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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document 5.1.5: Consultation Report: Appendix E Statement of
Community Consultation (SoCC) and Supporting Information

Final Issue A
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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q) (s37(3)(c) s37(7) of
the Planning Act 2008)

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APPENDIX E1: Letter to Local Authorities Regarding the Informal Consultation on the Proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Title
Address line 1
Address line 2
Town/city
Postcode

Monday 2nd August 2021

Dear [Name]],

**Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement
Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

As you will likely be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to reinforce the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead, south of Sudbury in Essex.

We need to build this new 400,000 volt reinforcement to overcome a bottleneck on the network and increase network capability in the region. It will carry the new cleaner, greener energy that is proposed in East Anglia and will support the Government's Net Zero targets.

The Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. As such, we are currently preparing an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO), that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

We have already developed our proposals significantly through consultation with stakeholders, landowners, businesses, and local communities. Thus far, this consultation has been 'informal' or 'non-statutory'. Prior to submitting a DCO application, we must also undertake a 'formal' or 'statutory' consultation on the proposals. To do this, the Planning Act 2008 (Chapter 2, Section 47) requires that National Grid first:

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

As a representative of a local authority identified within section 43 (1), we are inviting you to participate in informal consultation on the contents of our draft Statement of Community Consultation, which is enclosed.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, then please submit these via email to contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com. In order to allow time for the draft SoCC to be amended prior to a formal consultation on its contents, the deadline for providing comments will be **Monday 30th August 2021**.

If you have any questions at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact me via the contact details above.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Van Haaren

Regional External Affairs Manager
National Grid

APPENDIX E2: Informal Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Statement of Community Consultation

Draft
July 2021



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Contents

1.	Introduction	5
1.1	Purpose of the document	5
1.2	Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects	5
1.3	About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	5
2.	The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project	8
2.1	Background	8
2.2	Consultation between 2009-2013	8
2.3	Non-statutory consultation	8
2.4	Project description	10
2.5	Project timeline	11
3.	Consulting on the proposed application	13
3.1	When will the consultation take place?	13
3.2	What will be consulted on?	13
3.3	Who will be consulted?	14
3.4	Consultation materials	14
3.5	Promoting the consultation	18
3.6	Webinars	19
3.7	Face to face engagement	19
3.8	Public exhibitions	20
3.9	Drop-in sessions	20
3.10	Stakeholder briefings and meetings	21
3.11	Telephone surgeries	21
3.12	Deposit locations	21
3.13	Seldom heard groups	22
3.14	Contact details	25
4.	Responses to the consultation	26
4.1	Methods of responding	26
4.2	Presenting the results	26
4.3	Further consultation	26

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies	6
Figure 2.1 – Project timeline	11
Figure 2.2 – DCO process	12
Figure 3.1 – Proposed project	13
Table 3.1 – Consultation materials	14
Table 3.2 – Website features	17
Table 3.3 – Details of public exhibitions	20
Table 3.4 – Details of drop-in sessions	21
Table 3.5 – Deposit locations	22
Table 3.6 – Seldom heard engagement tools	22
Table 3.7 – Contact details	25

Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map	27
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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intends to consult people about its proposals to reinforce the capacity of the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex, ahead of its application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 The Bramford to Twinstead project (the “project”) is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and 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 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 1.1.3 In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities:
- Babergh District Council
 - Mid Suffolk District Council
 - Braintree District Council
 - Essex County Council
 - Suffolk County Council.

1.2 Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1 Installation of a new 400kV overhead electricity line is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Act. This means that development consent is required before construction of the project can begin.
- 1.2.2 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the “Secretary of State”). The Planning Inspectorate will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether to grant the development consent for the project.
- 1.2.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and statutory stakeholders.
- 1.2.4 Early involvement of communities, local authorities and stakeholders helps us identify valuable information, including about the potential impacts of a project, so that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application is considered.

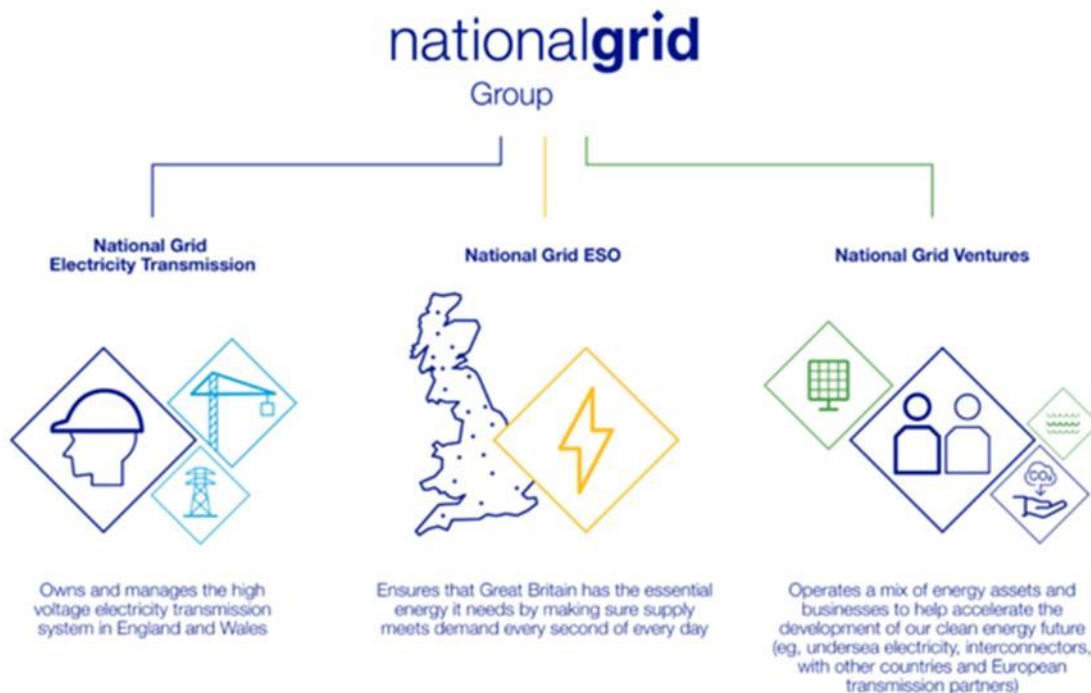
1.3 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

- 1.3.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer’s homes and businesses; in the way that

we support our communities and help them to grow. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.

- 1.3.2 Within the National Grid Group there are separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles (see figure 1.1 below). The project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- 1.3.3 **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. This means NGET must ‘have regard to the desirability of preserving amenity’.
- 1.3.4 NGET owns, builds and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
- 1.3.5 **National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO)** controls the movement of electricity around the country, transporting power from generators (such as wind farms) to local distribution network operators, like UK Power Network (UKPN), ensuring that supply meets demand.
- 1.3.6 Both NGET and NGESO are licensed by the Government as electricity transmission companies, and are regulated by Ofgem, which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers.
- 1.3.7 **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies



- 1.3.8 NGET has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989 (“the

Electricity Act”). This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

- 1.3.9 NGET is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of that Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:

Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...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;’ and

Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.

- 1.3.10 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#).

2. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The UK has set a clear ambition for our country to be a global leader in clean energy. The Government has set a commitment to reach Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and an ambition to connect 40 GW of offshore wind by 2030 – enough energy to power every home in the country.
- 2.1.2 To achieve this, offshore wind is being developed at scale and around 60% of the current offshore wind projects will come ashore along the East Coast.
- 2.1.3 Couple this with new nuclear generation proposed at Sizewell C and greater interconnection with countries across the North Sea, we expect to see a significant increase in the level of renewable and low carbon electricity generation connecting in East Anglia.
- 2.1.4 While our existing high voltage electricity network in East Anglia has been sufficient until today, it does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030 while working to the required standards.
- 2.1.5 In the first half of this decade, we are investing significantly in upgrading the existing network, but that still will not deliver the capability that is needed by the end of the decade. We need to reinforce the region's electricity network to address this, including between Bramford and Twinstead.
- 2.1.6 We need to build a new 400 kV connection between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee to improve the capability of the electricity transmission network and carry the clean green energy that is proposed in East Anglia to homes and businesses.

2.2 Consultation between 2009-2013

- 2.2.1 The project has already been subject to multiple rounds of consultation between 2009 and 2013. However, we paused work on the project following changes to when some of the new generation projects in the region were likely to connect to the transmission network. Between 2009 and 2013 the project was shaped by:
- feedback from three rounds of public consultation
 - detailed design including engineering and environmental surveys
 - feedback from 18 months of community forums and thematic group meetings which explored significance of impacts and where undergrounding the power lines might be necessary to mitigate them.

2.3 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 Now that the project is once again required, we undertook a further round of non-statutory consultation from 25 March to 6 May 2021.
- 2.3.2 This consultation had the following aims:

- to reintroduce and provide an overview of the project, including how it developed before we paused work in 2013
 - to explain how we have reviewed and updated the project
 - to gather feedback on the project
 - to outline next steps and programme and how we will further develop the project.
- 2.3.3 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold face-to-face events. Instead, we combined both digital and conventional methods of engagement, providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to access information and take part in the consultation.
- 2.3.4 Over the course of the consultation, the project team held eight webinars, six telephone surgeries and two live chat sessions, as well as providing relevant project documents for viewing at locations along the proposed route.
- 2.3.5 We developed an interactive project website, the functionality of which included:
- interactive maps with removable layers
 - searchable FAQs
 - automated chatbot
 - built-in visual aid tools and translation services
 - animations, videos and infographics
 - document library with interactive PDFs
 - live chat function
 - online feedback form.
- 2.3.6 To raise awareness of our consultation within the local community, we distributed an invitation newsletter to more than 3,164 homes and businesses within 1km of the emerging project, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representatives and representatives of third-party and community interest groups.
- 2.3.7 Paid-for newspaper adverts were placed in a number of local newspapers. Digital versions of these adverts ran on the websites of these publications. Notices were also placed in community news publications, further advertising the consultation.
- 2.3.8 The consultation events were further publicised through paid-for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Spotify advertising.
- 2.3.9 Briefing sessions were held with elected representatives, parish councils and third-party and community interest groups throughout the consultation period.
- 2.3.10 A total of 526 feedback responses were received from members of the public and interested parties. From the number of feedback forms received, 36.2% were submitted online and 63.8% were submitted as paper copy. We received feedback from a diverse age range of respondents.
- 2.3.11 The local community were also able to submit feedback by speaking with members of the team via a number of channels, including a freephone information line (0808 196 1515), consultation email address (<mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com>), via the consultation website ([\[REDACTED\]](#)) or via the postage paid address (B T REINFORCEMENT).

2.4 Project description

- 2.4.1 The Bramford to Twinstead project involves reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Bramford Substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex. The reinforcement would be approximately 27km long, comprising approximately 19km of overhead line and approximately 8km of underground cables.
- 2.4.2 The draft alignment runs roughly parallel to the existing Bramford to Pelham 400kV overhead line and follows the existing 132kV line for the majority of the route. Approximately 25km of the existing 132kV overhead line would be removed as part of the project, including approximately 3km within Dedham Vale AONB and a further 5.4km within the Stour Valley.
- 2.4.3 The project comprises the following principal components:
- Construction and operation of a 400kV electricity transmission reinforcement between Bramford Substation and Twinstead Tee comprising:
 - installation of approximately 19km of 400kV overhead line
 - installation of c.56 new steel lattice pylons (c.50m tall)
 - installation of c.8km of 400kV underground cables.
 - Realignment of the existing 400kV overhead line to the north and west of Hintlesham Woods, to facilitate the use of the existing swathe through the woods by the new 400kV line.
 - Construction and operation of four cable sealing end (CSE) compounds (including permanent access roads), namely:
 - CSE Compound Dedham Vale East
 - CSE Compound Dedham Vale West
 - CSE Compound Stour Valley East
 - CSE Compound Stour Valley West.
 - Removal of approximately 25km of the existing 132kV overhead line and supporting pylons between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee.
 - Removal of approximately 1.5km of the existing 400kV overhead line and supporting pylons between Twinstead Tee and the proposed CSE compound at Stour Valley West.
 - Construction and operation of a new 400/132kV GSP substation (including permanent access road) at Butler's Wood, to the west of Twinstead, and associated works (including new underground cables) to tie this into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.
 - Temporary overhead line diversion from 4YLA005 – 4YLA003 to allow the building of the proposed CSE compound at Stour Valley West.
 - Temporary use of land to facilitate construction, which would include construction compounds, haul routes and laydown areas.
 - Temporary minor amendments to the existing highway network to facilitate construction vehicles.

- Environmental mitigation and enhancement, including tree planting.

2.5 Project timeline

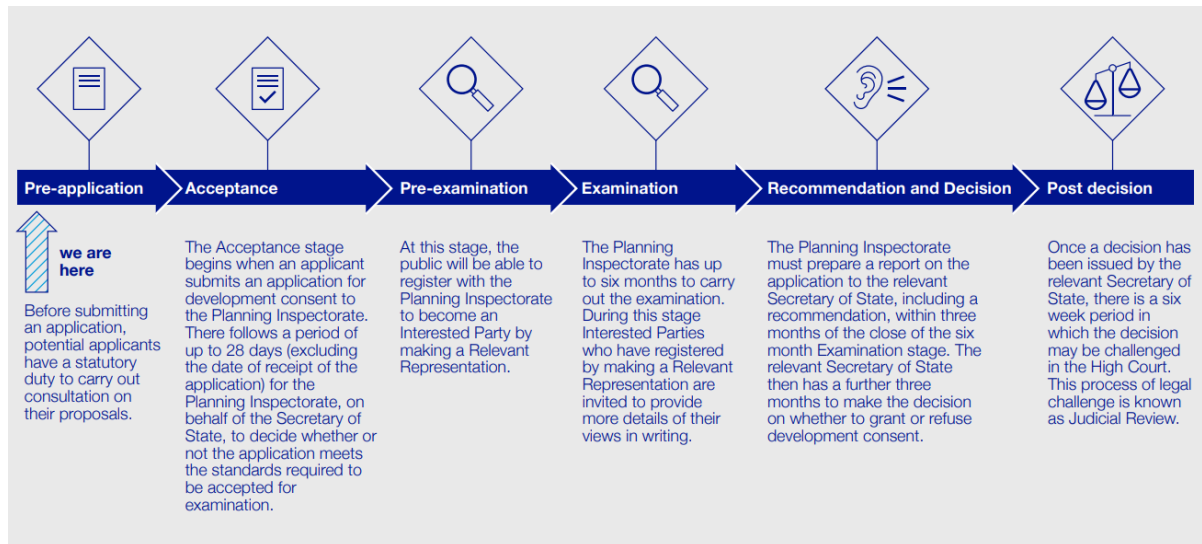
2.5.1 Figure 2.1 sets out the currently proposed timeline for each stage of the project from consultation through to the decision from the Secretary of State and construction. Whilst the timescales are subject to change, NGESO has identified in Network Options Assessment 2020/2 that the project needs to be in place by 2028.

Figure 2.1 – Project timeline



2.5.2 Figure 2.2 provides an overview of the DCO consenting process.

Figure 2.2 – DCO process



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3. Consulting on the proposed application

3.1 When will the consultation take place?

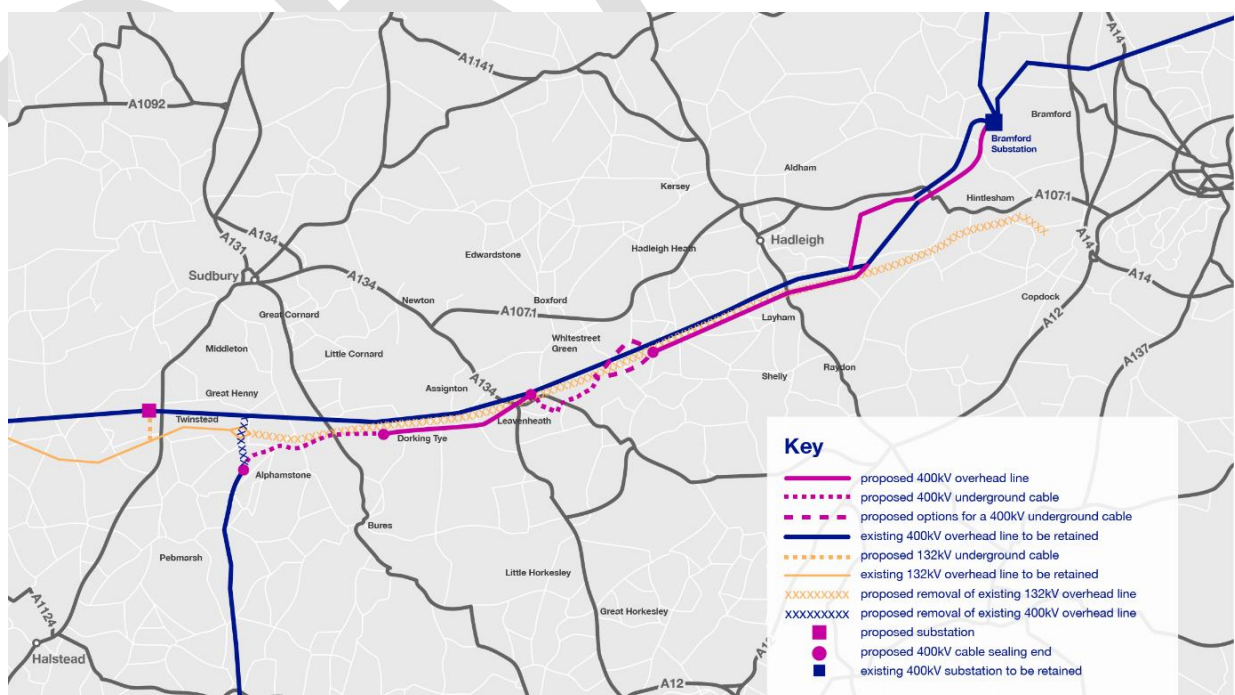
3.1.1 The statutory consultation will run for six weeks. It is expected to take place between 3 November 2021 and 15 December 2021. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date.

3.2 What will be consulted on?

3.2.1 We will seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- proposed route of the new 400kV electricity line
- extent of undergrounding and overgrounding of the new 400kV electricity line
- location and detail of cable sealing end compounds
- pylon locations around sensitive locations
- removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line
- location and form of a new Grid Supply Point Substation at Butlers Wood
- construction methodology, including traffic management
- likely environmental effects arising from the project
- proposed environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain.

Figure 3.1 – Proposed project



3.2.2 Due to its size and nature, the project constitutes ‘environmental impact assessment development’ under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)

Regulations 2017. So, we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this consultation.

- 3.2.3 We will make the full Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) available on the project website. Paper copies of the PEIR will be available for inspection at public exhibition events and information points. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

3.3 Who will be consulted?

- 3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the project. We welcome all views and will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.

- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Act, we have a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community. The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which extends 1km from the proposed Order Limits for the project and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), which extends to at least 5km from the proposed Order Limits for the project (including the PCZ). The Order Limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the project.

- 3.3.3 We will also 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
- '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.

- 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. We will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44.

3.4 Consultation materials

- 3.4.1 The following consultation materials will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.1 – Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Consultation pack	Summary newsletter with the following information:	The pack will be direct mailed to those who live within the PCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail).

Material	Description	Target audience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overview of the proposals and project map project website details and how to access information at home information about consultation event dates instructions on how to book telephone or in-person surgeries with the project team information on how to give feedback and speak to the project team. <p>In addition, packs will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feedback form with details of how to provide feedback postage-paid envelopes. 	<p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). The information contained within the pack will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies.</p> <p>Stakeholders will also be provided a copy of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project website	A dedicated consultation website (Table 3.2 for detail)	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail). The website will be promoted in a several ways (see section 3.5 for details)
Consultation summary document	<p>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.</p> <p>The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). The consultation summary document will also be available to download via the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies.</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
		Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.
Project Development Options Report	A document outlining the development of the project and the rationale behind each component.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail).</p> <p>The project development options report will also be available to download from the project website.</p>
Feedback form	Feedback form with a mixture of qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the project.	<p>Feedback forms will be direct mailed to all residents and businesses within the PCZ as part of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to collect a copy of the feedback from the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). Forms will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be mailed on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies.</p>
Consultation banners	Consultation summary banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the project. Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the plans and allow for further discussion with members of the project team during public consultation events.	Members of the public will be able to view consultation banners during public exhibition events (see Section 3.6 for detail). Copies will also be available on the project website.

Material	Description	Target audience
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.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail) with visual impairments.
Project maps	Paper copy and digital mapping will be made available to assist understanding of the proposals.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	PEIR details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely environmental impacts of the project.	Interested members of the public and those in SCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail). Members of the public will be able to view a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). The reports will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged.

3.4.2 To provide flexibility around changing government Covid-19 guidelines, all consultation material will be available on the project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways. This is set out in further detail in the following table.

Table 3.2 – 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.
Project videos, infographics and animations	To provide a simple, concise overview of key information.
Interactive consultation documents	Key consultation documents will be displayed in an interactive format that links to other key information, video content and mapping.

Function	Rationale
Searchable FAQs	To provide answers to the most 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.
Drop-in session booking	To enable members of the public to book a drop-in sessions.
Telephone surgery booking	To enable members of the public to book a telephone surgery appointment.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the project team.

3.5 Promoting the consultation

- 3.5.1 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 3,164 addresses and is shown in Appendix A.
- 3.5.2 Those living outside of the PCZ and in the SCZ, will be made aware of the consultation through the following other methods of engagement.
- 3.5.3 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.
- 3.5.4 The newspapers will include:
- East Anglian Daily Times
 - Ipswich Star
 - West Suffolk Mercury
 - Colchester Gazette
 - Essex County Standard.
- 3.5.5 These newspapers will ensure the consultation is promoted both within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ.
- 3.5.6 Online advertisements will also be placed in these publications, with the addition of Essex Live.
- 3.5.7 We will work with parishes along the route to advertise the consultation in parish magazines where possible.

- 3.5.8 The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers, giving details about the consultation in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act. Site notices will also be placed at key locations along the route of the project.
- 3.5.9 Adverts will be placed on Facebook and Instagram to help raise general awareness and target different demographics, including those who might not otherwise engage with the consultation. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation versus other platforms.
- 3.5.10 Posters will be sent to Parish Councils to display locally, to raise awareness of the consultation.
- 3.5.11 In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website, [REDACTED]. Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps can telephone the project on 0808 196 1515.
- 3.5.12 Requests for hard 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. These can be requested using the contact details at the end of this document.
- 3.5.13 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.
- 3.5.14 Requests for hard copy or alternative format of documents can be made by contacting the project by email at contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com, or by calling 0808 196 1515.

3.6 Webinars

- 3.6.1 Two project webinars will be held throughout the consultation period, the first in week 1 of the consultation and the second in week 4 of the consultation.
- 3.6.2 Both of these webinars will provide an overview of the proposals by the project and will allow members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.
- 3.6.3 Webinars will provide opportunities for audience participation in the form of polls and a summary of all questions asked by other participants.
- 3.6.4 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.

3.7 Face to face engagement

- 3.7.1 Subject to the government's national and local COVID-19 laws and guidelines, in addition to all of the above, 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.

3.8 Public exhibitions

- 3.8.1 Subject to the government’s national and local COVID-19 laws and guidelines, eight public exhibitions will be held for communities to find out information about the project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the project team. The exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the consultation zones.
- 3.8.2 Public exhibitions will take place in four locations across the route, over two days each. Timings will depend on venue availability, but the aspiration is to hold two 6-hour sessions per location.

Table 3.3 – Details of public exhibitions

Date	Time	Location
Week 1 of consultation	Morning-afternoon	Hintlesham and Chattisham
Week 1 of consultation	Afternoon-evening	Hintlesham and Chattisham
Week 1 of consultation	Morning-afternoon	Hadleigh
Week 1 of consultation	Afternoon-evening	Hadleigh
Week 2 of consultation	Morning-afternoon	Leavenheath
Week 2 of consultation	Afternoon-evening	Leavenheath
Week 3 of consultation	Morning-afternoon	Sudbury
Week 3 of consultation	Afternoon-evening	Sudbury

- 3.8.3 If for any reason it is unfortunately necessary to cancel a scheduled event, such as due to adverse weather, we will publish this on our website and place a notice at the venue if practicable. We will also consider organising additional events if we deem this to be reasonably necessary.

3.9 Drop-in sessions

- 3.9.1 We recognise that some may still be apprehensive about face-to-face engagement in a busy environment, such as a public exhibition. Therefore, we propose offering slots for people to book by telephone, email or online where they can speak to the team in a smaller setting in local villages. We will be happy to undertake such discussions outdoors, if this is preferred by the requestor.
- 3.9.2 We suggest that these take place in the final three weeks of the consultation so that people can approach us with any follow up questions or feedback that they were unable to ask during a public exhibition.
- 3.9.3 As the area has a high proportion of elderly residents, this approach reduces travel times, and the booking system allows the project team to understand specific needs that can be better addressed in a smaller consultation setting.

Table 3.4 – Details of drop-in sessions

Date	Time	Location
Week 4 of consultation	Morning	Hintlesham
Week 4 of consultation	Afternoon	Layham
Week 5 of consultation	Morning	Polstead
Week 5 of consultation	Afternoon	Assington
Week 6 of consultation	Afternoon	Twinstead

3.10 Stakeholder briefings and meetings

3.10.1 We will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run up to or during the consultation:

- 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
- local planning authority officers.

3.10.2 We will meet with other organisations and individuals on request. These may include:

- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act
- persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44 of the Act
- third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships and business groups
- community groups or residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
- parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ
- interest groups with a close relationship to the project.

3.11 Telephone surgeries

3.11.1 Members of the public who cannot attend an in-person event or are uncomfortable with online technology will be able to book a team call back appointment to discuss their questions with the project team. Ahead of these appointments, paper copies of all relevant information will be posted out upon request, and members of the public will also be asked if they have any specific areas of interest, to more accurately address any questions or concerns.

3.12 Deposit locations

3.12.1 Paper copies of the consultation summary, project development options report, newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be provided at the locations in the table below. This excludes circumstances outside of our control, such as those which prevent the locations specified from opening.

Table 3.5 – 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 - Closed
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 - 9am to 5pm Sunday – 10am to 4pm

3.13 Seldom heard groups

- 3.13.1 We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 3.13.2 Seldom heard groups in the case of the project could consist of the groups which have been outlined in Table 3.6.
- 3.13.3 Our consultation response to assist in engaging with seldom heard and local interest groups is set out in the table below.

Table 3.6 – Seldom heard engagement tools

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation Response
The elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> directly mailing a consultation pack and project information to all stakeholders within the PCZ; and provide details of how to access paper

	<p>copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • options to engage through conventional communications channels including the postal service and the telephone • face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route • local drop-in sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs • audio loop during public exhibitions • providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request) • engagement with community groups serving that demographic • providing paper copies of materials at information point locations along with contact details for the project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online • advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.
<p>People with visual impairments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audio guide of consultation banners • providing important information 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 • providing telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.
<p>People with limited mobility/disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly mailing a consultation pack and project information to all stakeholders within the PCZ; and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online engagement through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel • providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request) • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route • local drop-in sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs • audio loop during public exhibitions • providing BSL signing at webinars • advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.
15-19 and 20-39 age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online engagement • social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route.
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route • local drop-in sessions, limiting the need to travel • social media engagement • advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss 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 • options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility.

Geographically isolated individuals or communities

- directly mailing a consultation pack and project information to all stakeholders within the PCZ; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post
- local drop-in sessions, limiting the need to travel
- face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route
- advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.

3.14 Contact details

3.14.1 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.

Table 3.7 – Contact details

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

3.14.2 The project team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that isn't readily to hand, the project team will endeavour to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.

4. Responses to the consultation

4.1 Methods of responding

4.1.1 During the consultation period people will be able to submit their feedback on the proposals for the project.

4.1.2 This can be done in the following ways:

- at public exhibitions
- online via the consultation website ([\[REDACTED\]](#))
- by post using the postage paid envelope (which are available upon email or telephone request)
- by email (contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com).

4.1.3 Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation. Responses given orally, such as via telephone, will be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.

4.1.4 Feedback submissions sent via post will be accepted for up-to five working days after the formal closing date of the consultation.

4.1.5 Although they will not formally be included as consultation feedback, we will still have regard to responses received after the close of the consultation.

4.2 Presenting the results

4.2.1 Following the close of the consultation, the feedback will be reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and refined in light of the feedback.

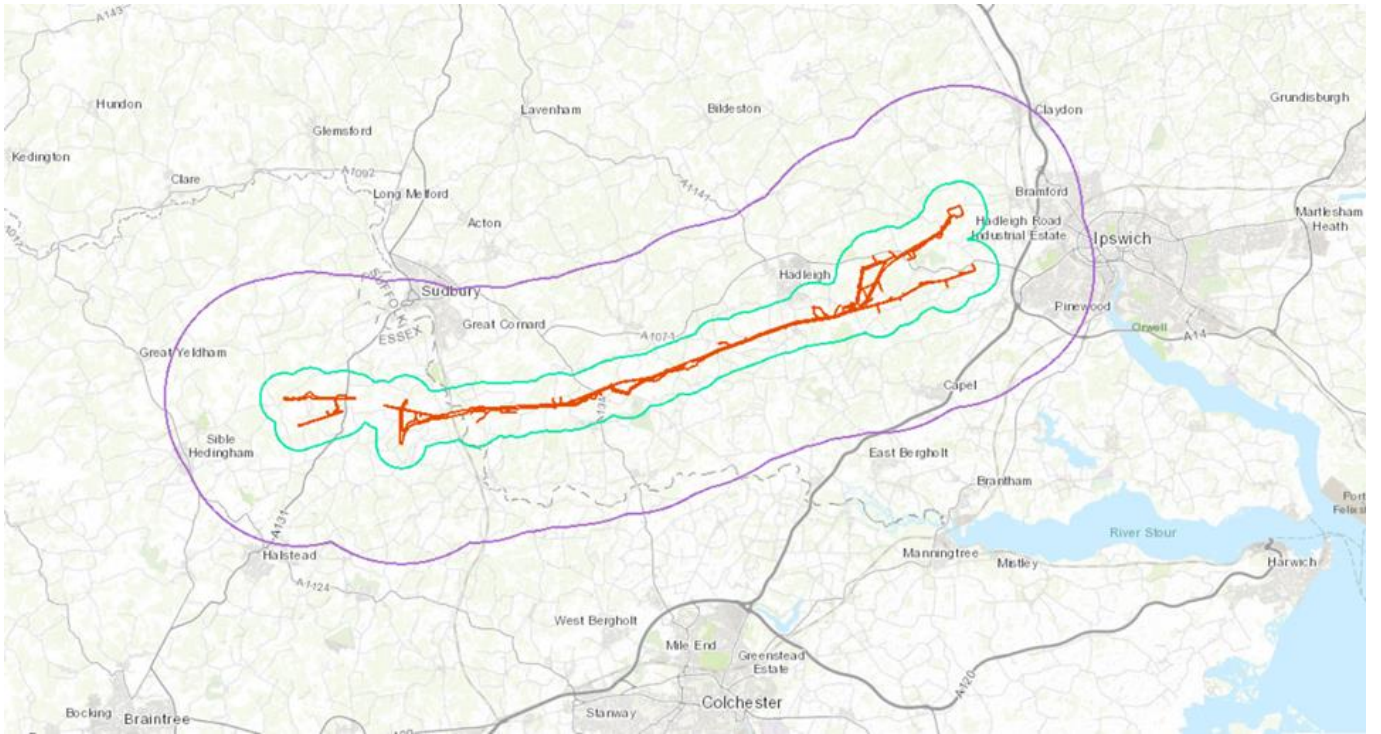
4.2.2 The proposed application will then be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation

4.2.3 A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application for development consent. The report will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the final proposals. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.

4.3 Further consultation

4.3.1 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.

Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map



DRAFT

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152



APPENDIX E3: Informal Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Presentation Slides

Statement of Community Consultation

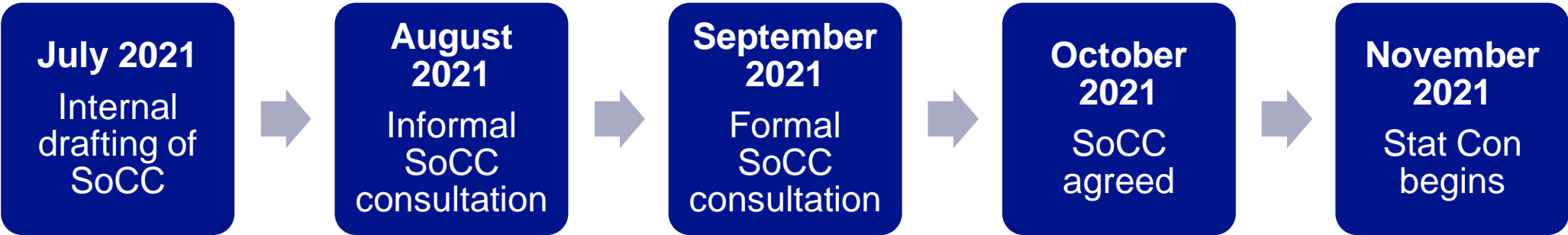
Framework Meeting
7 July 2021



PRINCIPAL PARTNER
**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Timescales for SoCC consultation



Timing and duration

Statutory consultation is currently scheduled to begin on **3 November 2021**.

We are proposing a **six-week** consultation, in line with projects of a similar scale (including other National Grid schemes).

Based on this timescale, consultation would close on **15 December 2021** (23 December 2021 for postal responses).

Advertisement

Direct Mailing 1km of draft order limits

- newsletter with project and consultation summary and contact details
- feedback form and postage paid envelope

advertisement within 5km of draft order limits

- statutory notices
- print media inc. parish magazines
- Facebook and Instagram
- local posters/information in village halls

Deposit Locations

- Sible Hedingham Library
- Sudbury Library
- Hadleigh Library

Digital engagement

Project website

- interactive maps with layers zoomed to 1:10,000
- videos, animations and graphics to assist clarity of information
- complete document library and archive
- searchable FAQs
- online feedback form
- online forms to book telephone surgeries and webinars
- project news
- lands info

Webinars

- two webinars with Q&A in week 1 and 4 of the consultation

Face-to-face engagement

Public Exhibitions

- exhibitions held in four locations: Hintlesham and Chattisham, Hadleigh, Leavenheath and Sudbury
- each consultation will take place over two days around 6 hours each
- programmed for first three weeks of consultation

Village Hall drop-in sessions

- members of the public will be able to book a slot at a village hall drop-in in the final three weeks of the consultation
- smaller setting to allow concerns to be addressed
- Twinstead, Assington, Polstead, Layham, Hintlesham

Other engagement

Telephone surgeries

- bookable slots to talk to the team over the phone or video call

Stakeholder briefings

- Meetings with parish councils, local elected representatives, stakeholder groups and residents' associations

Inclusivity

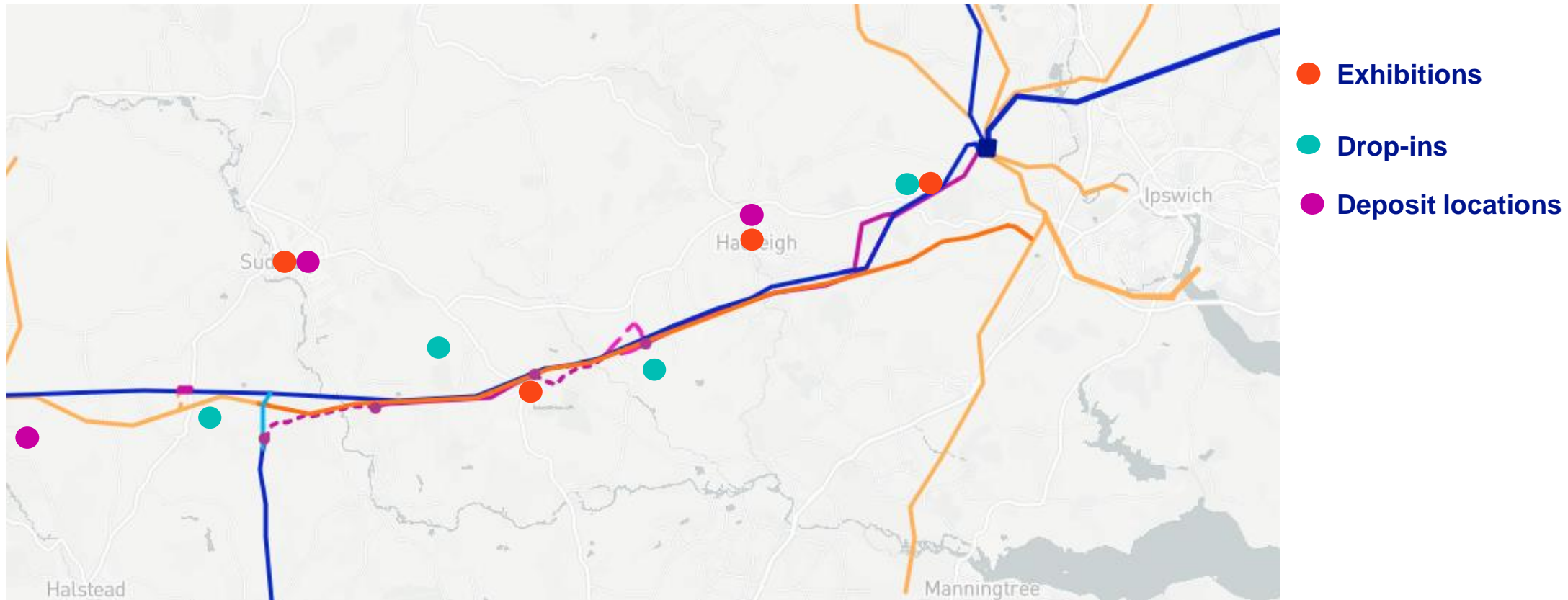
Telephone surgeries

- easy-read consultation brochure (dementia friendly)
- webinar with ASL
- audio guide for blind
- audio induction loop
- website font size adjuster

Hard to reach

- would appreciate further engagement with inclusivity officer
- most likely to consist of the elderly, people with limited mobility/disability, geographically isolated communities or individuals, people with visual impairments, the 15-19 and 20-39 age groups, carers and families with young children, economically inactive individuals

Exhibitions and deposit locations



APPENDIX E4: Regard had to Informal Comments on the Proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Regard had to informal comments on proposed SoCC

November 2021



nationalgrid

Contents

1.1	Early discussions on the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	4
1.2	Comments received and regard had to them	4
1.3	Next steps	26

Table 1.1 – Local Authorities consulted on the draft SoCC	4
Table 1.2 – Comments on the draft SoCC and responses	4

Executive summary

- National Grid discussed an early draft of the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement project with the five host local authorities on in August 2021.
- Officers from these authorities provided a number of comments which are set out in this document, along with details of how they have been considered and where we have amended the Draft SoCC to take account of them.
- The majority of comments focussed on the consultation, including when it will take place, what will be consulted on, how the consultation will be promoted, and how seldom heard groups will be engaged. There were also comments on how we will report the consultation, as well as a number of other points which have been listed within this document, but do not fall within the scope of the SoCC.
- In November, following the consideration of all points raised previously, the Draft SoCC was issued to host authorities for formal review. During this round of consultation comments focused on the duration of the consultation, public access to materials and how seldom heard groups will be engaged. National Grid have had regard to comments received during this formal consultation period, as laid out in the document entitled 'Regard had to formal comments on proposed SoCC.'
- A copy of the final SoCC will be made available for inspection by the public on the project website and a notice with details of how the SoCC can be inspected will be published in newspapers local to the project in line with section 47(6) of the Act.

Regard had to comments from local authorities on the proposed Statement of Community Consultation

1.1 Early discussions on the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

1.1.1 National Grid discussed an early draft of the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement project with the five host local authorities on in August 2021. The early draft was emailed to the following local authorities on 2nd August 2021 for a preliminary review.

Table 1.1 – Host local authorities

Local authority	Date issued
County	
Essex County Council	2 August 2021
Suffolk County Council	2 August 2021
District	
Babergh District Council	2 August 2021
Mid Suffolk District Council	2 August 2021
Braintree District Council	2 August 2021

1.1.2 All five local authorities responded with comments. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitted a joint response.

1.2 Comments received and regard had to them

1.2.1 The table below provides a summary of the comments received from local authorities, and how we have had regard to those comments in preparing the Draft SoCC for formal review by the host local authorities.

Table 1.2 – Comments on the draft SoCC

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
Overarching comments				

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
Suffolk County Council	N/A	Will the scope of likely effects include socio economic (tourism)? We suggest that not to do so would undermine the validity of the process, given the collective position of the local authorities. As a minimum the s42 should identify this as an area of significant disagreement about which discussion is ongoing. It should also, in our view, specifically request comments on this topic from consultees and IPs.	This is outside of the scope of the SoCC. This specific point will be addressed with officers during the pre-application process.	Not required
Suffolk County Council	N/A	Mitigation: will an in-principle approach to mitigation of the impacts of the OHL sections of the route be set out? Given the experience of NGET with secondary mitigation in AONB and NP under the Landscape Enhancement Initiative we would anticipate and expect substantive information and proposals at this stage.	Section 3.2.1 sets out that we will consult on 'proposed environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain'. Environmental information will be made available at the s42 stage. This will be preliminary information and therefore, proposed mitigation will be subject to further evaluation and development prior to the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO).	Not required – we will provide this information , as set out in the SoCC as drafted in Section 3.2.1.
Essex County Council	N/A	In an email to National Grid, dated 26 February 2021, Essex County Council commented on the draft Consultation Strategy. In this email transparency issues were raised over how previous rounds of consultation have informed the consultation approach and the scheme	Additional point added to SoCC: 2.2.2 - Further information on the consultation activity undertaken between 2009 and 2013 is available in the Project Development	Yes, paragraph 2.2.2 and 2.3.12 have been updated to reflect these comments.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
		design. We would like to see the SoCC address this.	<p>Options Report. Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.</p> <p>Additional point added to SoCC: 2.3.12 - Further information on the non-statutory consultation will be available in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, to be published at statutory consultation. Historic documents from this consultation will be available on the project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.</p>	
Essex County Council	N/A	The consultation materials will need to clearly show which parts of the site will be developed and which parts of the site will not, or used for ancillary works/alternative uses including landscape mitigation, etc. The use of digital material, available on National Grid's project portal is supported,	Comment noted.	Not required. This comment has been noted.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
		together with holding public exhibitions.		
Essex County Council	N/A	ECC would wish to see at least one bespoke presentation to be given to the lead elected members (either jointly or separately with the host authorities) at each stage of the DCO pre-application process, to explain the proposals and the process of engagement and programme/timetable.	Section 3.3.3 notes that elected representatives will be consulted. This section of the SoCC has been expanded on to can confirm that we are happy to undertake dedicated briefings for lead members during the statutory consultation period.	Yes, the SoCC has been amended in response to this comment.
Essex County Council	N/A	The consultation and scope of likely effects should include socio economic (including tourism), together with the approach to mitigation of the impacts of the overhead lines of the route. Given the experience of NGET with secondary mitigation in AONB and NP under the Landscape Enhancement Initiative we would anticipate and expect substantive information and proposals at this stage. It is understood that additional areas of land are to be included within the DCO to secure this mitigation which are new to the proposals, these areas and the intent proposed for them should be clearly shown.	<p>Any socio-economic effects would be outside of the scope of the SoCC. This specific point will be addressed with officers during the pre-application process.</p> <p>Section 3.2.1 sets out that we will consult on 'proposed environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain'.</p> <p>Environmental information will be made available at the s42 stage. This will be preliminary information and therefore, proposed mitigation will be subject to further evaluation and development prior to the submission of the Development</p>	Not required – we will provide this information , as set out in the SoCC as drafted in Section 3.2.1.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			Consent Order (DCO).	
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	N/A	Please confirm that P C contacts will include any Parish Meetings.	We can confirm that these contacts will include any Parish and Town Council Meetings, as covered in paragraph 3.3.3 of the SoCC.	Not required.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	3.3.2	Are officers invited to attend the public exhibitions?	We can confirm that officers are welcome to exhibitions. These are public meetings and no invite is required.	Not required.
Braintree	N/A	The consultation should set out the key issues and project details to be consulted on to facilitate a more thorough and considered response from participants.	Comment noted. This will be considered by the project team when developing consultation materials (including scene-setting text within feedback form).	No. This comment has been noted.
Braintree	N/A	The statutory consultation should seek stakeholder views on the likely effects of the project on socio economics including tourism. This is critical given the collective position of the host authorities and being an area of disagreement with discussions ongoing.	This is outside of the scope of the SoCC. This specific point will be addressed with officers during the pre-application process.	Not required.
Braintree	N/A	Substantive information on mitigation should be provided as part of the statutory consultation to enable detailed comments on the proposals.	Section 3.2.1 sets out that we will consult on 'proposed environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain'. We can confirm that this detail will be	Not required, however we can confirm that as per Section 3.2.1, this information will be

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			included in Statutory Consultation material. The information included at this stage will be preliminary in nature, and therefore, proposed mitigation will be subject to further evaluation and development prior to the submission of the DCO.	included in the Statutory Consultation, although it will be preliminary in nature.

1.1 Purpose of the document

Essex County Council	1.1.1	Paragraph 1.1.1 should be more explicit in the introductory section that it is consulting local communities, affected residents, statutory consultees and stakeholders.	Wording amended Section 1.1.1 of the SoCC. Document now reads: 1.1.1 – “This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities about its proposals to reinforce the capacity of the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex, ahead of its application for	Yes, the wording of Section 1.1.1 in the SoCC has been amended to reflect this comment.
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			development consent.”	

1.2 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

No comments on section 1.2.

1.3 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

Essex County Council	1.3.10	Paragraph 1.3.10 says ‘How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy’. In addition to the link provided, it would be helpful to list the 10 commitments within the SoCC and summarise what National Grid’s commitment is in relation to engagement and consultation, i.e. Commitment 2 – Involving Stakeholders and Communities.	<p>This policy is linked to within the SoCC and links will also be activated when documents are placed online during the consultation.</p> <p>All postal and paper material relating to the consultation, and other documents which are linked to within the SoCC, will be available for people to request paper copies of any information should they need it.</p>	Not required, however it will be made clear throughout the consultation how consultees can request paper copies of other documents linked to within the SoCC should they need them.
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2.1 Background

No comments on section 2.1.

2.2 Consultation between 2009-2013

Essex County Council	All (2.2)	Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the draft SoCC cover the consultation between 2009 -2013 and non-statutory consultation respectively. It would be helpful if Section 2.2 covered in	Additional point added to SoCC: 2.2.2 - Further information on the consultation activity undertaken between	Yes, the wording of Sections 2.2.2 and 2.3.12 in the SoCC
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
		summary how the scheme design has evolved over that time. Similarly, in Section 2.3 it would be helpful to know what headline key themes and concerns were raised by respondents, how these issues have been addressed in the scheme design and how the proposals have changed at the statutory consultation stage. Linked to this is making available published information from previous rounds of consultation accessible to all respondents so they can see the “Journey” of the consultation so far and give respondents the best chance of giving an informed decision on the proposals planned/ how they have changed over time.	<p>2009 and 2013 is available in the Project Development Options Report. Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.</p> <p>Additional point added to SoCC: 2.3.12 - Further information on the non-statutory consultation will be available in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, to be published at statutory consultation. Historic documents from this consultation will be available on the project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.</p>	have been amended to reflect this comment.

2.3 Non-statutory consultation

Essex County Council	All (2.3)	Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the draft SoCC cover the consultation between 2009 -2013 and non-statutory consultation	Additional point added to SoCC: 2.2.2 - Further information on the	Yes, the wording of Sections 2.2.2 and
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
		<p>respectively. It would be helpful if Section 2.2 covered in summary how the scheme design has evolved over that time. Similarly, in Section 2.3 it would be helpful to know what headline key themes and concerns were raised by respondents, how these issues have been addressed in the scheme design and how the proposals have changed at the statutory consultation stage. Linked to this is making available published information from previous rounds of consultation accessible to all respondents so they can see the “Journey” of the consultation so far and give respondents the best chance of giving an informed decision on the proposals planned/ how they have changed over time.</p>	<p>consultation activity undertaken between 2009 and 2013 is available in the Project Development Options Report. Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.</p>	<p>2.3.12 in the SoCC have been amended to reflect this comment.</p>
			<p>Additional point added to SoCC: 2.3.12 - Further information on the non-statutory consultation will be available in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, to be published at statutory consultation. Historic documents from this consultation will be available on the project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.</p>	

2.4 Project description

No comments on section 2.4.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
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2.5 Project timeline

No comments on section 2.5.

3.1 When will the consultation take place?

Essex County Council	All (3.1)	Regarding the consultation timetable, the draft SoCC proposes statutory consultation takes place from 3rd November to 15th December 2021. National Grid are strongly encouraged to start consultation earlier to avoid ending consultation in the week before Christmas. This will ensure internal member/officer sign off processes can take place in the second week of December, thus avoiding the third week of December and potentially clashing with Christmas leave. If the consultation is delayed the whole Christmas and New Year period should be avoided to allow consultees the ability to respond.	<p>Timescales for statutory consultation have been amended. Statutory Consultation will now take place on 25 January 2022 for a period of six weeks. This will avoid the holiday period and the associated issues with resourcing identified by Essex County Council.</p> <p>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.</p>	Yes, the SoCC has been updated to reflect this comment.
Essex County Council	3.13	Section 3.13 Seldom Heard Groups (HTR) – the list is missing ‘Youth (under 15)’. Previously ECC advised including Youth in the HTR Group. Youth clubs in the affected Essex districts and the YEA (Young Essex Assembly)	Additional point added to Table 3.6 of SoCC.	Yes, this has been added to Table 3.6 of the SoCC.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
		are also good points of contact to talk about how to involve young people during the statutory consultation phase.		

3.2 What will be consulted on?

Suffolk County Council	All (3.2)	Section 3.2 should also identify for each topic area, both the information that is not yet available at the s42 stage, and broadly how this information need will be resolved and the potential implications of that new information.	<p>Additional points added to the SoCC in the following paragraphs:</p> <p>3.2.2 - The project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback, further design, and assessment. The Statutory Consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments.</p> <p>If any substantive changes are made to the design of the project following this statutory consultation, National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation as appropriate (see paragraph 4.3).</p>	Yes, paragraphs 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 have been updated to reflect these comments.
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
Essex County Council	All (3.2)	Section 3.2 – What will be consulted on: The Consultation should also identify for each topic area, both the information that is not yet available at the s42 stage, and broadly how this information need will be resolved and the potential implications of that new information.	<p>3.2.4 - As part of the submission of an application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects and proposed mitigation based on the final design.</p> <p>Additional points added to the SoCC in the following paragraphs:</p> <p>3.2.2 - The project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback, further design, and assessment. The Statutory Consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments.</p> <p>If any substantive changes are made to the design of the project following this statutory consultation,</p>	Yes, paragraphs 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 have been updated to reflect these comments.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			<p>National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation as appropriate (see paragraph 4.3).</p> <p>3.2.4 - As part of the submission of an application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects and proposed mitigation based on the final design.</p>	
Braintree	3.2 (all)	<p>Section 3.2 of the Statement should also identify for each topic area any information that is not yet available, how this will be resolved and the potential implications of that new information.</p>	<p>Additional points added to the SoCC in the following paragraphs:</p> <p>3.2.2 - The project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback, further design, and assessment. The Statutory Consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments.</p>	<p>Yes, paragraphs 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 have been updated to reflect these comments.</p>

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			<p>If any substantive changes are made to the design of the project following this statutory consultation, National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation as appropriate (see paragraph 4.3).</p> <p>3.2.4 - As part of the submission of an application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects and proposed mitigation based on the final design.</p>	

3.3 Who will be consulted?

Babergh and Mid Suffolk	All (3.3.)	<p>The comms plan for promoting awareness seems pretty comprehensive and has taken into account a variety of audiences and how to cater for these.</p>	<p>General comment which does not request any amendments.</p>	<p>No. This comment has been noted.</p>
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
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3.4 Consultation materials

Babergh and Mid Suffolk	3.4.1	Can we assume the webpage has an audio description tool or that it will work with a universal tool?	We can confirm that the consultation website will be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers.	Table 3.2 in the SoCC has been updated to reflect this.
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3.5 Promoting the consultation

Essex County Council	All (3.5)	It would also be helpful to include what lessons have been learnt, what worked well, what was less successful, etc. from the consultation approach taken at non-statutory consultation, which has led to the approach being proposed in sections 3.4-3.13.	<p>Additional point added to SoCC:</p> <p>3.5.1 – Whilst we aspire to conduct engagement in person at statutory consultation (as set out in Section 3.7), 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 • telephone surgery sessions • social media advertising <p>3.5.2 – Further detail on these and other engagement and promotion methods are outlined in this</p>	Yes, paragraphs 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 have been updated to reflect this comment.
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	3.5.7	Are you using other social media? We use Twitter and it may be appropriate to retweet information about the project.	<p>and subsequent sections.</p> <p>During the non-statutory consultation Facebook, Instagram, Spotify and Twitter were used to advertise the consultation. Twitter performed poorly in comparison to other platforms and was therefore removed from the scope of social media advertising to allow advertising efforts to be focused at more suitable platforms for consultees. However, with this comment in mind, we will use Twitter to advertise the statutory consultation.</p>	Yes, the SoCC has been amended in order to reflect that Twitter will be used to advertise the statutory consultation.
Braintree	3.5.7	National Grid should consider using Twitter as social media platform. There can then be the potential for Council's to 'retweet' for more coverage.	<p>During the non-statutory consultation Facebook, Instagram, Spotify and Twitter were used to advertise the consultation. Twitter performed poorly in comparison to other platforms and was therefore removed from the scope of social media advertising to allow advertising efforts to be focused at more suitable platforms for consultees. However, with this comment in</p>	Yes, the SoCC has been amended in order to reflect that Twitter will be used to advertise the statutory consultation.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			mind, we are happy to go ahead with using Twitter in order to advertise the statutory consultation.	
Braintree	3.5.10	As well as posters (as stated at para 3.5.10), parish council's should be sent consultation material which they can distribute locally to those requiring it.	Table 3.1 already sets out that stakeholders (such as parish councils) will receive a consultation pack at the launch of consultation. Those who require paper copies are invited to contact the project and these will be sent out free of charge.	Not, required, parish councils will receive a consultation pack at the launch of the Statutory Consultation, with further paper copies available on request, as outlined already in table 3.1 of the SoCC
Braintree	3.5.4	Alongside the newspapers stated in paragraph 3.5.4, National Grid should consider posting in the Braintree & Witham Times and the Halstead Gazette.	Section 3.5.6 amended to include the Braintree and Witham Times and the Halstead Gazette.	Yes, Section 3.5.6 has been amended to reflect this suggestion.

3.6 Webinars

No comments on section 3.6.

3.7 Face to face engagement

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
<i>No comments on section 3.7.</i>				
3.8 Public exhibitions				
<i>No comments on section 3.8.</i>				
3.9 Drop-in sessions				
<i>No comments on section 3.9.</i>				
3.10 Stakeholder briefings and meetings				
<i>No comments on section 3.10.</i>				
3.11 Telephone surgeries				
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	3.13.1	Regarding seldom heard groups we feel this should include digitally isolated as well as 'uncomfortable'	Wording changed in SoCC: 3.11 - Members of the public who cannot attend an in-person event or who are digitally isolated or uncomfortable with technology will be able to book a team call back appointment to discuss their questions with the project team. Ahead of these appointments, paper copies of all relevant information will be posted out upon request, and members of the public will also be asked if they have any specific areas of interest, to more accurately address	Yes, Section 3.13.1 has been updated in response to this comment.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			any questions or concerns.	
Braintree	3.13.3	The term 'digitally isolated' should be used over 'uncomfortable with online technology' in paragraph 3.11.1.	Wording changed in SoCC: 3.13.1 - Members of the public who cannot attend an in-person event or who are either digitally isolated or uncomfortable with technology will be able to book a team call back appointment to discuss their questions with the project team. Ahead of these appointments, paper copies of all relevant information will be posted out upon request, and members of the public will also be asked if they have any specific areas of interest, to more accurately address any questions or concerns.	Yes, Section 3.13.1 has been updated in response to this comment.

3.12 Deposit locations

No comments on section 3.12.

3.13 Seldom heard groups

Babergh and Mid Suffolk	3.13.3	Is there any difference in the way information is presented to the 'youth' audience age groups?	Project team has explained to officers that as per Table 3.6, no collateral will be created specifically for youth groups, but that content otherwise being	No changes made to the SoCC, however it has been explained to officers
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Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			prepared (such as Easy Read version of consultation documents, videos and infographics) may all be more popular among younger audiences. Explain that the younger audience is not excluded from engaging with the project via exhibitions, email etc unless for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) reasons.	that, as per Table 3.6, the younger audience is not excluded from engaging with the project unless for GDPR reasons.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	3.13.3	As you refer to the support being offered to the elderly population it might be helpful to explicitly mention any special measures for GT and locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as BME)communities.	Following this comment, the project team has identified relevant groups to ensure and help facilitate the inclusion of GT and locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as BME) and these have been added to our distribution list for community group mailings.	Yes – additional points have been added to Table 3.6 of SoCC in response to these comments
Braintree	3.13.3	Those within the traveller community should be included as ‘seldom heard groups’.	In response to this comment, the project has corresponded with local authorities regarding contact details for Traveller liaison officer to help disseminate information. This is necessary since Traveller Communities may not be in a position to	Yes – additional points have been added to Table 3.6 of SoCC in response to these comments

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			receive direct mail through usual channels.	

3.14 Contact details

No comments on section 3.14.

4.1 Methods of responding

Babergh and Mid Suffolk	4.1.3	There's a bit of reliance on social media for marginalised groups but comments received via those channels won't be included in the consultation response, so they need an explicit approach about converting social engagement through to website engagement for those groups.	<p>The project will ensure that consultation materials make clear that social media responses will not be accepted as formal feedback (as per 4.1.3 of SoCC).</p> <p>The project will look into options such as responding to comments on social channels during Stat Con directing users to website to submit a formal response.</p>	Not required. However, it will be made clear, as per Section 4.1.3 of the SoCC that social media responses will not be accepted as formal feedback, and the project will look into further options to ensure clarity around social media responses.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	4.1.3	There's also a reliance on telephone calls as a safety net for the most excluded, but again feedback from these won't be considered as part of the consultation apart from in exceptional circumstances.	On further review, 4.1.3 already sets out that telephone responses 'will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a	Not required, it will be made clear, as per Section

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
		Surely disability needs are an exceptional circumstance and these comments should be included in the feedback?	case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation', as might be the case for someone with a disability.	4.1.3 of the SoCC, that telephone responses will be considered in exceptional cases.

4.2 Presenting the results

Babergh and Mid Suffolk	4.2.5	Lastly, the reporting on the consultation results seems fairly vague and this section could be made stronger. It would be useful to know where the report will be made available, in which format and how this will be promoted, etc?	Additional point added to SoCC: 4.2.5 - The Consultation Report will be available online once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.	Yes, Section 4.2.4 of the SoCC has been updated in response to this comment.
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4.3 Further consultation

No comments on section 4.3.

Appendix A: Consultation Zone Map

No comments on Appendix A.

Appendix B: List of Councils

No comments on Appendix B.

Appendix C: List of Council Wards and Constituencies

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
<i>No comments on Appendix C.</i>				
Appendix D: List of Organisations Representing Hard-to-Reach Groups				
<i>No comments on Appendix D.</i>				
Appendix E: List of Local Interest Groups				
<i>No comments on Appendix D.</i>				

1.3 Next steps

- 1.3.1 The statutory consultation on the SoCC took place in November for a further 28 day period. All local authorities were notified by email and the regard had to comments received can be seen in the document entitled 'Regard had to formal comments on proposed SoCC.'
- 1.3.2 The statutory consultation will begin on 25 January 2022 for an eight-week period.
- 1.3.3 A copy of the final SoCC will be made available for inspection by the public on the project website and a notice with details of how the SoCC can be inspected will be published in newspapers local to the project in line with section 47(6) of the Act.

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152



APPENDIX E5: Letter to Local Authorities Regarding the Formal Consultation on the Proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Title
Address line 1
Address line 2
Town/city
Postcode

5 November 2021

Dear [Name]

**Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement
Consultation on Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to reinforce the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead, south of Sudbury in Essex.

The Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. As such, we are currently preparing an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Our proposals have developed significantly over time through consultation with stakeholders, landowners, businesses, and local communities. To-date, this consultation activity has been 'informal' or 'non-statutory'. Before submitting a DCO application we must also undertake a 'formal' or 'statutory' consultation on the proposals. We intend to hold this consultation in early 2022.

Prior to undertaking a statutory consultation, the Planning Act 2008 (Part 2, Section 47) requires that National Grid:

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

As a representative of a local authority identified within section 43 (1) of the Planning Act 2008, we are inviting you to participate in formal consultation on our draft SoCC, which is enclosed.

We recently discussed the proposed contents of the SoCC with officers and welcomed their thoughts on our approach. For your ease of reference, we have attached a document which sets out their comments and how we have taken them into account.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, please submit these via email to contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com. The deadline for providing comments is **Friday 3 December 2021**.

If you have any questions at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact me via the contact details above.

Yours sincerely,

Sebastian Stevens

Consents Officer
National Grid

APPENDIX E6: Formal Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Statement of Community Consultation

DRAFT for host authority formal consultation
November 2021



nationalgrid

Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.1	Purpose of the document	4
1.2	Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects	4
1.3	About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	4
2.	The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project	7
2.1	Background	7
2.2	Consultation between 2009-2013	7
2.3	Non-statutory consultation	8
2.4	Project description	9
2.5	Project timeline	10
3.	Consulting on the proposed application	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3.1	When will the consultation take place?	12
3.2	What will be consulted on?	12
3.3	Who will be consulted?	12
3.4	Consultation materials	13
3.5	Promoting the consultation	17
3.6	Webinars	18
3.7	Face to face engagement	19
3.8	Public exhibitions	19
3.9	Drop-in sessions	20
3.10	Stakeholder briefings and meetings	20
3.11	Telephone surgeries	21
3.12	Deposit locations	21
3.13	Seldom heard groups	22
3.14	Contact details	25
4.	Responses to the consultation	27
4.1	Methods of responding	27
4.2	Presenting the results	27
4.3	Further consultation	28

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies	5
Figure 2.1 – Project timeline	10
Figure 2.2 – DCO process	11
Table 3.1 – Consultation materials	13
Table 3.2 – Website features	16
Table 3.3 – Details of public exhibitions	19
Table 3.4 – Details of drop-in sessions	20
Table 3.5 – Deposit locations	21
Table 3.6 – Seldom heard engagement tools	22
Table 3.7 – Contact details	25

Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map	27
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DRAFT

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities about its proposals to reinforce the capacity of the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex, ahead of its application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 The Bramford to Twinstead project (the “project”) is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and 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 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 1.1.3 In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities:
- Babergh District Council
 - Mid Suffolk District Council
 - Braintree District Council
 - Essex County Council
 - Suffolk County Council.

1.2 Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1 Installation of a new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity line is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Act. This means that development consent is required before construction of the project can begin.
- 1.2.2 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the “Secretary of State”). The Planning Inspectorate will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether or not to grant the development consent for the project.
- 1.2.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and statutory stakeholders.
- 1.2.4 Early involvement of communities, local authorities and stakeholders helps us identify valuable information, including about the potential impacts of a project, so that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application is considered.

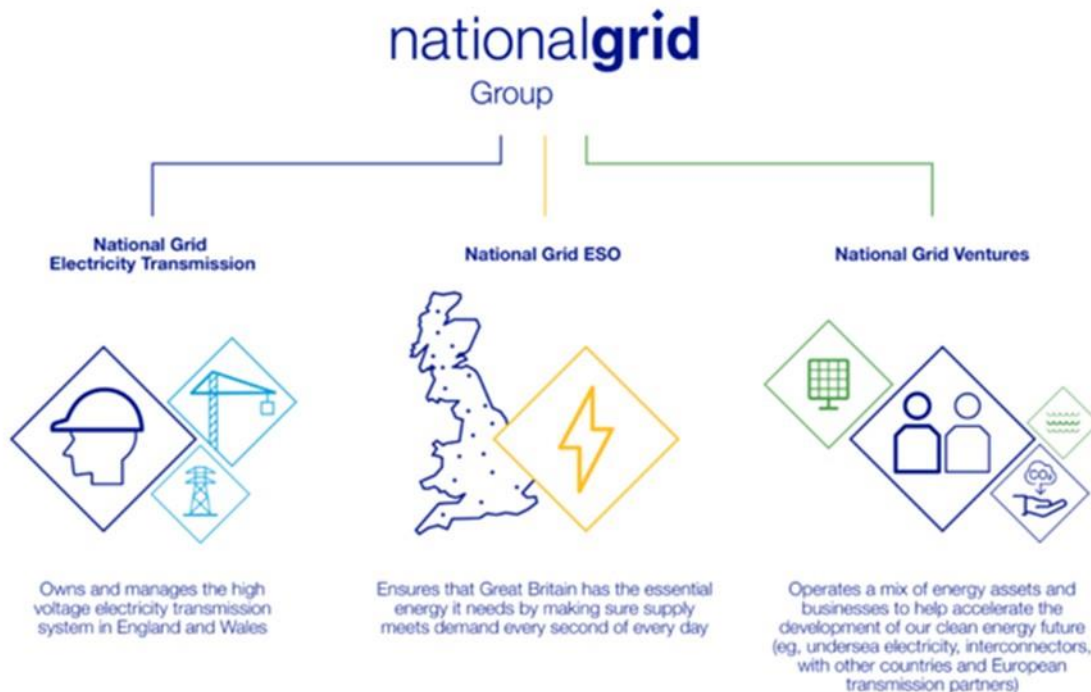
1.3 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

- 1.3.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer’s homes and businesses; in the way that

we support our communities and help them to grow. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.

- 1.3.2 Within the National Grid Group there are separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles (see figure 1.1 below). The project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- 1.3.3 **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. NGET owns, builds and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
- 1.3.4 **National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO)** controls the movement of electricity around the country, transporting power from generators (such as wind farms) to local distribution network operators, like UK Power Network (UKPN), ensuring that supply meets demand.
- 1.3.5 Both NGET and NGESO are licensed by the Government as electricity transmission companies. They are regulated by Ofgem which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers.
- 1.3.6 **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies



- 1.3.7 NGET has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989 (“the Electricity Act”). This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

1.3.8 NGET is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of that Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:

Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...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;’ and

Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.

1.3.9 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#).

2. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The UK has set a clear ambition for our country to be a global leader in clean energy. The Government has set a commitment to reach Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and an ambition to connect 40 GW of offshore wind by 2030 – enough energy to power every home in the country.
- 2.1.2 To achieve this, offshore wind is being developed at scale and around 60% of the current offshore wind projects will come ashore along the East Coast.
- 2.1.3 Couple this with new nuclear generation proposed at Sizewell C and greater interconnection with countries across the North Sea, we expect to see a significant increase in the level of renewable and low carbon electricity generation connecting in East Anglia.
- 2.1.4 While our existing high voltage electricity network in East Anglia has been sufficient until today, it does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030 while working to the required standards.
- 2.1.5 In the first half of this decade, we are investing significantly in upgrading the existing network, but that still will not deliver the capability that is needed by the end of the decade. We need to reinforce the region's electricity network to address this, including between Bramford and Twinstead.
- 2.1.6 We need to build a new 400 kV connection between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee to improve the capability of the electricity transmission network and carry the clean green energy that is proposed in East Anglia to homes and businesses.

2.2 Consultation between 2009-2013

- 2.2.1 The project has already been subject to multiple rounds of consultation between 2009 and 2013. However, we paused work on the project following changes to when some of the new generation projects in the region were likely to connect to the transmission network. Between 2009 and 2013 the project was shaped by:
- feedback from public consultations on route corridor options, route alignment, Stour Valley West cable sealing end (CSE) location and the grid supply point substation (GSP) location.
 - detailed design including engineering and environmental surveys
 - feedback from 18 months of community forums and thematic group meetings which explored significance of impacts and where undergrounding the power lines might be necessary to mitigate them.
- 2.2.2 Further information on the consultation activity undertaken between 2009 and 2013 is available in the Project Development Options Report. Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

2.3 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 Now that the project is once again required, we undertook a further round of non-statutory consultation from 25 March to 6 May 2021.
- 2.3.2 This consultation had the following aims:
- to reintroduce and provide an overview of the project, including how it developed before we paused work in 2013
 - to explain how we reviewed and updated the project
 - to gather feedback on the project
 - to outline next steps and programme and how we would further develop the project.
- 2.3.3 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold face-to-face events. Instead, we combined both digital and conventional methods of engagement, providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to access information and take part in the consultation.
- 2.3.4 Over the course of the consultation, the project team held eight webinars, six telephone surgeries and two live chat sessions, as well as providing relevant project documents for viewing at locations along the proposed route.
- 2.3.5 We developed an interactive project website, the functionality of which included:
- interactive maps with removable layers
 - searchable FAQs
 - automated chatbot
 - built-in visual aid tools and translation services
 - animations, videos and infographics
 - document library with interactive PDFs
 - live chat function
 - online feedback form.
- 2.3.6 To raise awareness of our consultation within the local community, we distributed an invitation newsletter to more than 3,164 homes and businesses within 1km of the emerging project, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representatives and representatives of third-party and community interest groups.
- 2.3.7 Paid-for newspaper adverts were placed in a number of local newspapers. Digital versions of these adverts ran on the websites of these publications. Notices were also placed in community news publications, further advertising the consultation.
- 2.3.8 The consultation events were further publicised through paid-for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Spotify advertising.
- 2.3.9 Briefing sessions were held with elected representatives, parish councils and third-party and community interest groups throughout the consultation period.
- 2.3.10 A total of 526 feedback responses were received from members of the public and interested parties. From the number of feedback forms received, 36.2% were submitted online and 63.8% were submitted as paper copy. We received feedback from a diverse age range of respondents.

- 2.3.11 Members of the local community were also able to submit feedback by speaking with members of the team via a number of channels, including a freephone information line (0808 196 1515), consultation email address (<mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com>), via the consultation website ([REDACTED]) or via the postage paid address (B T REINFORCEMENT).
- 2.3.12 Further information on the non-statutory consultation will be available in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, to be published at statutory consultation. Historic documents from this consultation will be available on the project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

2.4 Project description

- 2.4.1 National Grid intends to submit an 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 400 kV electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km.
- 2.4.2 The reinforcement would comprise 19km of overhead line (consisting of up to 55 new pylons and conductors) and 10km of underground cable system (consisting of up to 20 cables with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 2.4.3 Four CSE compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. Each CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, a small control building and a permanent access track.
- 2.4.4 It is proposed that approximately 27.5km 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 2.5km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new GSP substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.
- 2.4.5 The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a development consent order (DCO). Some aspects of the project, such as the underground sections and the GSP substation, constitute associated development.
- 2.4.6 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 the existing 400kV overhead line
 - 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
 - diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint

- 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.

2.4.7 It should be noted that National Grid is also considering alternative consenting routes for the GSP substation and related works, including a Town & Country Planning Act planning application to Braintree District Council. For the avoidance of doubt and consistency the statutory consultation covers all elements of the proposals as listed above.

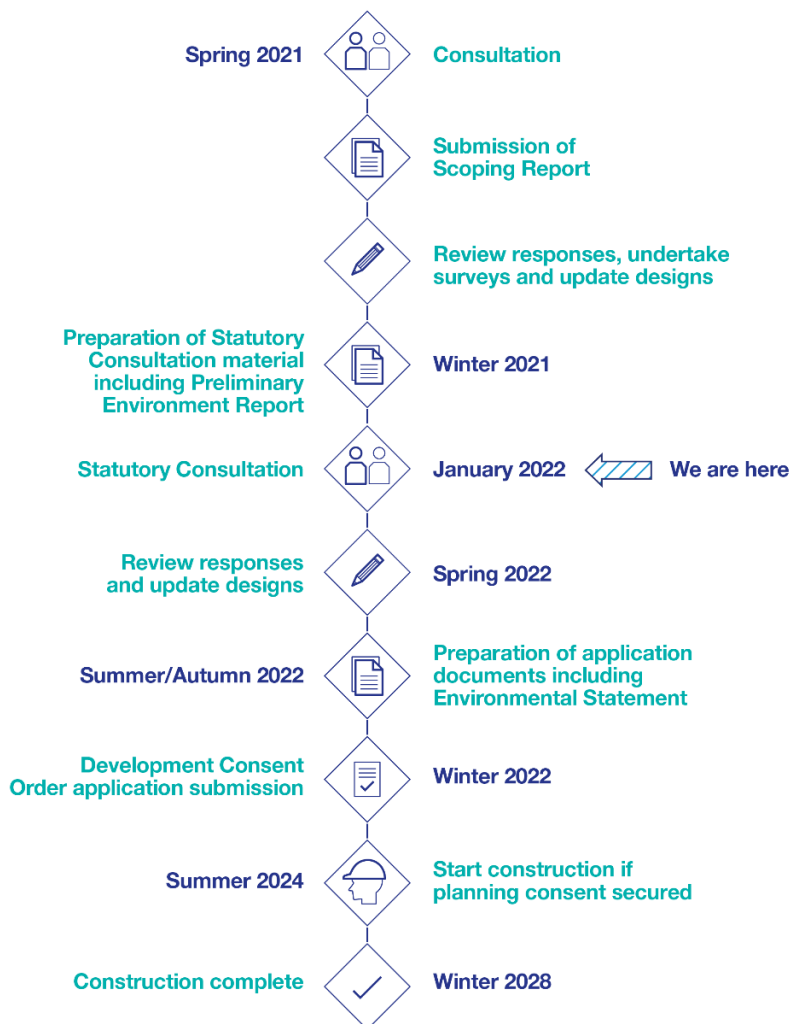
2.5 Project timeline

2.5.1 Figure 2.1 sets out the currently proposed timeline for each stage of the project from consultation through to the decision from the Secretary of State and construction.

2.5.2 Following feedback from stakeholders, NGET has rescheduled the start of the statutory consultation to align with the availability of more information on other proposed NGET projects in East Anglia.

2.5.3 Whilst the timescales are subject to change, NGEN has identified in the Network Options Assessment 2020/21 that the project needs to be in place by 2028.

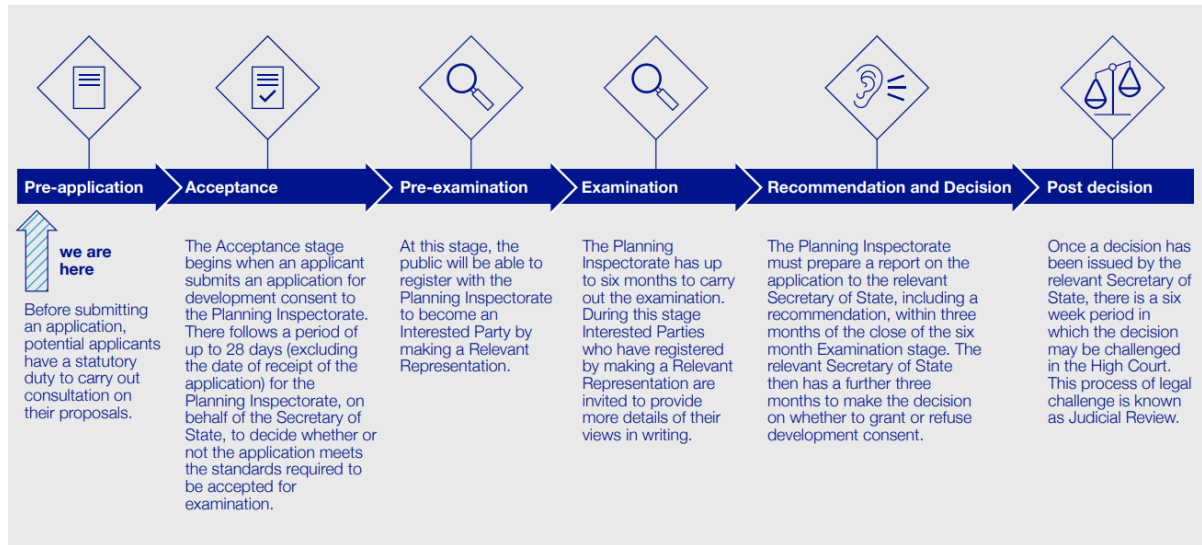
Figure 2.1 – Project timeline



2.5.4

Figure 2.2 provides an overview of the DCO consenting process.

Figure 2.2 – DCO process



3. Consulting on the proposed application

3.1 When will the consultation take place?

3.1.1 The statutory consultation will run for six weeks. It is expected to take place between 25 January 2022 and 7 March 2022. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date.

3.2 What will we consult on?

3.2.1 We will seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- proposed route of the new 400kV electricity line
- extent of undergrounding and overgrounding of the new 400kV electricity line
- location and form of cable sealing end compounds
- removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line
- location and form of a new Grid Supply Point Substation at Butlers Wood
- construction methodology
- likely environmental effects arising from the project
- potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects
- preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.

3.2.2 The project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback, further design, and assessment. The Statutory Consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments.

If any substantive changes are made to the design of the project following this statutory consultation, National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation as appropriate (see paragraph 4.3).

3.2.3 We will make the full PEIR available on the project website. Paper copies of the PEIR will be available for inspection at public exhibition events and information points. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

3.2.4 As part of the submission of an application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects and proposed mitigation based on the final design.

3.3 Who will we consult?

3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the project. We welcome all views and will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.

- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Act, we have a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community. The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which extends 1km from the proposed draft Order Limits for the project and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), which extends to at least 5km from the draft Order Limits for the project (including the PCZ). The draft Order Limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the project.
- 3.3.3 We will also 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.
- 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. We will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44.

3.4 Consultation materials

- 3.4.1 The following consultation materials will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.1 – Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Consultation pack	<p>Summary newsletter with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of the proposals and project map • project website details and how to access information at home • information about consultation event dates • instructions on how to book telephone or in- 	<p>The pack will be posted to all properties within the PCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). The information contained within the pack will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
	<p>person surgeries with the project team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> information on how to give feedback and speak to the project team. <p>In addition, packs will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feedback form with details of how to provide feedback postage-paid envelopes. 	<p>request. A fee may be charged for printed copies.</p> <p>Stakeholders will also be provided a copy of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project website	A dedicated consultation website (Table 3.2 for detail)	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail). The website will be promoted in a several ways (see section 3.5 for details)
Project Background Document	<p>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.</p> <p>The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). The project background document will also be available to download via the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project Development Options Report	A document outlining the development of the project and the rationale behind each component.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
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.	<p>exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail).</p> <p>The project development options report will also be available to download from the project website.</p>
Feedback form	Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the project.	<p>Feedback forms will be posted to all residential and business properties within the PCZ as part of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to collect a copy of the feedback from the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). Forms will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be mailed on request.</p>
Consultation banners	Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the project. Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the plans and allow for further discussion with members of the project team during public consultation events.	Members of the public will be able to view consultation banners during public exhibition events (see Section 3.6 for detail). Copies will also be available on the project website.

Material	Description	Target audience
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.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail) with visual impairments.
Project maps	Paper copy and digital mapping will be made available to assist understanding of the proposals.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	PEIR details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the project.	Interested members of the public and those in SCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail). Members of the public will be able to view a copy at the information points (see Section 3.7 for detail) and at the public exhibitions (see Section 3.6 for detail). The reports will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies.

3.4.2 To provide flexibility around changing government Covid-19 guidelines, all consultation material will be available on the project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways. This is set out in further detail in the following table.

Table 3.2 – 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.
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.

Function	Rationale
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.
Drop-in session booking	To enable members of the public to book a drop-in sessions.
Telephone surgery booking	To enable members of the public to book a telephone surgery appointment.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the project team.
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.

3.5 Promoting the consultation

- 3.5.1 Whilst we aspire to conduct engagement in-person at statutory consultation (as set out in Section 3.7), we will continue to use a number of digital engagement channels that were successful at non-statutory consultation. These include:
- an interactive website
 - online webinars
 - telephone surgery sessions
 - social media advertising.
- 3.5.2 Further detail on these and other engagement and promotion methods are outlined in this and subsequent sections.
- 3.5.3 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 3,164 addresses and is shown in Appendix A.
- 3.5.4 Those living outside of the PCZ and in the SCZ, will be made aware of the consultation through the following other methods of engagement.
- 3.5.5 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.
- 3.5.6 The newspapers will include:
- East Anglian Daily Times
 - Ipswich Star
 - West Suffolk Mercury

- Colchester Gazette
- Halstead Gazette
- Braintree and Witham Times
- Essex County Standard

- 3.5.7 The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and SCZ, and beyond.
- 3.5.8 Online advertisements will also be placed in these publications, with the addition of Essex Live.
- 3.5.9 We will work with parishes along the route to advertise the consultation in parish magazines and on local parish websites where possible.
- 3.5.10 The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers, giving details about the consultation in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act. Site notices will also be placed at key locations along the route of the project.
- 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. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation versus other platforms.
- 3.5.12 Posters will be sent to parish councils to display locally, to raise awareness of the consultation.
- 3.5.13 In accordance with the Government’s approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website, [REDACTED]. Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps can telephone the project on 0808 196 1515.
- 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. These can be requested using the contact details at the end of this document.
- 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.
- 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.nationalgrid.com, or by calling 0808 196 1515.

3.6 Webinars

- 3.6.1 Two project webinars will be held throughout the consultation period, the first in week 1 of the consultation and the second in week 4 of the consultation.
- 3.6.2 The webinars will provide an overview of the proposals by the project team and will allow members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.

- 3.6.3 Webinars will provide opportunities for audience participation and a summary of all questions asked by other participants.
- 3.6.4 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.

3.7 Face to face engagement

- 3.7.1 Subject to ensuring full and ongoing compliance with all national and local legislative requirements and guidelines (including those introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic), we also 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 change so as to become more restrictive, additional webinars will be added to the programme 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.

3.8 Public exhibitions

- 3.8.1 Subject to the Government’s national and local COVID-19 laws and guidelines, eight public exhibitions will be held for communities to find out information about the project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the project team. The exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the consultation zones.
- 3.8.2 Public exhibitions will take place in four locations across the route, over two days each. Timings will depend on venue availability, but the aspiration is to hold two 6-hour sessions per location.

Table 3.3 – Details of public exhibitions

Date	Location
Week 1 of consultation	Hintlesham and Chattisham
Week 1 of consultation	Hintlesham and Chattisham
Week 1 of consultation	Hadleigh
Week 1 of consultation	Hadleigh
Week 2 of consultation	Sudbury
Week 2 of consultation	Sudbury
Week 3 of consultation	Nayland
Week 3 of consultation	Nayland

- 3.8.3 If for any reason it is unfortunately necessary to cancel a scheduled event, such as due to adverse weather, we will publish this on our website and place a notice at the venue if practicable. We will also consider organising additional events if we deem this to be reasonably necessary.

3.9 Drop-in sessions

- 3.9.1 We recognise that some may still be apprehensive about face-to-face engagement in a busy environment, such as a public exhibition. Therefore, we propose offering slots for people to book by telephone, email or online where they can speak to the team in a smaller setting in local villages. We will be happy to undertake such discussions outdoors, if this is preferred by the requestor.
- 3.9.2 We suggest that these take place in the final three weeks of the consultation so that people can approach us with any follow up questions or feedback that they were unable to ask during a public exhibition.
- 3.9.3 As the area has a high proportion of elderly residents, this approach will reduce the need to travel, and the booking system will allow the project team to understand specific needs that can be better addressed in a smaller consultation setting.

Table 3.4 – Details of drop-in sessions

Date	Location
Week 3 of consultation	Layham
Week 3 of consultation	Polstead
Week 4 of consultation	Assington
Week 4 of consultation	Twinstead
Week 5 of consultation	Hintlesham and Chattisham

3.10 Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 3.10.1 We will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run up to or during the consultation:
- 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
 - local planning authority officers.
- 3.10.2 We will meet with other organisations and individuals on request. These may include:
- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act
 - persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44 of the Act
 - third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships and business groups
 - community groups or residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
 - parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ
 - interest groups with a close relationship to the project.

3.11 Telephone surgeries

- 3.11.1 Members of the public who cannot attend an in-person event or are either digitally isolated or uncomfortable with technology will be able to book a team call back appointment to discuss their questions with the project team. Ahead of these appointments, paper copies of all relevant information will be posted out upon request, and members of the public will also be asked if they have any specific areas of interest, to more accurately address any questions or concerns.

3.12 Deposit locations

- 3.12.1 Whilst this is no longer a statutory requirement, paper copies of the project background document, project development options report, non-statutory consultation report, preliminary environmental information report (PEIR), newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be made available at the locations in the table below. This excludes circumstances outside of our control, such as those which prevent the locations specified from opening.

Table 3.5 – 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 - Closed
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 - 9am to 5pm Sunday – 10am to 4pm

3.13 Seldom heard groups

- 3.13.1 We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 3.13.2 Seldom heard groups in the case of the project could consist of the groups which have been outlined in Table 3.6.
- 3.13.3 The ways in which our approach to consultation will assist in engaging with seldom heard groups is set out in the table below:

Table 3.6 – 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 • options to engage through conventional communications channels including the postal service and the telephone • face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route • local drop-in sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs • audio loop during public exhibitions • important information available in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request) • engagement with community groups serving that demographic • paper copies of materials available at information point locations along with contact details for the project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.

People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audio guide of consultation banners • 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 call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss 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 • 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 providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request) • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route • local drop-in sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs • audio loop during public exhibitions • providing BSL signing at webinars • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss 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 • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route.

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 • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route.
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route • local drop-in sessions, limiting the need to travel • social media engagement • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss 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 • 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; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post • local drop-in sessions, limiting the need to travel • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with community groups serving that demographic

groups (such as BME)	
ESL (English as a Second Language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation material provided in alternative languages (upon request) • translation/interpreter facilities provided for face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route (upon request)
Travellers	<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 • local drop-in sessions, limiting the need to travel • face-to-face consultations at a variety of locations and times across the route • advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.

3.14 Contact details

3.14.1 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. 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.

Table 3.7 – Contact details

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

3.14.2 The project team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that isn't readily to hand, the project team will endeavour

to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.

4. Responses to the consultation

4.1 Methods of responding

4.1.1 During the consultation period people will be able to submit their feedback on the proposals for the project.

4.1.2 This can be done in the following ways:

- completing feedback forms and depositing them in confidential boxes provided at public exhibition events
- online via the consultation website ([REDACTED])
- by post using the postage paid envelope (which are available upon email or telephone request)
- by email (contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com).

4.1.3 Consultation responses received by any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation. Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.

4.1.4 Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted for up-to five working days after the formal closing date of the consultation.

4.1.5 Although they will not formally be included as consultation feedback, National Grid will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.

4.2 Presenting the results

4.2.1 Following the close of the consultation, the feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed alongside any and all responses received as part of the consultation activities held in lines with sections 42 and 48 of the PA2008, in order to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and refined in light of the feedback.

4.2.2 The proposed application will then be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation

4.2.3 A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application for development consent, as required by section 37(3)(c) of the PA2008. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this document and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the final proposals. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response.

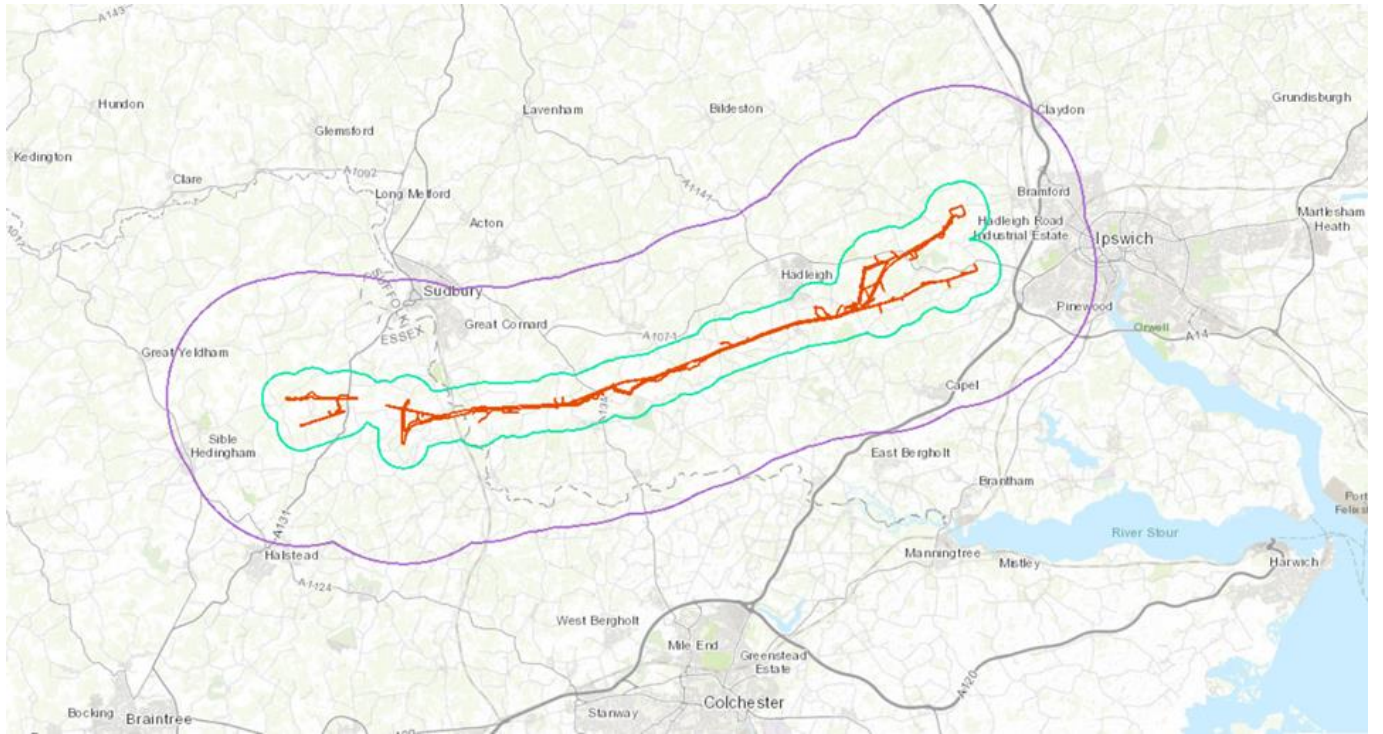
4.2.4 PINS will decide whether the Application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to comment on the adequacy of the consultation

- 4.2.5 The Consultation Report will be available online once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

4.3 Further consultation

- 4.3.1 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.

Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map



National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152



APPENDIX E7: Formal Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Presentation Slides

**Electricity
Transmission**

Bramford to Twinstead

Host Authority Project Update

November 2021

nationalgrid



**Electricity
Transmission**

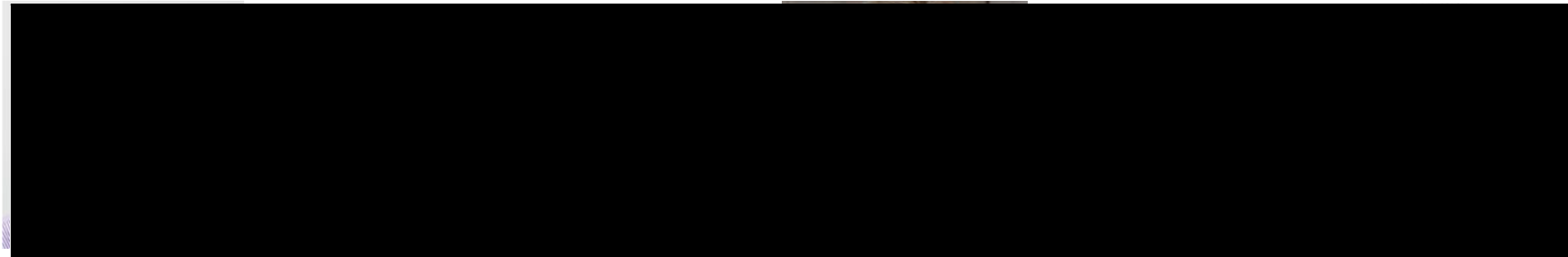
01

**Introductions,
Objectives,
Actions from
Previous Meeting**

nationalgrid



Introductions



John Bevan
Senior Project
Manager
National Grid
[redacted]@nationalgrid.
com

Seb Stevens
Consents Officer
National Grid
[redacted]@nationalg
rid.com

Sally Rotherham
Contract Consents
Officer
(Environmental)
National Grid
[redacted]@nationalg
rid.com

Donna Burnell
Contract Regional
External Affairs
Manager
National Grid
[redacted]@nationalgrid
.com

Ian Fletcher
DCO Lead
Jacobs
[redacted]@jacobs.com

Rebecca Burt
Planning Support
Jacobs
[redacted]@Jacobs.co
m

Actions from last meeting (6 Sept 2021)

Action	Owner	Completed
JF to add TB to the Engagement Plan as the secondary contact and to future meeting invites	NGET	Yes
MW to advise on suitable dates for project team to brief Essex CC Members	ECC	Resolved post meeting
LF (BDC) to consider whether a joined-up member's briefing with Essex CC members would be appropriate – SKG (now DB) to consider possibility	NGET	In progress
RB to check status of A12/A14 Copdock Interchange NSIP to monitor for inclusion on the long list	NGET	Yes
RB to arrange regular catchups with each Local Authority regarding the long list of development.	NGET	Yes
RB to issue new placeholders for bi-monthly project update meetings from February 2022 with a duration of 1.5 hours in lieu of JF	NGET	Yes
SKG (now DB) to consider the use of Twitter further for Statutory Consultation	NEGT	Yes
SKG (now DB) to review NGET's list of consultees with BC to ensure all are captured	NGET	Yes
JF (now RB) to update and circulate revised Engagement Plan with updated list of Local Authority inputs and timeframes	NGET	Yes
RB to set up individual calls with each Host Authority to discuss and progress the SoCGs	NGET	Yes
IF to prepare list regarding the Discharge Requirements and circulate and organise a future meeting to discuss.	NGET	See Agenda item 6.
JB to send cost queries to Local Authorities regarding the PPA.	NGET	Resolved post meeting
Action: JB to issue final PPA for signing.	NGET	Yes
BC to chase Seb on providing info on the Bramford Area	BDC	In progress



Electricity
Transmission

02

Progress
Update

nationalgrid



Work Completed in last quarter

- Received written pre-application advice from Braintree District Council regarding the Grid Supply Point TCPA application (Date: 05/10/21);
- Submission of EIA Screening Request to Braintree District Council regarding the Grid Supply Point TCPA application (Date: 09/11/21);
- Preparation for Statutory Consultation. Scheduling Statutory Consultation to commence late January 2022, aligned with a soft launch about ATNC/AENC in response to consultation feedback;
- Ongoing surveys;
- Furthering the Statement of Common Ground (SoCGs) template(s) with key stakeholders and arranged individual SoCG meetings with the Host Authorities;
- Updated the Host Authority Engagement Plan; and
- Issuing of the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for comments.



Current work

- Drafting of Preliminary Environmental Information Report
- Preparation for statutory consultation
- On-going meetings with affected landowners
- Consideration of works at Hintlesham Woods SSSI



Electricity
Transmission

03

Statement of
Community
Consultation
(SoCC)

nationalgrid



Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- The draft issued: 9th November 2021
- Response date: 7th December 2021
- Also included a document setting out our responses to your earlier comments on our preliminary draft, along with details of where we have amended the Draft SoCC.

Statutory Consultation

- Statutory consultation has been scheduled to commence late January 2022, aligned with a soft launch about ATNC/AENC in response to consultation feedback
- We will send a project newsletter to all properties within the consultation zone, along with a paper feedback form
- Newsletter includes details of where stakeholders can view consultation and other project materials and how to get involved
- We're proposing a combination of face to face events (Government guidance permitting) and digital webinars
- All information and project documents will be published on website
- Stakeholders will also be able to discuss the proposals over the telephone

National Grid | Bramford to Twinstead | November 2021



Electricity
Transmission

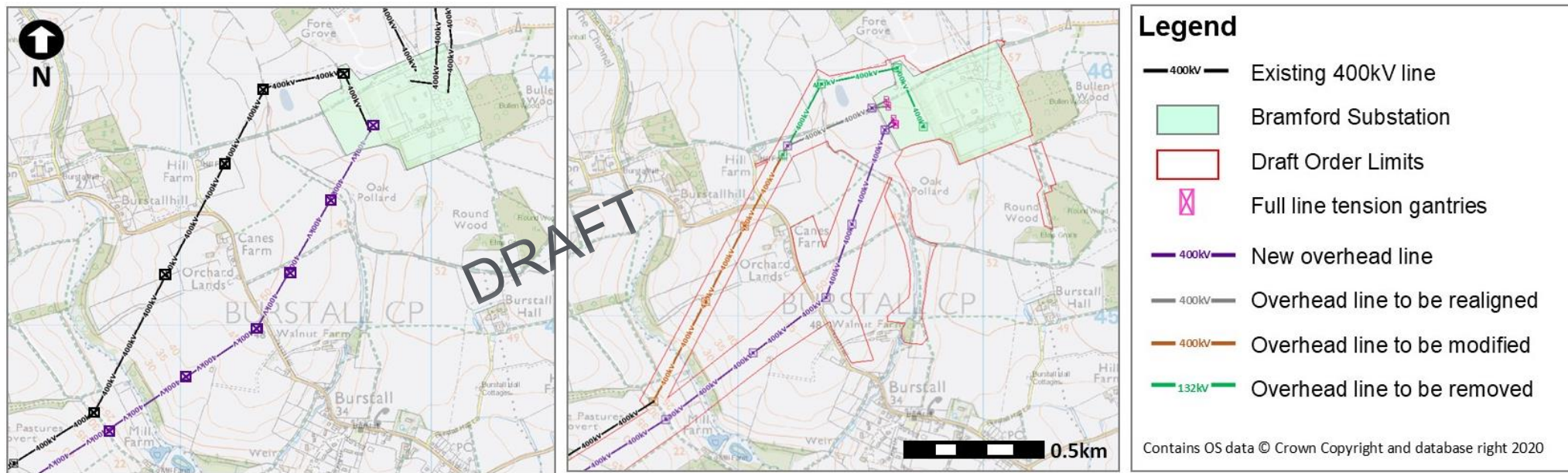
04

Statutory
Consultation –
Proposed Design

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Bramford Substation

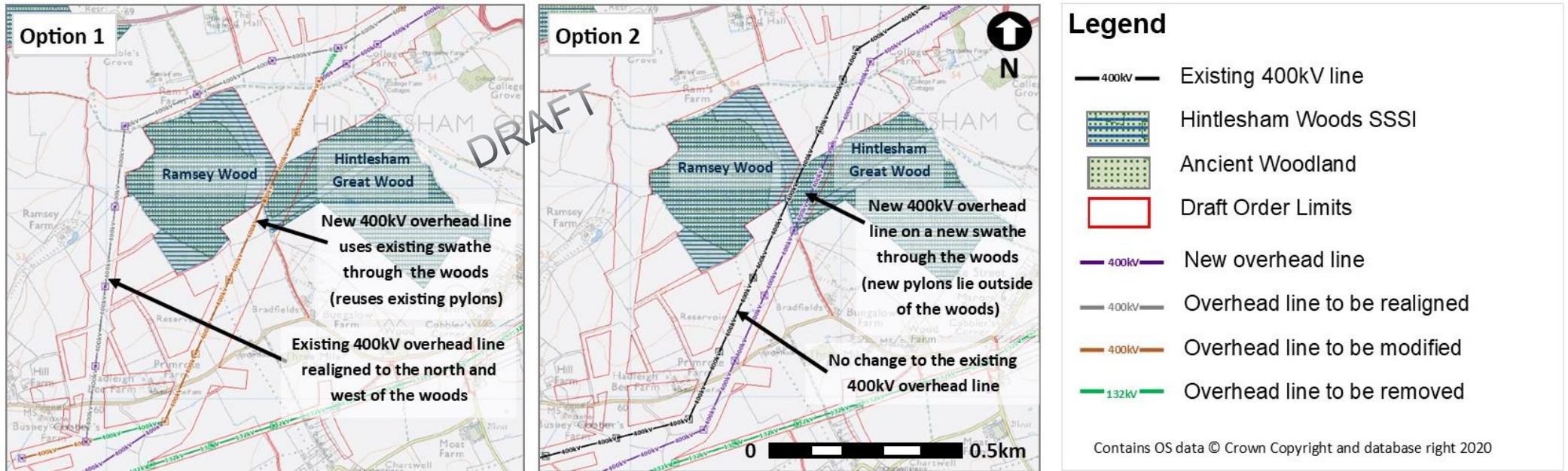


Non-statutory consultation design

Statutory consultation design

The proposed new 400kV overhead line alignment and the existing 400kV overhead line alignment have been altered on the approach to Bramford substation to allow for a better electrical configuration at the substation and a more efficient construction programme.

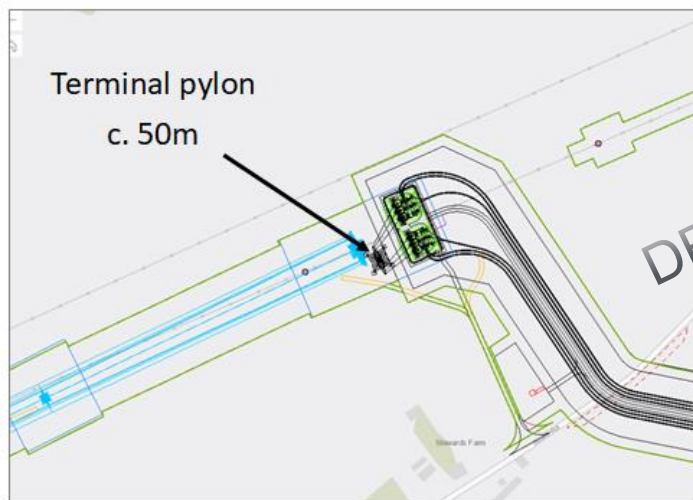
Hintlesham Woods Options



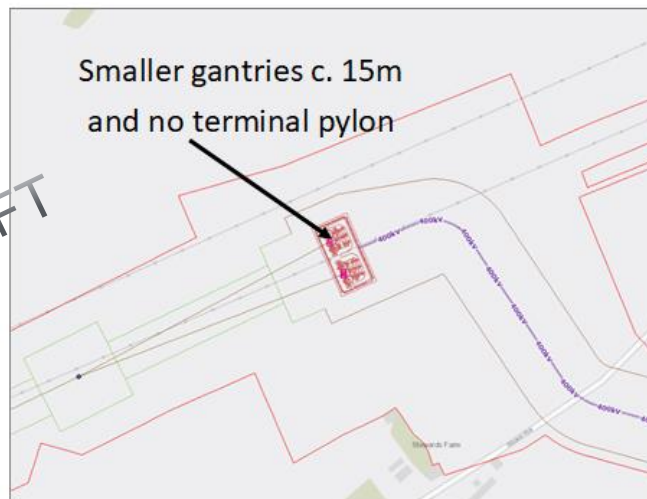
Option 1: The existing 400kV overhead line would be diverted on new pylons to the north and west of the woodland. The proposed 400kV overhead line would use the existing pylons through the woodland.

Option 2: The existing 400kV overhead line would remain in situ. The proposed 400kV overhead line would be constructed parallel to the south of the existing overhead line, on new pylons outside of the woodland.

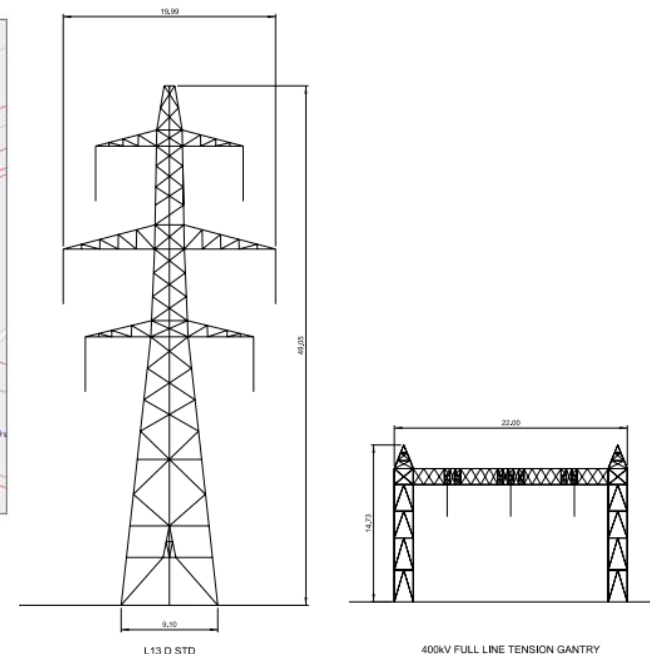
Full Line Tension Gantries



Non-statutory consultation design

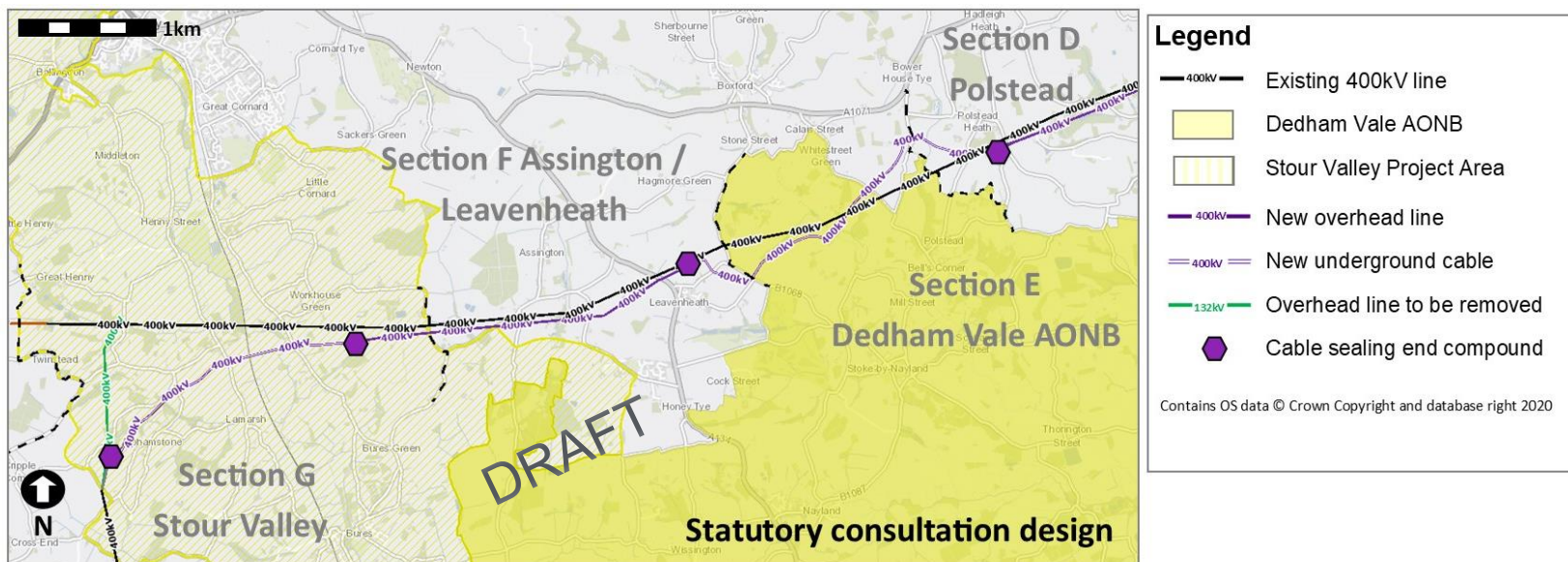


Statutory consultation design



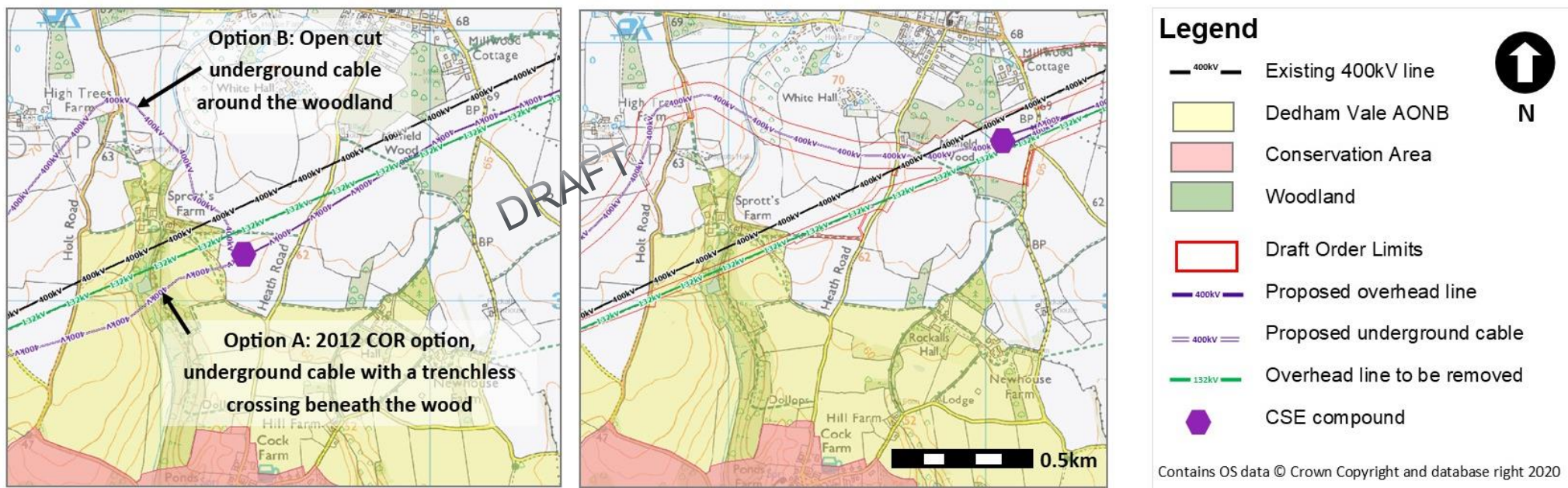
A design review identified that there would be benefits in using full line tension gantries at some locations. The full line tension gantries would be c.15m high and therefore have landscape and visual benefits compared to a terminal pylon alternative, which would be c.50m in height. Full line tension gantries are proposed at Dedham Vale East, Dedham Vale West and Stour Valley West CSE compounds.

Overview of Section D – G



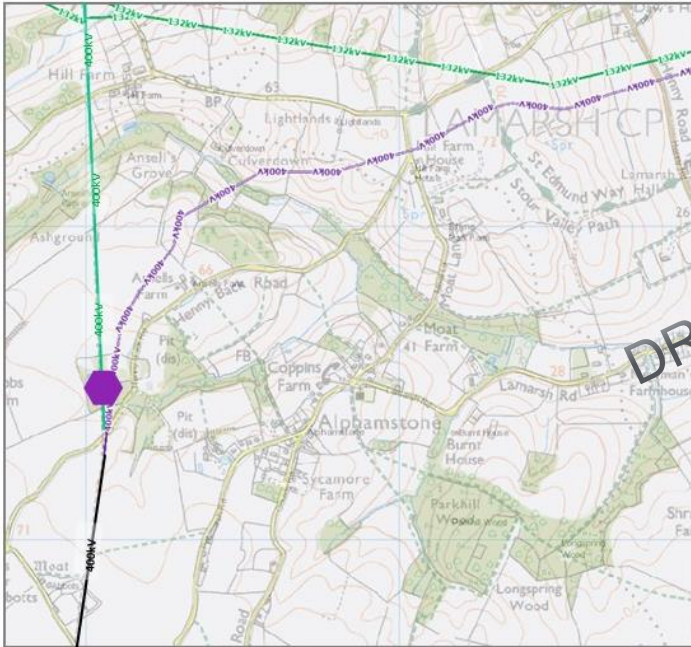
- The non-statutory consultation supported undergrounding in Sections E (Dedham Vale AONB) and Section G (the Stour Valley)
- Increase in the length of undergrounding as a result of the change in location of Stour Valley West CSE and Dedham Vale East CSE

Dedham Vale East

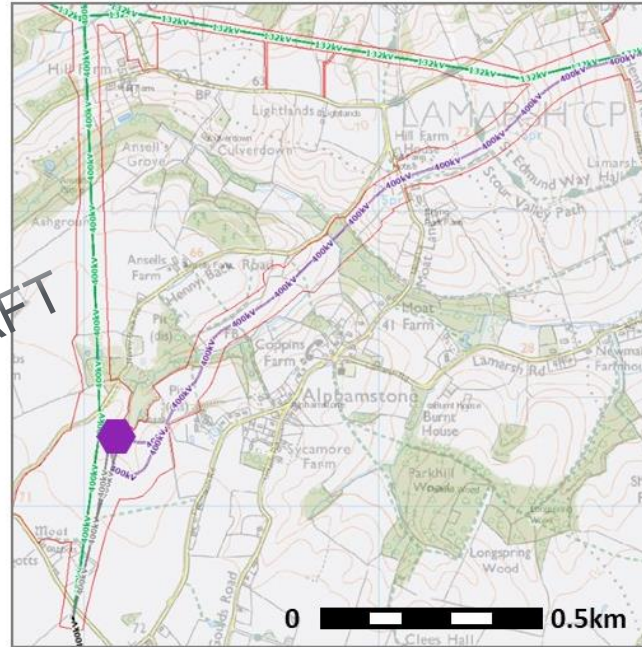


- Dedham Vale East CSE compound has been relocated further east away from the boundary of the Dedham Vale AONB and this has extended the underground cable.
- The overall cable alignment has been realigned around Dollops Wood.

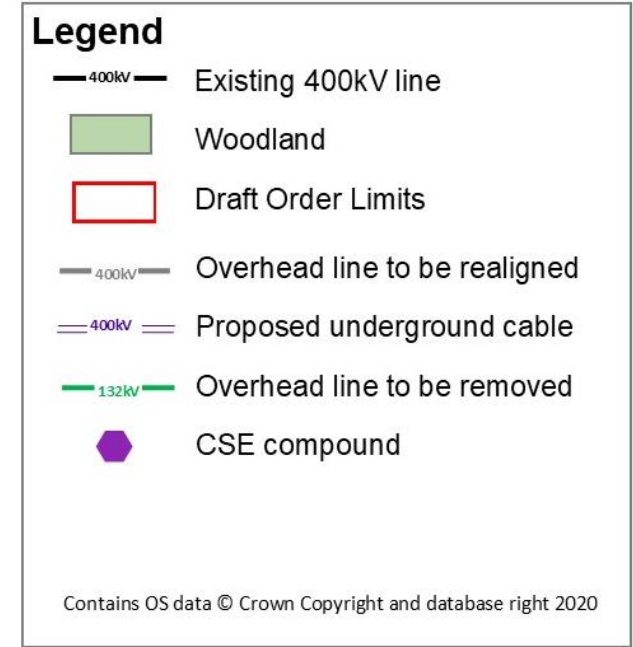
Stour Valley West



Non-statutory consultation design

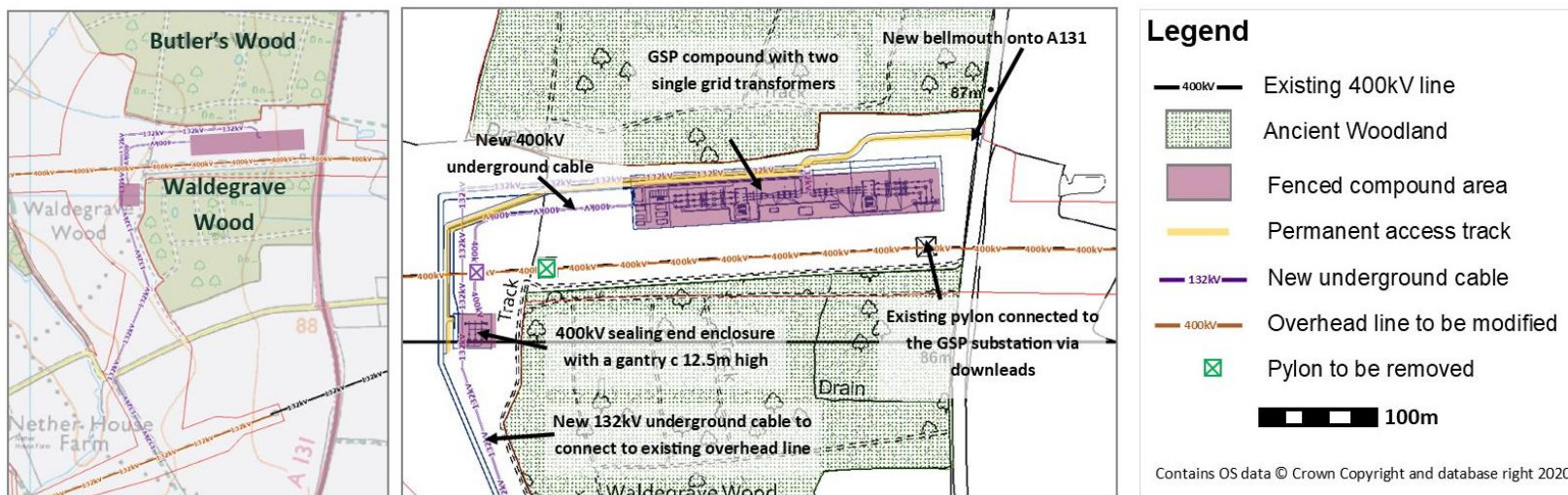


Statutory consultation design



- Stour Valley West CSE compound has been relocated to the south of Henny Back Road.
- The overall cable alignment has moved east away from Culverdown onto an alignment to the north of Alphamstone.

GSP Substation



The GSP substation would include a fenced compound approximately 270m by 50m in size and would have a 2.4m high palisade security fence. There would be a number of small modular container type buildings installed on-site to house electrical equipment, together with small modular self-contained office/welfare units. It would include two Super Grid Transformers (SGTs) with reinforced concrete bunds. There would also be a noise enclosure around the transformers to reduce operational noise. Other equipment and features include protection isolation equipment, switching devices, cooler banks for each transformer, a diesel generator for emergency back-up power and a water tank for emergency firewater supply.

Biodiversity Net Gain



Environmental Area	Description
ENV01: South of Bramford Substation	Land providing opportunities for biodiversity and landscape and visual mitigation and/or enhancements.
ENV02: Hintlesham Hall	Area identified for proposed planting for heritage, biodiversity and landscape and visual mitigation and /or enhancements.
ENV03: Hintlesham Woods (North)	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes, situated to the north of Hintlesham Woods.
ENV04 Hintlesham Woods (West) to Wolves Wood	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes, situated to the northwest of Ramsey Wood and extending up towards Wolves Wood.
ENV05 Hintlesham Woods (South)	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes, situated to the southwest of Ramsey Wood and extending up towards Wolves Wood.
ENV06 Townhouse Fruit Farm	Area identified for biodiversity and recreation purposes near Hadleigh Railway Walk.
ENV07: Brett Valley	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the River Brett.
ENV08: Dedham Vale East	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the CSE compound.
ENV09: River Box	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the River Box.
ENV10: Dedham Vale West	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the CSE compound.
ENV11 The Painters Trail.	Length of 4km of the Painter's Trail identified for both landscape and visual and cultural heritages purposes.
ENV12 Stour Valley East	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the CSE compound.
ENV13 Stour Valley West	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the CSE compound.
ENV14 GSP Substation	Area identified for biodiversity and landscape and visual purposes at the GSP substation site.

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05

Environmental
Update

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Environmental Update

- Current environmental surveys:
 - Bat surveys;
 - Geophysical survey and commencement of trial trenching; and
 - Landscape and visual site visits.
- Preparation for the Statutory Consultation
 - Finalising the Preliminary Environmental Information Report; and
 - Production of photomontages.
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement;
 - Environmental gains workshop; and
 - Meetings to discuss SoCG.

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06

Draft DCO &
Discharge
Requirements

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Draft DCO & Discharge Requirements

- Intention is to share draft DCO and explanatory memorandum with LPAs at least once in advance of submission of application. See Engagement Plan
- Include powers, requirements and description of development.
- Default Single local discharging body to be “relevant planning authority” As defined by S173 of the Act. i.e. the District.
- Enforcement powers are in set out in S163-171 and reside with the relevant planning authority so reasonable that they also determine requirements.
- Exceptions could be Highways matters, if the Districts agree.



Initial Suggestions for Discharging Authority

Topic	Discharging Authority	Consulted
Breakdown to stages	Relevant Planning Authority	County Highway Authority
Planting/landscaping/trees	Relevant Planning Authority	
Landscape	Relevant Planning Authority	
Contamination of land	Relevant Planning Authority	Environment Agency
Highway works	County Highway Authority	
Archaeology	County Planning Authority	
Ecology	Natural England	Relevant Planning Authority
Water	Environment Agency	County Planning Authority



Electricity
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07

Host Authority Updates

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Electricity
Transmission

08

AOB

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AOB

- Questions
- Summary of actions
- Date of next meeting

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APPENDIX E8: Regard had to Formal Comments on the Proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Regard had to formal comments on proposed SoCC

January 2022



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Contents

1.1	Early discussions on the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	4
1.2	Formal review of SoCC	5
1.3	Next steps	8

	Table 1.1 – Host local authorities	4
	Table 1.2 – Formal Comments on the draft SoCC	5

Executive summary

- National Grid discussed an early draft of the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement project with the five host local authorities on in August 2021.
- Officers from these authorities provided a number of comments which were considered by National Grid, with amendments being made to the Draft SoCC to take account of them.
- The majority of comments focussed on the consultation, including when it will take place, what will be consulted on, how the consultation will be promoted, and how seldom heard groups will be engaged. There were also comments on how we will report the consultation, as well as a number of other points which have been listed within this document, but do not fall within the scope of the SoCC.
- In November, following the consideration of all points raised previously, the Draft SoCC was issued to host authorities for formal review. During this round of consultation comments focused on the duration of the consultation, public access to materials and how seldom heard groups will be engaged. National Grid have had regard to comments received during this formal consultation period.
- This document lays out the comments received during the formal review of the SoCC, and the amendments which have been made to the Draft SoCC to take account of them.
- A copy of the final SoCC will be made available for inspection by the public on the project website and a notice with details of how the SoCC can be inspected will be published in newspapers local to the project in line with section 47(6) of the Act.

Regard had to comments from local authorities on the proposed Statement of Community Consultation

1.1 Early discussions on the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 1.1.1 National Grid discussed an early draft of the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement project with the five host local authorities on in August 2021. The early draft was emailed to the following local authorities on 2nd August 2021 for a preliminary review.

Table 1.1 – Host local authorities

Local authority	Date issued
County	
Essex County Council	2 August 2021
Suffolk County Council	2 August 2021
District	
Babergh District Council	2 August 2021
Mid Suffolk District Council	2 August 2021
Braintree District Council	2 August 2021

- 1.1.2 All five local authorities responded with comments. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils submitted a joint response. These comments were considered and amendments were made to the SoCC in order to take account of them.

1.2 Formal review of SoCC

- 1.2.1 National Grid formally consulted the five host local authorities (listed in Table 1.1) on the content of the SoCC. The consultation on the draft SoCC covered a 28-day period beginning on 9 November 2021.

Table 1.2 – Formal Comments on the draft SoCC

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
Duration of Consultation				
Essex County Council	3.1	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Additional point added to SoCC:</p> <p>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. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date.</p>	Yes, paragraph 3.1.1 has been amended extending the consultation period from six to eight weeks, allowing additional time for feedback responses.
Suffolk County Council	3.1	<p>Having discussed the matter with the other Local Authorities involved I note that Essex are asking for an extension in time to the statutory consultation period which I support also.</p>	<p>Additional point added to SoCC:</p> <p>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. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be</p>	Yes, paragraph 3.1.1 has been amended extending the consultation period from six to eight weeks, allowing additional time for

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			accepted up to five working days after this date.	feedback responses.
Braintree District Council		After discussions with other host authorities, it is considered that National Grid should extend the consultation beyond the statutory 6 weeks to 8 weeks in order to give consultees additional time to respond to the consultation and allow adequate time for stakeholders to consider the proposals.	Additional point added to SoCC: 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. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date.	Yes, paragraph 3.1.1 has been amended extending the consultation period from six to eight weeks, allowing additional time for feedback responses.
3.4 and 3.5 Printing Charges				
Essex County Council	Table 3.1 and 3.5.14	I appreciate that a printing charge is highlighted, but with people potentially prejudiced from attending engagement meetings obtaining a printed copy may be their only option. How can it be assured that price does not prejudice involvement on the consultation? I do note that in table 3.1 of the final document you do say that a fee “may” be required, hence it also may not?	Additional points added to SoCC: Table 3.1 A fee will not be charged for printed copies of the project background document or the project development options report. Both documents are consultation materials. National Grid is required to set out the maximum charge for printing and the printing charge specified in the SoCC covers technical material. These requests will	Yes, Table 3.1 has been amended to clarify that the project background document and project development options report will not be subject to a printing charge.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			be reviewed on a case by case	
3.3 Who will we consult				
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	N/A	Please confirm the reference to consultation with parish councils will include all those non-quorate parish groups such as Parish Meetings. I note the comments in the 'regard had to preliminary comments' document but think there may be some confusion as to the term Parish Meeting.	National Grid can confirm that the list of parish meetings and non-quorate parish groups provided by BMSDC have been cross referenced with the consultation database. All parish meetings are accounted for in accordance with paragraph 3.3.3 of the SoCC.	Not required.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	N/A	BMSDC request an all-councillor briefing event before the statutory consultation.	A separate briefing will be arranged prior to the statutory consultation.	Not required.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	N/A	Please confirm the contacts for BAME and Traveller groups.	National Grid will provide a list of contacts to BMSDC.	Not required.
3.13 Seldom Heard Groups				
Babergh and Mid Suffolk	N/A	I note reference to digitally isolated parties but that these people are not identified as a specific group in the list of seldom heard groups.	Additional points added to SoCC: Table 3.6 Digitally isolated parties have been included in seldom heard groups.	Yes, SoCC updated to reflect comment.
General Comment				
Suffolk County Council	N/A	There is also the issue of information on the proposed route of East Anglian Green. SCC are still of the opinion that the Bramford to Twinstead statutory consultation should not take place until this information is available.	The Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement must be in service by 2028 to rectify a bottleneck in the electricity transmission network. Statutory consultation must proceed in January	Not required.

Local authority	SoCC paragraph reference	Comments	Our response	Change made to the SoCC?
			to meet the timescales for this critical reinforcement.	

1.3 Next steps

- 1.3.1 The statutory consultation will begin on 25 January 2022 for an eight-week period.
- 1.3.2 A copy of the final SoCC will be made available for inspection by the public on the project website and a notice with details of how the SoCC can be inspected will be published in newspapers local to the project in line with section 47(6) of the Act.

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152



APPENDIX E9: Update to Host Authorities on Consultation Approach in Context of Covid-19 - December 2021

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Digital First Consultation in Response to Covid-19

December 2021

Overview

Following the Government's announcement that England is moving to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant, we have reviewed our engagement strategy for the Bramford to Twinstead statutory consultation.

To ensure compliance with Government guidance to work from home and given the exponential rise in Covid-19 cases and uncertainty around further restrictions, we are proposing to adapt our plans to undertake statutory consultation using digital first methods, while at the same time increasing the opportunities for people to engage with the project team. 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.

To respond to this, we have outlined below the steps that we will take to ensure everyone is still able to engage with our consultation.

Greater use of webinars

The previous engagement strategy proposed eight public consultation events along the route of the proposed reinforcement.

We are now proposing to hold ten webinars on the following dates/times to cover the following topics:

Date and Time	Webinar Topic
31 January 10am	Overview of proposals (BSL interpreter present)
3 February 6pm	Overview of proposals
8 February 7pm	Sections AB Hintlesham and Chattisham and section C, Brett Valley
9 February 7pm	Sections D Polstead and E Dedham Vale AONB
10 February 7pm	Sections F Leavenheath and Assington, G Stour Valley and H Grid Supply Point
16 February 7pm	Construction and Environmental Impacts
18 February 4pm	Overview of proposals
21 February 10am	Sections AB Hintlesham and Chattisham and section C, Brett Valley
23 February 10am	Sections D Polstead and E Dedham Vale AONB
24 February 10am	Sections F Leavenheath and Assington, G Stour Valley and H Grid Supply Point

A recording of the overview webinar will be displayed on the consultation website throughout statutory consultation, one with and one without the BSL interpreter.

Telephone/video appointments – ‘ask the experts’

The previous engagement strategy proposed five pre-booked sessions designed for members of the public to speak one-on-one with relevant technical experts. We are now proposing ten sessions.

To provide the opportunity for stakeholders to discuss more detailed matters with technical experts, we are proposing to increase the number of sessions offered and emphasise that this is the opportunity to raise more detailed queries or comments.

These sessions will be branded as “ask the expert sessions” to signpost members of the public to ask detailed, technical questions in this session.

Members of the public will be able to book a session with the team on the following dates and times:

- 1 February between 9am-5pm
- 7 February between 5pm-8pm
- 11 February between 3pm-7pm
- 14 February between 3pm-7pm
- 15 February between 9am-1pm
- 22 February between 3pm-7pm
- 2 March between 9am-1pm
- 10 March between 10am-3pm
- 15 March between 9am-5pm
- 18 March between 3pm-7pm

These appointment sessions will be made available as a telephone call, or through Microsoft Teams.

When members of the public book a session, the team will send relevant consultation material if required and ask further questions on the nature of their questions to assemble the most appropriate technical team to address comments.

Virtual Meetings

Meetings offered to all stakeholders (S42 a + b consultees, elected representatives, parish councils, community groups etc.) as identified in the SoCC and will take place virtually.

Advertisement

At the start of statutory consultation, all parish councils and parish meetings within the primary and secondary consultation zone will be provided with hard copies of consultation materials to display in local village halls. The team will also send posted copies of material upon request to members of the public.

Reaching the digitally excluded

Those without access to the internet or others representing them will be strongly encouraged to get in touch over the phone to receive paper copies of the information. For those with barriers to engagement, it may be appropriate to conduct a home visit. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Website

We will be making all our consultation and technical documents available on our consultation website for review and download. As well as delivering an immersive digital consultation room for members of the public to explore. In addition to an interactive consultation map, we will also deliver an interactive map which links to the detailed drawings in the general arrangement plans.

Reviewing our approach

The consultation period takes place over eight weeks. We will continually monitor the situation and government guidelines. If restrictions ease within this period we will assess whether some face-to-face events are possible.

APPENDIX E10: Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Issue number: BT-BECG-020637-560-0013

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

4.3 Statement of Community Consultation
January 2022



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Contents

1.	Introduction	4
1.1	Purpose of the document	4
1.2	Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects	4
1.3	About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc	4
2.	The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project	7
2.1	Background	7
2.2	Consultation between 2009-2013	7
2.3	Non-statutory consultation	8
2.4	Project description	9
2.5	Project timeline	10
3.	Consulting on the proposed application	13
3.1	When will the consultation take place?	13
3.2	What will we consult on?	13
3.3	Who will we consult?	13
3.4	Consultation materials	14
3.5	Promoting the consultation	18
3.6	Digital-first engagement	20
3.7	Webinars	20
3.8	Video and telephone appointments to ‘ask the experts’	21
3.9	Stakeholder briefings and meetings	21
3.10	Deposit points	22
3.11	Seldom heard groups	23
3.12	Contact details	26
4.	Responses to the consultation	27
4.1	Methods of responding	27
4.2	Presenting the results	27
4.3	Further consultation	28

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies	5
Figure 2.1 – Project timeline	11

Figure 2.2 – DCO process	12
Table 3.1 – Consultation materials	14
Table 3.2 – Website features	17
Table 3.5 – Deposit points	22
Table 3.6 – Seldom heard engagement tools	23
Table 3.7 – Contact details	26

Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map	29
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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities about its proposals to reinforce the capacity of the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex, ahead of its application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 The Bramford to Twinstead project (the “project”) is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and 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 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 1.1.3 In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities:
- Babergh District Council
 - Mid Suffolk District Council
 - Braintree District Council
 - Essex County Council
 - Suffolk County Council.

1.2 Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1 Installation of a new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity line is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Act. This means that development consent is required before construction of the project can begin.
- 1.2.2 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the “Secretary of State”). PINS will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether or not to grant the development consent for the project.
- 1.2.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and statutory stakeholders.
- 1.2.4 Early involvement of communities, local authorities and stakeholders helps us identify valuable information, including about the potential impacts of a project, so that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application is considered.

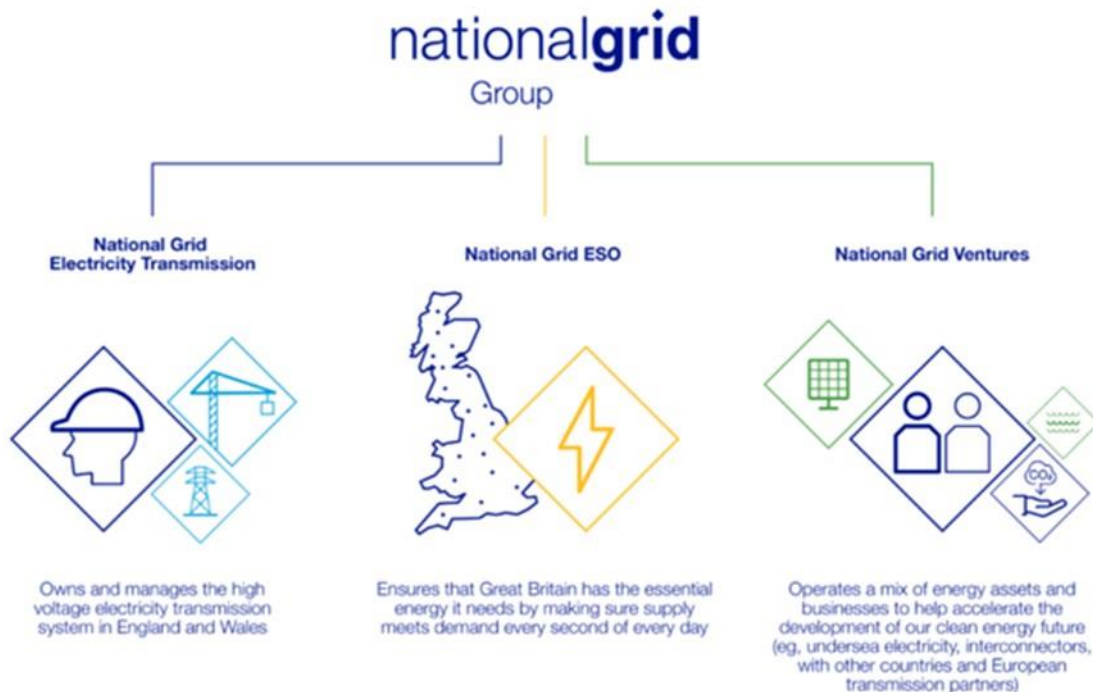
1.3 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

- 1.3.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer’s homes and businesses; in the way that

we support our communities and help them to grow. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.

- 1.3.2 Within the National Grid Group there are separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles (see figure 1.1 below). The project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- 1.3.3 **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. NGET owns, builds and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
- 1.3.4 **National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO)** controls the movement of electricity around the country, transporting power from generators (such as wind farms) to local distribution network operators, like UK Power Network (UKPN), ensuring that supply meets demand.
- 1.3.5 Both NGET and NGESO are licensed by the Government as electricity transmission companies. They are regulated by Ofgem which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers.
- 1.3.6 **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies



- 1.3.7 NGET has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989 (“the Electricity Act”). This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

1.3.8 NGET is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of that Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:

Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...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;’ and

Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.

1.3.9 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#).

2. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The UK has set a clear ambition for our country to be a global leader in clean energy. The Government has set a commitment to reach Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and an ambition to connect 40 GW of offshore wind by 2030 – enough energy to power every home in the country.
- 2.1.2 To achieve this, offshore wind is being developed at scale and around 60% of the current offshore wind projects will come ashore along the East Coast.
- 2.1.3 Couple this with new nuclear generation proposed at Sizewell C and greater interconnection with countries across the North Sea, we expect to see a significant increase in the level of renewable and low carbon electricity generation connecting in East Anglia.
- 2.1.4 While our existing high voltage electricity network in East Anglia has been sufficient until today, it does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030 while working to the required standards.
- 2.1.5 In the first half of this decade, we are investing significantly in upgrading the existing network, but that still will not deliver the capability that is needed by the end of the decade. We need to reinforce the region's electricity network to address this, including between Bramford and Twinstead.
- 2.1.6 We need to build a new 400 kV connection between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee to improve the capability of the electricity transmission network and carry the clean green energy that is proposed in East Anglia to homes and businesses.

2.2 Consultation between 2009-2013

- 2.2.1 The project has already been subject to multiple rounds of consultation between 2009 and 2013. However, we paused work on the project following changes to when some of the new generation projects in the region were likely to connect to the transmission network. Between 2009 and 2013 the project was shaped by:
- feedback from public consultations on route corridor options, route alignment, Stour Valley West cable sealing end (CSE) compound location and the grid supply point substation (GSP) location
 - detailed design including engineering and environmental surveys
 - feedback from 18 months of community forums and thematic group meetings which explored significance of impacts and where undergrounding the power lines might be necessary to mitigate them
- 2.2.2 Further information on the consultation activity undertaken between 2009 and 2013 is available in the Project Development Options Report. Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

2.3 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 Now that the project is once again required, we undertook a further round of non-statutory consultation from 25 March to 6 May 2021.
- 2.3.2 This consultation had the following aims:
- to reintroduce and provide an overview of the project, including how it developed before we paused work in 2013
 - to explain how we reviewed and updated the project
 - to gather feedback on the project
 - to outline next steps and programme and how we would further develop the project.
- 2.3.3 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold face-to-face events. Instead, we combined both digital and conventional methods of engagement, providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to access information and take part in the consultation.
- 2.3.4 Over the course of the consultation, the project team held ten webinars, six telephone surgeries and two live chat sessions, as well as providing relevant project documents for viewing at locations along the proposed route.
- 2.3.5 We developed an interactive project website, the functionality of which included:
- interactive maps with removable layers
 - searchable FAQs
 - automated chatbot
 - built-in visual aid tools and translation services
 - animations, videos and infographics
 - document library with interactive PDFs
 - live chat function
 - online feedback form.
- 2.3.6 To raise awareness of our consultation within the local community, we distributed an invitation newsletter to more than 3,164 homes and businesses within 1km of the emerging project, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representatives and representatives of third-party and community interest groups.
- 2.3.7 Paid-for newspaper adverts were placed in a number of local newspapers. Digital versions of these adverts ran on the websites of these publications. Notices were also placed in community news publications, further advertising the consultation.
- 2.3.8 The consultation events were further publicised through paid-for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Spotify advertising.
- 2.3.9 Briefing sessions were held with elected representatives, parish councils and third-party and community interest groups throughout the consultation period.
- 2.3.10 A total of 526 feedback responses were received from members of the public and interested parties. From the number of feedback forms received, 36.2% were submitted online and 63.8% were submitted as paper copy. We received feedback from a diverse age range of respondents.

- 2.3.11 Members of the local community were also able to submit feedback by speaking with members of the team via a number of channels, including a freephone information line (0808 196 1515), consultation email address (contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com), via the consultation website ([REDACTED]) or via the postage paid address (B T REINFORCEMENT).
- 2.3.12 Further information on the non-statutory consultation will be available in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, to be published at statutory consultation. Historic documents from this consultation will be available on the project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

2.4 Project description

- 2.4.1 National Grid intends to submit an 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 400 kV electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29 km.
- 2.4.2 The reinforcement would comprise 19 km of overhead line (consisting of up to 55 new pylons and conductors) and 10 km of underground cable system (consisting of up to 20 cables with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 2.4.3 Four CSE compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. Each CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, a small control building and a permanent access track.
- 2.4.4 It is proposed that approximately 27.5 km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25 km of existing 132 kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2.5 km of the existing 400 kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new GSP substation is proposed at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including a single circuit CSE compound, replacement pylons and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400 kV and 132 kV networks.
- 2.4.5 The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a Development Consent Order (DCO). Some aspects of the project, such as the underground sections and the GSP substation, constitute associated development.
- 2.4.6 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 the existing 400 kV overhead line
 - 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

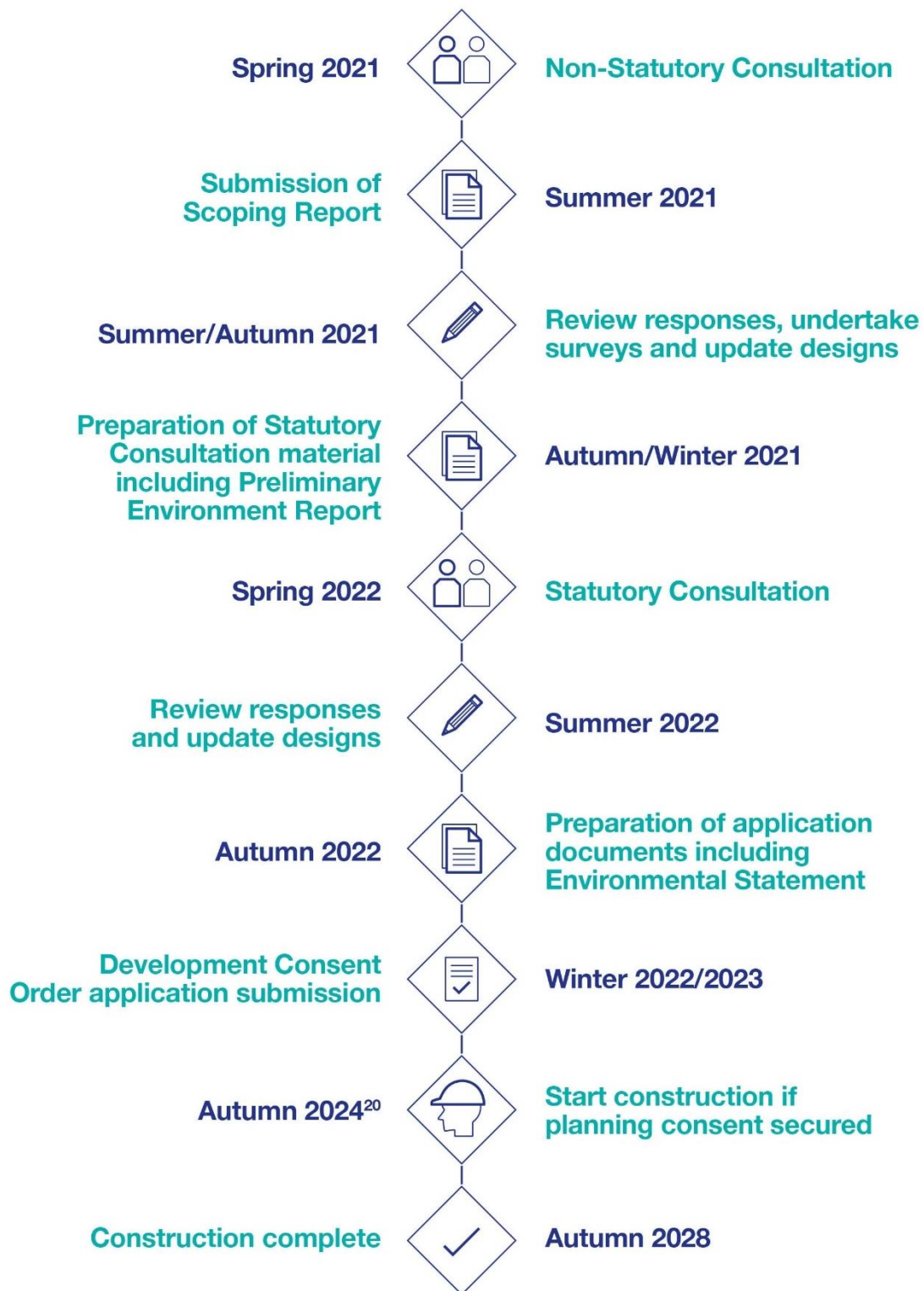
- diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint
- land for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

2.4.7 It should be noted that we are also considering alternative consenting routes for the GSP substation and related works, including a Town & Country Planning Act planning application to Braintree District Council. For the avoidance of doubt and consistency the statutory consultation covers all elements of the proposals as listed above.

2.5 Project timeline

- 2.5.1 Figure 2.1 sets out the currently proposed timeline for each stage of the project from consultation through to the decision from the Secretary of State and construction.
- 2.5.2 Following feedback from stakeholders, we rescheduled the start of the statutory consultation to align with the availability of more information on other proposed NGET projects in East Anglia.
- 2.5.3 Whilst the timescales are subject to change, NGESO has identified in the Network Options Assessment 2020/21 that the project needs to be in place by 2028.

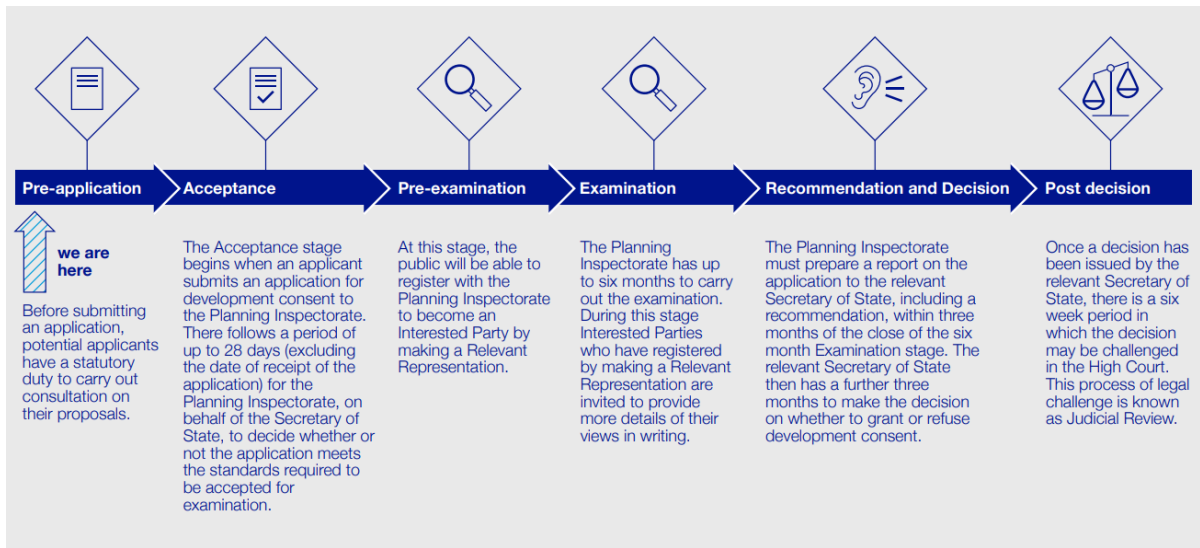
Figure 2.1 – Project timeline



²⁰ Should planning permission be granted for the GSP substation, construction may start earlier

Figure 2.2 provides an overview of the DCO consenting process.

Figure 2.2 – DCO process



3. Consulting on the proposed application

3.1 When will the consultation take place?

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. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date.

3.2 What will we consult on?

3.2.1 We will seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- proposed route of the new 400 kV 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 132 kV overhead electricity line
- location and form of a new grid supply point substation at Butler's Wood
- construction methodology
- likely environmental effects arising from the project
- potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects
- preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.

3.2.2 The project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback, further design, and assessment. The Statutory Consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments. If any substantive changes are made to the design of the project following this statutory consultation, National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation as appropriate (see paragraph 4.3).

3.2.3 We will make the full PEIR available on the project website. Paper copies of the PEIR will be available for inspection at deposit points. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

3.2.4 As part of the submission of an application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects and proposed mitigation based on the final design.

3.3 Who will we consult?

3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the project. We welcome all views and will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.

- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Act, we have a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community. The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which extends 1km from the proposed draft Order Limits for the project and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), which extends to at least 5km from the draft Order Limits for the project (including the PCZ). The draft Order Limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the project.
- 3.3.3 We will also 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.
- 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. We will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44.

3.4 Consultation materials

- 3.4.1 The following consultation materials will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.1 – Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Consultation pack	Summary newsletter with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	The pack will be posted to all properties within the PCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail). Members of the public will be able to access a copy of the pack at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). The information contained within the pack will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. Stakeholders identified in Section 3.3) will also be

Material	Description	Target audience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>In addition, packs will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feedback form with details of how to provide feedback postage-paid envelopes. 	<p>provided a copy of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project website	A dedicated consultation website (Table 3.2 for detail)	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail). The website will be promoted in several ways (see section 3.5 for details).
Project Background Document	<p>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.</p> <p>The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). The Project Background Document will also be available to download via the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of the Project Background Document.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project Development Options Report	A document outlining the development of the project and the rationale behind each component.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).

Material	Description	Target audience
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.	<p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail).</p> <p>The Project Development Options Report will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of the Project Development Options Report.</p>
Feedback form	Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the project.	<p>Feedback forms will be posted to all residential and business properties within the PCZ as part of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to collect a copy of the feedback from the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). Forms will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be mailed on request.</p>
Consultation banners	Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the project. Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the plans and allow for further discussion with members of	<p>Members of the public will be able to view consultation banners on the project website. Printed copies will be mailed on request.</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
	the project team during telephone or video appointments. The consultation banners will be displayed in an online virtual consultation ‘town hall’.	
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.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail) and those with visual impairments.
Project maps	Paper copy and digital mapping will be made available to assist understanding of the proposals.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	PEIR details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the project.	Interested members of the public and those in SCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail). Members of the public will be able to view a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). The reports will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies of the PEIR.

3.4.2 To provide flexibility around changing government Covid-19 guidelines, all consultation material will be available on the project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways. This is set out in further detail in the following table.

Table 3.2 – 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	To enable members of the public and other stakeholders to access detailed maps of the proposed reinforcement.

Function	Rationale
public and stakeholders to detailed, technical maps.	
Virtual consultation 'town hall'	This will 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	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.

3.5 Promoting the consultation

3.5.1 We will continue to use a number of digital engagement channels that were successful at non-statutory consultation. These include:

- an interactive website
- online webinars
- video and telephone surgery sessions
- social media advertising

3.5.2 Further detail on these and other engagement and promotion methods are outlined in this and subsequent sections.

3.5.3 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 and is shown in Appendix A.

3.5.4 Those living outside of the PCZ and in the SCZ, will be made aware of the consultation through the following other methods of engagement.

- 3.5.5 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.
- 3.5.6 The newspapers will include:
- East Anglian Daily Times
 - Ipswich Star
 - West Suffolk Mercury
 - Colchester Gazette
 - Halstead Gazette
 - Braintree and Witham Times
 - Essex County Standard
- 3.5.7 The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and SCZ, and beyond.
- 3.5.8 Online advertisements will also be placed in these publications, with the addition of Essex Live.
- 3.5.9 We will work with parishes along the route to advertise the consultation in parish magazines and on local parish websites where possible.
- 3.5.10 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. Site notices will also be placed at key locations along the route of the project.
- 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. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation versus other platforms.
- 3.5.12 Posters will be sent to parish councils to display locally, to raise awareness of the consultation.
- 3.5.13 In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website [REDACTED]. Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps can telephone the project team on 0808 196 1515.
- 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. These can be requested using the contact details at the end of this document.
- 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.
- 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.nationalgrid.com, or by calling 0808 196 1515.

3.6 Digital-first engagement

- 3.6.1 We must ensure full and ongoing compliance with all national and local legislative requirements and guidelines (including those introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic). Following the government's announcement that England is moving to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant, we will be undertaking a digital-first approach to statutory 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.

3.7 Webinars

- 3.7.1 Ten project webinars will be held throughout the consultation period at the following dates and times:
- 10 am - 11 am, Monday 31 January, overview of proposals (BSL interpreter present)
 - 6pm – 7pm, Thursday 3 February, overview of proposals
 - 7pm - 8pm, Tuesday 8 February, sections AB Hintlesham and Chattisham and C, Brett Valley
 - 7pm – 8pm, Wednesday 9 February, sections D Polstead and E Dedham Vale AONB
 - 7pm – 8pm, Thursday 10 February, sections F Leavenheath and Assington, G Stour Valley and H Grid Supply Point
 - 7pm - 8pm, Wednesday 16 February, construction and environmental impacts
 - 4pm - 5pm, Friday 18 February, overview of proposals
 - 10am – 11am, Monday 21 February, sections AB Hintlesham and Chattisham and C, Brett Valley
 - 10am – 11am, Wednesday 23 February, sections D Polstead and E Dedham Vale AONB
 - 10am – 11am, Thursday 24 February, sections F Leavenheath and Assington, G Stour Valley and H Grid Supply Point
- 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.

- 3.7.3 Webinars will provide opportunities for audience participation and a summary of all questions asked by other participants.
- 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.

3.8 Video and telephone appointments to ‘ask the experts’

- 3.8.1 To allow members of the public to speak directly with the project team on an individual basis, appointment sessions will be made available over 10 different dates.
- 3.8.2 These 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. The 10 appointment sessions will be advertised on the following dates/times:

- Tuesday 1 February, 9am – 5pm
- Monday 7 February, 5pm – 8pm
- Friday 11 February, 3pm – 7pm
- Monday 14 February, 3pm – 7pm
- Tuesday 15 February, 9am – 1pm
- Tuesday 22 February, 3pm – 7pm
- Wednesday 2 March, 9am – 1pm
- Thursday 10 March, 10am – 3pm
- Tuesday 15 March, 9am – 5pm
- Friday 18 March 3pm – 7pm

3.9 Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 3.9.1 We will offer virtual briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run up to or during the consultation:
- 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
 - local planning authority officers.
- 3.9.2 We will meet with other organisations and individuals on request. These may include:
- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act
 - persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44 of the Act

- third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships and business groups
- community groups or residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
- parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ
- interest groups with a close relationship to the project.

3.10 Deposit points

3.10.1 Whilst this is no longer a statutory requirement, 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 in the table below. This excludes circumstances outside of our control, such as those which prevent the locations specified from opening. Material will be available to view only if libraries remain open during the statutory consultation period.

Table 3.5 – Deposit points

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 Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday – 9:30am to 5pm Sunday – 10am to 4pm

3.11 Seldom heard groups

- 3.11.1 We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 3.11.2 Seldom heard groups in the case of the project could consist of the groups which have been outlined in Table 3.6.
- 3.11.3 The ways in which our approach to consultation will assist in engaging with seldom heard groups is set out in the table below:

Table 3.6 – 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 • 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 providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (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 will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audio guide of consultation banners • important information provided in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • option to enlarge text on project website • telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss 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 • 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 providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request) • telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs providing British Sign Language signing at a webinar, which will be recorded and placed on the project website • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss 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 • 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 • 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 • telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss 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 • 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; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post • video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system, removing the need to travel telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss 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) • translation/interpreter facilities provided during video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments (upon request)
Travellers	<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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 like to discuss 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; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.

3.12 Contact details

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. 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.

Table 3.7 – Contact details

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

3.12.2 The project team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that is not readily to hand, the project team will endeavour to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.

4. Responses to the consultation

4.1 Methods of responding

4.1.1 During the consultation period people will be able to submit their feedback on the proposals for the project.

4.1.2 This can be done in the following ways:

- online via the consultation website ([REDACTED])
- by post using the postage paid envelope (which are available upon email or telephone request)
- by email (contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com).

4.1.3 Consultation responses received by any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation. Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.

4.1.4 Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted for up-to five working days after the formal closing date of the consultation.

4.1.5 Although they will not formally be included as consultation feedback, National Grid will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.

4.2 Presenting the results

4.2.1 Following the close of the consultation, the feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed alongside any and all responses received as part of the consultation activities held in line with sections 42 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, in order to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and refined in light of the feedback.

4.2.2 The proposed application will then be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation

4.2.3 A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application for development consent, as required by section 37(3)(c) of the PA2008. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this document and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the final proposals. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response.

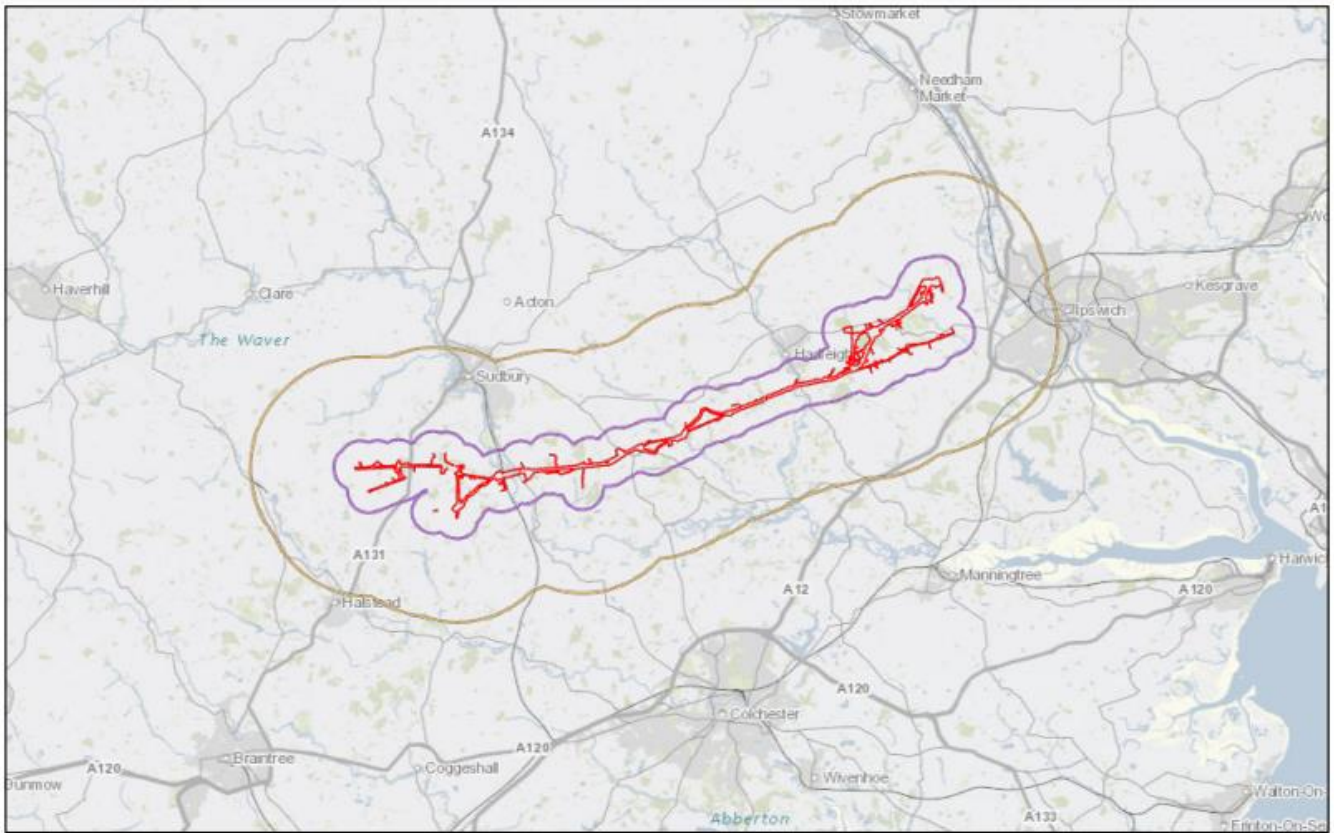
4.2.4 PINS will decide whether the Application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to comment on the adequacy of the consultation

4.2.5 The Consultation Report will be available online once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.


4.3 Further consultation

- 4.3.1 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.

Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map



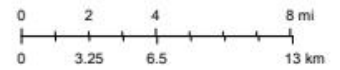
05/01/2022

 Draft Order Limits

 DF2.1 Max Order Limits 5km Buffer

 DF2.1 Max Order Limits 1km Buffer

1:250,000



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National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152



APPENDIX E11: Update to Host Authorities on Consultation Approach in Context of Covid-19 - January 2022

Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Updated on statutory consultation following the easing of Plan B restrictions

January 2022

Overview

Following the government's announcement in December 2021 that England would move to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant, we reviewed our engagement strategy for the Bramford to Twinstead statutory consultation and took the decision to pivot the consultation to digital first, to protect the health and safety of members of the public and staff. This included increasing the number of virtual events and adding additional interactive content to the website. We had already committed to extending the consultation period from 6 to 8 weeks at the request of the Local Authorities.

We consulted Essex County Council, Suffolk County Council, Braintree District Council, Babergh District Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council on this approach (20th December 2021). No response was received from Babergh, Mid-Suffolk or Braintree District Councils. Essex County Council (21st December 2021) and Suffolk County Council (7th January 2022) responded, acknowledging the revised approach. Suffolk County Council also requested a face-to-face public meeting. We subsequently responded (20th January 2022) to say we wouldn't attend but committed to considering whether some face-to-face events would be possible should restrictions allow.

Following the Government's announcement on 19th January and subsequent removal of Plan B restrictions on 26th January 2022, we can now confirm that we will hold six face-to-face events from the 24 February 2022. These are in addition to the scheduled digital events.

Public Exhibitions

Venue	Date	Time
Nayland Village Hall	Friday 25th Feb	10am-6pm
Hadleigh Town Hall	Thursday 3rd March	12pm-8pm
Hintlesham and Chattisham Community Hall	Friday 4th March	10am-4.30pm
Sudbury Masonic Hall	Saturday 5th March	10am-5pm

Appointment only "Ask the Experts" sessions

Venue	Date	Time
Twinstead Village Hall	Thursday 10th March	9am-2pm

Hintlesham and Chattisham Community Hall	Friday 11th March	9am-2pm
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Advertisement

We will circulate an update newsletter to all households within the primary consultation zone advertising the additional consultation dates. We will place further adverts in the local press, provide parish councils with notices to display locally and for inclusion in parish magazines. We will advertise via social media and we will write to local stakeholders encouraging them to attend face-to-face events.

All information will also be available on our project website and we will further publicise consultation events during webinar sessions.

APPENDIX E12: Evidence of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Published on National Grid's Website

Statutory consultation materials (January 2022) (14)

Statutory consultation maps and plans (January 2022) (12)


Archive non-statutory consultation documents (March 2021) (4)

Archive consultation documents (2009-2013) (14)


Statutory consultation materials (January 2022)

Name

 1.1 Project Background Document

 1.2 Newsletter

 1.3 Feedback Form

 1.4 Consultation Banners

 1.5 Visualisations - Photomontages

 2.1 Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Main Document

 2.2 Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Appendices

 2.3 Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Figures

 4.1 Project Development Options Report

 4.2 Non-Statutory Consultation Report

 4.3 Statement of Community Consultation

 Section 47 notice

 Section 48 notice

 Errata and Correction Log

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