mitigation is proposed, National Grid has developed monitoring proposals. Further details can be found in the LEMP (application document 7.8).	N
X134	There will be damage to the environment during construction which will take				X	The ES assesses the likely significant effect of the project on the environment over both construction and operation. It identifies the level of effect and also the timescales over which those effects will be felt to allocate mitigation accordingly. ES	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	years if not decades to recover from. Mitigation plans are measurable against a base, but do not take into account the losses during construction. Overall, the project will damage the environment and habitat and should not proceed.					Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any relevant mitigation. National Grid is also using the DEFRA 3.1 Metric to provide a measurable base against which to calculate the habitat affected on the project and as part of delivering 10% BNG on the project. Vegetation and habitats affected by the project would be reinstated following construction and would be maintained for five years as part of the landscape contract, which is sufficient time for vegetation to re-establish. Further details on reinstatement and the good practice measures to reduce effects on the environment can be found in the CEMP (application document 7.5) and the LEMP (application document 7.8).	
X135	A maintenance path needs to be included and needs to be designated immediately as a shared use PRoW.				X	National Grid has identified routes for maintenance and operation to all permanent features. In the cases of pylons, these will generally use existing farm accesses to inspect them. The GSP substation and the CSE compounds each have a permanent access route to the equipment to provide access for operation and maintenance. These have been designed to provide the most suitable access to the sites and to reduce effects to the environment. As the sites need to be secured from trespass for safety reasons, it is not appropriate for these to be designated as a PRoW. Designation of PRoW sites are with the LPAs, who would need to seek agreements with relevant landowners.	N
X136	Where is the 10% increase in habitat, more information on the 10% BNG is needed.		X	X	X	National Grid is using the DEFRA 3.1 Metric to calculate the habitat affected on the project and as part of delivering 10% BNG on the project. Preliminary 'Environmental Areas' were presented as part of the statutory consultation material, and these have been refined as part of the application. The proposals for each environmental area are set out within the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
X137	Your mitigation and enhancement plans are nothing more than subjective greenwashing.				X	The ES follows standard methodology for assessing the environmental effects of the project. The ES will be scrutinised as part of the application for development consent by the Examining Authority on behalf of the SoS. The information presented within the ES is a material consideration in deciding whether to consent the project or not.	N
X138	Mitigation is nice to have, but not if it causes disruption or costs to residents / landowners.			X		Mitigation is determined through the EIA process. Mitigation measures are required to avoid and reduce significant effects and are a material factor when determining whether a project should be consented. If the project is consented, National Grid will be legally required to implement the mitigation set out within the application. Landowners have been and will be consulted on these proposals to seek to reduce disruption.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X139	Full ecological assessment of potential 'enhancement' areas must be completed prior to works.				X	National Grid undertook baseline habitat surveys at the enhancement areas to inform the type of habitats proposed. The results are presented in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
X140	Ensure that planting schemes for mitigation make use of indigenous species / species local to this area.			X	X	National Grid is proposing to use native species of local provenance. Further details can be found in the LEMP (application document 7.8).	N
X141	Introduce wildflower planting underneath the pylons.				X	National Grid will be seeking to increase habitat diversity, including through wildflower seed mixes, as part of its commitment to deliver 10% BNG. National Grid also needs to work with the relevant landowners so that reinstatement proposed does not result in significant effects on land use and businesses.	N
X142	Green corridors should be maintained or created as part of the construction process in order to avoid any habitat fragmentation in the short or long term as a result of the works.		X	X		The planting proposals presented within the LEMP (application document 7.8) include reinforcement of hedgerows and improvements to the connectivity between habitats including additional planting.	N
X143	More information is needed to understand the impacts on hedgerows along the route, particularly those that could be important for bat foraging and commuting routes for Barbastelle bats. ECC seek to inform choices on species options for restoration planting schemes as well as securing temporary mitigation measures during construction.		X	X		National Grid undertook both hedgerow and bat surveys as part of the baseline data collection. The results of the bat surveys and the draft European Protected Species (EPS) licence can be found in ES Appendix 7.7 (application document 6.3.7.7). The potential hedgerows affected are set out in the LEMP (application document 7.8) along with the proposed replacement species.	N
X144	The project needs to use the DEFRA biodiversity metric for rivers in order to fully assess	X		X		Watercourses are included within the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (DEFRA) as a linear metric. This information has been used to calculate the loss in biodiversity units as a	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	the impact of the development on all watercourses affected.					result of construction of the project, as well as the number of biodiversity units which will need to be created to achieve a 10% BNG.	
X145	Protective measures need to be put in place for eels and other fish during over-pumping operations.	X		X		National Grid has made a number of embedded and good practice commitments regarding watercourses which will limit effects to fish and eels. These include trenchless crossings of the River Box and River Stour to avoid impacts to the watercourses during the cable installation. It also includes commitment to use bridges across the Brett, Box and Stour for the temporary access route. There will be short term disturbance to minor watercourses and ditches during installation of the temporary culverts or open cut crossing. The methods will include good practice measures for protecting fish and eels during over-pumping.	N
X146	Would like to host mitigation measures please.			X	X	The impact assessment determines where there are likely to be significant effects and identifies suitable mitigation to offset these effects. Mitigation typically needs to be in the vicinity of the effect in order to reduce the effect. National Grid has identified potential mitigation measures with landowners as part of the discussions pre-application.	N
Needs Case							
X147	Cost is the main factor driving the proposed amount of undergrounding / economic priority in scheme design.	X		X	X	The cost of placing cables underground is considerably higher than building overhead lines and National Grid would need to justify this additional spend to its regulator, Ofgem. National Grid's statutory duties include balancing the need to be economic and efficient, which includes keeping costs down in the interests of the bill paying consumers. Furthermore, the relevant NPS (EN-5) makes clear that pylons are often the appropriate means of delivering high voltage transmission infrastructure, except in particularly sensitive landscapes where mitigation, e.g. underground cables, may be used instead. National Grid proposes underground cable within the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere along the route, the higher cost of cables to bill paying consumers, and the environmental implications of installing and maintaining them, are not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties.	N
X148	This scheme is much needed / needed to meet the increasing energy needs and prevent shortages.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes the comments and appreciation of the needs case for the project.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X149	This project isn't needed / is not necessary - alternatives exist.				X	The existing transmission electricity network in East Anglia does not have the capability or capacity required to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the network by 2030 while working to the required standards. There is a need to reinforce the electricity network in the region to address this, including between Bramford and Twinstead. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement has been identified as a critical reinforcement in all future energy scenarios and has appeared consecutively in the NOA 2022. The network needs to be reinforced to increase the network capacity in the region to carry the electricity generation in East Anglia. Furthermore, the annual constraint costs associated with not undertaking the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement are significant.	N
X150	Local communities have the impacts, but don't benefit / scheme only benefits those living elsewhere (e.g., London).	X			X	<p>There is a need to reinforce the region's electricity network, as the existing high voltage electricity network in East Anglia doesn't have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the electricity transmission network by 2030 while working to the required standards. The proposal will benefit the UK as a whole by contributing to energy security in the future, ensuring that the national grid meets future power demands.</p> <p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside.</p>	N
Project Finance / Costs							
X151	Property prices determining undergrounding - underground				X	The decision to underground sections of the route is based on these either being designated (e.g., the Dedham Vale AONB) or considered as valued landscape (e.g.,	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	powerlines are not only in areas of outstanding natural beauty but also those with the most expensive properties.					parts of Stour Valley). At no point in the decision process regarding design has the price of properties in the area entered consideration for undergrounding. National Grid is required to justify its design based on the Holford Rules – which do not include property value.	
X152	Criticism of business model - works will be paid for by consumers, while profits will go elsewhere.			X	X	National Grid is funded by a price control mechanism which is agreed with and set by Ofgem. National Grid pays up front the many millions of pounds it costs to build a new power transmission line. The cost is then gradually passed to customers through their electricity bills over the next 40 years. The funding for these up-front costs comes from National Grid's shareholders and the institutions that lend the company money. This amounts to many billions of pounds across all National Grid infrastructure and investments. The shareholders invest in National Grid because they expect that it will make a sufficient profit to provide an appropriate return on the investment and eventually pay the shareholders back. This brings a major benefit to electricity bill payers as it allows the recovery of the cost of for investment in the network to be spread out over many years, rather than having a spike in electricity bills when large new transmission connections are required.	N
X153	Acknowledge that there is a need to find a balance between scheme design (i.e., undergrounding) and cost	X	X	X	X	The extent of undergrounding is proposed following careful consideration of the feedback received during earlier consultations, the alternatives available and other factors which need to be taken into account, including National Grid's duties and obligations. That includes balancing the need to be economic and efficient and a duty to have regard to preserving amenity, which includes the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality.	N
X154	Government funding used elsewhere (e.g., Covid-19 and HS2) has been wasted and could have been better used to deliver this scheme. The money can be found to fund this if there was a real desire to improve the visual environment and build a more resilient network.				X	National Grid is funded by a price control mechanism which is agreed with and set by the Regulator, Ofgem. National Grid pays up front the many millions of pounds it costs to build a new power transmission line. The cost is then gradually passed to customers through their electricity bills over the next 40 years. The funding for these up-front costs comes from National Grid's shareholders and the institutions that lend the company money.	N
X155	Issue of who pays - local communities should not have to bear the costs (negative impact on businesses) as this	X	X	X	X	There is a need to reinforce the region's electricity network, as the existing high voltage electricity network in East Anglia doesn't have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the electricity transmission network by 2030 while working to the required standards.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	benefits the whole of the country - sufficient compensation should be paid.					<p>The proposal will benefit the UK as a whole by contributing to energy security in the future, ensuing that the national grid meets future power demands.</p> <p>The ES sets out the likely significant effects of the project on local communities, for example in terms of noise, air quality. The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures and additional mitigation required to reduce negative effects.</p> <p>The Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code allows for a claim of compensation for prescribed losses that property owners whose land is used for the works, or may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of their property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works. Any settled compensation will enable them to be in a position of equivalence as far as money is able to do so.</p>	
X156	There should be a formal international tender process for the work taking place.				X	With regards to procurement processes, National Grid is required to act within the Competition and Markets Authority regulations. The procurement process is designed to ensure that National Grid can demonstrate to Ofgem that the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement has been delivered in an economic and efficient manner.	N
X157	More granular cost data should be published, to allow independent assessment of the incremental costs of measures to improve the scheme (e.g., undergrounding) as well as other environmental mitigation measures. This is to allow the SoS to balance this cost against the economic impact on tourism to our communities, and the disbenefit to residents, visitors, and local businesses in terms of visual amenity, impact on wildlife, and the tranquillity of the rural landscape.	X	X	X	X	<p>The process of options appraisal has considered both capital and lifetime costs, in accordance with National Grid's statutory duties and licence obligations to be economic and efficient. This has included the optioneering of mitigation such as undergrounding.</p> <p>Costs have been estimated using generalised unit costs, but it is recognised that markets and material costs will change over time prior to construction. Nonetheless, the cost of putting high voltage cables underground is substantially higher than putting them overhead, and those extra costs ultimately fall on consumers' electricity bills.</p> <p>A Funding Statement (application document 4.1) has been submitted as part of the DCO application as part of the required evidence needed by the SoS to make a decision regarding consent. The Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1) submitted to PINs in May 2021, concluded that the project was unlikely to have significant effects on tourism and it was scoped out from being required as a standalone topic in the ES. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid has provided information regarding tourism within the Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9).</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X158	The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement project is being undertaken against a background of changing policy, legislation, and regulatory emphasis. Nevertheless, the core considerations of sustainability, good design and efficient implementation remain unchanged.				X	National Grid confirms that these are core considerations.	N
X159	Willingness to Pay research has continued to indicate public acceptance of the need to pay to conserve valued landscapes. Such studies indicate National Grid should not be overly cautious when presenting its case to Ofgem for recovering the costs of justifiable mitigation. Advice obtained from Ofgem should be published in full for transparency.				X	The Government and the Regulator (Ofgem) expect National Grid to find a balance when developing proposals, taking account of the duties set out in the Electricity Act 1989 to be efficient, coordinated and economical and to have regard to the desirability of preserving amenity. The Government addresses that and the question of overhead or underground in the relevant NPS (EN-5). When looking at the costs of a new connection, National Grid is guided by these duties and obligations. National Grid is required to balance affordability to the electricity bill payer with the impact of the proposals on the landscape. It is for the Government, through the planning process and via regulation (by Ofgem), to judge whether the balance is right.	N
X160	Was the contract/contracts for seabed and underground cabling put out to tender internationally and if so, if this was done recently and not some years ago when the need was first recognised?				X	Costs developed during the options appraisal and design stage are based on cost workbooks and unit cost estimates. These are developed from standard construction costing tools and experience from other projects. National Grid will go out to its approved contractors, who are qualified and experienced to work on high voltage transmission lines, for competitive tender in line with the requirements of policy and tendering law during the detailed design stage of the work, subject to consent. This is when there is sufficient information available for contractors to cost the project in detail. Note that the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement does not include any subsea cabling.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
PRoW							
X161	Any pedestrian / equestrian routes affected during project development should be reinstated properly upon completion of the project.	X	X	X	X	<p>National Grid will endeavour to reduce impacts on PRoW including reducing the duration of any closure, as far as practicable. The locations of the PRoW affected by the project, along with proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).</p> <p>In accordance with commitment GG06 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), a full record of condition will be carried out (photographic and descriptive) of PRoW within the Order Limits. This will include taking detailed records including photographs showing the condition of the PRoW including existing surfacing and any crossing points such as bridges and stiles. This record will be available for comparison following reinstatement after the works have been completed to demonstrate that the standard of reinstatement at least meets that recorded in the pre-condition survey.</p>	N
X162	<p>The proposed route will affect a number of rights of way that equestrians use either directly, or indirectly, with works being very close to them.</p> <p>It is essential that where these routes are affected directly, or indirectly that adequate provision is made for equestrians to ensure they are able to continue to utilise the route(s) safety, or that a suitable and safe temporary alternative route is in place.</p>				X	<p>All PRoW that are anticipated to be affected, along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).</p> <p>All designated PRoWs including bridleways crossing the working area will be managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns. Diverted routes will be of equal quality, meaning that if a bridleway is diverted then the temporary diversion will also be a bridleway. Further information regarding measures to reduce effects to PRoW is provided in the CTMP (application document 7.6)</p>	N
Technology / Operations							
X163	Oppose use of pylons as they are an outdated technology.				X	National Grid is committed to using proven up-to-date technology. In the way National Grid manages the network and in the design of these proposals, it is using all the latest technological solutions. However, overhead lines provide a secure supply and are still the most efficient way of transmitting electricity around the UK in many cases.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X164	The proposals should ensure that there is sufficient capacity to meet future needs / future proofing the capacity.			X	X	The reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead is one of a number of network reinforcements needed to deliver 50GW of offshore wind by 2030. Additional onshore reinforcements identified in the region in the NOA 2022 are needed in addition to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.	N
X165	Comment not in favour of nuclear power use - use local supply rather than Sizewell C power.			X	X	The needs case for this project is not solely to enable Sizewell, as there are a number of projects looking to connect in East Anglia over the next decade. With these substantial new sources of electricity connecting in the region by the end of the decade, the existing overhead lines carrying current out of the region to the west would be overloaded without the reinforcement project.	N
X166	We should not be using old technology, we should instead be building a grid for the future.				X	National Grid is committed to using proven up-to-date technology. The new pylons would run alongside the existing 400kV overhead line, and it was felt that introducing a new design into the landscape would look worse than using a similar styled lattice pylon. It should also be noted that the grid reinforcement is being delivered to allow the UK to meet its future energy needs with low carbon electricity.	N
X167	Underground cabling provides a more secure network.				X	Overhead lines provide a secure supply and are still the most efficient way of transmitting electricity around the UK in many cases. As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The cost of underground cables is considerably higher than overhead lines. National Grid has to balance its duties and responsibilities. That includes balancing the need to be economic and efficient and keep costs down, with a duty to preserve amenity. The relevant NPS (EN-5) makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances.	N
X168	Pylons buzzing and making noise - disturbing local area.	X		X	X	The proposed overhead line would be of the same design and configuration, and would operate in the same way, as the existing 400kV overhead line. Therefore, the noise behaviour of the new overhead line, in dry, wet, or damp weather, would be the same too. National Grid has committed to using the current quietest suitable conductor system that is available and National Grid does not expect there would be significant effects due to noise from the operation of the new overhead line. All fixtures and fittings associated with the overhead line would be sourced according to National Grid technical specifications which include requirements to make sure any noise due to the effect of the wind and any noise due to corona discharge is reduced	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						through good design. Further details can be found in ES Appendix 14.3 (application document 6.3.14.3).	
X169	National Grid are running an innovation project in conjunction with SSE, on harnessing waste energy from transformers. It is stated that this has the potential to save millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions. Will this innovative technology be available for the new substations planned for construction during the Bramford and Twinstead project? This point is not clarified within the documents as are submitted at this time and further explanation is therefore required.		X	X		National Grid is constantly looking at innovations but are unable to make any commitments at this time.	N
Timescales							
X170	Query over the length of the construction phase / how long will scheme delivery take?			X	X	The baseline construction programme assumes that the GSP substation is constructed in advance of DCO consent pursuant of a planning permission issued under the TCPA. Construction at the GSP substation would take up to 18 months. The remaining works would be constructed under the DCO, subject to consent and are anticipated to take approximately four years, excluding landscape maintenance.	N
X171	Potential to continue works on this corridor over time / more powerline routes in future.				X	<p>Before planning to build new infrastructure, National Grid seeks opportunities to improve or upgrade the existing networks. In some cases, however, there will be a need to build new electricity lines. National Grid needs to balance the need for secure and reliable energy supplies with affordability for consumers and various environmental considerations.</p> <p>Proposals for new electricity lines are developed in the context of factors including National Grid's statutory obligations and national planning policy, with routeing and siting based on an iterative approach to design.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						While there are further projects anticipated in the East Anglia region, further new overhead lines within the Bramford to Twinstead corridor are not currently anticipated. This assumption is subject to the outcome of the ongoing routing and siting work on other projects.	
X172	Get on with the project / sooner this is done the better.				X	National Grid welcomes the comments in support of delivering the project and the appreciation of the needs case. National Grid is working in an efficient manner to deliver the project as soon as practicable. However, there are strict legal and regulatory processes which must be followed before the project is able to be delivered.	N
X173	The project will take a long time to deliver.				X	As an NSIP National Grid's project is subject to a DCO, which is a long process due to the significant nature of the proposal. This includes non statutory consultation (in early 2021) and a statutory consultation (between January 2022 and March 2022). Following this, feedback has been taken into account in the project design, where appropriate. Once all technical studies and reports are completed, the application is sent to PINs for inspection and a decision is made, usually by the SoS. Only after the DCO is granted and all relevant pre-commencement requirements have been discharged and consents obtained, can work start. Works to install and commission the reinforcement would then be expected to start from grant of DCO in 2024 and completed in 2028. On completion of construction, National Grid will test the connection and any post-construction monitoring.	N
X174	Criticism that the Government has been so slow in setting up the Offshore Transmission Review.				X	The Government is currently conducting an Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), examining how power from offshore generation and interconnectors can come onshore in a more coordinated way.	N
Tourism							
X175	Concerned about negative impact on tourism / visitor economy - landscapes popular with visitors for recreation.	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) preserving natural beauty, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. Embedded measures include underground cables in the areas of highest amenity value (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley) and the removal of the existing 132kV line, which will further reduce the effects of the project. The Scoping Report (application document 6.5.1) submitted to PINs in May 2021, concluded that the project was unlikely to have significant effects on tourism and it was scoped out from being required as a standalone topic in the ES. PINs agreed with this position in their Screening Opinion. National Grid has provided information	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
regarding tourism within the Socio Economics and Tourism Report (application document 5.9).							
Traffic Congestion							
X176	Can the applicant confirm that abnormal indivisible loads (AILs) for the northern end of the scheme and Bramford Substation, will originate from the Port of Ipswich or Port of Felixstowe?		X	X		Agreement in principle has been secured from National Highways for the proposed routeing of AIL from Tilbury Docks, which would be the preferred port of delivery for the transformers to the GSP substation. These would be transported under Special Type General Order regulations. Discussions are ongoing with National Highways but are likely to involve a route along the A1089, A13, M25, M11, A120 and A131. The large cable drums will be delivered to a suitable port selected by the cable supplier. Large equipment component deliveries to Bramford will be delivered on designated 'high-load' routes. The AIL deliveries may include ports of Ipswich, Southampton or Hull as examples.	N
Visual Impact							
X177	Support for undergrounding the scheme when passing through sensitive landscapes (e.g., AONB).	X	X	X	X	National Grid's proposal includes the undergrounding of the new 400kV line through the Dedham Vale AONB, and also through parts of the Stour Valley.	N
X178	Overground pylons are unsightly / visually intrusive (including CSE compounds).	X	X	X	X	The relevant national planning policy makes clear that pylons are often the appropriate means of delivering high voltage transmission infrastructure, except in particularly sensitive landscapes. National Grid is proposing to remove the 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee (approximately 25km) as well as removal of existing 400kV pylons (approximately 2km) south of Twinstead Tee. There will be new 400kV overhead lines (approximately 19km) and new underground cables (approximately 10km). National Grid intends to use the existing 132kV corridor to reduce the visual impact of the overhead lines. ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) provides further details on the impact of the project on landscape and views.	N
X179	Pylons flash in the rain / storms				X	The proposed overhead line would be of the same design and configuration and would operate in the same way as the existing 400kV overhead line, which do not flash under normal operating conditions.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
X180	Pylons should be avoided in sensitive landscapes (e.g., AONB / Stour Valley).			X	X	National Grid confirms that the new 400kV line will be underground in both the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley.	N
X181	Important to maintain scenic aspects of the route / landscapes.		X	X	X	National Grid is proposing to underground through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and parts of Section G: Stour Valley. The landscape and visual assessment identified key views within the landscape and these have been agreed with the LPAs. Further details can be found in the Local Authority SoCG (application document 7.3.1). ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7) sets out the assessment and the proposed mitigation to offset significant effects.	N
Wildlife / Ecology Impact							
X182	Undergrounding the entire route would be devastating to wildlife.				X	National Grid is not proposing to underground the whole route – only the sections that pass through sensitive landscapes (Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley). The impacts on wildlife are considered in the ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
X183	Negative impact of scheme on available land for grazing animals (may require relocation).				X	National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. This includes providing prior warning of works which may result in the need to move livestock. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis, if negative impact on farming operations can be established. Particular agricultural matters can also be written into voluntary land agreements.	N
X184	Concerned about potential negative impact of the scheme on wildlife and habitats - including protected species.	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to understand the existing conditions. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any relevant mitigation. National Grid is using the DEFRA 3.1 Metric to calculate the habitat affected on the project and as part of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project.	N
X185	Unhappy with wildlife surveys undertaken - either not done, insufficient or undertaken	X	X	X	X	National Grid notes this comment and can confirm that it has undertaken the necessary habitat and protected species surveys, including bats, badgers and dormouse, throughout 2021 and 2022 as required to support the application based on recommendations and methodology set out in independent guidance. ES Chapter	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	inadequately (e.g., at the wrong time).					7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) and ES Appendix 7.2 (application document 6.3.7.2) outline the methodology that has been used in the surveys.	
X186	Concerned about impact of proposed scheme on designated sites (e.g., SSSI and ancient woodlands or other historic environmental amenities).	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The process of route design has taken into account of the local ecology and, where practicable, has sought to reduce impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, including the SSSI and ancient woodland, through avoidance or mitigation. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on the SSSI and ancient woodland and concludes that there are no likely residual significant effects on these when the proposed good practice and mitigation measures are applied.	N
X187	How does National Grid propose to monitor impacts on wildlife and ecology and minimise these?		X	X	X	The ES assesses the potential for likely significant effects on the project. Where identified, measures will be put in place to implement and where necessary, monitor these. The mitigation measures will be secured through the management plans e.g. the CEMP (application document 7.5). Many of the effects are temporary (during construction) and would not occur beyond the construction phase. In addition, National Grid is proposing to use standard, tried and tested measures to reduce effects. There could be longer term effects associated with habitat re-establishment and the LEMP (application document 7.8) includes the proposals for monitoring for these areas.	N
X188	The PEI Report biodiversity baseline needs to consider the presence of riparian mammals and ecology in arable ditches and/or river watercourses and crossings.				X	National Grid undertook surveys for riparian mammals such as otter and water vole. The results of the surveys are presented in ES Appendix 7.2 (application document 6.3.7.2). The assessment on riparian mammals is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
X189	A 20% BNG target should be used.				X	National Grid has set itself a target of delivering 10% BNG in environmental value on all construction projects, meaning that as a result of measures taken, the biodiversity rating of the area should be at least 10% greater than prior to the construction of the project. National Grid also has a statutory duty to be economic and efficient. Therefore, National Grid considers 10% BNG to be the right balance on this project.	N
X190	Where hedge crossings or removals are necessary to retain connectivity during construction, an alternative to		X	X		This has been considered and is included as commitment B07 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) and the LEMP (application document 7.8).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	<p>dead hedging is the use of heras fencing with camouflage netting attached. This temporary measure is needed to enable barbastelle bats to continue to use their network of hedgerows.</p>						

7.7 Summary of Changes Made Following Feedback Received from Statutory Consultation

- 7.7.1 Following the close of the statutory consultation in March 2022, a number of design changes have been incorporated into the proposals. Proposed design amendments were carefully considered in the context of environmental constraints and opportunities, engineering feasibility and cost, planning policy and other relevant considerations. Proposed design amendments were considered from the phases of consultation and continued design and development as well as through feedback and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and landowners).
- 7.7.2 The process of considering design changes comprised of an initial filter for benefit and feasibility, an assessment incorporating inputs from relevant technical experts, and further stages of additional study if required. The outcome of the consideration of potential design changes was either that a change was included in the project design, or that the change was not made following balanced and informed consideration.

Changes to the Project

- 7.7.3 Respondents made a number of requests for changes to the project proposals in their responses to consultation, some of which have been adopted by National Grid and taken into consideration in the development of the project.
- 7.7.4 If a request for change has been adopted this is indicated with a ‘Y’ in the tables in Section 7.6 of this report outlining the matters raised at statutory consultation, along with National Grid’s regard had to the comment raised.
- 7.7.5 Accordingly, a summary of the key changes identified following this statutory consultation comprises of:
- Re-design of the cable route through the Stour Valley to a new route alignment located to the south of Ansell’s Grove and north of Alphamstone;
 - Incorporation of a trenchless stretch through Stour Valley to avoid woodland and sensitive habitats;
 - Identification of a new temporary haul road between the A131 and the Stour Valley West CSE Compound taking some construction traffic off the local road network; and
 - Minor changes to the Order Limits comprising:
 - Amendments to the proposed temporary access routes and rationalisation of access routes required for pylon removal;
 - Minor refinements to the Order Limits to match land parcels or avoid sensitive features; and
 - A commitment to include low mounds and planting to the east and west of the GSP substation to improve screening of the site.
- 7.7.6 Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley. Details and feedback received from targeted consultation is contained in Chapter 8 of this report.

8. Targeted Consultation

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter describes the targeted consultation that took place between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022.

8.1.2 This chapter also sets out what was consulted on and why before describing how the consultation was carried out, including when consultation activities took place, with whom and the methods used. The matters raised during the consultation are then summarised, followed by how National Grid has had regard to those matters raised and explanations of how they have been taken into consideration.

8.1.3 The targeted consultation was conducted in accordance with the principles of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Guidance (The PA 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process). The legal requirements of section 42 were complied with (and section 47 and section 48 notices were published) as were the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations in respect of the provision of Preliminary Environmental Information. More information on the EIA consultation is included in Chapter 10.

8.1.4 The DCLG guidance paragraph 76 states;

'In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the pre-application consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included'.

8.1.5 Having had regard to the responses received to the statutory consultation, a number of changes were incorporated into the proposals. These changes were the subject of this further public consultation.

8.1.6 Collectively these changes were viewed as being of public interest, having been identified through feedback at consultation and during the ongoing design and engineering considerations. As such, National Grid decided the proposed changes merited further consultation.

8.2 Targeted Consultation Approach

8.2.1 National Grid held a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022.

8.2.2 The original date for end of consultation was 23:59 on 7 October 2022. Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen on 8 September 2022, on 9 September 2022 National Grid contacted the local planning authorities (LPAs) to seek their views on whether to hold public events planned for the 15 and 16 September 2022, and to consider an

extension to the period of consultation given the period of national mourning. The LPAs confirmed it was National Grid's decision to hold public events but welcomed the offer of an extension (see Appendix K13). The local venues also confirmed they were happy to hold the events as planned. Details of these communications can be found in Appendix K14.

8.2.3 The period for consultation was therefore extended by 12 calendar days from 7 October 2022 to 23:59 on 19 October 2022. National Grid issued the following update to stakeholders via email and on the project website:

“Statement following death of Her Majesty The Queen: Following the sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen, and in respect to the Queen, the Royal Family and the national period of mourning, we have extended the deadline for submitting consultation responses. The deadline for submitting feedback is now 23:59 on Wednesday 19 October 2022.”

8.2.4 The targeted consultation focussed on the design changes following statutory consultation in spring 2022. The primary changes proposed were within the western part of the Stour Valley in the parishes of Lamarsh, Alphamstone, Twinstead, Pebmarsh and Little Maplestead. These changes comprised of:

- Moving the route of underground cables further away from Alphamstone;
- Constructing a proportion of the underground cables using trenchless construction methods; and
- Building a temporary construction haul road from Sudbury Road (A131) to the Stour Valley West Cable Sealing End (CSE) compound to facilitate construction of the reinforcement.

8.2.5 In addition to the primary changes in the western part of the Stour Valley, as the plans were refined, a number of secondary changes were proposed to the wider reinforcement as presented at statutory consultation. These comprised of:

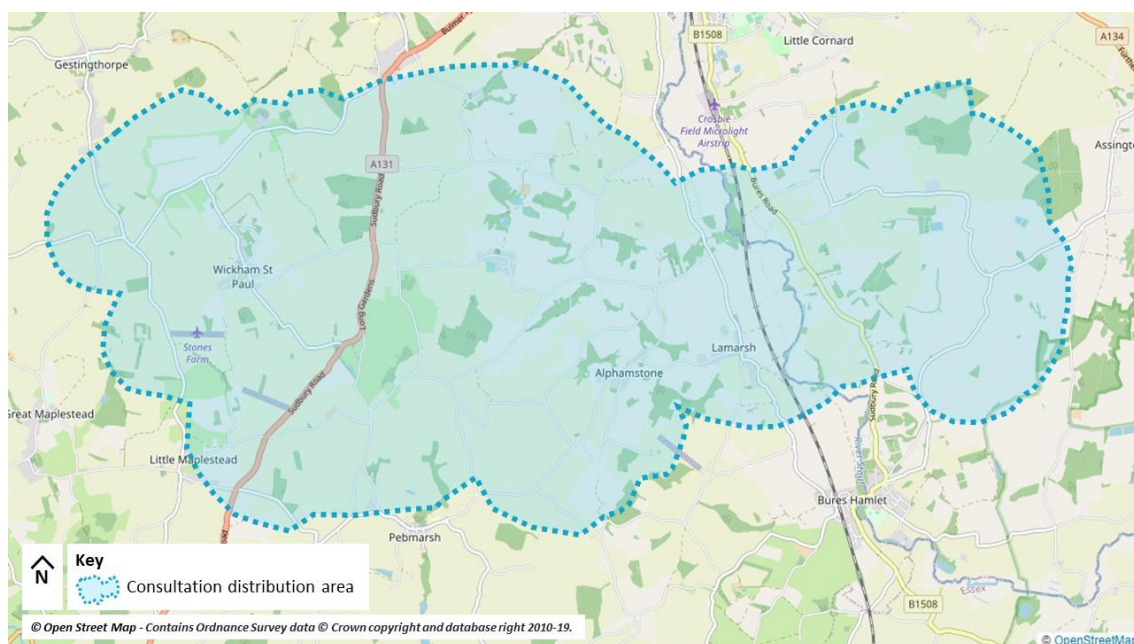
- Refining the Order Limits (the land needed to build, operate and maintain the reinforcement);
- Small changes to the proposed route of underground and overhead lines;
- Adding, amending or removing construction access tracks, compounds and working areas needed to build the reinforcement;
- Inclusion of bellmouths and highways visibility splays to provide access to working areas;
- Identifying locations where offsite highways works or restrictions may be required to facilitate construction;
- Identifying locations and land requirements for the diversion or connections to third-party assets, utilities and land drainage; and
- Refining the environmental areas required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement.

8.2.6 As Chapter 7 of this report identifies, a number of other design changes suggested by consultees in response to statutory consultation were considered and evaluated by National Grid as part of the change control process (see further details in Section 7.7 of this report). For the reasons documented in Chapter 7, these design changes were not taken forward by National Grid.

8.3 Who National Grid Consulted

- 8.3.1 National Grid recognised that all stakeholders should have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals regardless of whether they participated in the earlier consultations or not. The targeted consultation was open to anyone interested in the project.
- 8.3.2 Three levels of engagement were used with the local community.
- 8.3.3 The first consisted of a targeted distribution area within the Order Limits of Section F: Leavenheath / Assington and Section G: Stour Valley. This included a 1km buffer of the Order Limits and boundaries. Section F and Section G were identified to include stakeholders who may be most affected by the changes proposed in the targeted consultation. Figure 8.1 shows this targeted consultation area.
- 8.3.4 The second level was the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), as defined at the statutory consultation (see Section 6.8.3 of this report) which extended 1km from the entire project proposals and included stakeholders who were less likely to be affected by the changes but may still be impacted.
- 8.3.5 The third level was using the secondary consultation zone (SCZ), as defined at the statutory consultation (see Section 6.8.3 of this report) which extended to at least 5km from the entire project proposals and ensured that wider project stakeholders were also able to participate in the consultation.

Figure 8.1- Targeted Consultation Distribution Area



- 8.3.6 During the targeted consultation, the following groups and stakeholders were consulted:
- Parish councils representing parishes within the Order Limits of the project;
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within the Order Limits of the SCZ;
 - Elected representatives in local authorities where the project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the targeted consultation period as requested;

- ‘Seldom heard groups’ within the SCZ who have been drawn to and identified by National Grid’s attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials;
- Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife;
- Prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a) and (b) of the PA 2008; and
- Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) and 44.

Section 42(1)(a) Consultees

- 8.3.7 On the 31 August 2022 and 1 September 2022, a consultation notification letter was sent (see Appendix K2), along with a copy of the section 48 notice, project newsletter, feedback form and a freepost envelope. The section 48 notice and consultation materials can be found in Appendix K9, K16 and K20.
- 8.3.8 A full list of the bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a), as identified through Schedule 1 of the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP) Regulations can be found at Appendix F1. However, a number of additional consultees were also identified, see Table 8.1.
- 8.3.9 Consultation responses from section 42(1)(a) consultees have been analysed and results are presented in Sections 8.6 and 8.7 of this report.

Table 8.1 – Changes to Section 42(1)(a) Consultees

Consultee	Reason
Northern Gas Networks	Northern Gas Networks do not have assets affected by the project and were not previously consulted. However, for completeness, Northern Gas Networks were consulted at targeted consultation to meet s42 requirements.
Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board	Not consulted at statutory consultation as the company formed in July 2022. Previously consulted clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) which are now disbanded.
Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board	Not consulted at statutory consultation as the company formed in July 2022. Previously consulted CCGs which are now disbanded.

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

- 8.3.10 On the 31 August 2022 and 1 September 2022, a consultation notification letter was sent to section 42(1)(b) consultees (see Appendix K2), along with a copy of the section 48 notice, project newsletter, feedback form and a freepost envelope. The section 48 notice and consultation materials can be found in Appendix K9, K16 and K20.
- 8.3.11 A full list of section 42(1)(b) consultees can be found in Appendix F2.
- 8.3.12 Consultation responses from section 42(1)(b) consultees have been analysed and themes are presented in Sections 8.6 and 8.7 of this report.

Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 PILs

- 8.3.13 Section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the PA 2008 sets out how a project must consult with PILs, i.e. those who own, occupy, have an interest in, or be able to make certain claims for compensation in respect of, land affected by the project. PILs were identified as detailed in Section 6.6 of this report.
- 8.3.14 National Grid consulted with PILs affected by the changes by letter as follows:
- 100 letters were issued on the 2 September 2022 to PILs who were included in the January 2022 statutory consultation but, due to changes in the project design, whose land may be required for a different purpose;
 - Eight letters were issued on the 2 September 2022 to PILs not included in the January 2022 statutory consultation, but who were newly identified subsequently through ongoing diligent inquiry;
 - 195 letters were issued on the 2 September 2022 to new PILs not included in the January 2022 statutory consultation, but who were identified due to subsequent changes in the project design newly encompassing all or part of their land interests; and
 - Two letters were issued on the 14 September 2022 to PILs newly identified from a letter received on the 13 September 2022.
- 8.3.15 The letters issued on the 2 September 2022 and the 14 September 2022 stated the consultation period ended on the 7 October 2022, but an additional letter was issued to all 305 PILs affected by the changes being consulted upon on 23 September 2022 advising that the consultation deadline had been extended to the 19 October 2022 as described in Section 8.2.2 of this report.
- 8.3.16 All letters sent to PILs were accompanied with a copy of the section 48 notice, project newsletter, feedback form and a freepost envelope. The section 48 notice and consultation materials can be found in Appendix K9, K16, K20.
- 8.3.17 All PILs which were identified after the statutory consultation started on 25 January 2022 were given at least a 28-day representation period as described above.
- 8.3.18 A list of section 42(1)(d) consultees and the letters they were sent can be found in Appendix K3 and Appendix K4.
- 8.3.19 Any letters that were returned to sender were actioned accordingly, such as confirming the interests were no longer relevant or updating postal address, and details of this are provided in Appendix K5.

Notification of Planning Inspectorate

- 8.3.20 On 6 September 2022, National Grid notified the Inspectorate of the upcoming targeted consultation by letter. Enclosed with the letter (see Appendix K1) was the following information:
- Invitation letters sent to section 42 consultees (Appendix K2);
 - Section 48 notice (Appendix K9);
 - Feedback form (Appendix K20);

- Project newsletter (Appendix K16);
- Consultation summary document (Appendix K18);
- General arrangement plan (Appendix K21); and
- Plans showing changes to Order Limits (Appendix K22).

Local Community Under Section 47

- 8.3.21 Section 47 of the PA 2008 sets out an applicant’s duty to consult the local community about a proposed application.
- 8.3.22 This was done in line with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which was published on 18 January 2022. The SoCC allowed for future targeted consultations to be held in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.
- 8.3.23 Section 47 notices were published in two local newspapers and could be accessed on the project website throughout the consultation. See Appendix K7 for a copy of the targeted consultation section 47 notice and Table 8.2 for the newspapers that it was published in.

Table 8.2 – Newspapers where the Section 47 Notice was Published

Newspaper	Dates
East Anglian Daily Times	1 September 2022
Colchester Gazette	1 September 2022

- 8.3.24 Evidence of the section 47 notices in the newspapers can be found in Appendix K8.
- 8.3.25 A consultation pack with project information was sent by letter (31 August 2022 and 1 September 2022) and email (1 September 2022) to all section 47 consultees as identified in Appendix I8. The pack contained:
- A letter that contained details about the consultation;
 - A summary newsletter that contained details of the project website and how to access the consultation portal, including information about upcoming consultation event dates, telephone surgeries and invites to video webinars;
 - Consultation response form with details of how to provide feedback; and
 - A freepost envelope.

Publicising Pursuant to Section 48

- 8.3.26 Section 48 of the PA 2008 sets out how an applicant must publicise its proposed application for development consent. A copy of the section 48 notice for targeted consultation can be found in Appendix K9 which demonstrates the clearly specified time period for responses:

‘The consultation is running between Thursday 8 September 2022 and 23:59 on Friday 7 October 2022.’

- 8.3.27 The period for targeted consultation was later extended from 7 October 2022 to 19 October 2022 as detailed in Section 8.2.2 of this report.
- 8.3.28 Targeted consultation was undertaken in accordance with the publicity requirements set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. Regulation 4 requires that the applicant must publish a notice:
- (a) for at least two consecutive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;
 - (b) once in a national newspaper; and
 - (c) once in the London Gazette.
- 8.3.29 Table 8.3 provides a summary of the newspapers in which the section 48 notice was published and the dates the notices were published.

Table 8.3 – Newspapers where the Section 48 Notice was Published

Newspaper	Dates
East Anglian Daily Times	1 September 2022 and 8 September 2022
Colchester Gazette	1 September 2022 and 8 September 2022
The Guardian	8 September 2022
London Gazette	8 September 2022

- 8.3.30 Evidence of the section 48 notices in the newspapers can be found in Appendix K10.
- 8.3.31 Copies of the section 48 notice were also placed at 11 locations along the route. Table 8.4 provides the location of each site notice. A site notice location plan and photographs can be found in Appendix K11 and Appendix K12.

Table 8.4 – Site Locations Where the Section 48 Notice was Published

Reference	Location
Location 1	Hedingham Road, Gestingthorpe, Wickham St Paul, Essex
Location 2	Sudbury Road, A131, Twinstead, Essex
Location 3	Dorking Tye, Assington, Suffolk
Location 4	Stoke Road, Leavenheath, Suffolk
Location 5	Millwood Road, Polstead, Suffolk
Location 6	Burstall Hill, Burstall, Suffolk
Location 7	Henny Back Road, Alphamstone, Essex
Location 8	St Edmunds Hill, Bures St Mary, Suffolk
Location 9	Colchester Road, A134, Assington, Suffolk
Location 10	Rands Road, Layham, Suffolk
Location 11	Clay Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk

Compliance with Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017

- 8.3.32 Targeted consultation met the requirements of the EIA Regulations in respect of the provision of Preliminary Environmental Information. Additional Preliminary Environmental Information was consulted on, which set out the potential for any additional likely significant environmental effects associated with the changes, against those presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) at statutory consultation.
- 8.3.33 More information on the EIA consultation is included in Chapter 10.

Seldom Heard and Key Stakeholder Groups

- 8.3.34 National Grid undertook research to identify local seldom heard organisations and worked with local authorities and other bodies as needed to identify additional groups. The approach was defined as part of the development of the SoCC, giving LPAs the opportunity to influence this strategy.
- 8.3.35 The methods and tools as identified within the SoCC (Appendix E10) are included in Table 6.13 of this report.
- 8.3.36 A list of seldom heard and key stakeholder groups that were consulted can be found in Appendix I8.

8.4 How National Grid Consulted

- 8.4.1 National Grid committed to ensuring that any consultation process and associated communications were made accessible to as many parts of the community as possible.
- 8.4.2 The targeted consultation was carried out in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC, which was prepared for the previous statutory consultation held between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. The SoCC allowed for future targeted consultations to be held in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.
- 8.4.3 National Grid's consultation activities comprised of:
- Setting up a project specific webpage, email and dedicated telephone information line;
 - Engaging with the targeted distribution area (Figure 8.1) within 1km of the Order Limits of Section F and Section G boundaries, the PCZ and the SCZ;
 - Producing materials to support consultation;
 - Holding a public exhibition, an 'ask the expert' session and a webinar;
 - Media and social media promotional activity; and
 - Making information and materials available at four deposit locations near to the proposals.

Project Website, Email, and Information Line

- 8.4.4 National Grid used the same website as at the statutory consultation to publish information on the project along with consultation materials and historical project information.

- 8.4.5 A dedicated email and telephone information line was set up - contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com and 0808 196 1515 respectively.

Engagement with the Public

Direct Mailing to Properties within Sections G and H

- 8.4.6 A consultation pack with project information was sent (31 August 2022 and 1 September 2022) to all properties (residential and business addresses) within Sections G and H (as identified in Figure 8.1) along with details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. The pack contained:
- A letter that contained details about the consultation;
 - A summary newsletter that contained details of the project website and how to access the consultation portal, including information about upcoming consultation event dates, telephone surgeries and invites to video webinars;
 - Consultation response form with details of how to provide feedback; and
 - A freepost envelope.

Secondary Consultation Zone

- 8.4.7 The properties within the SCZ were able to access all materials and engagement opportunities detailed in this chapter. Publicity of the consultation for the SCZ was through newspapers, posters, a targeted social media campaign that ran throughout the consultation, and all other forms as listed within this chapter.

Non-Prescribed Consultees

- 8.4.8 A consultation pack with project information was sent to all identified non-prescribed consultees (31 August 2022 and 1 September 2022). A full list of those consulted can be found in Appendix I8. The pack contained:
- A letter that contained details about the consultation;
 - A summary newsletter that contained details of the project website and how to access the consultation portal, including information about upcoming consultation event dates, telephone surgeries and invites to video webinars;
 - Consultation response form with details of how to provide feedback; and
 - A freepost envelope.

Materials Produced to Support Consultation

- 8.4.9 Additional materials supporting the consultation comprised of:
- **Targeted consultation feedback form** - containing qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the proposed changes. See Appendix K20;
 - **Targeted consultation summary document** - to provide an overview of key components of the changes. This included Additional Preliminary Environmental Information in Appendix A of the summary document. See Appendix K18;

- **Summary newsletter** - providing details of the project website and how to access the consultation portal. See Appendix K16;
- **Targeted consultation banners** - to provide an overview of key components of the changes. See Appendix K19;
- **General arrangement plan** - mapping made available to assist in the understanding of the proposals. See Appendix K21; and
- **Changes to Order Limits plan** - mapping made available to assist in the understanding of the changes to the Order Limits further to the statutory consultation. See Appendix K22.

Events

- 8.4.10 To allow members of the public to speak directly with the project team, National Grid held two face-to-face events. The first was a drop-in public exhibition at a local community hub which allowed stakeholders to attend at their convenience.
- 8.4.11 The second was an ‘Ask the Experts’ session that enabled members of the public to speak to the project team on an individual basis. Members of the public were able to book an appointment online via the consultation website, or by calling or emailing. National Grid also committed to make additional appointment sessions available if demand was high.
- 8.4.12 These public events fell within the national period of mourning following the death of Her Majesty The Queen. As detailed in Section 8.2.2 of this report, National Grid confirmed with the LPAs and venues that the planned events were still able to happen.
- 8.4.13 An online webinar was held to complement the information available on the project website and in paper copies of project information, and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions. The webinar was held in the evening and a recording was available on request.
- 8.4.14 Throughout the targeted consultation period, stakeholders and residents were invited to book call-back appointments with members of the project team. Slots were allocated at times that best suited those requesting appointments. Appointments were available as online meetings or via telephone to accommodate those who were uncomfortable with online technology or without access to the internet.
- 8.4.15 Table 8.5 details the events held and attendee numbers.

Table 8.5- Public Events

Method	Date and time (s)	Attendees (numbers) or appointments booked
Public exhibition at Sudbury Masonic Hall	Thursday 15 September 2022 between 12pm - 7pm	19
Ask the expert session at Twinstead Village Hall	Friday 16 September 2022 between 10am - 2pm	7 bookings, 10 attendees
Webinar	Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 5pm	5
Telephone / Video appointments	Upon request	1 booking, 3 attendees

Media and Social Media – Promotional Activity

- 8.4.16 The consultation was promoted via targeted digital advertising, through adverts on news websites and via Facebook and Instagram.
- 8.4.17 On Facebook and Instagram, ad campaigns ran from 8 September 2022 to 7 October 2022, with a pause during the period of national mourning as described in Section 8.2.2 of this report. Social media activity resumed from 20 September 2022 and adverts were updated to reflect the extended consultation end date.
- 8.4.18 Each advertisement directed interested parties to visit the project website and engage with the consultation. Adverts were targeted at anyone living close to the indicative alignment of the reinforcement and nearby communities.

Deposit Locations

- 8.4.19 Consultation documents as described in Section 8.4.9 of this report were available to view at the following locations from 8 September 2022 until the end of the consultation on 19 October 2022.
- 8.4.20 All libraries maintained normal opening hours throughout the national period of mourning (as described in Section 8.2.2 of this report), with the exception of Monday 19 September 2022 for the funeral of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II where Sible Hedingham Library, Hadleigh Library and Halstead Library closed. From the 20 September 2022, normal opening hours resumed.
- 8.4.21 The locations were the same as used at the statutory consultation with the addition of Halstead Library, which was added at the request of Braintree District Council. Locations can be seen in Table 8.6.

Table 8.6- Deposit Locations

Location	Address	Opening Times
Sible Hedingham Library	169 Swan Street Sible Hedingham CO9 3PX	Monday – 9am to 1pm Tuesday – Closed Wednesday – Closed Thursday – 2pm to 7pm Friday – Closed Saturday – 9am to 5pm Sunday – Closed
Sudbury Library	Market Hill, Sudbury CO10 2EN	Monday - 9am to 5pm Tuesday – 9am to 7:30pm Wednesday - 9am to 5pm Thursday - 9am to 5pm Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday - 9am to 5pm Sunday – 10am-4pm
Hadleigh Library	29 High Street, Hadleigh IP7 5AG	Monday - Closed Tuesday – 9am to 5pm Wednesday - 9am to 5pm Thursday - 9am to 6pm

Location	Address	Opening Times
		Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday – 9:30am to 5pm Sunday – 10am to 4pm
Halstead Library	Bridge Street, Halstead, CO9 1HU	Monday - 9am to 5:30pm Tuesday- 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday – Closed Thursday - 9am to 1pm Friday- 9am to 5:30pm Saturday- 9am to 5pm Sunday- Closed

Additional Engagement Activities Undertaken

8.4.22 Prior to, and during the targeted consultation period, presentations were given to three councils, four parish councils and one MP with constituency in the vicinity of the project (South Suffolk)- see Table 8.7. These presentations were given to explain the proposals, support stakeholder relationships and promote the targeted consultation.

Table 8.7 - Local Authority and Parish Council Meetings

Date	Attendees	Method
7 September 2022	MP for South Suffolk	Virtual
7 September 2022	Suffolk County Council	Virtual
7 September 2022	Hintlesham and Chattisham Parish Council	Face-to-face
13 September 2022	Essex County Council	Virtual
26 September 2022	Braintree District Council	Virtual
6 October 2022	Alphamstone and Lamarsh Parish Council	Face-to-face
13 October 2022	Pebmarsh Parish Council	Face-to-face
14 October 2022	Burstall Parish Council	Virtual

8.4.23 A briefing scheduled with the MP for Central Suffolk was rearranged as it fell within the national period of mourning (as described in Section 8.2.2 of this report). This briefing was subsequently held after the targeted consultation period on 2 December 2022 at the request of the MP.

8.5 Responses Received to the Targeted Consultation

Response Methods

8.5.1 Consultees could respond to the consultation in the same methods available at statutory consultation - by completing the consultation response form (online or paper copies available at deposit points listed in Table 8.6), by emailing the project email address and by sending a response directly to the project's postal address:

- Email - contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com; and
- Postal - FREEPOST B TO T REINFORCEMENT.

Response Rate

- 8.5.2 A total of 358 feedback submissions were received during the consultation period from community stakeholders and consultees, and members of the public. This comprised of 40 paper response forms, 58 online response forms, 259 emails sent to the project inbox and one letter.
- 8.5.3 There were 40 responses received from statutory organisations and local authorities.
- 8.5.4 All responses, including those which were received after the close of consultation, were taken into consideration in the reporting of feedback received. A total four emails from members of the public were received after the consultation had closed.
- 8.5.5 A summary of matters raised and National Grid's response to them can be found in Sections 8.6 - 8.8 of this report.

8.6 Analysis of Responses Received

Introduction

- 8.6.1 The closed (quantitative) questions are detailed in Section 8.6, while comments received during the open (qualitative) questions are detailed in Section 8.7.

Response Form

- 8.6.2 The response form asked a total of 14 questions, including a mix of closed and open questions. The closed questions asked about certain aspects of the project and, where appropriate, an open question followed which invited consultees to give further information on their chosen response.
- 8.6.3 The response form can be found in Appendix K20 and consisted of six sections:
- **Changes to the proposed route of undergrounding in the western part of the Stour Valley (Section G)** - Q1 (closed) and Q2 (open);
 - **Plans for a temporary construction haul road between Sudbury Road (A131) and Stour Valley West CSE compound** - Q3 (closed) and Q4 (open);
 - **Anything else?** - Q5 (open);
 - **About you** - Q6 (closed);
 - **How are we doing?** - Q7, Q8, Q9, Q10 and Q11 (closed); and
 - **Inclusion and diversity** - Q12, Q13 and Q14 (closed).

Analysing Responses to the Targeted Consultation

- 8.6.4 Following the close of the consultation, National Grid reviewed all the responses received and analysis was conducted in line with the statutory consultation as described in Section 7.4 of this report.

8.7 Responses to Closed Questions

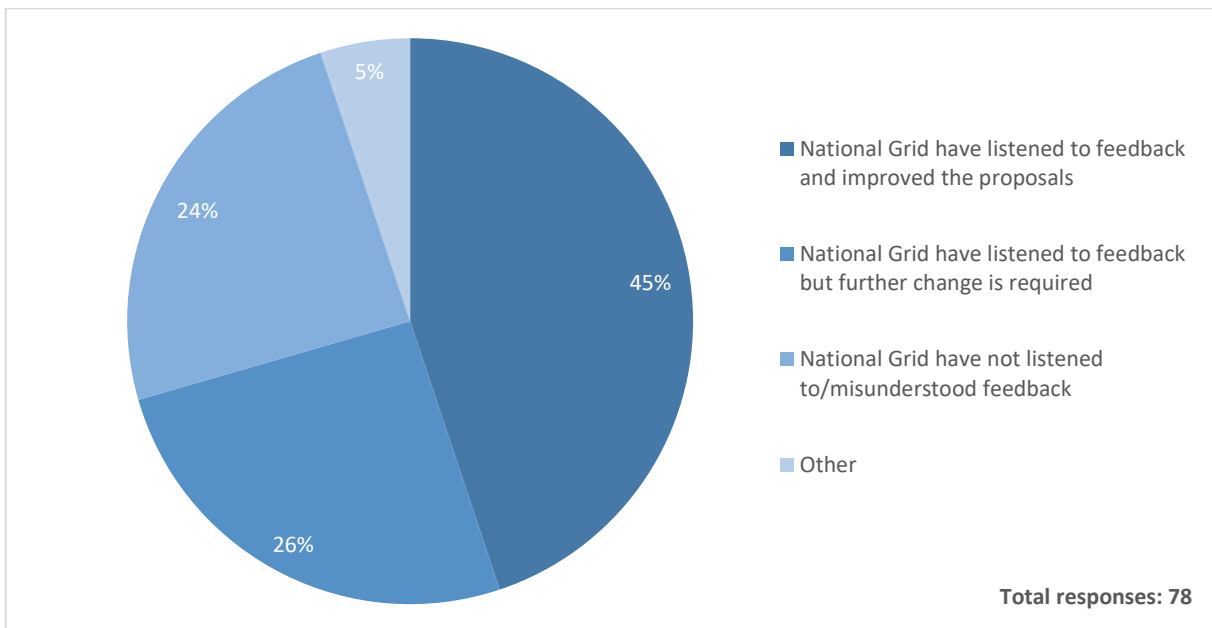
8.7.1 This section presents and discusses the feedback gathered through the closed questions on the feedback form.

Changes to the Proposed Route of Undergrounding in the Western Part of the Stour Valley (Section G) - Question 1

8.7.2 In response to question 1, which sought to gauge respondents' perceptions about whether the changes were an improvement to plans previously presented, the largest proportion of respondents (45%) thought that *'National Grid have listened to feedback and improved the proposals'*. Just over a quarter (26%) of respondents indicated that they thought National Grid has listened, but further change is required, whilst just under a quarter (24%) thought that *'National Grid have not listened to / misunderstood feedback'*. The remaining 5% of respondents selected *'Other'*.

8.7.3 A total of 78 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.2.

Figure 8.2- *'Do you think the changes we are proposing to the route of undergrounding and the use of trenchless crossing technology is an improvement on the plans we presented previously?'*



Changes to the Proposed Route of Undergrounding in the Western Part of the Stour Valley (Section G) - Question 2

8.7.4 This freeform question asked respondents if they had anything further to comment about the proposed route of undergrounding in the western part of the Stour Valley (Section G). Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 8.7 of this report.

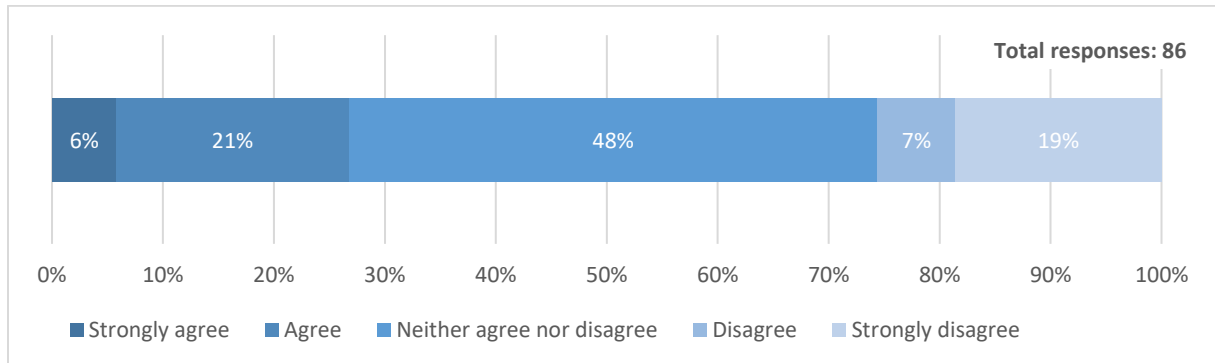
Plans for a Temporary Construction Haul Road between Sudbury Road (A131) and Stour Valley West CSE Compound - Question 3

8.7.5 In response to question 3, which sought to gauge the levels of agreement with the proposed temporary construction haul road, nearly half of respondents (48%) indicated

that they 'Neither agree nor disagree'. 27% of respondents showed levels of agreement by selecting either 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree' whilst the remaining 26% showed levels of disagreement ('Strongly disagree' and 'Disagree')

8.7.6 A total of 86 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.3.

Figure 8.3 – 'To what extent do you agree with the proposed route of the temporary construction haul road?'



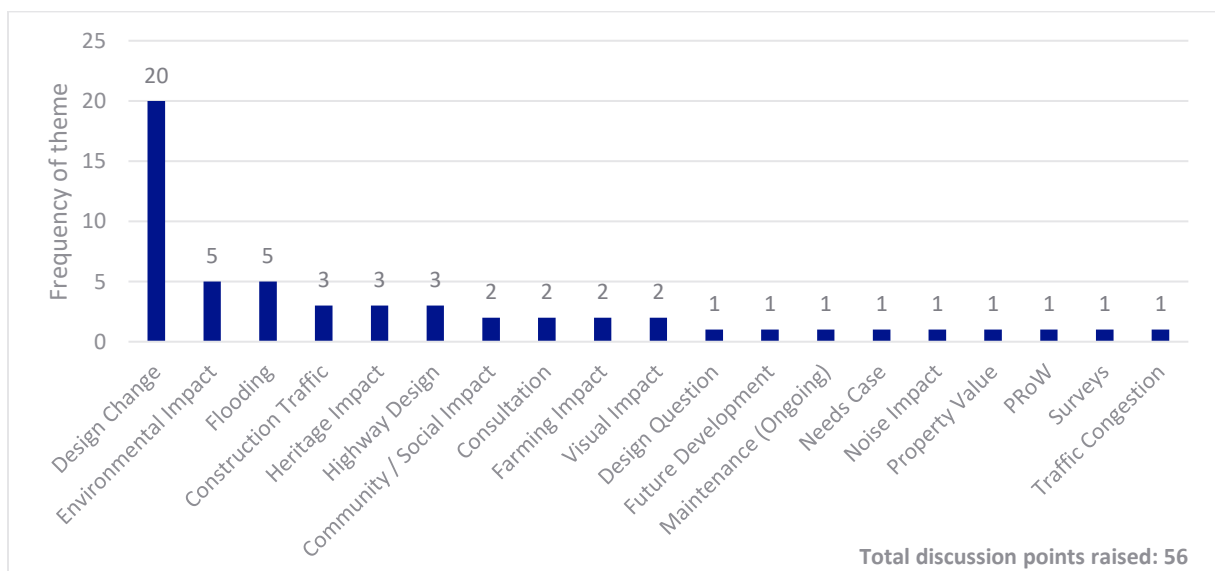
Plans for a Temporary Construction Haul Road between Sudbury Road (A131) and Stour Valley West CSE Compound - Question 4

8.7.7 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about the proposed temporary construction haul road, the most frequent theme was 'Design change' requests or suggestions (35%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of environmental impacts and flooding with 9% each of total themes closely followed by construction traffic, heritage impact and highway design, each with 6% of themes.

8.7.8 A total of 19 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 56 discussion points. See Figure 8.4.

8.7.9 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 8.7 of this report.

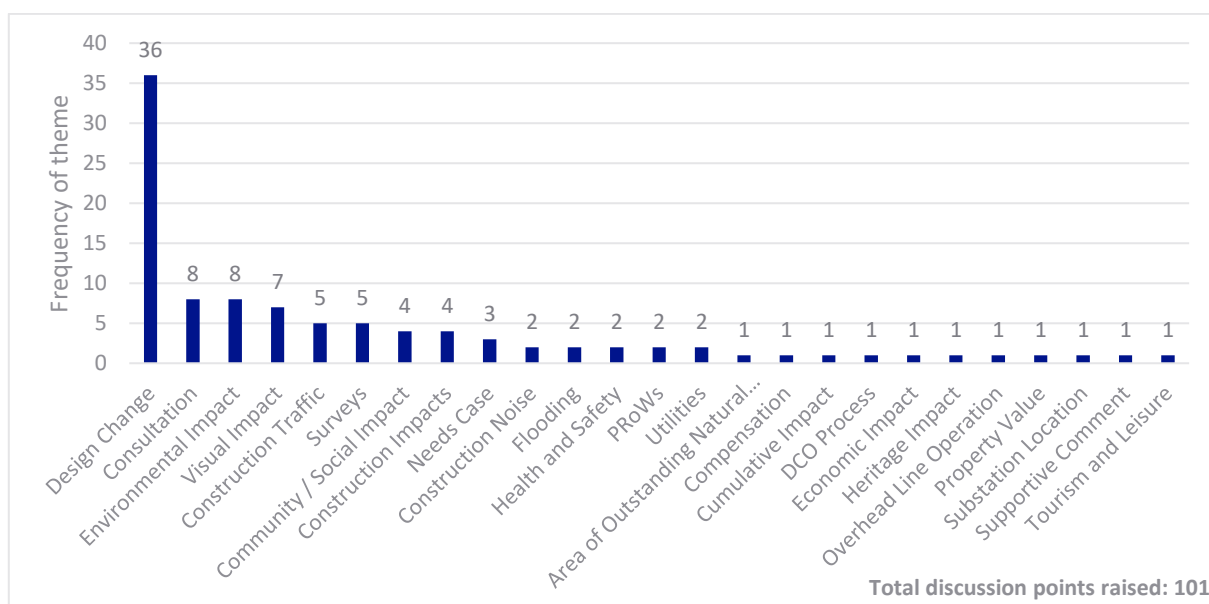
Figure 8.4 – 'Do you have any further comments regarding the proposed temporary construction haul road?'



Anything Else? - Question 5

- 8.7.10 In response to this freeform question where respondents were asked if they had anything further to comment about the project as a whole, the most frequent theme was ‘Design change’ requests or suggestions (38%). Other significant topics for this section comprised of consultation and visual impact with 7% each of total themes closely followed by environmental impact with 6% of themes.
- 8.7.11 A total of 25 themes were raised through open feedback for this question, resulting in 101 discussion points. See Figure 8.5.
- 8.7.12 Responses to the points raised through open written feedback have been summarised in Section 8.7 of this report.

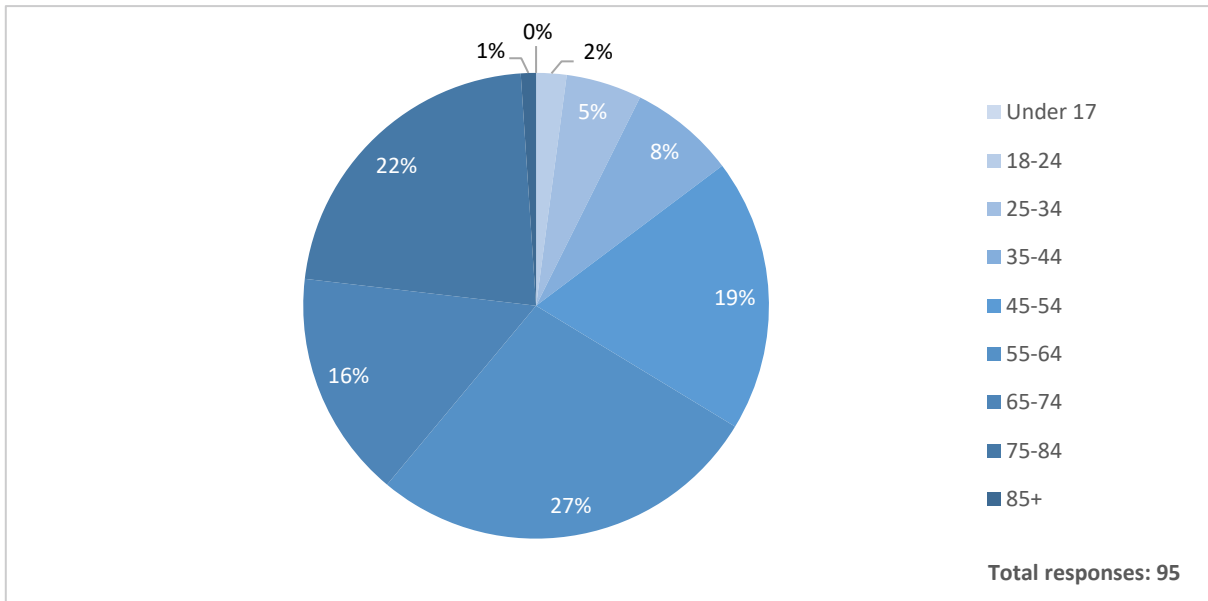
Figure 8.5 – ‘Do you have any other comments about the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement to give that you have not previously mentioned here or in previous consultations?’



About You - Age Group

- 8.7.13 In an ‘About You’ section of the consultation response form, age data of respondents was captured. Feedback was received from respondents ranging from ‘Under 17’ to the 85+ categories.
- 8.7.14 The highest number of responses were received from those in the age groups of 55-64 (27%) and 75-84 (22%). The next most represented age groups were 45-54 and 65-74, with 19% and 16% representation respectively. The age groups 25-34 and 35-44 received respective representations of 5% and 8%. Meanwhile, the lowest represented groups were those under 17, 18-24 and 85+ with no responses, 2% and 1% respectively.
- 8.7.15 A total of 95 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.6.

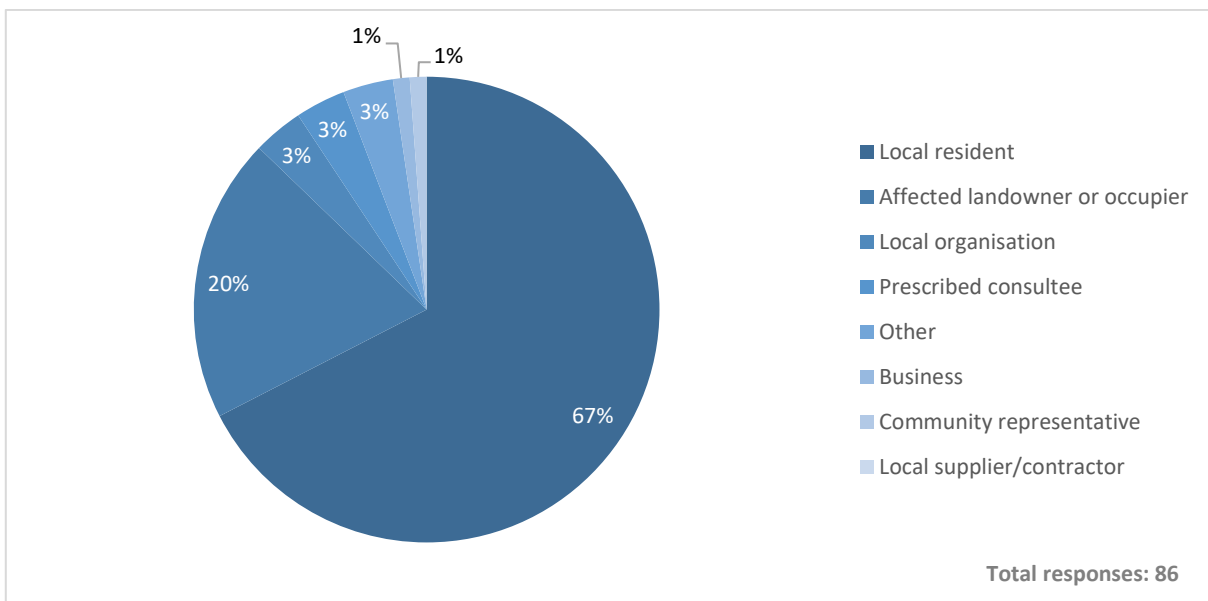
Figure 8.6 - Age Group



About You - Question 6

- 8.7.16 In response to question 6, where respondents were asked the capacity in which they were responding to the consultation, just over two thirds (67%) of respondents indicated that they were *'Local residents'* whilst a fifth (20%) of respondents could be categorised as *'Affected landowner or occupier'*. *'Local Organisations'*, *'Prescribed Consultees'* and *'Other'* categories received the same number of responses with 3% each. Respondents who selected the option of *'Other'* are summarised in 8.7.15. A small percentage of responses were received from *'Business'* and *'Community representatives'*, with 1% representation from each.
- 8.7.17 Some of the common *'Other'* responses comprised of land agents, environmental representatives and other members of the public.
- 8.7.18 A total of 86 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.7.

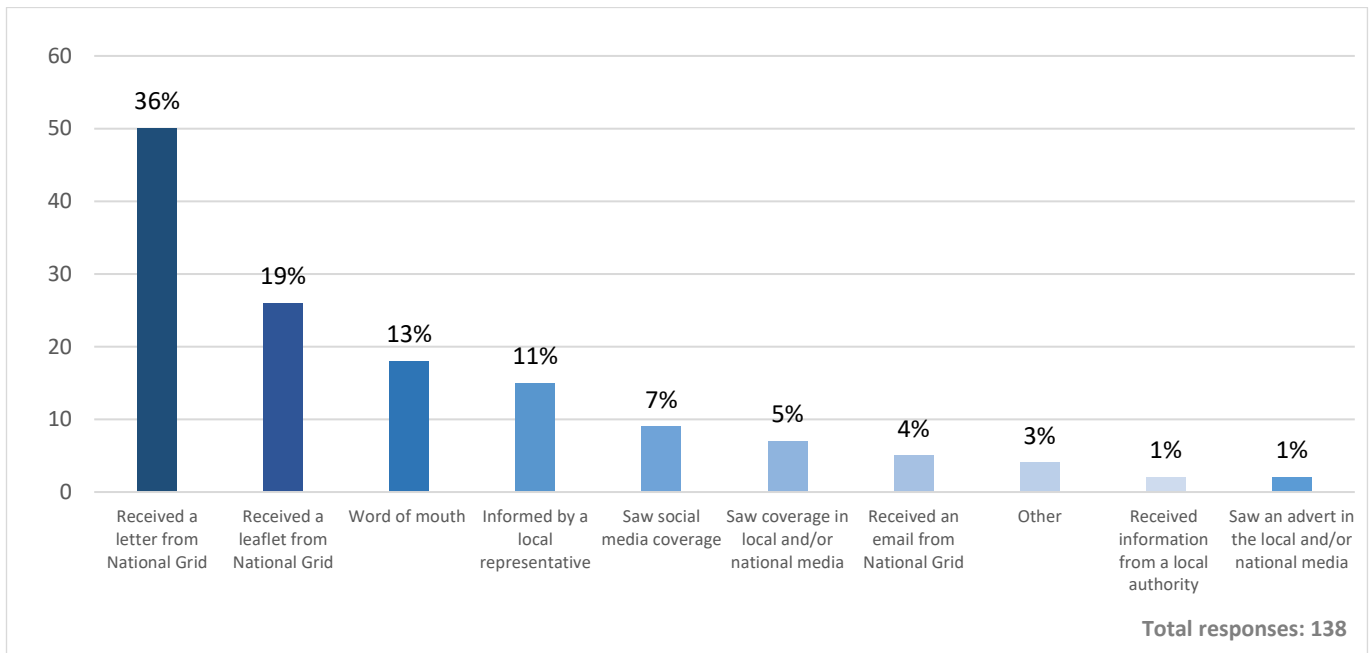
Figure 8.7 – 'In what capacity are you responding to the consultation?'



How Are We Doing - Question 7

- 8.7.19 In response to question 7, where respondents were asked to indicate how they heard about the consultation, the most popular method was by receiving a letter from National Grid with 36% of responses for this option. Respondents were allowed to select more than one option. Receiving a leaflet from National Grid was the next most popular method with almost a fifth (19%) of total responses selecting this. The least popular method of publicity was seeing an adverts in the local media with no responses for this option. Other feedback methods and responses numbers are detailed in Figure 8.8.
- 8.7.20 3% of respondents selected 'Other'. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of 'None of the above', from landowners and at libraries.
- 8.7.21 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 92 respondents answered this question resulting in 138 responses. See Figure 8.8.

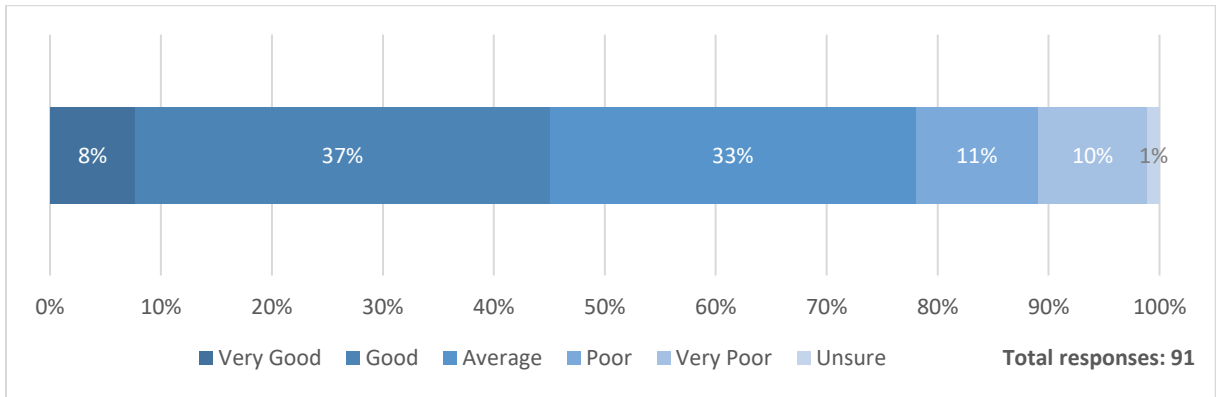
Figure 8.8 – 'Please let us know how you heard about this consultation by ticking one or more of the following boxes.'



How Are We Doing - Question 8

- 8.7.22 In response to question 8 where respondents were asked to rate the information provided as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand, almost half of respondents (45%) rated the information as 'Good' or 'Very good'. A further third (33%) of respondents rated the information as 'Average' with only 1% 'Unsure'. The remaining 21% of respondents felt that the presented information was 'Poor' or 'Very poor'.
- 8.7.23 A total of 91 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.9.

Figure 8.9- 'Please rate the information included as part of this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand.'

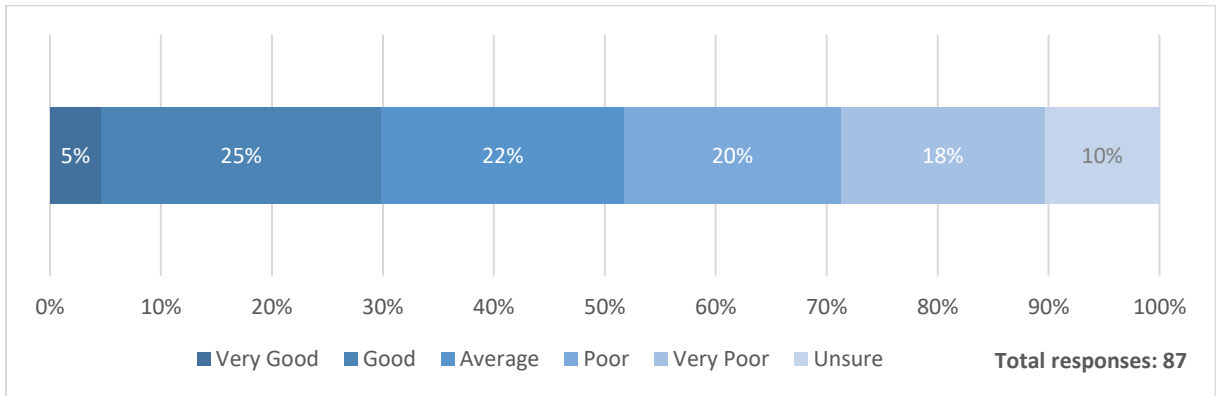


How Are We Doing - Question 9

8.7.24 In response to question 9 where respondents were asked to rate how well the consultation was promoted and advertised to the public, the largest proportion of respondents (38%) selected 'Poor' or 'Very poor'. This was followed by 30% of respondents stating that the promotion and advertisement was 'Good' or 'Very good'. The remaining 22% of respondents selected 'Average' with a further 10% being 'Unsure'.

8.7.25 A total of 87 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.10.

Figure 8.10 – 'Please rate how well this consultation was promoted and advertised to the public.'



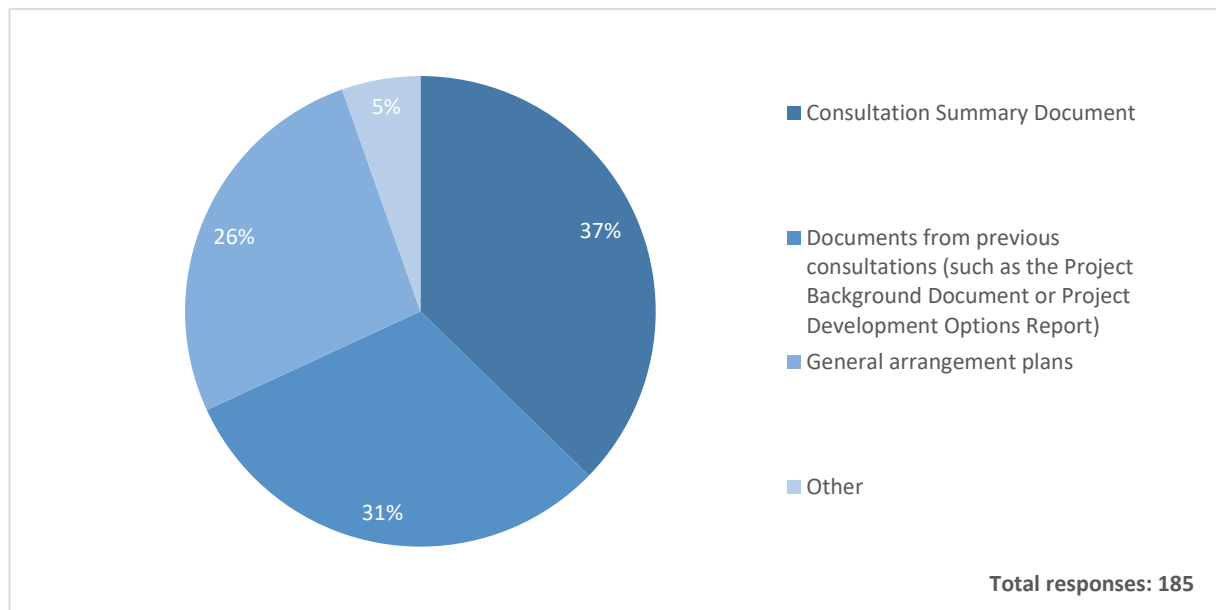
How Are We Doing - Question 10

8.7.26 In response to question 10, where respondents were asked which of the consultation documents had been viewed during the consultation process, over a third of responses (37%) indicated that the 'Consultation Summary Document' had been viewed. A further 31% of responses indicated that 'Documents from previous consultations' had been viewed and just over a quarter (26%) of total views were of the 'General Arrangement Plans'.

8.7.27 The remaining 5% of responses were 'Other'. Respondents who selected this option were asked to provide detail and common responses comprised of 'archived plans and proposals' as well as other maps.

8.7.28 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 88 respondents answered this question resulting in 185 responses. See Figure 8.11.

Figure 8.11 – ‘Which consultation documents have you viewed during the consultation process?’



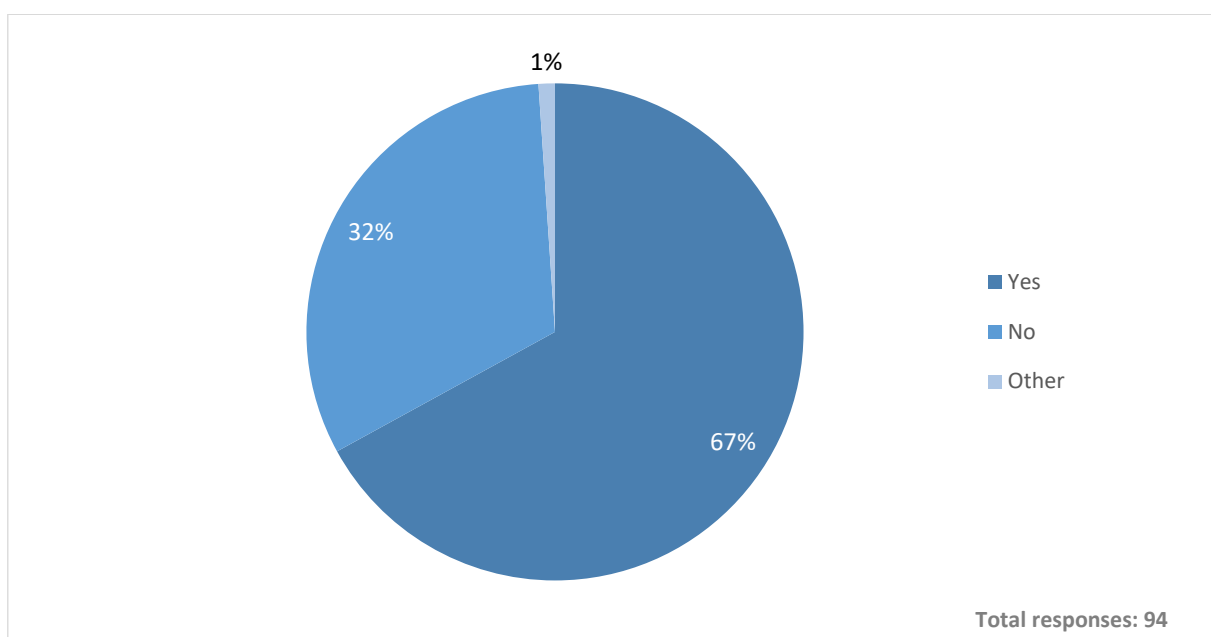
How Are We Doing - Question 11

8.7.29 In response to question 11, where respondents were asked if they had previously taken part in any other consultations held by National Grid on the reinforcement, just over two thirds (67%) of respondents indicated that they had whilst 32% indicated that they had not.

8.7.30 The remaining 1% of respondents selected ‘Other’.

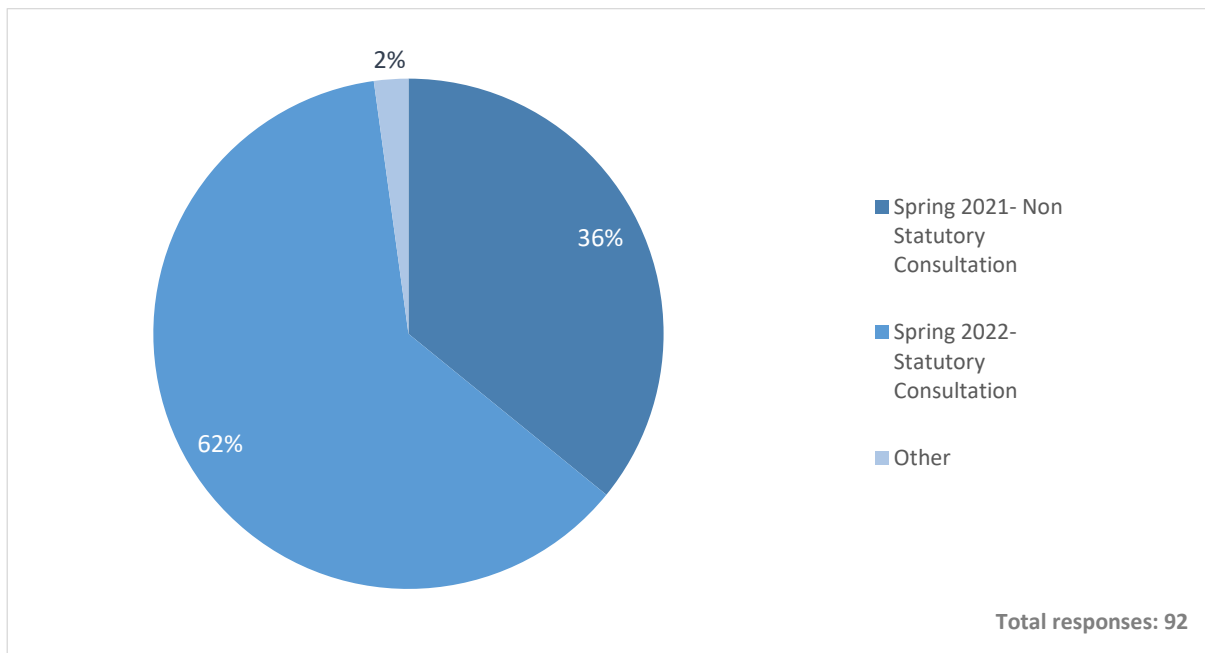
8.7.31 A total of 94 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.12.

Figure 8.12 – ‘Have you previously taken part in any other consultations held by National Grid on the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement, such as the consultations in spring 2021 and spring 2022?’



- 8.7.32 Further to this question, respondents who selected ‘Yes’ were asked to provide more detail. Over half of responses (62%) had participated in the spring 2022 statutory consultation. 36% of responses show participation in the spring 2021 non statutory consultation and the remaining 2% selected ‘Other’.
- 8.7.33 Respondents were able to select more than one option. A total of 61 respondents answered this question resulting in 92 responses. See Figure 8.13.

Figure 8.13 – Consultations Previously Taken Part In

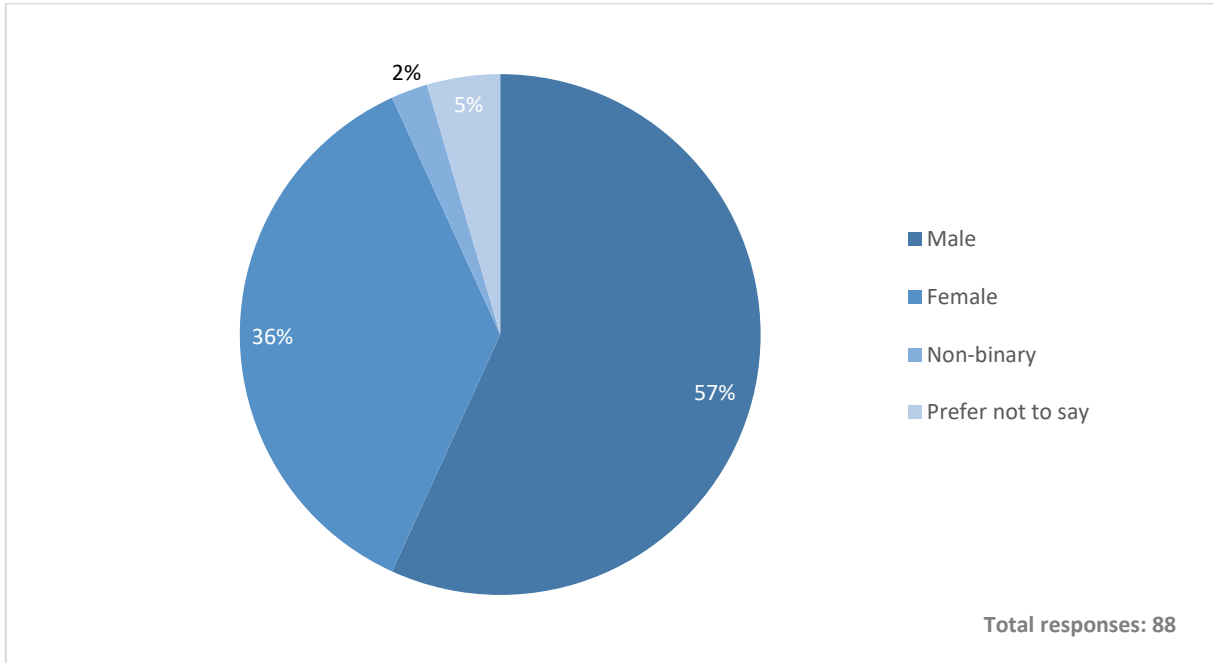


- 8.7.34 Respondents who selected ‘No’ were also asked to provide more detail. Respondents could select two options:
- ‘Had not heard about the scheme previously’; and
 - ‘I have recently moved to the area’
- 8.7.35 All responses to this section of the question (15) indicated that they ‘had not heard about the scheme previously’.

Inclusion and Diversity - Question 12

- 8.7.36 In response to question 12 where respondents were asked to indicate their gender, 57% of responses were from males, compared to 36% from females. 2% of respondents selected ‘Non-binary’, whilst the remaining 5% of respondents did not wish to provide their gender.
- 8.7.37 A total of 88 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.14.

Figure 8.14 – ‘What is your gender?’

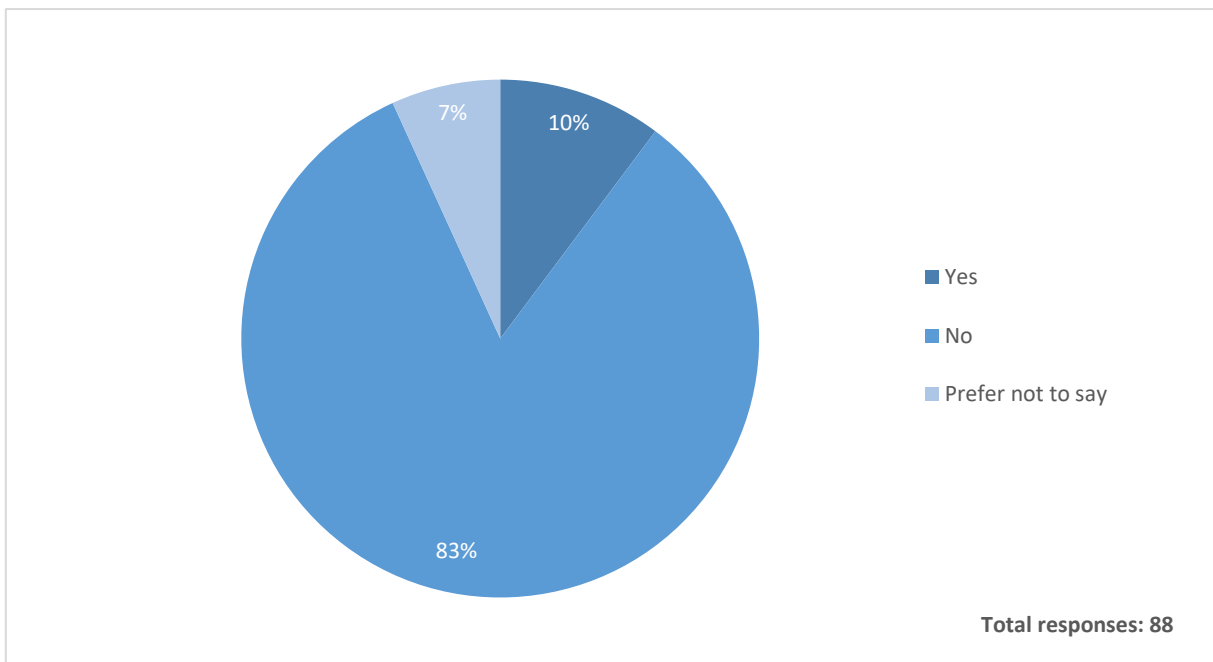


Inclusion and Diversity - Question 13

8.7.38 In response to question 13, where respondents were asked if they consider themselves to have a disability, the majority of respondents (83%) indicated that they did not, whilst a small proportion (10%) indicated that they did. The remaining 7% of respondents did not wish to answer.

8.7.39 A total of 88 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.15.

Figure 8.15 – ‘Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?’

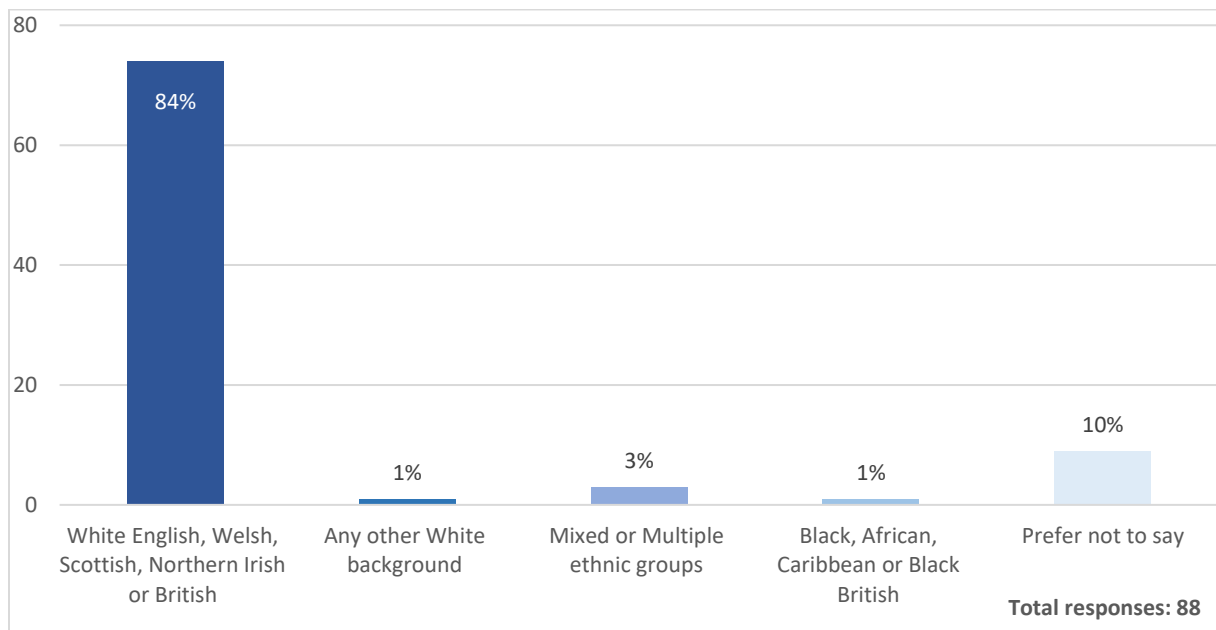


Inclusion and Diversity - Question 14

8.7.40 In response to question 14 where respondents were asked how they would describe their ethnic background, the majority of respondents (84%) indicated that they were ‘*White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British*’. 10% of respondents did not wish to provide their ethnic background. Figure 8.16 details the other options selected and relevant percentages.

8.7.41 A total of 88 respondents answered this question. See Figure 8.16.

Figure 8.16 – ‘How would you describe your ethnic background?’



8.8 Findings from the Targeted Consultation

8.8.1 This section presents and discusses the feedback gathered via the open questions on the feedback form, or via other open formats provided by respondents (e.g., letters / emails).

8.8.2 This section identifies key themes which have emerged from the analysis of the feedback, which give a high-level understanding of the primary areas of interest and / or concern amongst respondents. All responses, regardless of their origin (including those received after the consultation period), were analysed using the methodology as described in Section 7.4 of this report.

8.8.3 Although the consultation was targeted and sought feedback on specific changes made to the project design (as detailed in Section 8.1 of this report), responses were provided on a wider range of themes. All of which have been taken into consideration in the reporting of feedback received.

8.8.4 Tables 8.8 to 8.10 provide a summary of the key themes raised during the targeted consultation and how National Grid has considered or addressed these.

Table 8.8 – Summary of Targeted Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Non-Location Specific)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Extension							
TC1	Consider impact on potential redesignation of Stour Valley as AONB.		X	X	X	At this time, Dedham Vale AONB has not been extended and there is no defined boundary of any potential future extension of the designated AONB. Any potential future extension of the designated AONB would be the responsibility of Natural England to determine. Natural England advised the project that decisions should be based on the effects on the existing Dedham Vale AONB as currently designated and its setting (in line with the current National Policy Statement (NPS)). Natural England also advised that it recognises that parts of the Stour Valley will have a role as part of the setting of the AONB. As the status of the request to extend the AONB remains undecided and based on discussions with Natural England, National Grid is not proposing to treat any area outside of the existing Dedham Vale AONB boundary as designated within its application for development consent but will be considering the setting of the AONB, including the contribution that the Stour Valley makes to this.	N
Community / Social Impact							
TC2	New proposal minimises negative impact on residents / communities.			X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and are pleased that they feel the new proposal reduces negative impacts on residents and local communities. National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.	N
TC3	Concerned about impact of proposals on resident children / families.	X	X	X	X	National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable. The Environmental Statement (ES) considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities. The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside these.</p> <p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is very important to National Grid. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs), the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, would be fully compliant with these polices, set to protect everyone. This would be fully and publicly documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>	
TC4	Impacts on local residents and community (e.g., stress, health, mental health, increased criminal activity).	X	X	X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities. Both the CEMP and Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (application document 7.5.1) contain further information on security.</p>	N
TC5	Concerned about undergrounding cable linking the substation and the transformer near Gentry's Farm House.				X	<p>A low voltage electrical connection is required at the proposed Grid Supply Point (GSP) substation located off the A131. There is an existing electrical supply that would be used to connect into the GSP substation. The route of the electrical supply has been defined by UK Power Networks (UKPN) (using the best path to the GSP) who are the low voltage supplier.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Compensation							
TC6	Where significant impact on the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley is likely, this should be compensated for (e.g., by Stour Valley Environment Fund).				X	National Grid is proposing to underground through Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and parts of Section G: Stour Valley and to also remove the 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line. The combination of these embedded measures means that there would be an overall benefit to the AONB during operation. ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the effects of the project on landscape character and views and has not identified any long-term residual effects on the AONB once vegetation has re-established. Therefore, there is no justification for compensation.	N
Construction Impacts							
TC7	Alternatives to trenches should be used (e.g., tunnelling, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) construction).	X		X	X	The application for development consent describes where commitments have been made for trenchless crossings. Trenchless crossings are only suitable over short distances, as the longer the crossing, the deeper and more spread out (greater footprint) the cables need to be. Trenchless crossings also have different impacts compared to open cut methods, for example they take longer to construct and are more expensive. They can result in different effects such as noise and vibration and risks to groundwater. Therefore, trenchless crossings are only appropriate where there are specific constraints to avoid. However, National Grid is not seeking consent for a specific construction technique, as it intends to use the most suitable method based on factors such as the local geological conditions and sensitive features. National Grid has committed to a trenchless crossing of the River Stour, the Sudbury Branch Railway Line, the River Box and the habitat to the wooded valley to the south of Anells Grove.	N
TC8	Construction will need to be carefully planned to minimise disruption / nuisance to nearby areas (including conditions setting hours of working and timed restrictions).		X	X	X	The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours. The CEMP (application document 7.5) and the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contain good practice measures that would be employed during construction to reduce disruption and nuisance, such as employing best practicable means to reduce noise.	N
TC9	Concerned about potential damage to Lamarsh Church as a result of construction (vibration) and the compound nearby.				X	Vibrations dissipate very quickly with distance and given the distance between the construction compound and Lamarsh Church (approximately 300m) it is unlikely that there would be significant effects in terms of vibration. Further details on noise and vibration can be found in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC10	Suggested condition that the project shall only operate between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Mondays to Fridays and between the hours of 09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday. There shall be no working and / or use operated on Sundays and Bank Holidays. There shall be no deliveries to the development / use arranged for outside of these approved hours.		X			The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours. National Grid has identified the hours that it requires within the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1) for delivering the construction programme as efficiently and quickly as possible. The working hours mean that the project is anticipated to be constructed over a 4-year programme. Shortening the working hours would potentially extend the working programme and put at risk the delivery of the project by 2028.	N
Construction Noise							
TC11	Concerns about noise impacts resulting from construction of the project (e.g., trenching) / acoustic barriers needed.	X	X		X	The ES considers the potential effects on people from noise in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction. Where the assessment identifies areas where there could be the potential for significant noise effects, mitigation such as noise barriers to reduce noise during construction have been identified.	N
TC12	Draft Order Limits should be extended near Hill Farm House, moved north so that it follows the southern edge of Henny Back Road to allow baffle fencing to be installed to minimise visual and noise impacts from trenching, plus baffle fencing should also be installed at the Daws Hall fence line.	X				National Grid has noted this request and is actively in discussions with the landowner affected to reduce impacts to this property where practicable. There is no requirement to amend the Order Limits to facilitate this request.	N
Construction Traffic							
TC13	Concerned about potential disruption and safety issues for road users resulting from	X		X	X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and would be implementing safety measures,	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	construction traffic using narrow lanes / protected lanes.					such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.	
TC14	Concerned about impact of construction traffic on leisure users (e.g., horses, cyclists and walkers).				X	<p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and would be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads and implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.</p> <p>With respect to designated Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including bridleways, crossing the working area would be managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. The locations of the PRoWs affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).</p>	N
TC15	Roads are too narrow / not suitable for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).			X	X	<p>National Grid is aware of the narrow roads within the area and has considered existing road conditions when developing the final construction traffic routes presented as part of the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7). To make sure disruption to the local community is limited, a CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed which sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic. The CTMP includes measures to provide clear signage during construction to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed routes and stays within the speed limit imposed for construction traffic. National Grid emphasises to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas they are working in. Furthermore, National Grid has included a temporary haul road at the Stour Valley end of the proposal, to relieve the local road network by providing access and egress to the project area, more suited to construction traffic.</p>	N
TC16	Construction impacts on affected lanes and access tracks should be restored to previous condition once the project is complete.		X		X	<p>National Grid will endeavour to reduce impacts on lanes and access tracks during construction including reducing the duration of any closure, as far as practicable.</p> <p>In accordance with commitment GG06 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), a full record of condition would be carried out of the working area prior to construction. This record will be available for comparison following reinstatement after the works have been completed to demonstrate that the standard of reinstatement at least meets that recorded in the pre-condition survey.</p>	N
TC17	Need to ensure impact of construction traffic on strategic road network is managed to	X				<p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and will be implementing safety measures, such</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	minimise disruption / minimise impact on logistics businesses reliant on road access.					as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.	
Consultation							
TC18	Do not feel listened to / National Grid have not listened to feedback.	X	X	X	X	This Consultation Report provides details of the pre-application consultation, engagement and publicity that National Grid undertook. It sets out how the project has evolved in response to feedback received during the pre-application consultation (non statutory, statutory and targeted consultation). All feedback from the consultations has been taken into consideration during the development of the project, with all three consultations setting out responses received and National Grid's regard to those responses. Where changes have been made these are also identified in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of this report.	N
TC19	Criticism of consultation materials.	X	X	X	X	National Grid has made every attempt to make sure the consultation materials were easy to understand and accessible. National Grid is of the view that the consultation was effective and robust in order to inform consultees and seek their views on the proposals. National Grid provided a Consultation Summary Document which included 'Additional Preliminary Environmental Information', setting out the potential for any additional likely significant environmental effects associated with the proposed changes, comparing against those presented within the PEI Report presented at statutory consultation. An interactive map was available on the website and the project team were available via email or telephone to answer any questions.	N
TC20	Criticism of consultation process (including not being aware of the targeted consultation).	X	X	X	X	At targeted consultation, National Grid explained that it was proposing to make several changes to its plans, with the primary changes in the western part of the Stour Valley (the parishes of Lamarsh, Alhamstone, Twinstead, Pebmarsh and Little Maplestead). As such, National Grid targeted some promotional activity (such as the distribution of physical newsletters) to this area, as the consultation was more likely to be of interest to those living and working there. However, as the consultation also included details of a number of secondary changes to the proposals across the length of the reinforcement, National Grid made use of multiple other channels to advertise the consultation to those living across the PCZ. These channels included social media advertising, newspaper advertising and written updates to parish councils and other stakeholders. Furthermore, whilst not everyone within the PCZ would have received posted materials advertising the consultation, National Grid continued to offer paper copies of the consultation materials upon request. National Grid also made these materials available at local libraries across the route of the reinforcement.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC21	Request for contact / further discussion regarding the proposals.	X	X	X	X	National Grid noted the requests for further discussions received as part of the targeted consultation. Landowner discussions continue with regard to land affected by the route and there will also be further opportunities for consultees, stakeholders and other members of the public to make representations as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) examination.	N
TC22	Criticism of targeted consultation - using this as a way to 'rubber stamp' the other parts of the project. People not realising they can comment on other elements. National Grid still need to consider the previous responses.				X	<p>As part of the consultation process, regard is had to all feedback which is considered as part of the iterative design process to meet statutory obligations. National Grid provided a dedicated section on the targeted consultation feedback form to capture comments about the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement not covered elsewhere on the form or provided in previous consultations. As a result of feedback from the statutory consultation, National Grid re-examined at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the north of Alphamstone.</p> <p>The targeted consultation focused on two key changes to the design presented at statutory consultation, namely the realignment of the route through the Stour Valley and the provision of a haul road to the west of Alphamstone. Responses that related to other elements of the proposed reinforcement (including those that had not changed) were also reviewed and regard has been had to these issues, as demonstrated in this table.</p>	N
TC23	Request that revised 'Access Point Location and Routeing' plans for Alphamstone and Lamarsh are provided as previously agreed.	X				The access points are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7). The construction routes are described within the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7).	N
TC24	Further visualisations are needed to demonstrate the impact of the larger pylons on the landscape.		X	X		Visualisations of the proposals are presented within ES Appendix 6.4 (application document 6.3.6.4.1 – 6.3.6.4.7). These present the height of the pylons compared with the existing overhead line. In addition, Photomontages (application document 5.8) provide further visualisation of what the project would look like during operation.	N
TC25	Not given all cabling options / other alternative cabling routes are available (not specified).	X		X	X	National Grid has considered a number of different alignments for the underground cables bearing in mind all of its statutory duties and relevant guidance. These are described in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) along with the environmental effects of each option and the reason for the selection of the preferred option.	N

Cumulative Impact

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC26	Consider the cumulative effect of other projects (including East Anglia GREEN and East Anglia THREE).	X	X	X	X	<p>As part of the DCO process, National Grid has undertaken a cumulative effects assessment (CEA) which is provided in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) and associated appendices: ES Appendices 15.3 to 15.5 (application documents 6.3.15.3 to 6.3.15.5). National Grid is in discussion with the relevant operator of the wind farms (East Anglia Three Limited).</p> <p>National Grid's East Anglia GREEN is a separate DCO to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. The CEA has been undertaken in accordance with established principles, and takes account of other known projects, including East Anglia THREE and East Anglia GREEN, so far as it is possible to do so based on the information currently available to National Grid.</p>	N
DCO Process							
TC27	National Grid should reflect further on its justification for excluding the majority of the Bramford Substation works from the Order Limits.		X	X		National Grid has considered this request and amended the application boundary at Bramford Substation, increasing the land within the Order Limits compared with the area presented at targeted consultation, to include the connection works within Bramford Substation	Y
Design Change							
TC28	Cables should be underground.	X		X	X	<p>As part of the options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties, which includes (amongst other things) the requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electricity transmission system (under the Electricity Act 1989); and • To have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest (under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989). National Grid's interpretation of this also includes the impact of works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction. <p>The impacts and costs of both overhead and underground options vary considerably between projects, but generally, the cost of constructing and maintaining underground cables is considerably higher than overhead lines.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>NPS EN-5, taken together with the overarching NPS for energy (EN-1), provides the primary basis for decisions taken by the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) on applications for development consent it receives for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) for electricity networks infrastructure. EN-5 makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances; EN-5 states <i>'Government does not believe that development of overhead lines is generally incompatible in principle with developers' statutory duty under section 9 of the Electricity Act to have regard to amenity and to mitigate impacts'</i>. It goes on to say that <i>'in practice new above ground electricity lines, whether supported by lattice steel pylons or wooden poles, can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts, dependent upon their scale, siting, degree of screening and the nature of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed. For the most part these impacts can be mitigated'</i>.</p> <p>Although Government expects that fulfilling this need through the development of overhead lines will often be appropriate, it recognises that there will be cases where this is not so. Where there are serious concerns about the potential adverse landscape and visual effects of a proposed overhead line, this would need to be balanced against other relevant factors, including the need for the proposed infrastructure, the availability and cost of alternative sites and routes and methods of installation (including undergrounding). EN-5 recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms, taking account of the specific local environment and context.</p> <p>EN-5 says PINs should only refuse consent for overhead line proposals in favour of an underground (or sub-sea line) if it is satisfied that the benefits from the non-overhead line alternative would clearly outweigh any extra economic, social and environmental impacts and the technical difficulties are surmountable with consideration to the landscape in which the proposed line would be set, the additional cost of undergrounding and the environmental and archaeological consequences of undergrounding.</p> <p>To balance its duties and responsibilities National Grid proposes underground cable at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere, the higher cost of installing underground cables is not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient in the interests of the bill paying consumers. Further information is available in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).</p>	

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC29	All existing overground pylons in the Stour Valley should be removed / undergrounded.			X	X	<p>The scope of the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is a new electricity line between Bramford Substation, west of Ipswich and Twinstead, south of Sudbury to resolve a bottleneck on the existing network.</p> <p>The scope and therefore funding for the proposed reinforcement does not allow for undergrounding the existing 400kV overhead line. Therefore, while two stretches of underground cable are proposed through the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, no stretches of existing 400kV line would be put underground as the substantial cost to bill payers, as well as the environmental impacts of construction, would not be justified.</p> <p>As part of the proposals, National Grid proposes to rationalise the existing electricity network and remove infrastructure that is no longer required. As well as undergrounding in the Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley, approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee in the Stour Valley).</p> <p>Although National Grid has a Visual Impact Provision (VIP), which makes use of Ofgem funding to reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in nationally designated landscapes in England and Wales, this is a separate initiative to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement.</p>	N
TC30	Adopt the Coppins Route proposal instead.			X		<p>As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid re-examined at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents, including the Coppins Route proposal. A summary of the options appraisal can be found in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).</p>	N
TC31	The draft order limit is too close to the houses.				X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable. The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also sets out the potential visual effect on communities and where mitigation is proposed.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.	
TC32	Route should avoid Alphamstone altogether.				X	<p>Feedback received from stakeholders during the statutory consultation (spring 2022) expressed concerns about the proximity of construction activities to Alphamstone, as well as concerns around the impact on sensitive parts of the environment and the suitability of the local road network for large construction vehicles. As a result, National Grid made changes to the proposals in the western part of the Stour Valley, in the parishes of Lamarsh, Alphamstone, Twinstead, Pebmarsh and Little Maplestead including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving the route of underground cables further away from Alphamstone. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents and identified a new alignment that lay further to the west of Alphamstone. The change affected the reinforcement between Moat Lane and the proposed Stour Valley West CSE compound, and moved the route to the north of Henny Back Road; • Whilst looking at routeing, consideration was given to constructing the underground cables beneath the wooded valley to the south of Ansell's Grove using trenchless construction methods to reduce impacts on biodiversity and landscape character; and • National Grid further consulted on building a temporary haul road from Sudbury Road (A131) to the Stour Valley West CSE compound to reduce construction traffic impacts on the local area. 	N
TC33	Set the GSP substation back from the road to allow for mitigation planting in front of the substation.	X			X	<p>The Limits of Deviation (LoD) at the GSP site have been adjusted and landscape mounding introduced, to allow a design that is set back further from the A131 and is screened from views from the east. The designs shown in the Design and Layout Plans (application document 2.11.1) are indicative and illustrative, rather than showing the final design. In April 2022, National Grid submitted a separate planning application (under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA)) for the GSP substation to reduce the amount of time it would take to build the full reinforcement. Braintree District Council's planning committee voted to approve the TCPA application at a meeting on 18 October 2022. This planning permission is compatible with the change described above.</p> <p>Planting proposals are set out in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (application document 7.8).</p>	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC34	Additional planting / screening is needed at pylon site 98.				X	At this location it is proposed to replace an existing pylon with a cable sealing platform pylon. The new pylon would have a different appearance and have wider crossarms but would not be significantly taller than the existing pylon. The lower-level sealing end elements would benefit from existing hedgerow boundaries. It has therefore not currently been identified as requiring mitigation planting. Two temporary pylons are required to facilitate this work.	N
TC35	The western end of the horizontal drilling is very near an ancient green lane, and if it is too near to that lane, it risks disturbing the tree roots because they wouldn't yet have reached full depth.			X		It is understood that there is concern over the western side of the trenchless crossing which goes beneath the wooded valley to the south of Ansell's Grove and its proximity to an ancient green lane and the risk of disturbing the tree roots. An arboricultural survey has been undertaken for the project to establish tree root protected zones required during construction activities. During the detailed design, the main works contractor will evaluate the drill profile in relation to the ancient lane and tree root system with the intention of micro-siting the drill to avoid root damage.	N
TC36	Suggest routing out to sea / offshore transmission.	X		X	X	Offshore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) projects are typically very costly and unlikely to deliver the same level of network capability when compared with equivalent onshore projects, so the benefits and costs of these types of projects needs to be weighed up against the impacts of onshore construction. More generally, the Government is currently conducting an Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR), examining how power from offshore generation and interconnectors can come onshore in a more coordinated way. The reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead is designed to address a bottleneck on the network, which has to be addressed, and an offshore route does not address this need.	N
TC37	Undergrounding should continue to the Twinstead Substation (GSP).				X	<p>The scope of the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is a new electricity line between Bramford Substation, west of Ipswich and Twinstead, south of Sudbury to resolve a bottleneck on the existing network. The reinforcement comprises sections of overhead line, and two stretches of underground cable.</p> <p>The new electricity line however does not extend west of Twinstead Tee, and therefore does not reach the GSP. No new undergrounding (or indeed new overhead line) is required between Twinstead Tee and the proposed GSP.</p> <p>Between the diamond crossing at Twinstead and the GSP however is a section of the existing 400kV overhead line and the existing 132kV overhead line. The stretch of existing 132kV overhead line is not owned or controlled by National Grid. It is owned and operated by UKPN. The removal of this section of overhead line is not required for the route of the new 400kV overhead line.</p>	N
TC38	Suggest new location for the CSE compound as proposed				X	The suggested location for a CSE compound has been investigated and is located in a Water Framework Directive Groundwater body on the edge of Lamarsh Park which	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	for the 'Southern Route' located at the junction where North Wood meets Lamarsh Park.					is listed on the inventory of Ancient Woodlands. The suggested site does not have any landscape designation. Moving the CSE compound to the junction where North Wood meets Lamarsh Park would involve approximately 3km of additional cable undergrounding compared to the design proposed during targeted consultation. The higher cost of installing underground cables and the additional environmental impact for this additional length is not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient in the interests of the bill paying consumers.	
TC39	Suggest extending the trenching further south to Lamarsh Park. Affordable to have a further 2.5km of trenching, removing the need for seven pylons, by moving the CSE compound further south.				X	Please see response TC37.	N
TC40	Suggest moving the permanent access road to the CSE compound from the junction of Lamarsh Park and North Wood, to be instead provided from the south, off the road between Countess Cross and Daws Cross.				X	Please see response TC37. As the change to the Stour Valley West CSE compound location has not been taken forward, an alternative access would not be necessary.	N
TC41	Suggest National Grid could make use of the wartime concrete access roads within Lamarsh Park - as an alternative.				X	Please see response TC37. As the change to the Stour Valley West CSE compound location has not been taken forward, the use of wartime access roads in Lamarsh Park would not be necessary.	N
TC42	Suggest extending the distance of trenchless cabling (e.g.: south of Ansell's Grove, eastern side of the valley, further west, past pylon 4YLA003).	X		X	X	National Grid has committed to a trenchless crossing to the south of Ansell's Grove to avoid impacts on the local wildlife site and vegetation within the valley. The exact length and location of the trenchless crossing will also need to consider the ground conditions, construction technique and health and safety requirements regarding working close the existing 400kV overhead line, which would be operational and live during construction. Therefore, movement of the trenchless crossing back to 4YLA003 could not be made at this time.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC43	Prefer route to south of Henny Back Road (and avoid Hill Farm House).			X	X	National Grid notes this response. As a result of extensive feedback from the statutory consultation, including potential route options, National Grid re-examined at the alignment of the project through the Stour Valley. National Grid had regard to the alternative alignments proposed by respondents, including the route to the south of Henny Back Road. A summary of the options appraisal can be found in ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3).	N
TC44	Suggest use of boring to pass under lane near Hill Farm House.				X	National Grid has considered this feedback and are actively working with its construction advisors on an appropriate method to cross Moat Lane, bearing in mind the results of recent ground investigations. Whilst the method to cross Moat Lane cannot be committed to at this time, this will be further considered as part of the detailed design.	N
TC45	Suggest access to the CSE compound just south of Workhouse Green to be made via the main road from Bures to Sudbury.				X	The permanent access to the Stour Valley East CSE compound is from the B1508 Bures Road which is the main road from Bures to Sudbury.	N
TC46	Suggest construction traffic should use the highway past Collins Farm and Magnolia House then a haul road adjacent to Lorkins Lane.				X	A site visit and route inspection were completed by specialist access consultants to review the option of routeing cable drum Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) via the public highway from the A131 via Collins Road, Oak Road and Cripple Corner to Stour Valley West CSE compound. The findings of the inspection concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. Remedial works were identified at Collins Road, the Collins Road/Oak Road junction at Dagworth Manor and on Oak Road itself as well as the unclassified road where Magnolia House is located including Magnolia Culvert and the Upper Links junction. This option would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented. Surveys undertaken previously by specialist access consultants looked into cable drum access to Stour Valley West CSE compound which recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road. This has been reconfirmed by	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>the most recent inspection which determined that the haul road is the most suitable option for cable drum deliveries.</p> <p>A haul road would also separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, dog walkers, horse riders etc.</p>	
TC47	Suggest the access to PCB67 and PCB66 from existing track should be taken through the existing hedge gap and gate to the north, avoiding need for a new entrance. With regard to demolishing PCB66, I would request access to it be taken from land to the north, avoiding traversing most of the very wet land of Coop field, which will be difficult for your vehicles and disturb the natural ground drainage.			X		Through the DCO, National Grid is seeking powers to locate access tracks where required within the Order Limits (not necessarily/ exclusively to locations shown on the General Arrangement Plans). It is the intention to discuss proposals with landowners during the detailed design phase and where practicable take on board landowner feedback.	N
TC48	Suggest the principal access from The Street by its junction near Mill House, would be easier to come across Hodges field to the west, to avoid disturbing and demolishing existing hedges.			X		Through the DCO, National Grid is seeking powers to locate access tracks where required within the Order Limits (not necessarily/ exclusively to locations shown on the General Arrangement Plans). It is the intention to discuss proposals with landowners during the detailed design phase and where practicable take on board landowner feedback. National Grid intends to utilise existing gaps in hedgerows where practicable.	N
TC49	Concerned about impact of the project on wildlife / protected species.			X	X	<p>Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to understand the existing conditions. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any relevant mitigation.</p> <p>National Grid is using the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) 3.1 Metric to calculate the habitat affected on the project and as part of delivering at least 10% BNG on the project.</p>	N
TC50	Oppose the position of any RB2 tower in the middle of OS TM0945 3845 and any temp			X	X	National Grid has considered the alternative pylon positions as suggested. At this stage National Grid is not seeking consent for fixed pylon locations, the overhead line would be built anywhere within the LoD. Furthermore, the change to 'RB2' would not	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	access route from existing track.					be best practice from an engineering perspective, due to the lengthening of the wire span between pylons. This would also result in a higher pylon being necessary, which would be more visible and no improvement on the existing design. Pylon RB2 would also still be in the field and not on the track (PRoWs). As a result of these investigations, it was concluded that such a redesign would not be beneficial and may result in further impacts.	
TC51	Oppose the position of any RB3 tower in OS TM0945 5312 and any temporary access route from the track.			X	X	National Grid considered the alternative pylon positions as suggested. As a result of these investigations, it was concluded that such a redesign would not be beneficial and may result in further impacts. At this stage National Grid is not seeking consent for fixed pylon locations, the overhead line would be built anywhere within the LoD.	N
TC52	Oppose the access across 4YL004A from Hill Farm Drive through Pettersfield towards the substation over TM0945 3845.			X	X	Temporary access routes off Hill Farm Drive would be permitted for access to 4YL004A and 4YL004 only. No access from 4YL004A would be granted or permitted towards the substation to give access to other parts of National Grid property northwards of the field that sites 4YL004A. At this stage, National Grid is not seeking consent for fixed temporary access locations, the access routes would be built anywhere within the LoD.	N
TC53	Consultation required for any re-routeing by undergrounding of the low voltage line in TM0945 3845 and TM0945 5312, note existing utilities.			X	X	National Grid confirm that the overhead line wooden poles in these areas would be undergrounded. Affected landowners would be contacted by the owner of the assets (UKPN) in due course to get a voluntary agreement to re-route or underground their assets. As part of this, UKPN will consult with affected landowners as per their own landowner consultation processes.	N
TC54	Cables should be undergrounded in all areas north of Dedham Vale to Bramford Substation.			X	X	As part of the options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties (see TC003 for further information). The relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms. To balance its duties and responsibilities National Grid proposes underground cables at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere, the higher cost of installing underground cables is not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient in the interests of the bill paying consumers and to consider the environmental implications of installing and maintaining underground cables.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC55	Presume there is a need for undergrounding of the existing electricity to Burstall house, farms and businesses on farm land.			X	X	Where necessary to allow the construction of the proposed reinforcement, powers are being sought to underground existing lower voltage overhead lines, currently supported by wooden poles.	N
TC56	Request for undergrounding through Section F: Leavenheath to Assington / justify why this isn't included with costings.				X	As part of its options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties. The relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances, although it recognises that that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms. Section F: Leavenheath / Assington is not designated and therefore there is no policy justification for undergrounding in this section. In addition, there is the existing 400kV overhead line which the proposed 400kV overhead line would parallel through this section and the existing 132kV overhead line would be removed. This would result in a reduced magnitude of change in this section. National Grid has concluded that when taking into account all of their duties and the baseline environment in this section, that overhead lines should remain the preferred approach in Section F: Leavenheath / Assington. The cost of each option was considered during the options appraisal process.	N
TC57	Reconsider the use of Layham Quarry for the Dedham Vale East CSE compound and as a temporary construction camp.		X		X	<p>National Grid's various statutory duties includes (amongst other things) the requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electricity transmission system (under the Electricity Act 1989) in the interests of the bill paying consumers; and • To have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest (under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989). National Grid's interpretation of this also includes the impact of works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction. <p>The higher cost associated with the extra sections of underground cabling that would be required by locating Dedham Vale East CSE compound at Layham Quarry would</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						not be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient. Layham Quarry has not been identified as a temporary construction compound at this time.	
TC58	Object to use of Henny Road in Lamarsh for construction traffic and worker access.				X	National Grid has reviewed the need for construction traffic to use Henny Road (Lamarsh); this review has confirmed that Henny Road would be required for construction traffic. The type of construction traffic using this road will be determined during the detailed design phase. National Grid will endeavour to reduce impacts during construction.	N
TC59	Object to the existing west-east track to the south of Lamarsh village hall being used as an access road leading to a new access road running alongside the railway. Plus, the provision of aforementioned access road running alongside the railway line.	X			X	National Grid has reviewed the need for construction traffic to use Henny Road (Lamarsh) and the access east off Henny Road; this review has confirmed that Henny Road and the side access off it would be required for construction traffic. Specifically, the temporary access routes referred to are required to allow construction traffic to cross the tracks using the existing crossing point to the east of Lamarsh Village Hall, although the type of construction traffic using this road and the access will be determined during the detailed design phase. National Grid will endeavour to reduce impacts during construction.	N
TC60	Recommend that route is moved to the most northerly part of Rhyne Park Farm Land.	X				Feedback received from stakeholders during the statutory consultation (spring 2022) expressed concerns about the proximity of construction activities to Alphamstone, as well as concerns around the impact on sensitive parts of the environment and the suitability of the local road network for large construction vehicles. As a result, National Grid made changes to the proposals in the western part of the Stour Valley. The changes affected the reinforcement between Moat Lane and the proposed Stour Valley West CSE compound and moved the route to the north of Henny Back Road. The revised routing as presented at targeted consultation passes to the north of Rhyne Park Farm.	N
TC61	Where the proposed route bisects Moat Lane (designated as a 'Protected Lane'), it should be done so using trenched undergrounding.	X				National Grid have considered this feedback and are actively working with its construction advisors on an appropriate method to cross Moat Lane, bearing in mind the results of recent ground investigations. Whilst this cannot be committed to at this time, this would be further considered as part of the detailed design. National Grid will endeavour to reduce impacts on lanes and access tracks during construction including reducing the duration of any closure, as far as practicable.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC62	At Lamarsh, consider access routes coming from each of the railway line (close to pylon PCB80) to join the B1508 Bures to Sudbury Road instead of the proposal past Lamarsh Village Hall.	X				The B1508 is proposed to be used by construction traffic in addition to Henny Road. National Grid have reviewed the need for construction traffic to use Henny Road (Lamarsh); this review has confirmed that Henny Road would be required for construction traffic. The type of construction traffic using this road will be determined during the detailed design phase. National Grid will endeavour to reduce impacts during construction.	N
TC63	Oppose the proposed junction bellmouth on the proposed access road to the Stour Valley West CSE compound (junction of Whitelands Road and Henny Back Road) - too large and could be sited along Henny Back Road where one of three proposed temporary bellmouths are positioned.	X				Following feedback received during the targeted consultation the permanent access into Stour Valley West CSE compound has been amended from the junction of Whitelands Road and Henny Back Road to a location off Henny Back Road. Whilst Henny Back Road is a protected lane, the southern parts of Henny Back Road are much wider and able to accommodate construction and operational maintenance traffic. This change would shorten the length of the permanent access track. The bellmouth at the junction of Whitelands Road and Henny Back Road and the access to Stour Valley West CSE compound would remain within the Order Limits to facilitate construction activities.	Y
TC64	Suggest repositioning of pylon 4YLA6C in the field to the north as was the case in the January 2022 consultation documents.	X				National Grid intends to rely on the flexibility afforded under the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1) when finalising the detailed design for, and location of, pylons. The pylons would be situated within the Order Limits, but not necessarily in the locations shown on the General Arrangement Plans (those plans showing a typical arrangement only). As part of this detailed design process, National Grid will seek to ensure that landowner feedback is taken onboard wherever practicable.	N
Economic Impact							
TC65	Negative impact on local businesses / local economy / farming / tourism.	X	X	X	X	National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers and local businesses who may be directly affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to limit disruption on the local community where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impacts on farming operations and businesses can be proven. Particular matters can also be written into voluntary land agreements.	N
Environmental Impact							
TC66	This cable is close to dwellings, another route is			X		A low voltage electrical connection is required at the proposed GSP substation located off the A131. There is an existing electrical supply located adjacent to Watery	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	suggested near towers 4YLO77 and 4YLO78 and Green Lane.					Lane that would be used to connect into the GSP substation. The route of the electrical supply has been defined by UKPN using the best path to the GSP substation.	
TC67	Concern about impacts of the project on the environment.	X		X	X	The ES assesses the likely significant effect of the project on the environment over both construction and operation. It identifies the level of effect and also the timescales over which those effects would be felt to allocate mitigation accordingly.	N
TC68	New proposal minimises negative impact on the environment / wildlife.		X	X	X	National Grid thanks the respondent for their response in support of the new proposal. The application for development consent is supported by an EIA, which considers (amongst other environmental features) effects of the reinforcement on wildlife (ecological receptors) and will identify if further mitigation is required, subject to ongoing discussion with statutory environmental consultees. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to support the assessment, which is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
TC69	Concerned about impact on wildlife / protected species (e.g., bats, badgers, voles, dormice, birds, wetland species etc.).	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to understand the existing conditions. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any relevant mitigation. National Grid will also apply for any relevant protected species licences from Natural England.	N
TC70	Avoid damage to or loss of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient hedgerows, veteran trees.	X	X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The options appraisal process has sought to avoid irreplaceable habitats such as ancient hedgerows and veteran trees, but this is not possible in all locations. Impacts on irreplaceable habitats (such as hedgerows, veteran trees etc.) are set out in the ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).	N
TC71	Protect the designated Ancient Woodland and roots near the GSP substation (Butler's Wood / Waldegrave Wood).	X			X	The GSP substation has been positioned in the arable field between the two woodland areas (Butler's Wood / Waldegrave Wood) with a buffer to protect the tree roots. There would be no loss of trees. There may need to be trimming of the trees at Waldegrave Woods to allow for safety clearances associated with the conductors, which would be similar to the maintenance undertaken as part of the existing overhead line. An arboricultural survey has been undertaken for the project to establish tree root protected zones required during construction activities. During the detailed design,	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						the main works contractor will evaluate the drill profile in relation to the ancient lane and tree root system with the intention of micrositing the drill to avoid root damage.	
TC72	Concerned that the potential negative impacts on Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) sites identified at statutory consultation remain unchanged. These are: Hintlesham Woods SSSI, Arger Fen SSSI, Cornard Mere: Little Cornard SSSI, Little Blakenham Pit SSSI, Cattawade Marshes SSSI, Stour Estuary SSSI, and Orwell Estuary SSSI.	X				Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The options appraisal sought to avoid designated sites where practicable. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) describes the effects on designated sites, including SSSI and the proposed mitigation. The assessment has concluded that there are no residual significant effects to SSSI.	N
TC73	Suggest parkland in front of Hintlesham Hall should be restored.		X	X		ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) assesses the effects on Hintlesham Hall. The assessment has concluded that the project would not result in substantial harm to the Hall. National Grid has discussed the mitigation strategy for Hintlesham Hall with Historic England, including additional planting proposals and reinstating some of the historic parkland features and this has been agreed with Historic England in the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (application document 7.3.3).	N
Flooding							
TC74	Concern relating to underground cables and the haul road passing over / under third party flood land in the area where the proposed reinforcement intersects the River Stour.			X	X	The temporary access route and cables would cross a flood defence embankment on the River Stour. In accordance with measure W18 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), the crossing designs would avoid impacts on the defence foundations and construction works would be undertaken using methods that limit ground movement / settlement to reduce the potential to compromise the condition and stability of the embankment. Specific measures will be agreed with the Environment Agency within the Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAP) produced for the project, which are outside of the DCO application.	N
TC75	Concerned about potential flooding as a result of damaging drainage systems			X	X	The project is not expected to increase flood risk. Further details can be found in the Flood Risk Assessment (application document 5.5).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	as a result of construction at Collins Road.						
Health and Safety							
TC76	Concerns about fencing and safety around sites.			X	X	National Grid would secure the working areas during construction using fencing where appropriate, for example depending on land use and on public access to the area. National Grid takes site safety very seriously, and promotes a safety focussed culture amongst its staff and its contractors. All sites will be risk assessed from a security perspective and output controls implemented, and all site safety and security requirements, including the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015, will be adhered to as a minimum.	N
TC77	The EIA should demonstrate that the applicant has considered the ICNIRP Guidelines on Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields for limiting exposure to time varying EMFs (1Hz – 100kHz) and ICNIRP recommendations on power lines and Low Frequency Fields.		X			NPS EN-5 sets out the EMF policies that apply to electricity infrastructure. These policies have been set to protect us all against EMFs, the main component of which is the ICNIRP exposure guidelines. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, would be fully compliant with these policies and guidelines which would be documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.	N
Heritage Impact							
TC78	Concerns to historical listed buildings resulting from the project (visual and physical impacts).	X	X	X	X	ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) assesses the effects of the project on heritage assets including archaeological remains and listed buildings. This concludes that there are no likely significant effects on listed buildings including their setting. National Grid has held a number of meetings with Historic England and the County Archaeological Advisors regarding the heritage implications of the proposals, and the proposed mitigation measures are set out in the Archaeological Framework Strategy (AFS) (application document 7.9) and the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).	N
Needs Case							
TC79	Suggest alternative sources of energy / alternatives to proposal.			X	X	It should be noted that the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is an electricity transmission project and does not generate energy. The transmission network	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>connects and transports electricity from energy generating stations to where the electricity is required.</p> <p>The existing electricity transmission network in East Anglia does not have the capability or capacity required to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the network by 2030 while working to the required standards. The network needs to be reinforced between Bramford and Twinstead to increase the network capacity in the region to carry the electricity generation in East Anglia. Furthermore, the annual constraint costs to consumers associated with not undertaking the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement are significant.</p>	
TC80	Oppose proposals for Stour Valley / do not support proposals.	X			X	<p>Following feedback from consultees and feedback received during statutory consultation, National Grid undertook a back check and review of options in the Stour Valley. This review identified the proposed option to the north of Alphamstone including a trenchless crossing to the south of Ansells Grove.</p> <p>National Grid sought further feedback on this option as part of targeted consultation, to assist in identifying the most appropriate solution for this section of the route which strikes the right balance.</p> <p>Following the review of the feedback received during the targeted consultation National Grid consider this to be the right solution for this area.</p>	N
TC81	Proposals are a waste of money / criticism of National Grid's objectives.				X	<p>The UK requires delivery of the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement to help alleviate network capacity constraints in the region. These works would not only facilitate delivery of additional network capacity to support contracted electricity generation coming online; moreover, it would also help to deliver the Government's aspiration to connect 50GW of offshore wind to the network by 2030 and the UK's broader ambition to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050.</p>	N
Overhead Line Operation							
TC82	Concerns about overground pylons being affected by weather / extreme events.				X	<p>Overhead lines are designed to remain generally robust and operational in the worst weather conditions in the UK. Although overhead lines are more susceptible to disruption from lightning and high winds, they are also comparatively easy and cost-effective to repair and maintain compared to underground cables. It should also be noted that the majority of the existing National Grid network is made up of overhead lines, which have been proven to be a reliable form of electricity transmission in the UK climate.</p> <p>Major accidents and disasters have been considered as part of the EIA including the effects of extreme weather. Storms of sufficient severity to cause damage to infrastructure are very rare in the UK. Overhead lines could be subject to high wind</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>speeds; however, these are designed to meet current safety standards. If in an extreme scenario the overhead line were to be damaged, the monitoring system would detect the fault within milliseconds and the circuit would be tripped and there would be no resulting risk of electrocution or fire. Lightning could potentially strike overhead lines; however, these have earthing protection against lightning strikes. The project is designed to existing National Grid standards, which include consideration of high temperatures. Overhead lines are also designed to withstand temperatures to as low as -25°C with no effects to operation.</p> <p>National Grid undertakes regular inspections of the overhead line using thermal imaging to assess damage to the overhead line from weather. This means damage caused by low or high temperatures or snow / ice would be identified and repaired prior to failure of the line.</p>	
Property Value							
TC83	Concerns about loss of property value as a result of the proposals / unsaleable property.	X			X	National Grid acknowledges that any proposed new work may cause concern to landowners. Diminution in property value for those with a qualifying interest is known as 'injurious affection', and any other appropriate heads of claim would be considered on an individual basis in accordance with current legislation. The Compulsory Purchase Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of their property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works.	N
PRoWs							
TC84	Impact on PRoW amenity along the bridleway at Bullen Lane, which coincides with the vehicular access along Bullen Lane, should be considered.	X				<p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and will be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.</p> <p>Impacts on PRoW are discussed in the EIA. With respect to designated PRoWs, including bridleways, crossing the working area would be managed with access only closed while construction activities occur. The locations of the PRoW affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).</p>	N
TC85	Proposed cable realignment will impact four new PRoWs that were not previously affected, consideration should	X				Through the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), National Grid is seeking a statutory power allowing for the temporary stopping up, alteration or diversion of streets or PRoWs shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7) or within the Order	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	be given to the impact this will have on members of the public that use these PRowS.					<p>Limits. In relation to the streets and PRowS listed in Schedule 7 of the draft DCO, National Grid must first consult with the relevant street authority.</p> <p>The locations of the PRow affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7). All designated PRow crossing the working area would be managed with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions would be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns. The impact on PRow is assessed in the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7).</p>	
Substation Location							
TC86	Criticism of the location of the GSP substation (no reason given).				X	<p>The Horlock Rules (2009) provide guidelines for the siting and design of new substations, or substation extensions, to avoid or reduce the environmental effects of such developments. In summary, they facilitate consideration of environmental and amenity considerations within the design and siting of new substation infrastructure. These were considered during the identification of potential locations for the proposed GSP substation near Twinstead.</p> <p>National Grid undertook appraisal work to identify potential sites for the GSP substation. An initial desk-based study identified eight potential sites along the 400kV overhead line. Three were taken forward for further investigation. All options were assessed against technical implications; environmental effects; socio-economic impacts; and cost. The study concluded that a GSP substation between Butler's Wood and Waldegrave Wood was preferred, as it would have the least impact on the landscape character of the area and visual amenity (the two woodlands provide existing natural screening for the site), ecology and the historic environment. This option would also be the least constrained from a technical perspective and have the shortest access road.</p> <p>As part of the EIA process, National Grid has also made a commitment (embedded measure) to create low mounds to the west of the A131 and to the west of the proposed GSP substation. These would be planted to further help filter views of the GSP substation from the A131 and from Wickham St Paul.</p> <p>It should also be noted that planning permission has been granted by Braintree District Council for the GSP substation.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Supportive Comment							
TC87	Comment supportive of proposal / engagement that has taken place - feel listened to.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views and is pleased that they feel the consultation activities have listened to their views.	N
Surveys							
TC88	Criticism of surveying process - additional surveys and consideration of impact is needed.	X		X	X	National Grid notes this comment and can confirm that it has undertaken the necessary surveys required to support the EIA based on recommendations and methodology set out in independent guidance and in discussion with relevant consultees.	N
TC89	Investigation and risk assessment with respect to land contamination will be required where the route crosses Layham Quarry, Rands Road, Layham, Ipswich, Suffolk (grid reference: TM0111639866).			X	X	ES Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology (application document 6.2.10) presents the assessment undertaken regarding the risks of contaminated land, including Layham Quarry. The risk is generally considered to be low on the project and good practice measures to reduce risks from contamination are outlined in the CEMP (application document 7.5).	N
TC90	An Air Quality Assessment should be provided, focused on the risks from cabling through Dedham Vale.		X			ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) provides the assessment on air quality from construction, including dust and emission. The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on air quality during construction. These include measures to turn off machinery when not in use, identifying construction routes suitable for HGVs and good practice soil measures to reduce dust.	N
TC91	Assessment of the noise emissions of the GSP substation should be taken from the nearest sound-sensitive premises.		X			Noise surveys were undertaken at properties around the proposed GSP substation to identify the baseline noise levels to use within the assessment. Further details can be found in ES Appendix 14.4: GSP Substation Noise Assessment (application document 6.3.14.4) The GSP substation design has enclosures around the super grid transformers as an embedded measure to reduce operational noise. With this embedded measure in place and give the distance of the nearest property (approximately 300m), there are unlikely to be any significant noise effects during operation. Further details on noise and vibration can be found in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14).	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
TC92	Undertake further paleoenvironmental assessment in the area of the trenchless crossing, comprising of targeted borehole survey, undertaken by geoarchaeological and paleoenvironmental specialists, with provision for radiocarbon dating to inform any future mitigation strategy for the trenchless crossing.		X	X		National Grid has undertaken an initial desk based geo-environmental and paleoenvironmental study to inform the baseline studies. The results of this are summarised in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8). The Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10), describes the archaeological mitigation works proposed for the project, including the further mitigation work required in terms of the paleoenvironmental assessment in the area of the trenchless crossings.	N
Tourism and Leisure							
TC93	Concerned about the impact of the proposed route on leisure activities.			X	X	With respect to designated PRoWs, including bridleways, crossing the working area would be managed with access only closed while construction activities occur. The locations of the PRoW affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).	N
Utilities							
TC94	Concerned about impact of works on water supply (abstracted water / wells rather than mains supply).			X	X	The potential impacts and effects on groundwater, including private water supplies, from the project during construction and operation have been assessed and are presented in ES Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology (application document 6.2.10) and the accompanying ES Appendix 10.2 (application document 6.3.10.2). The assessment has not identified any potential significant effects on groundwater following application of the good practice measures in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1).	N
TC95	Suggest liaison with gas pipeline operators regarding the planned works.	X				National Grid has been in dialogue with the utilities supplier in order to manage and mitigate risks associated with services and any planned works. The utility records have been considered as part of the design of the Order Limits. The relevant consents and approvals would be sought from the statutory undertakers prior to construction.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Visual Impact							
TC96	The Stour Valley landscape needs to be protected.	X	X	X	X	National Grid agrees that parts of the Stour Valley have a role as part of the setting of the Dedham Vale AONB and has therefore proposed to underground parts of the new 400kV cable in this area, including a trenchless crossing to the south of Ansell's Grove, to reduce impacts on this area. The assessment is presented in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6).	N
TC97	Minimise size and visual impact of substation compounds.				X	A GSP substation (compound) is proposed to facilitate the removal of the existing 132kV overhead line and four CSE compounds are proposed to facilitate the transmission from overhead lines to underground cables. The size of each compound is determined by the infrastructure it contains and its operational requirements. Visual impact has been reduced by the appropriate siting of these compounds and provision of landscape planting to filter and soften views of the infrastructure in the landscape. Where deemed appropriate through the EIA process, additional mitigation planting has been proposed at strategic locations to reduce the visual effects of infrastructure from key views.	N
TC98	Screening required at CSE compounds and substations (including GSP).	X			X	The location of the CSE compounds and GSP substation have been chosen with consideration to natural screening provided by site topography and existing woodland areas. In addition, further planting is proposed around each CSE compound to help filter views of the infrastructure. In addition, further planting is included as an embedded measure within the design to further screen the CSE compounds and GSP substation, from surrounding viewpoints.	N
TC99	Screening required at trenching sites.				X	National Grid would secure the working areas during construction using fencing where appropriate, for example depending on land use and on public access to the area. This fencing, where provided, may also provide screening of the construction site.	N
TC100	Take steps to minimise visual impacts of the project - e.g., planting and screening.		X		X	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken as part of the ES, which sets out the potential landscape effects and identifies areas for potential mitigation planting to reduce visual impacts to local receptors. The LVIA can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). The LEMP (application document 7.8) includes details regarding the planting proposals.	N
TC101	Will there be any changes to the setting of the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley	X	X	X	X	National Grid undertook a Setting Study as part of ES Appendix 6.2 (application document 6.3.6.2). This defines the setting of the AONB in relation to the project and has considered views in and out of the AONB as part of defining the setting. ES	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	as a result of changes to the CSE compound gantries / other pylons?					Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the effects of the project on the AONB and its setting and has not identified any long-term residual adverse effects from the project, including CSE gantries and pylons once vegetation has re-established.	
TC102	UKPN refusal to remove the section of 132kV pylons west of Twinstead Tee is unconscionable and must be removed as a necessary gain for the community to endure the disruptive work.	X				The stretch of existing 132kV overhead line between the diamond crossing and the GSP substation is not owned or controlled by National Grid. It is owned and operated by UKPN. The removal of this section of overhead line is not required for the route of the new 400kV overhead line.	N

Table 8.9 – Summary of Targeted Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Proposed Haul Road)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Agricultural Land							
HR1	Food security is a must. The proposals will lead to a loss of highly productive arable farmland used for food production.				X	<p>National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. Once construction is complete and the land reinstated, farming activities will be able to continue beneath overhead lines (as demonstrated by the land use below the existing 400kV overhead lines) and over the underground cables.</p> <p>There will be a small amount of productive land lost as a result of the permanent infrastructure i.e., the GSP substation and CSE compounds, however this needs to be balanced with the project need which will help the UK with British Energy Security Strategy 'Security of Supply' and with helping the UK to meet its Net Zero target to reduce carbon emissions.</p>	N
Community / Social Impact							
HR2	Impacts of proposed haul road on local residents and community (e.g., stress, health, increased criminal activity).	X	X	X	X	<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the implementation and routing of the haul road, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable. As a result of feedback received during the targeted consultation and discussions with landowners, the route of the haul road has been refined to reduce the impacts on land use.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects of the haul road on communities from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p>	N
HR3	Concerned that haul road has not been factored into previous economic assessments and could substantially affect		X			<p>Surveys undertaken previously by specialist access consultants looked into cable drum access by AIL to Stour Valley West CSE compound and recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, that the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road. This has been reconfirmed by more recent inspection which determined that the haul road is the</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	communities and the local economy.					most suitable option for cable drum deliveries. A haul road would also reduce disruption to the local community and separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, pedestrians, dog walkers, and horse riders.	
Construction Traffic							
HR4	Concerned about impact of haul road construction traffic on leisure users (e.g., horses, cyclists and walkers).				X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on PRowS during construction. With respect to designated PRowS including bridleways, crossing the working area would be managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. The locations of the PRow affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7). All PRow would be reinstated at the end of construction.	N
HR5	Concern that the proposed intersection on Oak Road will only exacerbate the dangers of what is already a very hazardous road.				X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and will be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.	N
HR6	Where the haul road accesses the highway, measures should be taken to avoid tracking of mud and detritus onto the highway (e.g., using bound material).		X	X		The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside. Commitment GG17 in the CoCP states that wheel washing or other wheel cleaning systems would be provided at each main compound access point onto the highway where a need has been identified through the design process. An adequate supply of water would be made available at these locations at all times. Road sweepers would be deployed on public roads where necessary to prevent excessive dust or mud deposits.	N
Consultation							
HR7	The proposed haul road will minimise the impact of traffic / road users on residents / communities (support haul road proposal).	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes the respondents' views.	N
HR8	Surveys for the potential haul road need to be completed	X	X			National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	and then consultation re-started to explore alternative options for the haul road with affected communities.					<p>have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. A full on-site survey will be undertaken prior to construction.</p> <p>A haul road would also separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, dog walkers, horse riders etc.</p> <p>No further pre-application consultation is proposed, although members of the public will be able to register to participate in the examination should the application be accepted.</p>	
Design Change							
HR9	Construction of the haul road should be more direct to the A131 and should be shorter.				X	National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid has refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. Local conditions mean that the shortest and most direct route is not the most appropriate.	N
HR10	Extend the proposed haul road to Lamarsh Park.				X	The feedback relates to the suggestion that Stour Valley West CSE compound should be moved to Lamarsh Park. The suggested location for a CSE compound has been investigated and is located in a Water Framework Directive Groundwater body on the edge of Lamarsh Park which is listed on the inventory of Ancient Woodlands. The suggested site does not have any landscape designation. Moving the CSE compound to the junction where North Wood meets Lamarsh Park would involve approximately 3km of additional cable undergrounding compared to the design proposed during targeted consultation. The higher cost of installing underground cables and the additional environmental impact for this additional length is not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient in the interests of the bill paying consumers.	N
HR11	Against the proposed haul road - plans should be changed.	X			X	A site visit and route inspection were completed by specialist access consultants to review the option of routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway from the A131 via Collins Road, Oak Road and Cripple Corner to Stour Valley West CSE compound. The findings of the inspection concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. This option would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>Other vehicle movements were also taken into account as part of the decision to include a haul road. This includes all identified vehicles movements (AIL, HGV, light goods vehicles (LGV)) and their effect on the local road network. Having considered these effects, the decision was made to include a haul road in the design to reduce impacts on the local road network.</p> <p>National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations and haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. A haul road would also separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, dog walkers, horse riders etc.</p>	
HR12	Use existing road network for haul road (including Collins road).			X	X	<p>Following site visits, route inspections and feedback from consultees, it was concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. Routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>The haul road would take construction traffic off the local road network, which has small, narrow lanes in this area. The haul road would reduce impacts of construction traffic on road users and reduce the number of highway modifications required. This would reduce impacts on protected lanes and roadside vegetation.</p>	N
HR13	Speed limits should be in place along the proposed haul road.				X	<p>Commitment GG26 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) states that the speed limit on haul roads would be 15 miles per hour (mph) on surface tracks and 10mph on unsurfaced tracks.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
HR14	The proposed haul road near cripple corner should be altered to a more northern route.				X	National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. Local conditions mean that whilst a more northern route would potentially be shorter and more direct, there are constraints to a route further north. Please see response to HR11 regarding the use of Cripple Corner.	Y
HR15	The haul road in the middle of the trenching should also be moved to the outside of the trenching next to Twinstead Road.				X	National Grid intends to rely on the flexibility afforded under the DCO when finalising the detailed design for, and location of, the haul road. The haul road would be situated within the Order Limits, but not necessarily in the locations shown on the General Arrangement Plans (those plans showing a typical arrangement only). As part of this detailed design process, National Grid will seek to ensure that landowner feedback is taken onboard wherever possible.	N
HR16	Haul road should be sited towards Twinstead Road rather than the middle of the field.				X	Please see response to HR14.	N
HR17	Ensure restoration of hedgerows by replanting of those affected by the haul road.		X	X	X	The construction of a temporary haul road would cause some temporary loss to vegetation including hedgerows. These would be reinstated at the end of construction. Further details can be found in the LEMP (application document 7.8).	N
HR18	Oppose the planned haul road - instead, use the Collins Road junction, for traffic coming from the Halstead direction, and then joining the A131 at the Catley Cross junction for the return traffic.	X				A site visit and route inspection were completed by specialist access consultants to review the option of routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway from the A131. The findings of the inspection concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, including at Collins Road, the Collins Road/Oak Road junction at Dagworth Manor and on Oak Road itself. Remedial works in these locations may involve the need to access third party land. Please see response to HR11 for further information. Surveys undertaken previously by specialist access consultants looked into cable drum access to Stour Valley West CSE compound which recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, that the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road. This has been reconfirmed by	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						the most recent inspection which determined that the haul road is the most suitable option for cable drum deliveries.	
HR19	Consideration should be given to the temporary haul road being extended to run inside the hedge immediately to the east of Henny Back Road, if it is deemed that Henny Back Road is unsuitable for the transportation of large construction vehicles, cable drums etc. to and from the CSE compound.			X	X	National Grid intends to rely on the flexibility afforded under the DCO when finalising the detailed design for, and location of, the haul road. The haul road would be situated within the Order Limits, but not necessarily in the locations shown on the General Arrangement Plans (those plans showing a typical arrangement only). As part of this detailed design process, National Grid will seek to ensure that landowner feedback is taken onboard wherever possible.	N
HR20	Request that the temporary haul road (Lorkins Lane/Cripple Corner/Oak Road to Henny Back Road) is moved slightly to the south before it intersects Henny Back Road.			X	X	Following feedback received during the targeted consultation and discussions with affected landowners, the Order Limits that accommodate the temporary haul road have been moved further south between Lorkins Lane and Henny Back Road to be positioned closer to existing field margins.	Y
HR21	Request that the temporary construction compound is moved a little further to the north, to a position where it could be left at the end of the contract period, for future use by Cobbs Farm.			X	X	National Grid's intention is that land would be used temporarily as a construction compound in order to facilitate construction of the project. With certain limited exceptions, land used temporarily would be reinstated where practicable (bearing in mind any restrictions on planting and land use) to its pre-construction condition and use. Should a different approach be considered, this may be subject to separate planning permissions and landowner agreements. The DCO is seeking temporary powers only.	N
HR22	Request that a new water supply pipe be laid (in an agreed position) from the nearby public main to Cobbs Farm prior to the start of construction on site.			X	X	It is understood from the feedback provided at the targeted consultation that pipework associated with the farms water supply is located within the Order Limits. Water supplies will be identified through utility searches and through landowner discussions. Appropriate measures would be put in place during construction. Where the installation works would affect a water supply, an alternative water supply will be provided, as appropriate.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						Existing water supplies for livestock would be identified pre-construction. Where supplies would be lost or compromised by construction works, temporary alternative supplies will be provided. Water supplies would be reinstated following construction.	
HR23	If the haul road has to use any farmland it must be on the field edges so as to reduce impact to the whole field and major consideration needs to be given to the drainage schemes already in place. The respondent has provided two proposals for alternative routes.				X	<p>National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. In particular, in designing the haul road National Grid has balanced access safety to / from the highway network, severance of agricultural fields, the proximity to residential properties, engineering design considerations such as topography, land availability for the haul road, passing places and soil storage, watercourse, road and PRow crossings, flood risk, water logging and drainage as well as archaeological and ecological features such as hedgerow crossings and the root protection areas of trees and hedgerows and avoidance of key habitats such as woodland.</p> <p>Following feedback received during the targeted consultation and discussions with affected landowners, the Order Limits that accommodate the temporary haul road have been moved further south between Lorkins Lane and Henny Back Road to be positioned closer to existing field margins. Also, the Order Limits have been moved further north, closer to field boundaries between the A131 and Oak Road.</p>	Y
HR24	Shortest road route from the A131 is yet to be surveyed as agreed.				X	The alternative options have been assessed by desk-based survey and surveys undertaken by specialist access consultants have looked into cable drum access to Stour Valley West CSE compound which recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, that the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road.	N
HR25	The public cost of this unnecessary road will be yet another price increase to bill payers.				X	Surveys undertaken by specialist access consultants looked into cable drum access by AIL to Stour Valley West CSE compound and recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, that the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road. This has been reconfirmed by more recent inspection which determined that the haul road is the most suitable option for cable drum deliveries. A haul road would also reduce disruption to the local community and separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, pedestrians, dog walkers, and horse riders. Given the challenges of using the existing road network, this was considered to be the most efficient way to address the issue.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
HR26	Alternative options provided by the respondent that utilise the existing road network with new passing spaces that will reduce the impact and minimise damage to the thriving agribusinesses affected.				X	<p>National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored different options including improvements to the local road network to make this suitable for construction traffic.</p> <p>A site visit and route inspection were completed by specialist access consultants to review the option of routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway from the A131. The findings of the inspection concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. This option would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>Surveys undertaken previously by specialist access consultants looked into cable drum access to Stour Valley West CSE compound which recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road. This has been reconfirmed by the most recent inspection which determined that the haul road is the most suitable option for cable drum deliveries. A haul road would also separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, dog walkers, horse riders etc.</p> <p>The haul road has been refined following the targeted consultation to closer follow field boundaries to reduce impacts on land use and agricultural businesses.</p>	N
HR27	Suggest moving the route closer / adjacent to existing field boundaries. While aesthetically / practically this may be a better solution, consideration must be given to the root protection areas of trees and hedgerows.		X			<p>National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. In particular, in designing the haul road National Grid has balanced access safety to / from the highway network, severance of agricultural fields, the proximity to residential properties, engineering design considerations such as topography, land availability for the haul road, passing places and soil storage, watercourse, road and PRow crossings, flood risk, water logging and drainage as well as archaeological and ecological features such as hedgerow crossings and the root protection areas of trees and hedgerows and avoidance of key habitats such as woodland.</p> <p>Following feedback received during the targeted consultation and discussions with affected landowners, the Order Limits that accommodate the temporary haul road have been moved further south between Lorkins Lane and Henny Back Road to be</p>	Y

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						positioned closer to existing field margins. Also, the Order Limits have been moved further north, closer to field boundaries between the A131 and Oak Road.	
HR28	Alternative haul road options provided by respondent. Additionally, village is encircled by a ring road, it could be possible to use the Collins Road route just for infrastructure, Kings Farm and resident access traffic and send additional traffic the other way round the village or use a traffic light system at some points.				X	<p>A site visit and route inspection were completed by specialist access consultants to review the option of routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway from the A131 via Collins Road, Oak Road and Cripple Corner to Stour Valley West CSE compound. The findings of the inspection concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section of off public highway haul road. This option would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>Surveys undertaken previously by specialist access consultants looked into cable drum access to Stour Valley West CSE compound which recommended that due to the overall status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, that the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road. This has been reconfirmed by the most recent inspection which determined that the haul road is the most suitable option for cable drum deliveries.</p> <p>National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations and haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors.</p> <p>A haul road would also separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, dog walkers, horse riders etc.</p>	N
Design Question							
HR29	Will the haul road be lit?	X				The haul road would not be lit.	N
Environmental Impact							
HR30	New proposed haul road minimises negative impact on the environment / wildlife.		X	X		National Grid welcomes the respondents' views.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
HR31	Concerned about impact of haul road proposal on wildlife / protected species (e.g., bats, badgers, voles, dormice, birds, wetland species etc.).	X	X	X	X	The new temporary haul road would use existing gaps in field boundaries and hedgerows where practicable. The location has also been chosen to generally cross arable fields, which have a lower ecological value than surrounding areas. Construction of a temporary haul road would cause some temporary loss to habitats; however, these would be reinstated post construction.	N
HR32	Impacts on local environment.	X	X	X	X	The ES assesses the likely significant effect of the project on the environment over both construction and operation. It identifies the level of effect and also the timescales over which those effects would be felt to allocate mitigation accordingly. During construction, there would be some temporary vegetation loss and some disturbance associated with the construction vehicles. Following construction, the haul road would be reinstated back to arable land, therefore there would be no permanent impact on the local environment following construction.	N
HR33	Concerns to damage of ancient woodland resulting from the proposal.				X	The assessment on ancient woodland is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7). The nearest Ancient Woodland to the proposed haul road is approximately 100m away and is not anticipated to be affected by the project.	N
HR34	Oppose land at Cobbs Farm being used for landscape mitigation / BNG.			X	X	Mitigation including the proposed locations are determined through the EIA process based on the location of significant effects. Therefore, mitigation planting needs to be in the location where it would reduce a significant effect. National Grid has made a commitment to deliver 10% BNG on the project. National Grid has sought to locate these near the permanent infrastructure, such as CSE compounds, which would help with screening the site further and also may make the long-term operation and maintenance of the environmental gain area easier to manage. The environmental enhancements are proposed at Cobbs Farm due this being the location of the Stour Valley West CSE compound. Further details on the planting proposed and whether this is for mitigation or enhancement, can be found in the Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4).	N
Farming Impact							
HR35	Negative impact of haul road on farming / agriculture - including loss of valuable arable land.	X		X	X	National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be directly affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis, if negative impact on farming operations can be established proven.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						The ES assesses the effects on agricultural and soil ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11). The outcome of the assessment is that there would be no significant effects on farming during operation.	
HR36	The haul road mainly crosses agricultural land - consideration must be made of live agri-environment schemes the land may be in.	X				National Grid confirms that consideration must and will be given to these issues depending on further detail and working alongside the relevant landowners on a case-by-case basis. Landowner discussions continue with regard to land affected by the route and National Grid would seek agreement through negotiation of terms and mitigate concerns raised, providing compensation as required.	N
Flooding							
HR37	Concerned that temporary access roads (haul roads) will block ditches.				X	Culverts would be installed at watercourses crossed by the proposed haul road. Culverts would be appropriately sized to reflect the channel width and the estimated flow of the watercourse under peak flow conditions and designed to maintain natural slope and water speeds. Culverts would be regularly inspected and kept free from debris. Inspections will also look for signs of siltation or other forms of pollution.	N
HR38	Concern relating to sediment deposition and controlling / retaining sediment laden surface run-off during heavy rain during construction of the haul road. Steps needed to minimise risk of pollution (e.g., settling ponds / bunds).		X	X	X	The CEMP (application document 7.5) describes the measures that would be used to reduce the risk of pollution on watercourses and also groundwater sources. These measures include setting works back away from watercourses where practicable, including sediment control measures to avoid surface water runoff.	N
HR39	Land drains will be destroyed by the proposed haul road.				X	National Grid will incorporate appropriate surface water drainage measures into its detailed design of the haul road and access tracks. Consultation with affected landowners would be carried out to investigate the current extent of land drainage. A scheme of pre-construction land drainage would be designed with the intent of maintaining the efficiency of the existing land drainage system and to assist in maintaining the integrity of the working area during construction and prevent possible waterlogging. A specialised drainage contractor would review the designs and would provide advice to National Grid and its contractor during relevant construction and reinstatement activities.	N
HR40	Proposed haul road route passes over land which is	X				National Grid will incorporate appropriate surface water drainage measures into its detailed design of the haul road.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	extremely wet in winter months, not suitable for extreme load - potential to get stuck.					Consultation with affected landowners would be carried out to investigate the current extent of land drainage. A scheme of pre-construction land drainage would be designed with the intent of maintaining the efficiency of the existing land drainage system and to assist in maintaining the integrity of the working area during construction and prevent possible waterlogging. A specialised drainage contractor would review the designs and would provide advice to National Grid and its contractor during relevant construction and reinstatement activities.	
HR41	The haul road must be permeable wherever possible, to mimic existing site drainage.		X	X		Commitment W07 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) states that where new or additional surfacing is required on any access tracks and compound areas, these would be permeable surfaces where ground conditions allow or would be designed to achieve green field rates. The project would incorporate appropriate surface water drainage measures into its final design for the haul roads and access tracks so that they do not lead to a significant increase in flood risk.	N
Future Development							
HR42	Concern that the land used for the temporary haul road will be downgraded, rather than reinstated, and will be opened up for development (e.g., solar panels) as a result.				X	A full record of condition will be carried out (photographic and descriptive) of the working areas that may be affected by the construction activities. This record will be available for comparison following reinstatement after the works have been completed to ensure that the standard of reinstatement at least meets that recorded in the pre-condition survey or as agreed in the LEMP (application document 7.8) or if the DCO provides otherwise, then in accordance with the DCO.	N
Heritage Impact							
HR43	Concerns to historical listed buildings resulting from the proposed haul road.		X	X	X	Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of protecting (amongst other things) buildings of historic interest, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. The EIA includes an assessment of the effects of the project on the historic environment, including listed buildings. The assessment identified the potential for significant effects on the setting of listed buildings and whether any additional mitigation is required to offset likely significant effects. The effects on listed buildings can be found in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8).	N
HR44	Haul road lies in an area previously unassessed - will require appropriate ecological and archaeological assessment in advance of the		X	X		The alternative options have been assessed by desk-based survey and surveys undertaken by specialist access consultants have looked into cable drum access to Stour Valley West CSE compound which recommended that due to the overall	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	submission to identify its impact on archaeological deposits and on local ecology.					status and alignment of the roads east from the A131 to the site, that the preferred access option is for a temporary haul road.	
HR45	Seek to minimise impact on the ancient drove road that exists to the east of the existing route.	X				Proposed surveys and mitigation measures are outlined within the AFS (application document 7.9) and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).	N
Highway Design							
HR46	The haul road access onto the A131 would need to be designed and constructed to current highway design standards and agreed with the local highway authority. A ghost island right turn lane is likely to be required, and visibility splays must accord with the design speed of the haul road.		X	X		The haul road access into the A131 will be designed and constructed to the appropriate standards, and with the agreement of the highway's authority. The location of the proposed haul road access onto the A131 has moved, as a consequential change driven by alterations to the proposed route of the haul road (addressed elsewhere in this report). Sufficient land is included within the Order Limits to accommodate any necessary land e.g., for ghost islands and visibility splays.	N
HR47	Further information is needed on the haul road and its proposed usage in terms of vehicle movements that need to be accommodated, which may impact on the amount of land required for widening / passing areas.		X	X		Proposed usage of the haul road in terms of vehicle movements has been provided as part of the application for development consent in the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7). The Order Limits defined in the application for development consent are considered to allow for the proposed bellmouth and any required traffic management at the junction of the A131, visibility splays, construction of the temporary haul road including any passing places and storage of topsoil and subsoil (separately) for use during reinstatement.	N
HR48	Can the number of access points needed be reduced through the provision of a haul road along the pylon corridor?		X	X		National Grid has considered this suggestion. However, the current design is considered to be optimum in terms of the number of access points. Therefore, no design change has been made. National Grid will look to rationalise the number of access points once a construction contractor has been appointed and the detailed design undertaken.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Maintenance (Ongoing)							
HR49	Once the engineering works are complete, National Grid should continue to have access rights in case of future maintenance needs.				X	Whether through voluntary agreement with PILs, or through the powers within the DCO, National Grid would be able to access land to undertake future activities including the inspection, maintenance, repair, alteration, renewal or reinforcement of the line.	N
Needs Case							
HR50	Not given all haul road routing options / other alternative haul road routes are available (not specified).	X		X	X	National Grid have been actively working with its construction and environmental advisors on the appropriate routing of the temporary construction haul road. National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors.	N
Noise Impact							
HR51	Concerns about noise impacts resulting from the proposed haul road / assessment needed.		X	X	X	ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) assesses the noise impacts of the project. The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects from noise during construction, including the use of best-available techniques. Where the assessment identifies areas where there could be the potential for significant noise effects, there may be the need for mitigation such as noise barriers to reduce noise during construction.	N
Property Value							
HR52	Concerns about property value / saleability resulting from proposed haul road.				X	National Grid acknowledges that any proposed new work may cause concern to landowners. Diminution in property value for those with a qualifying interest, known as 'injurious affection', and any other appropriate heads of claim would be considered on an individual basis in accordance with current legislation. The Compulsory Purchase Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of your property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
PRoW							
HR53	Use of PRoWs should be avoided for the haul road, unless there is no alternative, in which case the PRoWs network must be safely managed in these areas.		X	X		<p>Through the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), National Grid is seeking a statutory power allowing for the temporary stopping up, alteration or diversion of streets or PRoWs shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7) or within the Order Limits. In relation to the streets and PRoWs listed in Schedule 7 of the draft DCO, National Grid must first consult with the relevant street authority.</p> <p>The locations of the PRoW affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7). All designated PRoWs crossing the working area will be managed with access only closed while construction activities occur. Any required temporary diversions would be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion and a contact number for any concerns. The impact on PRoW is assessed in the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7).</p>	N
Surveys							
HR54	A programme of trial trenching is needed, particularly for the proposed haul road.		X			Proposed surveys and mitigation measures are outlined within the AFS (application document 7.9) and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).	N
Traffic Congestion							
HR55	Concerns about increase in traffic, including pollution as a result.			X	X	The project would require a number of vehicle movements to bring materials and personnel to site and there would be an increase in traffic within the Order Limits and on the local road network. The impacts on air quality including from pollution are assessed in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) which concludes that with the implementation of good practice measures in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), there would be no significant effects on air quality.	N
Visual Impact							
HR56	Concerns about visual impacts resulting from the proposed haul road.	X	X	X	X	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) assesses the impact of the project (including access tracks) on visual amenity. Temporary haul roads would be constructed within the working area to provide access for construction vehicles along the working area and to limit construction vehicles using	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						the local road network. Temporary access routes would be reinstated to the previous land use at the end of construction.	
HR57	Need to consider potential impacts of the haul road on the Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley - undertake further assessment.				X	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) assesses the impact of the project (including access tracks) on visual amenity. Temporary haul roads would be constructed within the working area to provide access for construction vehicles along the working area and to limit construction vehicles using the local road network. Following construction, the haul road would be removed, and the land would be reinstated to its previous condition, with no permanent effects on the AONB or Stour Valley.	N

8.8.5 The targeted consultation focussed on the design changes introduced following statutory consultation, in particular the primary changes to the west of the project (temporary haul road and changes to the underground cable section), but also secondary changes throughout the length of the route. However, comments were welcomed on all aspects of the project, and indeed the response form included an open question asking, ‘anything else?’ While the Hintlesham Woods design options at targeted consultation were no different to those presented at statutory consultation, Table 8.10 sets out how regard has been had to those views which were expressed. A change was made to the design (so far as including two options at submission is concerned) following targeted consultation, although this was not primarily an outcome of targeted consultation. This is discussed in Sections 8.9.3 – 8.9.9 of this report.

Table 8.10 – Summary of Targeted Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same (Option 1 and Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods)

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Design Change							
HW1	Oppose / remove Option 2 - not through Hintlesham Woods.			X	X	Since the end of statutory consultation National Grid continued to engage with consultees and landowners in respect of both options. For the reasons that are set out in Section 8.9, National Grid took the decision in December 2022 to remove Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods from the proposals, proceeding to application for development consent with Option 1 only (diverting the existing overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood, the new overhead line would then reuse the existing pylons through the woods).	Y
HW2	Underground north of Ramsey Wood.				X	As part of the options appraisal process, National Grid has considered whether the use of underground cables, rather than overhead lines, is an appropriate approach in the context of national policy and National Grid's various statutory duties, which includes (amongst other things) the requirement to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electricity transmission system (under the Electricity Act 1989); and • To have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest (under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989). National Grid's interpretation of this also includes the impact of works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction. 	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>The impacts and costs of both overhead and underground options vary considerably between projects, but generally, the cost of constructing and maintaining underground cables is considerably higher than overhead lines.</p> <p>NPS EN-5, taken together with the overarching NPS for energy (EN-1), provides the primary basis for decisions taken by PINs on applications for development consent it receives for NSIPs for electricity networks infrastructure. EN-5 makes it clear that the Government expects overhead lines to be appropriate in most instances; EN-5 states <i>'Government does not believe that development of overhead lines is generally incompatible in principle with developers' statutory duty under section 9 of the Electricity Act to have regard to amenity and to mitigate impacts'</i>. It goes on to say that <i>'in practice new above ground electricity lines, whether supported by lattice steel pylons or wooden poles, can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts, dependent upon their scale, siting, degree of screening and the nature of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed. For the most part these impacts can be mitigated'</i>.</p> <p>Although Government expects that fulfilling this need through the development of overhead lines will often be appropriate, it recognises that there will be cases where this is not so. Where there are serious concerns about the potential adverse landscape and visual effects of a proposed overhead line, this would need to be balanced against other relevant factors, including the need for the proposed infrastructure, the availability and cost of alternative sites and routes and methods of installation (including undergrounding). EN-5 recognises that there may be, at particularly sensitive locations, potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line that make it unacceptable in planning terms, taking account of the specific local environment and context.</p> <p>EN-5 says PINs should only refuse consent for overhead line proposals in favour of an underground (or sub-sea line) if it is satisfied that the benefits from the non-overhead line alternative will clearly outweigh any extra economic, social and environmental impacts and the technical difficulties are surmountable with consideration to the landscape in which the proposed line would be set, the additional cost of undergrounding and the environmental and archaeological consequences of undergrounding.</p> <p>To balance its duties and responsibilities National Grid proposes underground cable at Dedham Vale AONB and parts of the Stour Valley. Elsewhere, the higher cost of installing underground cables is not considered to be justifiable in the context of national policy or National Grid's statutory duties, which include the need to be economic and efficient in the interests of the bill paying consumers. Further information is available in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).</p>	

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
HW3	Parallel the cables to existing south of Hintlesham Woods.			X		<p>Since the end of statutory consultation National Grid continued to engage with consultees and landowners in respect of both Options 1 and 2.</p> <p>For the reasons that are set out in Section 8.9 of this report, National Grid took the decision in December 2022 to remove Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods from the proposals, proceeding to application for development consent with Option 1 only (diverting the existing overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood, the new overhead line would then reuse the existing pylons through the woods).</p> <p>Routeing the line completely to the south of Hintlesham Wood would involve using a different corridor option, previously referred to as Corridor 2A. While this corridor option was considered by National Grid, the decision has been taken to progress with the proposed corridor (referred to as Corridor 2B). Routeing the new line through Corridor 2B would allow a greater paralleling of the new 400kV overhead line with the existing 400kV overhead line westwards out of Bramford Substation. Option 2A would introduce a new overhead line to the north of Burstall Bridge, where there is currently no overhead line, and affect more visual receptors.</p>	N
HW4	Underground the line from Bramford Substation to the other side of Hintlesham Wood.	X			X	Please see response to HW2.	N
HW5	Underground the line at Hintlesham Woods / in this section.			X	X	Please see response to HW2.	N
HW6	Option 1 is still too close to Ramsey Wood - needs to be further away/ at least 15m away.				X	National Grid has devised a mitigation strategy for the interest features of Hintlesham Woods SSSI specific to Option 1. This includes a commitment for all intrusive works to be at least 15m from the ancient woodland to protect the roots of trees and to undertake as much work as possible in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods outside of the bird nesting season. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the SSSI, protected species using the woodland and the Ancient Woodland habitat.	Y
Environmental Impact							
HW7	Concerned about impact on wildlife habitats and damage to ancient woodland, SSSI, greenery.	X	X	X	X	National Grid welcomes all consultation feedback received in relation to Option 1 and Option 2. National Grid has had close regard to this feedback as part of its wider decision-making process in respect of the design of the project in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the SSSI and the Ancient Woodland.	
HW8	Will not be possible to meet BNG if Option 2 is chosen, due to loss of irreplaceable habitat.				X	<p>Since the end of statutory consultation National Grid continued to engage with consultees and landowners in respect of both options.</p> <p>For the reasons that are set out in Section 8.9 of this report, National Grid took the decision in December 2022 to remove Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods from the proposals, proceeding to application for development consent with Option 1 only (diverting the existing overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood, the new overhead line would then reuse the existing pylons through the woods).</p>	Y
Heritage Impact							
HW9	Need for assessment of buried heritage assets with respect to Options 1 and 2.		X	X		<p>National Grid has undertaken a desk study of known archaeology along the Order Limits, including Section AB: Bramford Substation / Hintlesham. This has included an aerial mapping exercise to identify cropmarks and other buried archaeological features. Archaeological surveys, including geophysical surveys and trial trenching have been undertaken in the underground cable sections. Site surveys have not currently been undertaken in the overhead line sections, as the areas of excavation would typically be limited to the base of the pylons and the temporary access routes, which are not currently defined. The assessment on heritage assets is presented in ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8). Mitigation measures are outlined within the AFS (application document 7.9) and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (application document 7.10).</p>	N
Supportive Comment							
HW10	Support proposed Option 1 in Hintlesham Woods.				X	<p>Since the end of statutory consultation National Grid continued to engage with consultees and landowners in respect of both options.</p> <p>For the reasons that are set out in Section 8.9 of this report, National Grid took the decision in December 2022 to remove Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods from the proposals, proceeding to application for development consent with Option 1 only (diverting the existing overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood, the new overhead line would then reuse the existing pylons through the woods).</p>	N
HW11	Support proposed Option 2 in Hintlesham Woods.	X			X	<p>National Grid notes this response.</p> <p>For the reasons that are set out in Section 8.9 of this report, National Grid took the decision in December 2022 to remove Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods from the proposals, proceeding to application for development consent with Option 1 only</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						(diverting the existing overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood, the new overhead line would then reuse the existing pylons through the woods).	
Visual Impact							
HW12	Corridor 2A should remain an option unless and until it can be clearly demonstrated that Corridor 2B can be delivered without damaging or destroying the SSSI interest features.	X				National Grid has devised a mitigation strategy for the interest features of Hintlesham Woods SSSI specific to Option 1. This includes a commitment for all intrusive works to be at least 15m from the ancient woodland to protect the roots of trees and to undertake as much work as possible in the vicinity of Hintlesham Woods outside of the bird nesting season. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the baseline environment and the assessment on the SSSI, protected species using the woodland and the Ancient Woodland habitat.	N

8.9 Summary of Changes Made Following Feedback Received from Targeted Consultation

- 8.9.1 Following the close of the targeted consultation in October 2022, a number of design changes have been incorporated into the proposals. Proposed design amendments were carefully considered in the context of environmental constraints and opportunities, engineering feasibility and cost, planning policy and other relevant considerations. Proposed design amendments were considered from the three phases of consultation and continued design and development as well as through ongoing discussion with stakeholders and landowners.
- 8.9.2 The process of considering design changes comprised of an initial filter for benefit and feasibility, an assessment incorporating inputs from relevant technical experts, and further stages of additional study if required. The outcome of the consideration of potential design changes was either that a change was included in the project design, or that the change was not made following balanced and informed consideration.

Changes to the Project

- 8.9.3 Respondents made a number of requests for changes to the project proposals in their responses to consultation, some of which have been adopted by National Grid and taken into consideration in the development of the project.
- 8.9.4 If a request for change has been adopted this is indicated with a 'Y' in the tables in Section 8.8 of this report outlining the matters raised at this targeted consultation, along with National Grid's regard had to the comment raised.
- 8.9.5 Accordingly, a summary of the key changes identified following this targeted consultation comprises of:
- Removal of Option 2 at Hintlesham Woods;
 - Confirmation of the use of a haul road and refinement of the route;
 - Relocation of the permanent access track to Stour Valley West CSE compound;
 - River Box to be crossed using a trenchless construction technique; and
 - Changes to the Order Limits at Bramford Substation to incorporate works required to take place within the operational boundary of Bramford Substation for the purposes of the project.
- 8.9.6 Chapter 11 of this report provides an overview of all the changes to the project design following the consultations held and as a result of ongoing environmental and engineering assessment work.

Hintlesham Woods (Options 1 and 2)

- 8.9.7 Statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. National Grid asked for feedback on the following two options for the routing of the reinforcement near Hintlesham Woods:
- Option 1 would see a new section of overhead line built to the north of Ramsey Wood, with the existing 400kV overhead line diverted onto these pylons. The new 400kV overhead line would then reuse the existing pylons through the woods; and

- Option 2 would see a new section of overhead line built parallel and to the south of the existing line within Hintlesham Little Wood. The overhead lines would run through the woods, with the pylons being located outside of the woodland.
- 8.9.8 The feedback received from the statutory consultation (which is presented in Chapter 7 of this report, along with National Grid’s responses to the same) did not immediately provide a clear direction on a preferred option. As such National Grid continued to retain both options in its plans, including through targeted consultation, whilst carrying out further environmental surveys, continuing to consider the engineering implications, and maintaining ongoing discussions with stakeholders, and PILs.
- 8.9.9 The outcome of the balanced consideration of these various factors led National Grid to decide to remove Option 2 from the proposals and progress the DCO with only Option 1.
- 8.9.10 The decision to remove Option 2 was made after the close of targeted consultation, and regard was had to any feedback received on this topic during that consultation exercise. However, notwithstanding this, feedback at targeted consultation was not the primary driver to the decision to remove Option 2. This decision was made, on balance, based on the outcomes of the various studies, consultations, dialogues, and other exercises set out above, in the context of planning policy and National Grid’s statutory duties.
- 8.9.11 The decision to remove Option 2 is based on several important considerations including but not limited to:
- Consultation feedback and engagement with stakeholders and landowners;
 - The findings of environmental surveys and the presence of rare and protected species in the woodland;
 - Policy designations including ancient woodland and SSSI;
 - Landscape and visual impact; and
 - Further consideration of design and engineering.
- 8.9.12 National Grid concluded that Option 1 should be taken forward into the application for development consent. This decision was announced through letters sent on 8 December 2022 to landowners and emails on 9 December 2022 to all other consultees. National Grid’s website was also updated on 9 December 2022.
- 8.9.13 National Grid continues to have regard to feedback received in relation to its decision to proceed with Option 1. It is also noted that there will be a further opportunity for those interested in National Grid’s proposals to make oral or written representations and other submissions when the application for development consent is submitted to PINs.
- 8.9.14 Details of Option 1 as taken forward are provided in the Work Plans (**application document 2.5**) and Draft Development Consent Order (**application document 3.1**).

9. Consultation and Engagement Following Targeted Consultation

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter sets out the additional consultation and engagement which took place in the period between the close of targeted consultation in October 2022 and submission of the application for development consent.

9.1.2 As the following paragraphs explain, the additional consultation and engagement was undertaken following certain localised amendments made to the design of the project and also in light of ongoing diligent inquiry.

9.1.3 After the close of targeted consultation in October 2022, certain amendments were made to the design of the project. These amendments were identified following a review of consultation feedback and the undertaking of further technical appraisal. The design amendments comprised:

- Realignment of the proposed temporary haul road between the A131 and the proposed Stour Valley West cable sealing end (CSE) compound, west of Alphamstone;
- Incorporation of land where necessary within the Order Limits to accommodate the maximum swing of conductors; and
- Other minor changes to the Order Limits for construction and operational activities including access.

9.1.4 In line with the land referencing methodology (Appendix J), land referencing has been carried out to identify changes in land ownership and other interests in land following the close of targeted consultation. Updates were requested from Land Registry and newly identified Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) were issued with a land interest questionnaire (LIQ). These were followed up using contact details where available and site visits.

9.2 Additional Section 42 Consultation with Section 44 Parties-PILs

9.2.1 Additional consultation and engagement was undertaken with a number of PILs.

9.2.2 The additional consultation and engagement was undertaken in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

9.2.3 This additional consultation and engagement included:

- Consultation under section 42(1)(d) of the Act with PILs that have been previously consulted but are now impacted differently; and
- Consultation under section 42(1)(d) of the Act with new PILs identified after the close of the targeted consultation, which may have arisen from design changes having

introduced new land parcels into the Order Limits; from changes in land ownership within the previous Order Limits; or from ongoing diligent inquiry identifying new interests. These PILs had not therefore been previously consulted on the proposals.

9.2.4 A total of 149 PILs were sent notices from 23 February 2023 which notified of the consultation deadline which was either the 29 March or 30 March 2023. The deadline was different based on when the letter was issued to ensure a 28 day representation period was given. Further information about how the 28 day representation period was met can be found in Section 9.2.7. Appendix L1 details the PILs, the letter they received and the consultation periods.

- 42 PILs were already familiar to the project team and had been invited to previous consultations. These PILs had interests in land newly included or differently affected by the design and were sent a letter (Appendix L2.1); and
- 107 PILs were new to the proposals and sent a letter (Appendix L2.2). Of these, 88 PILs were newly identified due to changes in ownership and the inclusion of frontage interests in public roads. 19 PILs were newly identified due to additional land required in the updated design.

9.2.5 Site notices were posted in the locations shown in Appendix L3, and evidence of the notices posted on site is shown in Appendix L4.

9.2.6 Following 23 February 2023, two letters were returned to sender on the 28 February 2023 and were reposted to alternative addresses on the same day. These are listed in Appendix L5.

9.2.7 On 1 March 2023, nine letters had not been recorded as having been successfully delivered by the Royal Mail. These letters were hand delivered to the same addresses on the 8 March 2023, including the two mentioned in 9.2.6 which were returned to sender. These are listed in Appendix L5. These PILs were contacted to advise that they had additional time to respond (until the 4 April 2023) which allowed a 28 day representation period.

9.2.8 The additional consultation and engagement activities, as described, encouraged PILs to provide their feedback directly to the project team through email, or writing to National Grid. Section 9.3 of this report outlines the feedback received as part of the additional activities.

9.2.9 In accordance with paragraphs 51 and 52 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008): Guidance on the pre-application process (Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2015), any new PILs identified after 1 March 2023 were written to separately. This letter included details about the project, where further information could be found, how to get in touch with National Grid and to explain how there would be an opportunity to provide comments to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) once the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been submitted. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix L6 and a list of PILs identified and notified after 1 March 2023 can be found in the Cover Letter (**application document 1.1**).

9.3 Responses Received to the Additional Consultation and Engagement

9.3.1 Consultees could provide feedback by calling the land team directly, emailing the project email address or by sending a response directly to the project's postal address:

- Email - contact@bramford-tinstead.nationalgrid.com; and
- Postal - FREEPOST B TO T REINFORCEMENT.

- 9.3.2 National Grid received feedback from a total of 14 PILs. All responses received until the 4 April 2023 were taken into consideration in the reporting of feedback received.
- 9.3.3 Table 9.1 provides a summary of the key themes raised during the additional consultation and engagement period and how National Grid has considered or addressed these.
- 9.3.4 National Grid will also give due consideration to any representations from PILs after 4 April 2023 which are made before, and if appropriate, during the course of the examination.

Table 9.1- Summary of Additional Consultation Feedback and National Grid's Response to the Same

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Agricultural Land							
AC1	The proposals will lead to a loss of highly productive arable farmland used for food production.			X		<p>National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. Once construction is complete and the land reinstated, farming activities will be able to continue beneath overhead lines (as demonstrated by the land use below the existing 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead lines) and over the underground cables.</p> <p>There will be a small amount of productive land lost as a result of the permanent infrastructure i.e., the grid supply point (GSP) substation and CSE compounds, however this needs to be balanced with the project need which will help the UK with British Energy Security Strategy 'Security of Supply' and with helping the UK to meet its Net Zero target to reduce carbon emissions.</p>	N
AC2	Concerns about the impacts on soil, including compaction and re-instatement.			X		<p>National Grid notes these concerns and they have been reviewed alongside other factors as part of the optioneering process to find the best option for those which could be affected. The likely effects on soils and agricultural land, including Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land and ecosystem services has been assessed and quantified in the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11). While the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (application document 7.5.1) contains a number of commitments regarding the protection and reinstatement of soil.</p>	N
Community / Social Impact							
AC3	Concerned about impact of proposals on resident children / families, including dust, noise and air quality.			X		<p>National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable.</p> <p>The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also set out the potential visual effect on communities.</p> <p>The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p> <p>The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside these.</p> <p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is very important to National Grid. The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs), the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-5. All of the equipment which forms part of this project, would be fully compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. This would be fully and publicly documented in Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (application document 5.2) submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>	
Compensation							
AC4	Compensation required for everyone impacted.			X		<p>National Grid will pursue voluntary agreements with affected landowners. Compensation offered for voluntary land rights is benchmarked against other similar utility providers.</p> <p>If a voluntary agreement cannot be reached, then the Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of their property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works. Compensation for compulsory acquired rights is governed by statute.</p>	N
Construction Impacts							
AC5	Construction will need to be carefully planned to minimise disruption / nuisance to nearby areas (including conditions setting hours of			X		<p>The CEMP (application document 7.5) and the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) contain good practice measures that would be employed during construction to reduce disruption and nuisance, such as employing best practicable means to reduce noise. The proposed working hours are set out in the Draft Development Consent Order (application document 3.1), including the exceptions that may apply to these standard working hours.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	working and timed restrictions).					The CTMP (application document 7.6) also sets out measures to reduce effects on the road network, for example detailing routes for construction vehicles to take to reduce negative impacts on the local road network and communities living alongside these.	
Construction Traffic							
AC6	Concerned about potential disruption and safety issues for road users resulting from construction traffic.				X	The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and would be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.	N
AC7	Concerned about impact of construction traffic on leisure users (e.g., horses, cyclists and walkers).				X	<p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and would be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads and implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.</p> <p>With respect to designated Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including bridleways, crossing the working area would be managed, with access only closed while construction activities occur. The locations of the PRoWs affected by the project along with the proposed diversion routes are shown on the Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (application document 2.7).</p>	N
AC8	Roads are too narrow / not suitable for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).				X	National Grid is aware of the narrow roads within the area and has considered existing road conditions when developing the final construction traffic routes presented as part of the Transport Assessment (application document 5.7). To make sure disruption to the local community is limited, a CTMP (application document 7.6) has been developed which sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects associated with construction traffic. The CTMP includes measures to provide clear signage during construction to make sure construction traffic uses the agreed routes and stays within the speed limit imposed for construction traffic. National Grid emphasises to its employees and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving to and from the areas they are working in. Furthermore, National Grid has included a temporary haul road at the Stour Valley end of the proposal, to relieve the local road network by providing access and egress to the project area, more suited to construction traffic.	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AC9	Concerns about increase in traffic, including pollution as a result.			X		The project would require a number of vehicle movements to bring materials and personnel to site and there would be an increase in traffic within the Order Limits and on the local road network. The impacts on air quality including from pollution are assessed in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) which concludes that with the implementation of good practice measures in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), there would be no significant effects on air quality.	N
Consultation							
AC10	Criticism of consultation process / being misled about the scheme / don't trust it will make a difference / criticism of the scheme.			X		<p>Statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC which itself was subject to extensive consultation with the host LPAs and prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements pursuant to the PA 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) as well as other relevant guidance.</p> <p>The material published for statutory consultation was based on the information available at that time and was of sufficient detail to enable informed feedback to be provided on the emerging proposals. National Grid had regard to all such feedback as part of the continuing development of the project up to the time of submitting the DCO application.</p> <p>All views expressed in response to the statutory consultation (and indeed all other consultation and engagement activities undertaken by National Grid as part of the development of the project proposals) have been considered and taken into account as set out in this report.</p> <p>Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley.</p> <p>There will also be further opportunities for consultees, stakeholders and other members of the public to make representations as part of the DCO examination.</p>	N
AC11	Negative comments about licence agreement negotiations and processes.			X		<p>National Grid continues to maintain dialogue with PILs and to seek to agree the terms of voluntary land agreements.</p> <p>Ongoing dialogue with PILs or nominated agents/ representatives is being undertaken and correspondence is tailored to individual needs. Relevant documents, including heads of terms, have been issued and follow up meetings offered. Where appropriate and as requested, site meetings have been, and will be, conducted.</p> <p>Regard has been had to landowner requests in an ongoing manner and dialogue has been had as part of the continuing development and ongoing negotiations.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
AC12	Criticism of consultation materials.			X		National Grid has made every attempt to make sure the consultation materials were easy to understand and accessible. National Grid is of the view that the consultation was effective and robust in order to inform consultees and seek their views on the proposals, and the appropriate information was provided at each round, reflecting the scale and nature of the consultation being undertaken at that time. An interactive map was available on the website and the project team were available via email or telephone to answer any questions.	N
Design Change							
AC13	The draft order limit is too close to other developments, in particular EDF projects.			X		The Order Limits, and the powers sought over each parcel of land within the Order Limits, comprise the land necessary to allow the construction and operation of the proposed project. These were developed using an iterative process of design reflecting a robust process of environmental and technical study, and consultation with stakeholders, PILs and the wider public. National Grid will continue to work with neighbouring developers where necessary and appropriate to manage the interfaces between the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement and other projects.	N
AC14	Move the temporary construction access from the A131 slightly to the north, into the next field and then takes the route through the field, re-entering the arable field at a point to the north of the farmstead.			X		National Grid will continue to work with PILs affected by temporary construction access routes. National Grid will seek to accommodate landowner preferences where possible, subject to the requirements of the project and other considerations and constraints. These matters are being, or will be, discussed as part of the negotiation of voluntary land agreements (noting that alternative accesses not authorised via the DCO may require further planning permission, highways agreements, and other secondary consents with the appropriate authorities). The specific location of temporary construction accesses is influenced by various factors including sightlines and visibility splays (particularly on a 60 miles per hour (mph) road such as the A131), vegetation loss, and the available space to construct ghost islands and turning lanes (where necessary).	N
AC15	Retaining the temporary construction access off the A131 in the arable field but then running up into the adjoining field to the north.			X		National Grid will continue to work with PILs affected by temporary construction access routes. National Grid will seek to accommodate landowner preferences where possible, subject to the requirements of the project and other considerations and constraints. These matters are being, or will be, discussed as part of the negotiation of voluntary land agreements.	N
AC16	Use existing road network for haul road, including from the A131 to the Twinstead Road junction.			X		Following site visits, route inspections and feedback from consultees, it was concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. Routeing cable drum abnormal indivisible loads (AILs) via the public highway would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>The haul road would take construction traffic off the local road network, which has small, narrow lanes in this area. The haul road would reduce impacts of construction traffic on road users and reduce the number of highway modifications required. This would reduce impacts on protected lanes and roadside vegetation.</p>	
AC17	The draft order limit is too close to houses, in particular Lightlands, reduce this by 50m.			X		<p>The area closest to Lightlands is proposed for temporary use only for construction, maintaining and dismantling of redundant infrastructure, and will primarily be used as laydown associated with the cable route further to the south. National Grid has reduced the effect on communities through the routeing of the project, keeping it at a distance from settlements and individual properties where practicable. The ES considers the potential effects on people from dust/emissions and noise in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14). ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.5 (application document 6.3.6.5) also sets out the potential visual effect on communities and where mitigation is proposed. The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects on people and local communities during construction and also includes a commitment to communicate information about the proposed works to local communities.</p>	N
AC18	Construction of the haul road should be more direct to the A131 and should be shorter.			X		<p>National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid has refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. Local conditions mean that the shortest and most direct route is not the most appropriate.</p>	N
AC19	Move the permanent access point near Heath Barn to the position of the temporary access track.			X		<p>The location of the permanent access into the Dedham Vale West CSE compound has been selected in part because there is an existing access off the B1068 (Stoke Road) in this location. As the CSE will be unmanned during operation, the access will be used only intermittently. The construction access further to the east is required in that location in order to be able to facilitate the construction of the cables. However a</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						permanent access would be unsuitable in that location, in part due to the impact a permanent road in that location may have on the ability to farm the land.	
AC20	Move access to the open farmland north of Rose Cottage.			X		The location of the temporary access route near Rose Cottage has been identified in partly because there is an existing access of Church Hill at this location. A temporary access taken at this location may require vegetation to be managed to maintain visibility splays. The proposals also include a temporary access to the works further north along Church Hill. This would however require a new bellmouth and access route to be created. Nonetheless, discussions with affected landowners, including on the most appropriate temporary access, can continue through the negotiation of voluntary land agreements.	N
AC21	Modify/expand proposed bellmouth towards the northwest of Rose Cottage.			X		The reason the location of the bellmouth has been identified is, in part, because it makes use of an access that is already in place, while the format and design of bellmouths and access needs to reflect standards and highway safety concerns. Nonetheless, discussions with affected landowners, including on the most appropriate temporary access, can continue through the negotiation of voluntary land agreements.	N
Design Question							
AC22	Information required on the size, frequency of expected lorries and time periods used.			X		The Transport Assessment (application document 5.7) sets out assumptions regarding construction traffic. This includes the classification of construction vehicles (e.g. whether vehicles are assumed to be AILs, mobile cranes or piling rigs, HGVs or light goods vehicles (LGVs)). The Transport Assessment also includes the am and pm peak traffic impacts on the local road networks. This can be discussed further with PILs as required during the negotiation of voluntary land agreements.	N
AC23	There is an aerial power line direct to property- information is required on the impacts of this.			X		The likely significant effects of the proposals are assessed and presented in the ES (application document 6.2.1 – 6.2.18). This can be discussed further with PILs as required during the negotiation of voluntary land agreements.	N
AC24	If a haul road is required at Pebmarsh, then a haul road is expected around Halstead too.			X		Following site visits, route inspections and feedback from consultees, it was concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 north of Pebmarsh could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. Routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>These issues are not likely to be experienced closer to Halstead, as construction traffic in this area would only be routed along the A131, which is not subject to the same constraints as the narrower lanes between the A131 and the Stour Valley West CSE compound to the north of Pebmarsh.</p>	
AC25	Concerns about the haul road and access arrangements now initially described as temporary could be changed to permanent.				X	The physical haul road is temporary for the construction-phase only and will be removed and the land restored following the construction of the proposed reinforcement. However, the DCO seeks permanent rights over this land, to allow for the construction haul road to be re-implemented should major maintenance works (or decommissioning) of the reinforcement be required in the future. If these circumstances were to arise, the road would again be removed, and the land restored once work was complete. This is being discussed with PILs through the ongoing negotiation of voluntary land agreements.	N
AC26	Require detail about why the proposed easement varies in width along the proposals.				X	The Order Limits encompass the extent of land necessary to construct and maintain the proposed reinforcement. The area encompassed by the Order Limits may vary, depending on the nature of the construction activity, physical or environmental constraints, or the type of permanent works being proposed at different points along the route. Within the Order Limits, the Limits of Deviation (LoD) comprise the parameters within which the permanent works will be constructed. The easement itself (meaning the permanent land rights required to install and keep installed the proposed overhead line or underground cable) will reflect the final location of the overhead line or underground cable within the LoD. The rights of access to the easement strip are likely to be negotiated over the wider land parcel.	N
AC27	How long will the temporary access point near the Dedham Vale West CSE compound be used for?				X	The temporary access routes for the cable sections of the proposed reinforcement are likely to be being used for periods between 2025 and 2028. They may not be used continually throughout these periods, and the specific approach will depend on the specific methodology of the main works contractor, which has yet to be identified.	N
Economic Impact							
AC28	Negative impact on local businesses / local economy / farming / tourism.				X	National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers and local businesses who may be directly affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to limit disruption on the local community where practicable. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						basis if negative impacts on farming operations and businesses can be proven. Particular matters can also be written into voluntary land agreements.	
Environmental Impact							
AC29	Concerned about potential flooding and poor drainage.			X		<p>The project is not expected to increase flood risk. Further details can be found in the Flood Risk Assessment (application document 5.5).</p> <p>National Grid will incorporate appropriate surface water drainage measures into its detailed design of the haul road and access tracks.</p> <p>Consultation with affected landowners would be carried out to investigate the current extent of land drainage. A scheme of pre-construction land drainage would be designed with the intent of maintaining the efficiency of the existing land drainage system and to assist in maintaining the integrity of the working area during construction and prevent possible waterlogging. A specialised drainage contractor would review the designs and would provide advice to National Grid and its contractor during relevant construction and reinstatement activities.</p>	N
AC30	Concerned about use of land which is designated as Stewardship Land.			X		<p>The current Higher Country Stewardship Land agreements are made between landowners and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (UK Government) with funds coming from (formerly) the European Union. Depending on the construction type, it is possible that these areas may need to be crossed. If National Grid is unable to mitigate the impacts on these, then there is a potential to discuss compensation on an individual basis.</p>	N
AC31	Concerns about damage to hedgerows and veteran trees.			X		<p>The construction of a temporary haul road would cause some loss to vegetation including hedgerows. These would be reinstated at the end of construction. Further details can be found in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (application document 7.8).</p>	N
AC32	Consideration must be given to the ancient trackway.			X		<p>The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and would be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads and implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.</p>	N
AC33	Impacts on the local environment and environmental areas.			X		<p>The ES assesses the likely significant effect of the project on the environment over both construction and operation. It identifies the level of effect and also the timescales over which those effects would be felt to allocate mitigation accordingly. During construction, there would be some temporary vegetation loss and some disturbance associated with the construction vehicles. Following construction, the</p>	N

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						haul road would be reinstated back to arable land, therefore there would be no permanent impact on the local environment following construction.	
Health and Safety							
AC34	Concerns about fencing and safety around sites.			X		National Grid would secure the working areas during construction using fencing where appropriate, for example depending on land use and on public access to the area. National Grid takes site safety very seriously, and promotes a safety focussed culture amongst its staff and its contractors. All sites will be risk assessed from a security perspective and output controls implemented, and all site safety and security requirements, including the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015, will be adhered to as a minimum.	N
AC35	Health and wellbeing is a key concern.			X		<p>The health and safety of the public, local communities and employees is central to everything that National Grid does. Throughout the development of the proposals, National Grid have carefully evaluated the potential impacts of the project on health and wellbeing, and where appropriate identified means of mitigating any impacts.</p> <p>As part of the EIA, consideration has been made to how the construction and operation of the project could impact on receptors such as air quality, noise and vibration, along with how these might impact on physical health. The CEMP (application document 7.5) and CEMP Appendix A (application document 7.5.1) set out a number of good practice measures to reduce the risk of impacts on health. Where appropriate, the relevant chapter of the ES sets out further proposed mitigations during construction and operation.</p> <p>With specific regard to EMFs, the UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting the general public against EMFs, the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in NPS EN-5. It is National Grid's policy to ensure that all of its equipment comply fully with those exposure limits.</p> <p>National Grid's approach is to ensure that all assets comply with those policies, which are set by Government on the advice of their independent advisors. The proposed overhead line has been designed to ensure it and the existing overhead line are fully compliant with these policies and guidelines. This ensures that health concerns are properly and adequately addressed. The evidence concerning</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>compliance with these policies as specified in EN-5, including the numerical guidelines will be fully and publicly documented in the DCO submission.</p> <p>Finally, National Grid recognise that the development, construction and operation of major infrastructure projects can cause stress, uncertainty and anxiety that may impact on people's mental health. Throughout the development phase of the project National Grid have therefore tried to clearly communicate the proposals, including through the establishment of dedicated contact channels, a project website and by holding multiple rounds of public consultation as the plans became more refined. As the project has progressed, National Grid have sought to provide certainty on the plans wherever possible.</p> <p>All of the consultations have included easily accessible information on the plans at that stage, along with opportunities to engage directly with the project team (such as via webinars, Ask the Experts appointments and public exhibitions). Where appropriate, National Grid have tailored this approach to suit the needs of individuals, such as by offering home visits or individual meetings. Despite this, National Grid acknowledge that they cannot respond positively to every request to change the proposals that they receive, and that some will disagree with the decisions they made. However, National Grid will always be happy to engage with those interested to discuss the plans and explain the rationale behind decisions.</p>	
AC36	Concern that the proposed intersection / crossing on Oak Road will be very dangerous.			X		The CTMP (application document 7.6) sets out the good practice measures to reduce disruption on the local road network during construction. National Grid is committed to safe working practices and will be implementing safety measures, such as closing roads or implementing traffic management to maintain safety to road users during construction.	N
Needs Case							
AC37	Haul road not required, instead close the road with escorts.			X		A site visit and route inspection were completed by specialist access consultants to review the option of routeing cable drum AILs via the public highway from the A131 via Collins Road, Oak Road and Cripple Corner to Stour Valley West CSE compound. The findings of the inspection concluded that whilst use of the public highway from the A131 could possibly be made to be suitable for proposed cable drum delivery vehicles, significant remedial works would be required at various locations along the route, some of which would involve the need to access third party land and a section off of public highway haul road. This option would also require civil design requirements and utility services (telephone poles, and below ground services) to remove any constraints. Remedial works to the existing highway could	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
						<p>cause traffic disruption to the local community while remedial measures are implemented.</p> <p>Other vehicle movements were also taken into account as part of the decision to include a haul road. This includes all identified vehicles movements (AIL, HGV, LGV) and their effect on the local road network. Having considered these effects, the decision was made to include a haul road in the design to reduce impacts on the local road network.</p> <p>National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations and haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors. A haul road would also separate the larger construction vehicles from other road users such as other motorists, dog walkers, horse riders etc.</p>	
AC38	Not given all haul road routeing options, costings or explanations/ other alternative haul road routes are available.			X		<p>National Grid have been actively working with its construction and environmental advisors on the appropriate routeing of the temporary construction haul road. National Grid has reviewed feedback received from the targeted consultation and explored the alternative haul roads presented as part of the feedback. National Grid have refined the location of the haul road bearing in mind landowner discussions, engineering considerations, haul road construction and construction transportation requirements, the local road network and appropriate access points from the A131 and environmental factors.</p>	N
AC39	Suggest alternative sources of energy / alternatives to proposal.			X		<p>It should be noted that the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is an electricity transmission project and does not generate energy. The transmission network connects and transports electricity from energy generating stations to where the electricity is required.</p> <p>The existing electricity transmission network in East Anglia does not have the capability or capacity required to reliably and securely transport the electricity that will be generated and connected to the network by 2030 while working to the required standards. The network needs to be reinforced between Bramford and Twinstead to increase the network capacity in the region to carry the electricity generation in East Anglia. Furthermore, the annual constraint costs to consumers associated with not undertaking the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement are significant.</p>	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
Property Concerns							
AC40	Concerns about damage to property.			X		Individuals concerned about the works impacting on the structural integrity of their property should contact National Grid to discuss the potential for a pre-condition survey for their property.	N
AC41	Concerns about loss of property value as a result of the proposals / unsaleable property.			X		National Grid acknowledges that any proposed new work may cause concern to landowners. Diminution in property value known as 'injurious affection' and any other appropriate heads of claim will be considered on an individual basis in accordance with current legislation. The Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of their property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works.	N
Surveys							
AC42	Criticism of surveying process - additional surveys and consideration of impact is needed.			X		National Grid notes this comment and can confirm that it has undertaken the necessary surveys required to support the EIA and engineering design based on recommendations and methodology set out in independent guidance and in discussion with relevant consultees.	N
AC43	Concerns about noise impacts resulting from the proposed haul road / assessment needed.			X		ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) assesses the noise impacts of the project. The CEMP (application document 7.5) sets out the good practice measures to reduce effects from noise during construction, including the use of best-available techniques. Where the assessment identifies areas where there could be the potential for significant noise effects, there may be the need for mitigation such as noise barriers to reduce noise during construction.	N
Traffic Congestion							
AC44	Concerns about increase in traffic, including pollution as a result.			X		The project would require a number of vehicle movements to bring materials and personnel to site and there would be an increase in traffic within the Order Limits and on the local road network. The impacts on air quality including from pollution are assessed in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13) which concludes that with the implementation of good practice measures in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1), there would be no significant effects on air quality.	N
Visual Impact							
AC45	Take steps to minimise visual impacts of the project - e.g.,			X		A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken as part of the ES, which sets out the potential landscape effects and identifies areas for	N

Ref.	Summary of Issue	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	National Grid's Response (Including the Regard had to the Consultation Response)	Design Change
	planting and screening, especially around the Pebmarsh Valley which has been identified as an Area of Special Landscape Value and Alphamstone House.					potential mitigation planting to reduce visual impacts to local receptors. The LVIA can be found in ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). The LEMP (application document 7.8) includes details regarding the planting proposals.	
AC46	Concerned about impact of the project on wildlife / protected species.			X		Amongst National Grid's duties is to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) conserving flora and fauna, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects. A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken to understand the existing conditions. ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the effects on habitats and species and identifies any relevant mitigation. National Grid will also apply for any relevant protected species licences from Natural England. National Grid is using the DEFRA Metric 3.1 to calculate the habitat affected on the project and as part of delivering at least 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) on the project.	N
AC47	Concerned about impact on grazing animals.			X		National Grid is and will continue to work with all landowners including farmers who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the construction programme is developed. National Grid will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. This includes providing prior warning of works which may result in the need to move livestock. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis, if negative impact on farming operations can be established. Particular agricultural matters can also be written into voluntary land agreements.	N

- 9.3.5 Comments were recorded, reviewed and considered by the project and design team on an ongoing basis throughout the additional engagement and consultation period.
- 9.3.6 With all feedback in mind, National Grid is engaged in ongoing discussions and voluntary land agreement negotiations with landowners and, where relevant, land agents. The status of these negotiations is captured in Appendix B to the Statement of Reasons **(application document 4.2.2)**. National Grid will ensure that regard is had to landowner feedback. Correspondence will be tailored to individual needs and site meetings have been, and will be, conducted where appropriate.
- 9.3.7 These discussions will continue, and consideration will be had to any representations made as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) examination.

10. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultation

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 This chapter provides an overview of how consultation has been conducted in line with the EIA Regulations 2017.
- 10.1.2 Full details of compliance with the EIA Regulations 2017, in terms of the EIA itself, are detailed within the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 1: Introduction (**application document 6.2.1**).

10.2 EIA Scoping Opinion

- 10.2.1 National Grid submitted a Scoping Report (SR) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) on 10 May 2021 in accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017. The SR was prepared in accordance with Advice Note Seven (PINs, 2020).
- 10.2.2 A Regulation 8(1)(b) (of the EIA Regulations 2017) notification was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy and Security and Net Zero (SoS) alongside a request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 and confirmed that the Applicant intended to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) Application. A copy of this letter is contained in Appendix D3. The SoS adopted the Scoping Opinion on 18 June 2021 having consulted with the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.
- 10.2.3 The following consultation bodies provided responses to PINs on the SR:
- Alphamstone and Lamarsh Parish Council;
 - Assington Parish Council;
 - Babergh District Council (joint response with Suffolk District Council);
 - Braintree District Council;
 - Bures St Mary Parish Council;
 - Burstall Parish Council;
 - Cadent Gas Limited (submitted a standalone response and a combined response with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc and National Grid Transmission plc);
 - Chattisham and Hintlesham Parish Council;
 - East Suffolk Council;
 - East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board;
 - Environment Agency;
 - ESP Utilities Group (on behalf of ES Pipelines Ltd, ESP Networks Ltd, ESP Pipelines Ltd and ESP Electricity Ltd);

- Essex County Council;
- Health and Safety Executive;
- The Hennys', Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council;
- Highways England;
- Historic England;
- Layham Parish Council;
- Leavenheath Parish Council;
- Little Cornard Parish Council;
- London Borough of Waltham Forest;
- Medway Council;
- Mid Suffolk District Council (joint response with Babergh District Council);
- National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (submitted as a combined response with Cadent Gas Limited and National Grid Gas plc);
- National Grid Gas plc (submitted as a combined response with Cadent Gas Limited and National Grid Electricity Transmission plc);
- NATS En-Route Safeguarding;
- Natural England;
- Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd;
- Polstead Parish Council;
- Public Health England;
- Sproughton Parish Council;
- Stoke-by-Nayland Parish Council;
- Suffolk County Council;
- Tendring District Council;
- The Forestry Commission;
- Uttlesford District Council; and
- West Suffolk Council.

10.3 Section 48 (Publicity) Under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)

- 10.3.1 Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 states that where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1) of the PA 2008, send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies (as defined in Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017) and to any person notified to the applicant by PINs in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c). A full list of the consultation bodies is provided in Appendix 1 of the Scoping Opinion (PINs, June 2021). <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp->

<content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-000401-EN020002%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>)

10.3.2 In accordance with Regulation 13, National Grid sent a section 48 notice to the consultation bodies on 19 January 2022, (a copy of the notice is provided in Appendix H3 and copies of the letters issued are provided in Appendix F3). Notices were also issued in accordance with section 48 as part of the targeted consultation.

10.3.3 No parties were identified by PINs under Regulation 11(1)(c).

10.4 Consulting on the Preliminary Environmental Information

10.4.1 As per the provisions of Regulation 12(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) must set out (a) whether the proposed project is EIA development, and (b), if the proposed project is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.

10.4.2 The SoCC makes clear that it was produced pursuant to section 47(1) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017. It also makes clear that likely significant environmental effects of the project will be consulted on, alongside potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant environmental effects. The SoCC states that an ES would be prepared as part of the application for development consent.

10.4.3 The SoCC further states that preliminary environmental information (in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report)) will form part of the consultation materials, stating that the full PEI Report will be made available including on the project website and in paper form, and that the PEI Report will also outline any limitations to the current assessments. The SoCC is therefore clear that a PEI Report is to be prepared and consulted on, and how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on this document.

10.4.4 A copy of the SoCC can be found in Appendix E10. The PEI Report was produced and consulted on during the statutory consultation between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. The PEI Report provides a snapshot of the environmental information available at the relevant time, in the case of the project at the statutory consultation stage.

10.4.5 The role of the PEI Report is to provide information reasonably required to enable members of the public (including local communities), local authorities, statutory bodies and people whose land or interests would potentially be affected to understand the likely significant environmental effects of the project so that they may provide meaningful feedback.

10.4.6 The PEI Report was available to download from the project website, to view at the deposit locations and available on request. Significant feedback was received from stakeholders and members of the public on the content of PEI Report, and the preliminary environmental information and the ongoing process of EIA more widely informed a large part of the feedback received.

10.4.7 ES Appendix 5.2 (**application document 6.3.5.2**) details the response to consultation feedback and has been produced to support the application for development consent and the accompanying ES under the PA 2008. It contains a summary of the consultation and engagement held with the relevant statutory consultees in relation to the respective environmental topics relevant to the EIA and how these have been considered on the project.

10.4.8 The PEI Report was updated for the purposes of targeted consultation and given that the limited changes consulted upon did not give rise to any new or different likely significant effects it was appropriate and proportionate for the updated PEI Report to be presented as an appendix to the main consultation materials.

11. Conclusion

11.1 Summary of Changes Made

11.1.1 National Grid has adopted a multi-phased consultation approach, comprising of non statutory consultation, statutory consultation and targeted consultation. This approach has sought consultation feedback throughout the development of the project and on all aspects of the proposed development, enabling feedback to influence the design evolution.

11.1.2 Over the course of the consultations undertaken since spring 2021, numerous changes to the design were proposed by respondents through consultation feedback. Further potential changes arose as a result of ongoing environmental and engineering assessment work as the design progressed. The proposed amendments were considered by the project team and as a result, the design evolved iteratively to include key changes as identified below:

- Review and confirmation of undergrounding in two stretches of the route (Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and parts of the Stour Valley). This is a key embedded measure to reduce impacts on sensitive landscapes;
- Relocation of the Dedham Vale East Cable Sealing End (CSE) compound further from the AONB boundary to a location by Millfield Wood. This location benefits from natural screening, and results in greater separation from the AONB;
- Relocation of the Stour Valley West CSE compound to the southern side of Henny Back Road. This location benefits from a natural depression in the land, and results in the removal of a longer stretch of existing 400 kilovolt (kV) line in this area;
- Use of full-line tension gantries at all four of the CSE compounds proposed as part of the reinforcement route;
- Refinement and optimisation of the underground cable routes in both the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley sections. This allows a route design that most appropriately balances environmental and engineering constraints with community feedback;
- Use of trenchless undergrounding technologies in the Stour Valley section, and the use of ducted underground cable technology in both underground cable sections where feasible. This will reduce the surface level impacts and duration of construction;
- Rationalising of the existing overhead line alignment west of Bramford Substation. This delivers engineering benefits but also reduces the number of existing pylons in the landscape;
- Introduction of a temporary construction haul road directly from the A131 to the Stour Valley West CSE compound. This reduces the impact of large construction vehicles on the local road network in this area;
- Changes to the Limits of Deviation (LoD) at the Grid Supply Point (GSP) site and the introduction of landscape mounding, to allow a design that is set back further from the A131 and is screened from views from the east. This increases the landscape and visual mitigation at this site and responds to inputs from the local community; and

- Extensive further commitments, design changes, and refinements to the Order Limits. These are a result, in part, of regard had to feedback received on various matters of environmental, community and/or landowner interest.

11.1.3 Furthermore, while ultimately not resulting in a change, the possibility of an alternative overhead line route between Hintlesham Great Wood and Ramsey Wood (referred to as Option 2) was thoroughly explored. This potential change was driven in part by consultation feedback on the original option (Option 1), and regard was had to inputs provided on the two alternatives options during two rounds of public consultation. The outcome is that, on balance, the proposed option (Option 1) most appropriately balances the various environmental, engineering and community sensitivities.

11.2 Compliance with the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

11.2.1 This consultation report sets out the consultation activities which have been undertaken under sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008. National Grid developed the approach to statutory consultation in line with the requirements of the PA 2008 (and the APFP Regulations and EIA Regulations 2017), as well as Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Guidance and Planning Inspectorate's (PINs) Advice Note Fourteen as set out in Chapter 3 of this report.

11.2.2 Chapter 3 provides detail of how each requirement from the legislation, regulations, as well as the guidance and advice notes, have been met as part of this consultation. Compliance with the PA 2008 can be summarised as follows:

- Consultation was undertaken in accordance with section 47 of the PA 2008, as identified in Chapter 4 of this report. This included consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authorities, publication of the SoCC notice, making the SoCC available for inspection and undertaking consultation as set out in the SoCC;
- Consultation was undertaken in accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008, as identified in Chapter 5 of this report. This included consultation with all relevant consultees under section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(b) and section 42(1)(d). Section 42(1)(aa) and section 42(1)(c) are not relevant to the project, nonetheless, the Greater London Authority (GLA) was consulted in any case under section 42(1)(b) on a precautionary basis.;
- The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) was notified of the proposed application in accordance with section 46 of the PA 2008, as identified in Chapter 6 of this report;
- The EIA Regulations 2017 also include a requirement to prepare and consult on preliminary environmental information. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) was therefore produced for statutory consultation (undertaken between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022). The PEI Report was updated for the purposes of targeted consultation (undertaken between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022) and was presented as an appendix to the main consultation materials;
- The consultation was publicised in accordance with section 48 of the PA 2008, as identified in Chapter 6 of this report. This included the publication of the section 48 notice in two local newspapers (East Anglian Daily Times and the Colchester Gazette), The London Gazette and The Guardian, see Appendix H4 for copies of the

notices. This also included notification to consultation bodies in line with the EIA Regulations 2017;

- National Grid has complied with section 49 of the PA 2008 by demonstrating in Chapter 7 of this report that it has had regard to all of the responses received at statutory consultation and the comments raised;
- This consultation report shows how feedback received has influenced National Grid's proposal, design, analysis and methods of delivery for this major infrastructure project; and
- This consultation report has been prepared in fulfilment of section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. This requires the Development Consent Order (DCO) application to be accompanied by a consultation report giving details of the matters specified in section 37(7).

11.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

11.3.1 In addition to the non statutory, statutory, targeted and scoping consultations, National Grid has undertaken ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the development of the project.

11.3.2 National Grid also developed a 'Host Authority Engagement Plan'. The plan was circulated by the project team to the host authorities on 22 December 2020 and iterations have been issued as the project progressed. The objective was to;

- Provide host authorities with a look ahead to when key planning and EIA activities were programmed to take place;
- Set out an overarching protocol for engaging with host authorities on planning and EIA matters;
- Assist the host authorities with resource planning for the project; and
- Assist all parties in agreeing a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

11.3.3 A SoCG is a written statement jointly produced by the applicant and another party to assist in examining the DCO application by providing an overview of the status of discussions and negotiations between the applicant and the other party (or parties).

11.3.4 Draft SoCGs are being prepared with key interested parties, a list of draft SOCGs is contained in the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**).

11.3.5 Ongoing engagement with PILs has been sought throughout the duration of the project. It has facilitated two-way communication which has served to better inform individuals on the rationale behind the proposals, as well as shape them.

11.3.6 National Grid will continue to engage with existing PILs and also identify any new and additional interests within referencing limits throughout and after the conclusion of s42 consultation but before the Application is submitted. National Grid will provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the Application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of the Application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process, National Grid will be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person

understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the Application is accepted for examination.

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