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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.3.1: Draft Statement of Common Ground Local Authorities

Final Issue A
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Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)

nationalgrid

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement produced as part of the application for development consent and is prepared jointly between the applicant and another party or parties. It sets out matters of agreement between both/all parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 1.1.2 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the Examination Phase of the application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning, and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during Examination, and then updated as necessary or as requested during the Examination Phase.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG is between National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd ('National Grid') and Essex County Council (ECC), Suffolk County Council (SCC), Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (B&MSDC) and Braintree District Council (BDC) (together referred to in this SoCG as the 'Host Authorities') relating to the application for development consent for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Department of Communities and Local Government (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015).
- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared to identify the matters agreed and matters under discussion between National Grid and ECC, SCC, BDC and B&MSDC. The SoCG will evolve as the application progresses to submission and through examination.
- 1.1.5 Individual SoCG meetings were held week commencing 13 December 2021 with the individual host authorities. General feedback received during the sessions included the suggestion from SCC that the Host Authorities sign a prepare a joined-up SoCG. Subsequently, all Host Authorities agreed at the meeting held on the 6 April 2022 to merge the SoCG, although ensure the SoCG has space to record if there is any divergence between the parties on any topic.

1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 This document accompanies National Grid's application for an order granting development consent to reinforce the transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km ('the project'). 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).
- 1.2.2 The project would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 1.2.3 Four cable sealing end (CSE) compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. The CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, control building and a permanent access track.

- 1.2.4 Approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new grid supply point (GSP) substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.
- 1.2.5 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2.6 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 existing overhead lines, including pylons;
 - Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including temporary amendments to the public highway, public rights of way, 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, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings and watercourse crossings;
 - Diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint; and
 - Land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

1.3 This Statement of Common Ground

- 1.3.1 For the purpose of this SoCG, National Grid and the Host Authorities will jointly be referred to as the 'Parties'. When referencing individual Host Authorities, they will be referred to as 'the Consultee' or by their name.
- 1.3.2 This SoCG is structured as follows:
- Section 1 provides an introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose.
 - Section 2 states the role of the Consultee in the application process and details engagement undertaken between the Parties.
 - Section 3 sets out matters agreed between the Parties.
 - Section 4 sets out matters not agreed between the Parties.
 - Section 5 sets out matters under discussion where agreement between the Parties has not yet been reached.
 - Section 6 includes the signing off sheet.
- 1.3.3 Throughout the SoCG:

- Section 2 details engagement undertaken between the Parties. The far-right column in Table 2.1, indicates which of the parties were in attendance at the time of the meeting; a coloured blue box indicates attendance to such meeting.
- Where a section begins 'matters agreed', this sets out matters that have been agreed between the Parties and where there is no dispute or very small areas of divergence between the Host Authorities, but they are largely in agreement. Where there are small areas of divergence, this is indicated with a Red or Amber warning in the far-right column, with explanatory text on the divergence in the preceding columns. Green indicates no apparent diversion on the topic. Any greyed-out column reflects circumstances where the Party has no comment to make on the matter, for example where the element of the scheme considered, falls outside the Parties jurisdiction.
- Where a section begins 'matters not agreed', this sets out matters that are not agreed between the Parties and where a difference of opinion remains.
- Where a section begins 'matters under discussion', this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Parties.

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2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Role of the Consultee in the process

- 2.1.1 The Consultees are local authorities for the purposes of section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 as some of the land covered by the project is within their local authority area. Pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid must consult local authorities if the project is in the local authority's area(s).
- 2.1.2 The Consultees have been strongly encouraged to discuss and work with National Grid to provide a local perspective at the pre-application stage of the application process for the project.

2.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

- 2.2.1 Table 2.1 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties prior to submission of the application.

Table 2.1 – Pre-application discussions

Date	Topic	Discussion points	E	S	B	B
			C	C	&M	D
			C	C	S	D
			Attendance			
21 August 2020	Project Update	Reintroduction to the scheme including need case and wider regional context.				
15 December 2020	Project Update	Virtual meeting to introduce the scheme to the Consultee including a Q&A session.				
1 March 2021	Project Update including Cumulative Effects	Virtual meeting to provide a scheme update and to discuss feedback on the consultation strategy, SoCGs, local planning policy, approach to cumulative effects assessment, Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). Included a Q&A session.				
2 March 2021	Ecology	Virtual meeting to introduce the scheme and to discuss approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping, baseline environment, further surveys and SoCGs.				
2 March 2021	Traffic and Transport	Virtual meeting to introduce the scheme and to discuss approach to EIA Scoping, baseline environment, further surveys and SoCGs.				
3 March 2021	Landscape and Visual	Virtual meeting to introduce the scheme and to discuss approach to EIA Scoping, baseline environment, further surveys and SoCGs.				
4 March 2021	Air Quality Noise and Vibration Socio-economics,	Virtual meeting to introduce the scheme and to discuss approach to EIA Scoping, baseline environment, further surveys and SoCGs.				

Date	Topic	Discussion points	E	S	B	B
			C	C	& M	D C
			Attendance			
	tourism and recreation Health and wellbeing					
10 March 2021	Water Environment	Virtual meeting to provide an update on the proposed scope and methodology, discuss current assessment work, proposed design and mitigation and SoCGs.				
May 2021	Response to non-statutory consultation	The Consultees provided their responses to the non-statutory consultation to National Grid in letter format.				
19 May 2021	Cultural Heritage	Virtual meeting to introduce the scheme and to provide an update on the proposed scope and baseline/ survey work, discuss current assessment work, proposed archaeological mitigation and SoCGs.				
26 May 2021	Landscape and Visual	Virtual meeting to provide an update on the proposed scope and methodology (including viewpoints), discuss current assessment work, proposed mitigation and enhancements and SoCGs.				
7 June 2021	Scheme Update including Cumulative Effects	Virtual meeting to provide a scheme update and to discuss non-statutory consultation feedback, EIA scoping, environmental surveys and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), review of Energy National Policy Statements (NPSs), discharge of requirements, approach to cumulative effects assessment and PPA. Included a Q&A session.				
29 June 2021	Layham Quarry	Virtual meeting to discuss the current and future status of mineral extraction operations at Layham Quarry and to resolve outstanding queries regarding development allocations at Layham Quarry. The approach to the PPA was also briefly discussed.				
June 2021	EIA Scoping Response	The Consultees provided their responses to the EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate in letter format.				
7 July 2021	Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Cumulative Effects Assessment	Virtual meeting to introduce the SoCC framework and plans for consultation in summer 2021. Virtual meeting to discuss the long list of development to inform the Cumulative Effects Assessment in the PEIR.				
12 July 2021	Water Environment	Virtual meeting to provide scheme update and an update on the Scoping work. Discussion on the approach to the water assessment, Water Framework Directive (WFD) screening assessment, flood risk assessment, hydrogeology and geology assessment, incorporation of climate change allowances in assessments and SoCGs.				
11 August 2021	Planning/Grid Supply Point Substation	Pre-application meeting (virtual) held with BDC and Essex Place Services (EPS) to discuss the intended TCPA Planning Application for the Proposed GSP Substation.				

Date	Topic	Discussion points	E	S	B	B
			C	C	&M	D
			C	C	S	D
			Attendance			
3 September 2021	Archaeology	Meeting with Richard Havis who will now be representing all LPAs on Cultural Heritage matters and suggested that he has his own SOCG.				
6 September 2021	Scheme Update	Virtual meeting to provide a scheme update and to discuss the SoCC, SoCG, DCO discharge requirements and PPA. Included a Q&A session				
6 September 2021	Planning/Grid Supply Point Substation	Written pre-application advice issued by BDC.				
8 September 2021	Ecology	National Grid provided a project update and technical discussions around surveys, Biodiversity Net Gain and HRA.				
9 September 2021	Traffic and Transport	National Grid provided a project update and technical discussions around traffic surveys and the preliminary outputs of the initial traffic assessment.				
13 September 2021	Water	National Grid provided a project update and technical discussions around the water assessment and the scope of the Flood Risk Assessment.				
16 September 2021	Landscape and Visual	National Grid provided a project update and technical discussions around National Policy Statement updates, Special Landscape Areas, Viewpoints, Photomontages, Community areas and Biodiversity Net Gain.				
4 October 2021	Socio-economic	Discussion on skills and tourism impacts/benefits associated with the project.				
22 November 2021	Planning/Scheme Update	General project update. Discuss plans for statutory consultation				
25 November 2021	Net Gain Workshop	Introduction to Biodiversity (and wider environmental) Net Gain opportunities being considered.				
14 December 2021	Planning/SoCG and Committed Development	Individual LPA (SCC) meeting to progress the SoCG and Long List of Development.				
15 (1) December 2021	Planning/SoCG and Committed Development	Individual LPA (ECC) meeting to progress the SoCG and Long List of Development.				
15 (2) December 2021	Planning/SoCG and Committed Development	Individual LPA (B&MSDC) meeting to progress the SoCG and Long List of Development.				
16 December 2021	Planning/SoCG and Committed Development	Individual LPA (BDC) meeting to progress the SoCG and Long List of Development.				
7 February 2022	Planning	Discuss how statutory consultation is going and key themes raised.				
22 February 2022	Planning/Grid Supply Point Substation	Second pre-application meeting (virtual) held with BDC to discuss the intended TCPA Planning Application for the Proposed GSP Substation.				
16 March 2022	Ecological Surveys	A meeting with the EPS ecology consultant to discuss ecology surveys who represents all Consultees.				

Date	Topic	Discussion points	E	S	B	B
			C	C	&M	D
			C	C	S	D
			Attendance			
March 2022	Response to statutory consultation	The Consultees provided their responses to the statutory consultation to National Grid in letter format.				
30 March 2022	Thematic Meeting: Ecology (general)	General project update. Discuss results of surveys and feedback from statutory consultation.				
28 March 2021	Thematic Meeting: Flood risk/drainage	General project update and discuss feedback from statutory consultation. Updates on scope of the Flood Risk Assessment. To be run jointly with ECC and SCC LLFA teams.				
24 March 2022	Thematic Meeting: Cultural Heritage	General project update and discuss feedback from statutory consultation. Updates on Cultural Heritage surveys and assessment. To be run jointly with ECC and SCC cultural heritage teams.				
29 March 2022	Thematic Meeting: Landscape and Visual	General project update and discuss feedback from statutory consultation. Discuss landscape surveys and scope of landscape assessment.				
5 April 2022	Planning/Grid Supply Point Substation	Third pre-application meeting (virtual) held with BDC and EPS to discuss the intended TCPA Planning Application for the Proposed GSP Substation.				
7 April 2022	Thematic Meeting: Traffic and Transport	General project update and discuss feedback from statutory consultation. Outline scope of traffic surveys. To be run jointly with Essex Highways and Suffolk Highways.				
6 April 2022	Planning/ Scheme Update	General project update. Discuss review of DCO documents.				
27 April 2022	Public Rights of Way	Discuss process for managing Public Rights of Way during construction. Agree information required at application.				
27 May 2022	Planning/SoCG	Combined meeting to progress the joined-up Host Authority SoCG.				
6 June 2022	Planning/ Scheme Update	General project update. Discuss timeline update, PPA and Engagement Plan.				
15 June 2022	Planning/Grid Supply Point Substation	Post submission meeting (virtual) held with BDC to discuss the TCPA Planning Application for the Proposed GSP Substation.				
22 June 2022	Thematic Meeting: Traffic and Transport	Meeting to seek to agree the methodology for the Transport Assessment (TA) and the Traffic and Transport (T&T) Chapter in the Environmental Statement (ES).				
17 August 2022	Thematic Meeting: Cultural Heritage	General project update. Updates on Cultural Heritage assessment. To be run jointly with ECC and SCC cultural heritage teams.				
28 July 2022	Planning	SoCG discussion.				
1 August 2022	Planning	General project update				
6 September 2022	Thematic Meeting:	General project update Discuss high level results of assessment and proposed mitigation.				

Date	Topic	Discussion points	E	S	B	B
			C	C	&M	D
			C	C	S	D
			Attendance			
	Ecology (general)					
22 September 2022	Thematic Meeting: Cultural Heritage	General project update. Updates on Cultural Heritage assessment. Discuss high level results of assessment and proposed mitigation. To be run jointly with ECC and SCC cultural heritage teams				
26 September 2022	Planning	General project update. Discuss the on-going targeted consultation.				
5 October 2022	Thematic Meeting: Traffic and Transport (construction traffic)	Proposed construction routes, discussion regarding constraints, principles about road closures and traffic management				
6 October 2022	Planning	SoCG discussion. Discussion to include feedback received from the Host Authority DCO document reviews.				
17 October 2022	Thematic Meeting: Ecology (Hintlesham Wood - bats)	Discussion regarding bats and Hintlesham Wood options.				
22 November 2022	Planning	General project update				
Winter 2022	Draft DCO Documents	The Host Authorities were issued with a number of Draft DCO documents for their review and comment on prior to the submission of the DCO.				
2 February 2023	Planning	SoCG discussion. Discussion included feedback received from the Host Authority DCO document reviews.				
13 March 2023	Planning	General project update prior to submission of DCO application.				
31 March 2023	Planning	General project update prior to submission of DCO application, focusing on key design decisions.				

2.3 Consultation engagement

- 2.3.1 A period of non-statutory consultation was held for six weeks, between 25 March 2021 and 6 May 2021. That consultation re-introduced the project, explained how National Grid had reviewed the previous proposals, and sought the views of the public and stakeholders. On 13 March 2021, National Grid wrote to the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the non-statutory consultation and inviting their views.
- 2.3.2 Statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022 and provided the opportunity for the public and stakeholders to see how the project has evolved since the non-statutory consultation, and comment on further detailed engineering design and environmental assessment work. On 19 January 2022,

National Grid wrote to the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the statutory consultation and inviting their views.

2.3.3 Following statutory consultation, National Grid proposed several further changes to the proposals and ran a targeted consultation between 8 September 2022 and 19 October 2022, with a focus on the western part of the Stour Valley. On 1 September 2022, National Grid wrote to the Consultee as they are a prescribed consultee in the DCO process, informing them of the start of the targeted consultation and inviting their views.

2.3.4 The Consultee's provided responses to all consultations.

2.4 Summary of post-submission discussions

2.4.1 Table 2.2 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties post submission of the application for development consent.

Table 2.2 – Post-submission discussions

SOCG ID	Matter	Discussion points
2.1	<i>Landscape and Visual</i>	
2.1.1	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the conclusions of the assessment as set out in the ES.</i>
2.1.2	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the proposed mitigation as set out in the ES.</i>
2.1.3	<i>Undergrounding</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the extent of undergrounding through the Dedham Vale AONB</i>
2.2	<i>Biodiversity</i>	
2.2.1	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the conclusions of the assessment as set out in the ES.</i>
2.2.2	<i>Mitigation</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the proposed mitigation as set out in the ES.</i>
2.3	<i>Historic Environment</i>	
2.3.1	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the conclusions of the assessment as set out in the ES.</i>
2.4	<i>Water Environment</i>	
2.4.1	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the conclusions of the assessment as set out in the ES.</i>
2.4.2	<i>Drainage design</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees that the proposed drainage design for the Scheme gives adequate consideration to the Suffolk Flood Partnership Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) a Local Design Guide (May 2018).</i>
2.4.3	<i>Ordinary Watercourses</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the approach proposed regarding Ordinary Watercourses.</i>
2.5	<i>Traffic and Transport</i>	

2.5.1	Assessment	<i>The Consultee agrees with the conclusions of the assessment as set out in the ES.</i>
2.6	<i>Cumulative Effects Assessment</i>	
2.6.1	<i>Short List of Development</i>	<i>The Consultee agrees with the short list of developments that will be considered in the EIA for the scheme.</i>

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3. Matters Agreed

3.1.1 It should be noted that where a box is greyed out, it is considered that matter is not relevant to the consultee.

Table 3.1 – Matters agreed

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
3.1	Regulatory and Planning Policy									
3.1.1	National Policy Statements	The Consultee agrees that NPS EN-1 (Overarching Policy Statement for Energy) and EN-5 (Electricity Networks Infrastructure), will form the primary policy context against which the scheme should be assessed subject to their revision which is anticipated prior to the submission of the application.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.2	Local Development Plan	While the assessment of the application for development consent should be made against the NPS, it is agreed that the Development Plan for each Local Authority are important and relevant considerations. Emerging Plans are also detailed where they are likely to be adopted before the submission of the DCO. The Development Plan for each Local Authority Comprises:	Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan 2017 The Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) (Agreed: December 2022).	Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan (SMWLP) Adopted 9 July 2020 (Agreed: July 2021).	Babergh Core Strategy (adopted February 2014) Babergh Local Plan Alteration No.2 (adopted June 2006) Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (adopted September 2008) Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Focussed Review (adopted December 2012)	Local Plan, Section 1 (2013-2033) Local Plan, Section 2 (2013-2033) The Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) Essex and Southend-On-Sea Waste Local Plan (2017) Essex Minerals Local Plan Review (emerging)	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
					<p>Mid Suffolk Local Plan First Alteration (adopted July 2006)</p> <p>Mid Suffolk Local Plan (adopted September 1998)</p> <p>Emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan (SMWLP) Adopted 9 July 2020)</p> <p>(Agreed: July 2021).</p>	(Agreed: July 2021).				
3.1.3	Other Planning Policy	<p>While the assessment of the application for development consent should be made against the NPS, it is noted that other planning policy is capable of being important and relevant (other than the adopted Development Plans for each Local Authority). Other planning policy capable of being important and relevant include:</p>	<p>The Consultee considers the following plans to be important and relevant material considerations:</p> <p>The Essex Design Guide (2018)</p> <p>Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020</p> <p>Essex Green Infrastructure Standards, 2021</p> <p>The Essex County Council Developers' Guide to</p>				E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
			<p>Infrastructure Contributions Revised 2020</p> <p>Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral Essex Climate Action Commission</p> <p>Essex County Council's Local Transport Plan (2011 – 2025)</p>							
3.1.4	Other Planning Policy not subject to Public Consultation	While the assessment of the application for development consent should be made against the NPSs, it is noted that other documents may be important and relevant but limited weight is attached to them, given they were not the subject of public consultation		The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan	<p>The Consultee considers the following plans to be important and relevant material considerations:</p> <p>Valued Landscape Assessment - Stour Valley Project Area</p> <p>Dedham Vale AONB Natural Beauty and Special Qualities and Perceived and Anticipated Risks</p> <p>Special Qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB Evaluation of Area Between Bures and Sudbury</p>	<p>Landscape Character Assessment Section 3 Landscape Character of Braintree District September 2006</p> <p>Braintree Protected Lanes Report July 2013</p>	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
							E	S	B & M	B
3.1.5	Development allocations – Layham Quarry	The Consultee agrees that allocations IL4 and NHL3 shown on Map B3 of the Suffolk Minerals and Local Plan in the location of Layham Quarry are shown in error and do not need to be considered by National Grid in the application for development consent for the scheme. Only allocation M5 at Layham quarry needs to be considered.		Agreed July 2021			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.6	Local Strategic Development Allocations	The Consultee is satisfied that the chosen route corridor for the scheme does not impact adversely on any strategic allocation identified in emerging or adopted Minerals and Waste local plans.	Agreed July 2021	Not yet agreed	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.7	Draft Statement of Common Ground	The Consultee agreed to meet with National Grid on a quarterly basis to progress the draft SoCG.	Agreed October 2021	Agreed October 2021	Agreed October 2021	Agreed October 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.8	Draft Statement of Common Ground	The Consultee did not make any comments on the first draft issue of the SoCG.		Agreed August 2021			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.9	Draft Statement of Common Ground	Individual SoCG meetings were held week commencing 13 December 2021 with the individual Host Authorities. General feedback received during the sessions included the suggestion from Suffolk County Council that the Host Authorities sign a single joined-up SoCG. Subsequently, all Host Authorities agreed at the meeting held on the 6 April 2022 to	Agreed at Host Authority Update Meeting 6 April 2022	Agreed at Host Authority Update Meeting 6 April 2022	Agreed at Host Authority Update Meeting 6 April 2022	Agreed at Host Authority Update Meeting 6 April 2022	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)				
		merge the SoCG, although ensure the SoCG has space to record if there is any divergence between the parties on any topic.									
3.1.10	Response to statutory consultation	The Consultee gave their full opinion and comments regarding the scheme in their statutory consultation response and is satisfied that National Grid has listened to their response.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.1.11	Essex Place Services (EPS)	The Consultee endorses the specialist comments of EPS (their instructed Consultants) in their responses to the statutory consultation and general advice on the scheme. EPS have been instructed to provide a response to archaeology, ecology, landscape and built heritage aspects.	Essex note and endorse the comments made on Heritage Assets Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	SCC specifically adopts those contributions in relation to archaeology and generally endorses the EPS contributions on other matters. Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	EPS have been instructed to provide a response to ecology, landscape and built heritage aspects. Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	EPS have been instructed to provide a response to archaeology, ecology, landscape and built heritage aspects. Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.1.12	Statement of Community Consultation	The Consultee agrees with the proposed approach to statutory consultation as set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and agrees that the statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with the SoCC.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.1.13	Bramford Substation Permitted Development	Following feedback from B&MSDC and SCC given in response to the targeted consultation, National Grid have made the decision to include the works to tie the project into Bramford Substation in the authorised development pursuant		Agreed at the SoCG progress meeting held on 2 February 2023	Agreed at the SoCG progress meeting held on 2 February 2023		E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
		to the DCO. It is no longer the intention of National Grid to carry out these works under the General Permitted Development Order.								
3.1.14	Targeted Consultation	The Consultee agrees with the method and approach set out in respect to the targeted consultation and was communicated with as to the extension to the consultation to take account of the National mourning period. Subsequently, the Consultee has no objection to the consultation events continuing.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.15	Draft DCO	The Consultee has been supplied with a draft version of the DCO (Including Explanatory Memorandum and Requirements) in August 2022 and has been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.1.16	Response to targeted consultation	The Consultee gave their full opinion and comments regarding the scheme in their targeted consultation.	Agreed	The Consultee (SCC Highways) consider it useful to record the duration of meetings and list the information that was provided prior to or after the meetings. SCC consider that only limited information was provided prior to meetings and therefore responses were	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)
				therefore also limited and not full as stated at 3.1.16			
3.2	Need and Alternatives						
3.2.1	Need case for the Scheme	The Consultee agrees with the need case for the scheme as set out in Section 1.2 of the EIA Scoping Report (May 2021) which was subsequently updated in the PEIR. It is the Government's objective to deliver 50 Gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind connected to the electricity transmission network by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Approximately 60% of this offshore wind energy is due to come ashore along the East Coast. The Scheme is therefore required to support the onshore connection of new generation schemes coming forward in East Anglia. The Consultee also understands that the need to reinforce the network between Bramford and Twinstead has been identified as 'critical' in all future energy scenarios in the 2020, 2021 and 2022 editions of the Network Options Assessment (NOA) report and concludes that the reinforcement needs to be in place by Autumn 2028.	Agreed July 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	Agreed July 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	Agreed July 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	Agreed July 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.2.2	Strategic Options	The Consultee agrees with the process, methodology and outcome of the strategic options appraisal presented in the Bramford to Twinstead Project	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
		Development Options Report (March 2021).								
3.2.3	Route Corridor	The Consultee agrees that chosen Corridor 2 as detailed in the Bramford to Twinstead Project Development Options Report (March 2021) is a suitable route corridor. The corridor was namely selected as it generally follows the existing 132kV overhead line.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.2.4	Grid Supply Point (GSP) off the A131	The Consultee agrees with the proposed location for the GSP off the A131 in the county of Essex and planning permission has been granted pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act for the GSP substation	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.2.5	Climate Change Emergency	The Consultee declared a Climate Change Emergency in July 2019. The draft Braintree District Council Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 2030 acknowledges that as much energy as possible needs to be derived from renewable sources (pg.11). The Consultee agrees that the scheme will contribute to the objectives of this strategy and towards addressing the Climate Change Emergency declared by the Consultee, by facilitating the transmission of electricity from renewable sources.				Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.2.6	Climate Change Emergency	The Consultees declared a Climate Change Emergency in March 2019 as members of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. In this respect, the Consultees agree that the scheme		Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021		E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)				
		will contribute towards addressing the Climate Change Emergency declared by the Consultees, by facilitating the transmission of electricity from renewable sources.									
3.2.7	Butler's Wood Grid Supply Point (GSP)	The Consultee considers the proposed Butler's Wood GSP off the A131 acceptable in principle and in accordance with local and national planning policy, as per their written pre-application advice dated, 5 October 2021. However, this does not prejudice the decision of the Planning Committee or amount to predetermination of the TCPA planning application.				Agreed following the grant of planning permission for the GSP substation.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.2.8	Butler's Wood Grid Supply Point (GSP)	The Consultee agrees that given the proposed location of the GSP, it is unlikely to cause a detrimental impact on neighbouring amenity. However, this does not prejudice the decision of the Planning Committee or amount to predetermination of the TCPA planning application.				Agreed following the grant of planning permission for the GSP substation.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.2.9	Butler's Wood Grid Supply Point (GSP)	The Consultee agrees that the proposed enhancement planting, which would reconnect Butlers Wood and Waldegrave Wood, is supported subject to local native species and a review of historic field patterns.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation			Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.2.10	Design	Section D Polstead: Consultee supports this new location for the CSE compound.		Position is reserved on this.			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)
3.2.11	Design	Section E: Dedham Vale AONB: Consultee supports the undergrounding proposed in the AONB and do not contest the judgements made on visual effects from CSE compounds based upon the information provided in the PEIR.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.2.12	Design	Section G: Stour Valley: Consultee supports the undergrounding proposed in the Stour Valley and do not contest the judgements made on visual effects from CSE compounds, based upon the information provided in the PEIR.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.2.13	Design – Hintlesham Woods	As of December 2022, National Grid made the decision to stop works on Hintlesham Woods Option 2 and consequently remove it from all DCO documentation. This means that Option 1 will be the sole option taken forward. This decision was effectively communicated to the Host Authorities during December of 2022.	Agreed at the SoCG progress meeting held on 2 February 2023	Agreed at the SoCG progress meeting held on 2 February 2023	Agreed at the SoCG progress meeting held on 2 February 2023	Agreed at the SoCG progress meeting held on 2 February 2023	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.2.14	Design	Consultee does not object to the locations of the four CSE compounds.	Provisionally agreed subject to seeing the full application at submission.	Provisionally agreed subject to seeing the full application at submission.	Object to location of Dedham East CSE compound as raised in their statutory consultation and targeted consultation responses.	Provisionally agreed subject to seeing the full application at submission.	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.3	Approach and Method						

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)
3.3.1	EIA Approach and Method	The Consultee agrees with the general EIA approach and method set out in Section 5 of the EIA Scoping Report, aside from the fact Skills and Tourism was scoped out.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021, although the Consultee notes that the traffic and transport survey methodology is still under discussion.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C S C B & M S D C B D C
3.4	Landscape and Visual						
3.4.1	Assessment Methodology	The Consultee agrees with the methodology for the landscape and visual assessment as set out in the EIA Scoping report and then updated for the PEIR, including the approach used in preparing the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). This includes the inclusion of the Technical Guidance Note 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (May 2021) as set out in the PEIR.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.4.2	Viewpoint locations	The Consultee attended meetings with National Grid to discuss viewpoint locations and through that process, agrees with the viewpoint locations that will inform the landscape and visual chapter of the ES.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.4.3	Photomontages	The Consultee attended meetings with National Grid to discuss photomontage locations and through that process, agrees with the photomontage locations that will inform the landscape and visual chapter of the ES.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.4.4	Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding	The Consultee has been supplied with a draft copy of the AONB Setting Study on 11 October 2022	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C S C C B & M B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)				
	Natural Beauty (AONB) Setting Study	and has been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the submission of the application for development consent								S D C	
3.5	Biodiversity										
3.5.1	Assessment Methodology	The Consultee agrees with the methodology and survey scope for the biodiversity assessment, specifically in relation to the consideration of impacts on County level sites. The approach to the biodiversity surveys will be agreed with Natural England and provided to the Consultee for information.	Agreed July 2021 and subsequently reaffirmed in their response to Statutory Consultation.	Agreed July 2021 and subsequently reaffirmed in their response to Statutory Consultation.	Agreed July 2021 and subsequently reaffirmed in their response to Statutory Consultation.	Agreed July 2021 and subsequently reaffirmed in their response to Statutory Consultation.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.5.2	Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction	The Consultee agrees the intention of providing a full BS 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' survey to identify trees with amenity value and veteran trees so that they can be avoided where practicable. This will also inform root protection areas and mitigation planting proposals as described in the LEMP.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation				E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.5.3	Great crested newt (GCN)	The Consultees agree with the confirmation that National Grid has agreed with Natural England to apply to District Level Licensing for GCN instead of surveys.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.5.4	Dormouse Methodology	The Consultees agrees the inclusion of LAs and Essex & Suffolk Dormouse Group in	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)				
		consultation on survey in respect to dormouse.									
3.5.5	Hintlesham Woods Survey Scope	The Consultee agrees with the methodology and survey scope in respect to Hintlesham Woods options.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.5.6	Species survey results	The Consultee agrees that Suffolk Biological Information Service (SBIS) will be provided with all species survey results at an appropriate time post submission of the application for development consent.		Agreed			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.6	Historic Environment										
3.6.1	Historic Environment SoCG	Historic environment to come back under the Host Authority SoCG. Richard Havis (Essex County Council Archaeology) is representing the Host Authorities (apart from SCC) on Cultural Heritage matters but will not own his own SOCG.	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.6.2	Assessment Methodology	The Consultee agrees with the methodology for the historic environment as set out in the EIA Scoping Report and subsequently updated in the PEIR.	Agreed 3 September 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	Agreed September 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	Agreed September 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	Agreed September 2021 and agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.6.3	Impacts to Built Heritage	The Consultee agrees that no direct impact is anticipated to identified built heritage assets, with no works occurring to their fabric.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation via the comments of EPS.	The Consultee disagrees that there no impacts to built heritage assets as a result of the current proposals which do	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation via the comments of EPS.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation via the comments of EPS.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
				not adequately address impacts upon the setting of listed buildings such as Hintlesham Hall and farmsteads impacted by the proposed routeing to the west of Hintlesham Woods.						
3.6.4	Outline Written Scheme of Investigation	The Consultees have been supplied with a draft version of the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation on 21 September 2022 and has been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed		Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.6.5	Archaeological investigation and assessment of underground cable route around Alphamstone	An appropriate mitigation strategy will be agreed with the Consultee prior to submission of an application for development consent.	Agreed			Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.7	Water Environment									
3.7.1	Assessment Methodology	The Consultees agree with the methodology for the water assessment as set out in the EIA Scoping report and subsequently updated in the PEIR.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.7.2	Assessment Methodology	The Consultees agree with the study area defined for the Water Environment assessment as set	Agreed (Water Thematic Meetings)	Agreed (Water Thematic Meetings)			E C C	S C C	B & M	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)				
		out in the EIA Scoping report and reiterated in the PEIR.								S D C	
3.7.3	Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	Consultees have been supplied with a copy of the draft FRA on 26 October 2022 and have been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.7.4	Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	Consultees agree with the content of the FRA subject to required minor updates to the FRA as highlighted in the Consultee's review of the FRA.	Agreed October 2022	Agreed October 2022			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.8	Traffic and Transport										
3.8.1	Assessment Methodology	The Consultees agree with the methodology for the baseline traffic survey counts being done in May as set out in the email sent.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.8.2	Baseline Surveys	The Consultees agree with the proposed scope of the baseline surveys including Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) access study and traffic surveys as set out in the PEIR.	Agreed	Agreed. Although the Consultee notes that the traffic and transport survey methodology is still under discussion.			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	
3.8.3	Assessment Methodology	The Consultees agree with the proposed methodology to use the LA112 guidance with the following amendments; not applying a 500m threshold for the study area but will be using the affected road network and the affected Public Right of Way network; in respect to severance thresholds - the ES		SCC do not agree with the use of LA 112 without a clearer understanding of the thresholds that are being applied, and how those thresholds relate to			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C	

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
		Chapter will refer back to the withdrawn DMRB guidance (which was aligned with GEART and the Manual for Environmental Assessment) to fill the gap in LA112. The assessment will look at severance of walkers, cyclists and horse riders (WCH) on the highway caused by an increase in construction traffic; non-motorised vehicles and WCH amenity/fear and intimidation topics will be included within the assessment and the assessment will consider proportional change in total traffic and they will be split out between HGVs and other traffic.		those set out in GEART. SCC also have not seen nor agreed any link sensitivities that was requested at the meeting in June 2022. The use of LA 112 is so far unique to the non-highway NSIPs SCC have been engaging on in the broader area.						
3.8.4	Permit Schemes	The Consultee has provided National Grid with their Permitting Schemes for considerations in inclusion in the draft DCO.	Agreed	Agreed			E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.9	Air Quality									
3.9.1	Assessment Methodology	The Consultee agrees with the methodology for the air quality environment assessment as set out in the EIA Scoping report and subsequently updated in the PEIR.			Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.10	Noise and Vibration									
3.10.1	Assessment Methodology	The Consultee agrees with the methodology for the noise and vibration environment assessment as set out in the EIA Scoping report and subsequently updated in the PEIR.			Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.11	Geology and Hydrogeology									

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
							E	S	B & M	B
3.11.1	Minerals Resource Assessment	The Consultee agrees that given the nature and extent of the proposed development, it is not considered necessary for an MRA to be informed by borehole logs. The role of the MRA in this instance would be to assess the 'Restriction of access to mineral reserves' and take 'into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place' as requested through the ES by the Planning Inspectorate and NPS EN-1 respectively.	Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation.				E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.11.2	Effects on human health from ground contamination and effects on private water supplies (PWS).	The Consultee agrees with the methodology for effects on human health from ground contamination and effects on private water supplies (PWS) environmental assessment as set out in the in the PEIR.			Agreed	Provisionally agreed subject to the provision of further details as discussed in the consultees statutory consultation response.	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C
3.12	Cumulative Effects									
3.12.1	Long list of development to inform the Preliminary Environmental Information report	The EIA Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate in June 2021 agrees that a 50km study area for NSIP and a 10km study area for other major development is appropriate to identify the long list of development to inform the Cumulative Effects Assessment. This excludes the urban area of Ipswich and developments south of the A12. On this basis, National Grid and the Consultee have	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	B&MSDC considered that the Cumulative Effects Assessment should identify a study area of 50km for other major development, as discussed at the meeting held 15 December 2021. Although, accept the methodology	Agreed July 2021	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)
		agreed the long list of development that will be used to inform the PEIR.			was approved by the Planning Inspectorate.		
3.12.2	Long List of Development	The Consultee agrees to review and agree updates to the long list of developments collated by National Grid on a quarterly basis to inform the Cumulative Effects Assessment.	ECC delegated the checking of the Long List to Braintree, although did check the list of NSIPs (agreed at meeting with ECC on 15 December 2021).	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.12.3	NSIP applications to be included in the Long List	The Consultee (SCC) consider that the following NSIPs should be added to the Long List: - A14/A14, Copdock Interchange	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13	Environmental Management and Mitigation						
3.13.1	Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	The Consultees agree with the content of the Outline CoCP provided as Appendix 4.1 to the Scoping Report (May 2021) and which was subsequently updated in the PEIR.	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	Agreed July 2021	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.2	Draft Electric Magnetic Fields Report	The Consultees have been supplied with a draft version of the Electric Magnetic Fields (EMF) Compliance Report in August 2022 and has been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.3	Draft Electric Magnetic Fields Report	Consultee agrees with the conclusions of the draft EMF report.		No comments to make as confirmed in December 2022.	No comments to make as confirmed in December 2022.	Unable to verify conclusions owing to no in-house	E C C S C C B & M B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)
						expertise on EMF matters (confirmed January 2023).	S D C
3.13.4	Draft Material and Waste Management Plan (MWMP)	The Consultees have been supplied with a draft version of the MWMP in November 2022 and has been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed			E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.5	Draft Material and Waste Management Plan (MWMP)	Consultees agree with the methodology, commitments and measures set out in the MWMP.	Agreed December 2022	Agreed January 2023			E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.6	Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) inc. Draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	The Consultees have been supplied with a draft version of the CEMP inc. CoCP on 25 November 2022 and have been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.7	Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) inc. Draft Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	The Consultees agree with the methodology, commitments and measures set out in the draft CEMP and CoCP.	Agreed December 2022	Agreed January 2023	Agreed January 2023	Further information sought on management of potential noise and vibration from 3.5km haul road.	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.8	Draft Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	The Consultees have been supplied with a draft version of the LEMP on 1 December 2022 and have been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)
		submission of the application for development consent.					
3.13.9	Draft Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	The Consultees agree with the methodology, commitments and measures set out in the draft LEMP.	Agreed December 2022	Agreed January 2023	Agreed January 2023	Agreed January 2023	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.10	Draft Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	The Consultees have been supplied with a draft version of the CTMP on 29 November 2022 and have been given the opportunity to provide comments on the draft document ahead of the submission of the application for development consent.	Agreed	Agreed			E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.13.11	Draft Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	The Consultees agree with the methodology, commitments and measures set out in the draft CTMP subject to minor amendments.	Agreed	The Consultee considers that the traffic and transport survey methodology is still under discussion so this will have a consequential impact on the methodology in the CTMP. Nor would the Consultee agree with the commitments and measures set out in the CTMP until such time they have seen and assessed the full application.		Further information sought on management of potential noise and vibration from 3.5km haul road.	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.14	Discharge of Requirements						
3.14.1	Authority responsible for	In respect to the Discharge of Requirements it was agreed by the	Agreed at Host Authority Update	Agreed at Host Authority Update	Agreed at Host Authority Update	Agreed at Host Authority Update	E C C S C C B & M B D

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	discharging requirements	Consultees that County matters would be discharged by the Counties and District matters would be discharged by the Districts. Broadly speaking, County Councils would cover minerals and waste, highways, PRow, drainage and archaeology. Where there are cross-boundary Discharge of Requirements, the relevant Districts/Counties would be consulted and both responsible for the discharging of the requirement in their jurisdiction (partial discharge). It was also agreed that the Districts would remain the responsible enforcing authority.	Meeting 6 April 2022	Meeting 6 April 2022	Meeting 6 April 2022	Meeting 6 April 2022	C C S D C C
3.15	Socioeconomics						
3.15.1	Assessment	In respect to socioeconomics the parties note that it was scoped out in respect to the Screening Opinion adopted by the Planning Inspectorate but continue to discuss the matter as a corporate social responsibility matter.	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	Agreed December 2021 (Host Authority SoCG Calls)	E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C
3.16	Public Health						
3.16.1	Assessment	The Consultee agrees with National Grid in respect to providing evidence of EMF compliance, although notes that Health and Wellbeing and EMF, has been scoped out of the EIA.	The Consultee has noted that Health and Wellbeing (with a particular reference to EMF, has been scoped out, There is no principal objection in		Agreed in their written response to the Statutory Consultation and are satisfied with the conclusions of the preliminary assessment that no significant impacts are likely when considering		E C C S C C B & M S D C B D C

ID	Matter	Agreed position	Essex County Council	Suffolk County Council	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Braintree District Council	All Parties Agreed (RAG Rating)			
			principle to this having been scoped out, but the Consultee would reserve judgement to see the separate evidence document which is to be submitted with the DCO.		duration of exposure.					
3.17	Draft Development Consent Order									
3.17.1	Draft DCO	The Consultee has been provided with a copy of the draft DCO on 5 August 2022 and has been given the opportunity to comment.	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed	E C C	S C C	B & M S D C	B D C

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4. Matters Not Agreed

Table 4.1 – Matters not agreed

SoCG ID	Matter	The Consultee position	National Grid position
4.1 Landscape and Visual			
4.1.1	Stour Valley Project Area (SVPA)	<i>The Consultee (B&MSDC) considers that sensitivity testing against the SVPA as a landscape designation should be included in the ES given that the proposed cable alignment lies within the SVPA and this area has been identified as having a particular value in the setting of Dedham Vale AONB.</i>	<i>As the SVPA has no legal status as a landscape designation, the ES will only assess the Stour Valley Special Landscape Area and setting of the Dedham Vale AONB.</i>
4.1.2	Cumulative Landscape Effects around Bramford	<i>The Consultee (SCC) has said that a full wirescape design review in the Bramford area is essential. This should involve the Project, the East Anglia Green project and the UKPN 132kV network in the area to identify further options for mitigation and infrastructure reduction to minimise adverse impacts on the host communities.</i>	<i>A full wirescape design review cannot be completed as other projects in the area are not at a point where designs can be provided to enable this to be done.</i>
4.2 Historic Environment			
4.2.1	Hintlesham Hall	<i>The Consultee (SCC/B&MSDC) considers that the mitigation strategy in respect to Hintlesham Hall outlined in document Project Development Options Report, January 2022 should be ‘pushed further’, for example seeking to reinstate more of the parkland surrounding Hintlesham Hall, be that via a change of use of the field immediately opposite the hall or potential replanting of the now segmented avenue of trees that once led west from the Hall.</i>	<i>Position TBC</i>
4.3 Socioeconomics			
4.3.1	Assessment Methodology	<i>In respect to socioeconomics, the parties note that it was scoped out in respect to the Screening Opinion adopted by the Planning Inspectorate. However, the Consultees object to the suggestion that impacts upon skills and tourism and effects on local businesses, jobs and employment during construction, can be screened out from the EIA. SCC also wishes to fully understand the methodology behind National Grid’s updated baseline which still confirms no significant effects. However, without the understanding, or details on workforce numbers, SCC cannot support the decision to scope out socioeconomic effects. This includes effects on local businesses, jobs and employment during construction.</i>	<i>National Grid have updated the baseline which still confirms that there are no significant adverse effects.</i>

4.4 Cumulative Effects

4.4.1	Study Area	<p><i>The Consultee (SCC) acknowledges the EIA Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate in June 2021 agreed that a 50km study area for NSIP and a 10km study area for other major development was appropriate to identify the long list of development to inform the Cumulative Effects Assessment. This excludes the urban area of Ipswich and developments south of the A12. However the Consultee (SCC) maintains that for consideration of workforce availability and subsequent cumulative labour market impact as well as any assessment of potential supply chain that would identify local supply for construction and operation; this should be conducted over a wider geographical area – inclusive of Ipswich and other areas of Suffolk where a significant supply chain supporting other infrastructure builds is located.</i></p>	<p><i>National Grid notes the view of the Consultee. The study area for the Cumulative Effects Assessment is as per that agreed in the EIA Scoping Opinion.</i></p>
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5. Matters Under Discussion

Table 5.1 – Matters under discussion

SoCG ID	Matter	The Consultee position	National Grid position
5.1	Biodiversity		
5.1.1	Biodiversity Net Gain	The BNG methodology has yet to be discussed and agreed with the Consultee (SCC).	The BNG calculation uses the Defra 3.1 metric which is considered a suitable tool for calculating habitat loss, mitigation and a 10% biodiversity net gain on the project. This approach is in the process of being agreed with Natural England. National Grid's approach to BNG has been discussed with the Consultees at the BNG workshop held in November 2021 and at a number of the ecology thematic meetings listed in Table 2.1. No concerns were raised by the Consultee (SCC) at these meetings. It is therefore considered this matter should be moved to Table 3.1.
5.2	Historic Environment		
5.2.1	Archaeological Framework Strategy	Whilst the Consultees provisionally agree with the Archaeological Framework Strategy for the scope of pre-Development Consent Order (DCO) archaeological desk based and field surveys and the proposed outline scope for post DCO field surveys and archaeological mitigation strategy, this is subject to having sight of the final version and the integration of previous comments made by the Consultees into the final version.	The Consultee will not have sight of the final Archaeological Framework Strategy prior to submission of the DCO application. It is therefore expected this matter will be agreed in a future iteration of this SoCG post submission of the DCO application.
5.2.2	Outline Scheme of Investigation (OSWI) Written of	Where relevant, the Consultees have provided comments on the draft Outline Written Scheme of Investigation and have requested minor updates. The Consultees cannot agree to the content of the OSWI until they have had sight of the final version.	The Consultee will not have sight of the final OSWI prior to submission of the DCO application. It is therefore expected this matter will be agreed in a future iteration of this SoCG post submission of the DCO application.
5.2.3	Interim Trial Trench Evaluation Report	Consultee has not yet been supplied with an interim version of the Trial Trench Evaluation Report.	The Consultee will not have sign of the Trial Trench Evaluation Report prior to submission of the DCO application. It is therefore expected this matter will be agreed in a future iteration of this SoCG post submission of the DCO application.
5.3	Noise and Vibration		
5.3.1	Noise and Vibration from	The Consultee (BDC) seeks information on the potential noise and vibration	Position TBC

	<i>3.5km Haul Road (design change, September 2022)</i>	<i>impact, at existing noise sensitive receptors, of vehicles travelling on the proposed haul road.</i>	
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6. Approvals

Signed

On Behalf of

Name

Position

Date

Signed

On Behalf of

Name

Position

Date

Reference List

Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) *Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent*. March 2015 (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015)

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