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# Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 6: Environmental Information

Document 6.3.15.1: ES Appendix 15.1 – Cumulative Effects Baseline

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (here on referred to as National Grid) is making an application for development consent to reinforce the transmission network between Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement ('the project') would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km (18 miles), the majority of which would follow the general alignment of the existing overhead line network.
- 1.1.2 This appendix has been produced to support the application for development consent and the accompanying Environmental Statement (ES) under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.3 As set out in ES Appendix 5.1: Scope of the Assessment (**application document 6.3.5.1**), the Planning Inspectorate recommended that updated baseline information should be included within the ES for socio-economics, recreation and tourism, and health and wellbeing. This appendix presents the updated baseline information for these topics to inform the baseline environment for the intra-project and inter-project cumulative effects assessment (CEA), including cross references to other chapters as appropriate. National Grid has also submitted a Socio-economics and Tourism Report (**application document 5.9**) which confirms that there are no likely significant effects on socio-economics and tourism.
- 1.1.4 The structure of this appendix is as follows:
- Section 2: Health and Wellbeing Signposting to Other Chapters: This section summarises where health matters are already considered within other chapters, to support the conclusion that a separate health chapter is not required;
  - Section 3: Existing Baseline: This section presents the updated baseline information that has been collected based on the comments in the Scoping Opinion (**application document 6.6**) or as a result of more recent data being available; and
  - Section 4: Conclusion: This section concludes that updated baseline information for socio-economics, recreation and tourism have been presented and have been used to inform the intra-project and inter-project cumulative effects assessments.

## 2. Health and Wellbeing Signposting to Other Chapters

- 2.1.1 The Scoping Report (**application document 6.5.1**) included a chapter on health and wellbeing. This concluded that in relation to general health and wellbeing, the effects are related to contributory factors already considered by other environmental topics of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- 2.1.2 No likely significant effects were identified during operation, and this was proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. The Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) agreed with this conclusion (see ES Appendix 5.1: Scope of the Assessment (**application document 6.3.5.1**)).
- 2.1.3 Many of the effects on health and wellbeing relating to construction can be found in the individual environmental topic chapters within the ES, for example ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (**application document 6.2.13**) and ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (**application document 6.2.14**). Following discussions with the relevant planning authorities, this appendix includes a signpost to where health and wellbeing matters are considered in the relevant chapters. This is included in Table 2.1.
- 2.1.4 Further detail and baseline information on each topic is provided in the relevant chapter in the ES. Where there is a potential intra-project effect (i.e. where a receptor is potentially affected by more than one source of direct environmental impact resulting from the project) during construction, this is considered as part of the CEA in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (**application document 6.2.15**). Section 3.4 of this appendix establishes the health baseline for the purposes of the CEA.

Table 2.1 – ES Chapters that Link to Health and Wellbeing

ES Chapter	Link to Health and Wellbeing	Project Phase
Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology ( <b>application document 6.2.10</b> )	The project may pass through areas of land that have contaminants present. In the absence of the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), the project has the potential to mobilise these contaminants through excavation works and leaks or spillages during construction could contaminate soils and watercourses. Pollutants in soil and watercourses could affect water supplies, or people farming the land which could affect health. ES Chapter 10 presents the likely significant effects of contaminated land on human health and other receptors. Good practice measures to reduce the potential for contamination are outlined in the CEMP ( <b>application document 7.5</b> ) and the CoCP ( <b>application document 7.5.1</b> ).	Construction
Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport ( <b>application document 6.2.12</b> )	Construction of the project will generate additional traffic movements during the construction phase, which could lead to a higher risk of accidents on the local road network. The project may also temporarily close or divert footpaths, which could affect people's health due to reduced access for recreation. ES Chapter 12 ( <b>application document 6.2.12</b> ) and the Transport Assessment ( <b>application document 5.7</b> ) present the proposed construction routes and the likely significant effects on the transport network. These documents list the public rights of way	Construction

ES Chapter	Link to Health and Wellbeing	Project Phase
Chapter 13: Air Quality ( <b>application document 6.2.13</b> )	<p>(PRoW) affected and any measures proposed to maintain recreation access during construction.</p> <p>Particulate matter, mainly generated from construction activities, can adversely affect human health in varying degrees depending on its size, composition, origin and the length of exposure. Dust emissions can irritate the eyes and aggravate pre-existing respiratory problems, such as asthma.</p> <p>A dust risk assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. The dust risk assessment can be found in ES Appendix 13.1 (<b>application document 6.3.13.1</b>). Exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is associated with exacerbation of pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma, with long term exposure and reduced lung function. ES Chapter 13 (<b>application document 6.2.13</b>) presents the likely significant effects in relation to air quality including the potential for elevation of NO<sub>2</sub>.</p>	Construction
Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration ( <b>application document 6.2.14</b> )	<p>Elevated environmental noise has the potential to cause health impacts such as hearing impairment, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, annoyance, and sleep disturbance. ES Chapter 14 (<b>application document 6.2.14</b>) presents the assessment of likely significant effects in relation to noise.</p>	Construction
Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment ( <b>application document 6.2.15</b> )	<p>Local residents and businesses may experience cumulative effects on their health due to increased noise and reduced air quality during construction, which could affect physical health. There could also be increases in stress and anxiety as a result of disruption during construction. ES Chapter 15 (<b>application document 6.2.15</b>) sets out the assessment of the potential cumulative effects.</p>	Construction

# 3. Existing Baseline

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section sets out the updated baseline data for socio-economics, recreation and tourism and health and wellbeing based on both the feedback on the comments in the Scoping Opinion (**application document 6.6**) and as a result of more recent data being available.

## 3.2 Study Area

3.2.1 The baseline has been considered at different spatial levels depending on the aspect. The Order Limits are considered to be the extent at which direct effects of the project on socio-economic, recreation and tourism and health receptors are likely to occur. The wider study area encompasses the Order Limits and a further 2km extent around this. This is considered to be a suitable extent for gathering baseline data and is also used to identify the wider context of the baseline environment.

3.2.2 The baseline review of potential construction workers' accommodation is considered at a district/county level, as the workers are likely to seek accommodation over a wider area to benefit from wider market availability and proximity to the wider transport network, including the A12 and A14.

3.2.3 The study area crosses the counties of Essex and Suffolk and the local planning authorities of Mid Suffolk, Babergh and Braintree districts. Baseline data are referenced at a national, regional, county, district and in some cases a ward level, where the data are available and provide context to the existing baseline environment. Table 3.1 outlines the different scales of data sources that have been used to support the assessment.

Table 3.1 – Data Collection Scales

Geographical Scale	Description
Nation	The project is located within England. National data sources have been used to identify a national average against which to compare local data. Where data are not available for England, data for the UK have been referenced.
Region	The project is located within the East of England. Regional data sources have been used to identify a regional average against which to compare local data.
County	The project is located within the counties of Essex and Suffolk. County data sources have been used to identify a sub-regional average against which to compare local data.
District	The project is located within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts (Suffolk), and Braintree district (Essex). District data have been used where data are not available at ward level.
Ward	The following wards are located within the wider study area: Blakenham; Bramford; Assington; Box Vale; Brett Vale; Bures St Mary and Nayland; Copdock and Washbrook; Great Cornard; Hadleigh North; Hadleigh South; South East Cosford; Sproughton and Pinewood; Gosfield and Greenstead Green; Hedingham; Stour Valley South; and The Colnes. Limited data is available at this scale.
Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA)	Small areas designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. There are approximately 20 LSOA within the wider study area. Limited data is available at this scale.

3.2.4 Public Rights of Way and cycle routes are considered within ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (**application document 6.2.12**) and the Transport Assessment (**application document 5.7**) and are not duplicated within this baseline appendix.

### 3.3 Data Sources

3.3.1 The baseline assessment has been informed by a desk study which has drawn on the following key information sources:

- Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 Census data (ONS, 2022a and Nomis, 2023a; 2023b; 2023c), where available;
- ONS annual population, business and employment surveys (ONS, 2022b; 2022c; 2022d; 2022e) and job density data (Nomis, 2023d);
- Indices of Deprivation data (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2019);
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Public Health Profiles (2023a);
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Local Health Report (2023b);
- Suffolk Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Refresh 2019–2022 (Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, 2019);
- Suffolk 2015 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Suffolk County Council, 2013);
- Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018–2022 (Essex County Council, 2018);
- District council business, tourism and recreation plans and resources (Braintree, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council websites, accessed 2022);
- Visitor economy and tourism reports (Destination Research, 2019a; 2019b; 2020a; 2020b);
- Accommodation stock audits, bedspace occupancy data and other accommodation surveys (White Young Green, 2017; Visit England, 2019 and 2022; VisitEngland and VisitBritain websites);
- Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley Project Management Plan (2021) and State of the AONB Report (LUC, 2019); and
- Online mapping applications including Google Maps, Google Earth, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) MAGIC Map, AddressBase Plus mapping (various, accessed 2023).

3.3.2 In some cases, baseline data are not available at a local (e.g. ward) level; therefore, the assessment is limited by the granularity of the data available, with most data available for the districts and counties within the wider study area. In addition, some data are not updated or recorded regularly. The most recent data available have been sourced to establish the baseline and the data are considered to be sufficient for the CEA.



## 3.4 Baseline Environment

- 3.4.1 This section summarises the current baseline regarding the health and socio-economic characteristics of the wider study area and describes features of tourism or recreational value, with a focus on sites within the wider study area.
- 3.4.2 It is recognised that the description of baseline conditions does not list all socio-economic and land uses (including tourist and recreation features) within the study area exhaustively. However, the description includes features identified from the review of third-party data and is considered representative of the socio-economic, tourism and recreation conditions in the area for the CEA.

### Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

#### Characteristics of the Population

- 3.4.3 Table 3.2 provides population and population density (the number of usual residents per square kilometre) data at a national, regional and sub-regional (county, district and ward) level. The table includes the districts and wards located within the wider study area. The Order Limits cross all wards except: Blakenham; Box Vale; Great Cornard; Hadleigh North; Sproughton and Pinewood; South East Cosford; and Hedingham.

Table 3.2 – Population and Population Density\*

Geographical Area	Population	Population Density
England	56,489,800	433.5
East of England (Region)	6,334,500	331.4
Suffolk (County)	760,300	200.2
Mid Suffolk (District)	102,700	117.9
Blakenham (Ward)	3,571	196.0
Bramford (Ward)	2,646	230.2
Babergh (District)	92,300	155.5
Assington (Ward)	2,656	77.4
Box Vale (Ward)	2,872	72.8
Brett Vale (Ward)	3,147	63.5
Bures St Mary and Nayland (Ward)	2,865	76.2
Copdock and Washbrook (Ward)	3,233	70.1
Great Cornard (Ward)	9,948	1,532.1
Hadleigh North (Ward)	2,825	383.6
Hadleigh South (Ward)	5,933	599.7
South East Cosford (Ward)	2,663	51.2
Sproughton and Pinewood (Ward)	5,843	587.3

Geographical Area	Population	Population Density
<b>Essex (County)</b>	1,503,300	434.7
<u>Braintree (District)</u>	155,200	253.8
Gosfield and Greenstead Green (Ward)	2,747	62.8
Hedingham (Ward)	6,017	191.0
Stour Valley South (Ward)	3,021	51.3
The Colnes (Ward)	6,003	165.5

\*Population statistics from 2021 Census data. Sources: National, regional and district statistics (ONS, 2022a); Ward statistics (Nomis, 2023a). Population density statistics from 2021 Census data (Nomis, 2023b).

3.4.4 In 2021, the total population for the wards listed in Table 3.1 was estimated to be 65,990 (Nomis, 2023a). The population density (Nomis, 2023b) for the Bramford ward (230.2) and Blakenham ward (196.0) is higher than the population density for Mid Suffolk District (117.9), however these values are in line with the population density of Suffolk County (200.2) and lower than the population densities of East of England (331.4) and England (433.5). Population densities of the wards of Babergh District identified within the wider study area are more variable. Most wards have a lower population density than Babergh District, however four wards have a significantly greater population density than Babergh District. These are Great Cornard (1,532.1), Hadleigh North (383.6), Hadleigh South (599.7) and Sproughton and Pinewood (587.3). Great Cornard ward has the largest population and greatest population density of the wards within the wider study area, with a population density significantly greater than the regional and national averages (1,532.1 for Great Cornard, compared with values of 331.4 for the East of England and 433.5 for England). The wards of Braintree District identified within the wider study area all have lower population densities than the averages for Braintree District (253.8) and Essex County (434.7).

3.4.5 The populations of the Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Braintree districts grew by approximately 5%, 6% and 6% respectively, between 2011 and 2021. This is slightly lower than population growth estimates for Essex (8%), the East of England (7%), and England (7%) for the same years, but slightly higher than Suffolk (4%) (ONS, 2022a).

3.4.6 The age distribution for the Essex county and the Braintree district is broadly in line with the regional and national age distributions (ONS, 2022a). Suffolk county and the Mid Suffolk and Babergh districts have an older population compared with the regional and national age distribution. 23.6% of residents in Suffolk are aged 65+, 4% and 5.2% higher than the 65+ age distribution in East of England (19.6%) and England (18.4%), respectively. The percentage of residents aged 65+ in Mid Suffolk and Babergh districts skews older, with over a quarter of the population in Mid Suffolk and Babergh districts aged 65+ (25.3% and 26.4%, respectively).

3.4.7 The proportion of male and female residents in the wards and districts is broadly in line with the regional and national distributions (approximately 49% male, 51% female) (Nomis, 2023c).

3.4.8 In summary, the baseline information on the population indicates that the wards within the wider study area are typically less densely populated than the district, county, regional and national averages, reflecting the rural setting of the wider study area. Those wards which are typically more densely populated are located close to large towns such as

Sudbury and Ipswich. In addition, the baseline information on the population indicates that the population growth and age distribution are similar to the UK as a whole, though there is a greater proportion of the population in Suffolk county and Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts aged 65+ compared to the national age distribution. This means that the population may be more vulnerable and dependent on access to local services than a population with a higher proportion of younger people, who could be more mobile or transient.

- 3.4.9 The Indices of Deprivation measure relative deprivation in small areas (LSOA), using deprivation indicators (domains) such as income, employment, health and disability, education, skills and training, barriers to housing and services, crime, and the living environment. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines information from the indicators in weighted proportions to measure the overall relative deprivation for an area. Areas are ranked from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area).
- 3.4.10 There are 20 LSOA within the wider study area, comprising two in Mid Suffolk (012A and 012B), 15 within Babergh (002C, 004A-E, 005A, 005C, 006A, 008E, 009A-D, 010G) and three within Braintree (002A-C). These are all ranked among the top 30% least deprived neighbourhoods, with the exception being Babergh 004A (Hadleigh), which is amongst the top 40% most deprived. Between 2015 and 2019, the relevant LSOAs either became marginally less deprived relative to other small areas (i.e. their rank value increased) or stayed the same (MHCLG, Indices of Deprivation Explorer, 2019).
- 3.4.11 At a district level, the three districts are among the top 40% least deprived districts (out of 317 districts nationally). Mid Suffolk is the least deprived district in the study area and is among the top 30% least deprived districts with an IMD score of 233 (out of 317). Braintree and Babergh are among the top 40% least deprived districts with IMD scores of 203 and 212 (out of 317), respectively.
- 3.4.12 The wider study area is less deprived than the UK average and therefore does not indicate that the communities are particularly vulnerable or 'at risk' based on the IMD.

### **Community Service Providers**

- 3.4.13 Community service providers include education facilities (such as colleges and schools) and community facilities (such as village halls). They also include health centres which are covered in Table 3.8. Other businesses are also considered to be community facilities because they provide an essential community service, for example a private day nursery or care home. No community facilities are identified within the Order Limits, but there are educational facilities within the wider study area. These include:
- Schools: Hintlesham and Chattisham voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School, Beaumont Community Primary School, Hadleigh Community Primary School, Hadleigh High School, St Mary's Church of England Primary School; and
  - Nurseries: Birch Farm Day Care Nursery.

### **Local Businesses, Jobs and Employment**

- 3.4.14 The wider study area is predominantly rural. Ipswich and the market town of Sudbury both lie outside of the wider study area, as they lie approximately 3km to the east and 4km to the north of the Order Limits respectively. Hadleigh is the largest settlement within the wider study area and lies approximately 1km north of the Order Limits. Other smaller



settlements within the wider study area include Burstall, Hintlesham, Upper and Lower Layham, Polstead, Leavenheath, Assington, and Twinstead.

- 3.4.15 The majority of the Order Limits are used for agriculture and farming. Other large employers within the wider study area include Boxford Farm and Copella fruit juice business. These own established orchards to the northeast of Leavenheath. Brett's Aggregates own Layham Quarry, which lies within Section C: Brett Valley and is an important business in terms of the local economy. Table 3.3 lists features within the Order Limits based on AddressBase Plus mapping data (Ordnance Survey, 2022).

**Table 3.3 – Property Types Within the Order Limits (Ordnance Survey, 2022)**

Property Type	Number	Notes
Commercial	1	Mobile phone mast
Community	0	None within the Order Limits
Development land	1	One development site (land on the south side of Clay Lane, Hadleigh)
Residential	1	Mobile home at The Barn, Hill Farm, Burstall
Tourism and recreation	0	None within the Order Limits

- 3.4.16 The proportion of economically active residents aged 16-64 in the Babergh district (73.2%) is lower than the Suffolk county (80.4%), regional (80.7%) and national (78.7%) averages (ONS, 2022b). Mid Suffolk district has a slightly higher proportion of economically active residents (81.3%) than the Suffolk county, regional and national averages. Braintree district has a significantly higher proportion of economically active residents at 84.8%, 3.6% higher than the Essex county average (81.2%) and 6.1% higher than the national average (ONS, 2022b).

- 3.4.17 Job density measures the ratio of total jobs in an area to the total resident population aged 16-64. The jobs density in Suffolk county (0.89) is higher than the regional (0.86) and national (0.87) averages. Essex county has a lower job density (0.78) than the regional and national averages. The job density in Mid Suffolk is the highest of the three districts, at 0.80, though this is lower than the Suffolk county average. Job density in Braintree (0.71) and Babergh (0.73) are both lower than the respective county, regional and national averages (Nomis, 2023d).

### **Construction Sector**

- 3.4.18 In 2022, the construction sector accounted for approximately 17% of businesses in the East of England region, 15% in Suffolk and 21% in Essex (ONS, 2022e). Also in 2022, the construction sector accounted for approximately 20% of businesses in the Braintree district (10% of all construction businesses in Essex and 2% of all businesses in Essex) and approximately 16% each of businesses in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts (32% of all construction businesses in Suffolk and 5% of all businesses in Suffolk). The construction sector is the largest sector in Braintree district and Essex county and Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts and Suffolk county by number of registered enterprises.
- 3.4.19 Table 3.4 summarises turnover in the construction sector at a national and regional level. At the national level (England), the construction sector had a turnover of £218 billion in 2020 (ONS, 2022c). Within this sector, turnover for civil engineering projects was

approximately £40.5 billion. Turnover for construction projects within the electricity and telecommunications markets is not available for England or East of England, however turnover at UK level was estimated at approximately £5.5 billion in 2020 (around 2% of the total turnover of the construction sector at UK level) (ONS, 2022d). At the regional level (East of England), turnover in the construction sector was approximately £32.3 billion in 2020, with civil engineering works accounting for £7.9 billion turnover. No information is available at the regional level for the turnover of construction projects in the electricity and telecommunications subsector. Between 2019 and 2020 turnover in the construction sector in the East of England fell by approximately 12.5%. This was likely due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, over the same period turnover for civil engineering projects in the East of England grew by approximately 27.9%.

**Table 3.4 – Turnover in the Construction Sector at National and Regional Level**

Sector/Sub-sector	Turnover at Geographical Level in 2020 (£ Billion)		
	UK	England	East of England
Construction	271.6	218.0	32.3
Civil engineering	51.3	40.5	7.9
Construction of utility projects for electricity and telecommunications	5.5	No data	No data

Source: ONS (2022c,d) Annual Business Survey 2020.

3.4.20 The capital cost of the project is anticipated to be approximately £499 million (based on April 2023 prices), which would be around £100 million per annum on average.

### **Tourism (General)**

3.4.21 Tourism forms a significant proportion of the regional economy in Essex and Suffolk, generating an estimated total value of £3.4 billion and £2.1 billion to the respective economies (Destination Research, 2019a and 2019b). Tourism-related employment totals approximately 69,000 in Essex (10.0% of all employment in the county) (Destination Research, 2019a) and 44,500 in Suffolk (14.2% of all employment in the county) (Destination Research, 2019b). The detail at a district level is provided in Table 3.5.

**Table 3.5 – Estimated Contribution of Tourism to District Economies**

Geographical Area	Estimated Value of Tourism (£m)	Number of Full Time Equivalent Jobs	Tourism Jobs as a Percentage of Total Employment in the County/District
<b>Suffolk (County)</b>	2,144	44,498	14.2%
Mid Suffolk (District)	177	2,927	9.5%
Babergh (District)	200	3,262	11.7%
<b>Essex (County)</b>	3,500	51,424	10.0%
Braintree (District)	186	2,984	5.2%

Sources: Babergh and Mid Suffolk figures (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council website, 2016); Braintree figures (Braintree Tourism Plan for the District 2019-2021, 2017); Suffolk county figures (Destination Research, 2019b); Essex county figures (Destination Research, 2019a).

- 3.4.22 Tourism in the Dedham Vale AONB (parts of which lie within the Order Limits) was worth an estimated £68 million in 2019 and supported 1,490 jobs. Tourism in the Stour Valley Project Area (parts of which lie within the Order Limits) was worth an estimated £49 million and supported 1,283 jobs (Dedham Vale AONB, 2021). The ‘natural environment’, ‘peace and quiet’, and ‘walking opportunities’ are considered to be the top three most valued features of the AONB by visitors surveyed (LUC, 2019).
- 3.4.23 COVID-19 restrictions have had a significant effect on tourism. The trend in the tourism sector before the COVID-19 pandemic was one of steady growth, with a general year-to-year increase in the total value of tourism and number of tourism-related jobs in Essex and Suffolk (Destination Research, 2019a and 2019b). Data from the ONS (2021) showed that accommodation occupancy rates during 2020 were much lower in the East of England than the equivalent numbers for the same months in 2019. In August 2020 (after the first lockdown had been lifted) occupancy rates were at 55% compared to 79% in 2019. Between 2019 and 2020 the estimated economic value of tourism in Suffolk fell by 59% (from approximately £2.1 billion to £885 million) and the estimated number of jobs in the tourism sector in Suffolk fell by 42% (from approximately 44,500 to 25,840) (Destination Research, 2020a). Similar drops in estimated economic value and tourism jobs for Essex were estimated over the same period (Destination Research, 2020b).

### **Tourist Accommodation**

- 3.4.24 The dominant accommodation types in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are holiday dwellings and hotels. Hotels account for 75% of the accommodation stock in Braintree district, while in Ipswich the proportion is even higher (84% of the accommodation stock is hotels) (VisitBritain, 2016).
- 3.4.25 A more detailed study also looked specifically at accommodation within the planning authority of Ipswich and Suffolk Coasts (White Young Green, 2017). This identified 15 hotels within Ipswich, which is dominated by the budget market including Premier Inn and Travelodge. The report also identified a substantial level of new hotel provision planned, including the EasyHotel, Ipswich (which has since been constructed) and growth of Airbnb over recent years, with 300 rooms identified in the Ipswich area (White Young Green, 2017). It identified that occupancy rates at 68% (based on 2016 data) were lower than the national average and was identified as a consequence due to the rapid expansion of hotel room numbers in recent years. This suggests that there is capacity in the existing market to accommodate additional visitors, albeit there would appear to be limited capacity at peak times (White Young Green, 2017).
- 3.4.26 Table 3.6 summarises the number of bedspaces available at the district and county level identified in a VisitBritain survey of accommodation stock (2016). Babergh has the highest number of bedspaces available (2,336). Serviced accommodation, including hotels, account for approximately 85% of all bedspaces available in the four districts. Bedspace occupancy rates were at 61% for the East of England during the peak of the summer season in July 2022, approximately 2% higher than bedspace occupancy in July 2019 (VisitEngland, 2022). In 2022, bedspace occupancy in the East of England was highest in the months of May to September, averaging 59%, slightly higher than the average bedspace occupancy in England at 57% over the same period (VisitEngland, 2022).



Table 3.6 – Number of Bedspaces (VisitBritain Survey of Accommodation Stock, 2016)

Type of Accommodation	Babergh	Mid Suffolk	Ipswich	Braintree	Suffolk	Essex
Hotels and similar	1,871	1,201	1,884	1,769	12,233	24,315
<b>Total serviced accommodation</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>12,233</b>	<b>24,315</b>
Holiday dwellings	360	450	21	82	5,302	784
Tourist campsites	85	138	0	0	2,989	30,208
Other collective accommodation	20	13	0	0	96	61
<b>Total non-serviced accommodation</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>8,387</b>	<b>31,053</b>
<b>Total accommodation</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>20,620</b>	<b>55,368</b>

3.4.27 There are accommodation facilities within the wider study area. Hintlesham Hall Hotel is the largest accommodation facility. The remaining accommodation facilities comprise bed and breakfasts and small self-catered facilities, including College Farm, Claremont Cottage, Sprotts Farm, Assington Mill Farm and Ansells Farm.

### Planning and Development

3.4.28 The Planning Inspectorate requested that it be made clear which projects form part of the project baseline and those that are included in the CEA (Scoping Opinion ID 4.14.7 (**application document 6.6**)). The shortlist of other developments presented in ES Appendix 15.4 (**application document 6.3.15.4**) identifies other developments that have been or are likely to have been constructed before the project commences construction. As such, these other developments have been considered as part of the future baseline of the project for the EIA in the ES topic chapters and are listed in Table 3.7.

Table 3.7 – Other Developments Considered As Part of Project Baseline

ID	Application Reference	Applicant and Site Location	Description
DCO-006	ENO10025	East Anglia ONE Ltd. 43km off Norfolk/Suffolk coast. Onshore cable route connecting to Bramford Substation	East Anglia ONE Offshore Windfarm - Development of an offshore wind farm consisting of up to 325 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure, with an installed capacity of 1200MW. Part of a develop of approximately 7200MW of wind capacity off the coast of East Anglia, known as Zone 5 under the Crown Estate Round 3 Offshore Wind Farm Licensing Arrangements.
APP-BDC-013	13/00521/FUL	Auberries Estate Farms Ltd, Church Road, Bulmer, Essex, CO10 7DY	Installation of 218 ground mounted photovoltaic panels

<b>ID</b>	<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Applicant and Site Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
APP-BDC-045	16/01517/FUL	Robert Harlow, Bolt Building Supplies, Fifth Avenue, Bluebridge Industrial Estate, CO9 2SZ	Two new steel framed warehouse and a new office/showroom
APP-BMSDC-002	DC/18/02836	Konings Juices and Drinks UK Ltd, Hill Farm, Stoke Road, Polstead, Sudbury, CO10 5AF.	Erection of extension to existing production premises, associated car parking, landscaping and drainage infrastructure.
APP-BMSDC-005	DC/19/04299	Ms C. Sibley, Bramford Sub Station, Bullen Lane, Bramford, IP8 4JL.	Installation of water pipes to supply East Anglia Windfarm. Although the wind farm is distant from the project, the water pipeline lies 100m to the north of the Order Limits.
APP-BMSDC-006	DC/17/02746	Astra Ventures Ltd, Land at Brook Farm, off Church Hill Road, North of Burstall (in close proximity to the Bramford Substation), Ipswich.	Erection and operation of battery storage unit.
APP-BMSDC-011	DC/18/05613	Williams Homes and Developments Ltd, Land to the east of Duke Street, Hintlesham.	Erection of 14 dwellings, garages and additional parking.
APP-BMSDC-024	DC/17/03982	Hintlesham Hall Farm, Land to the east of Duke Street and north of Red House Cottages, Hintlesham.	Erection of up to 11 dwellings.
APP-BMSDC-054	B/16/00760	McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, Former Brett Works and 109 High Street, Hadleigh, IP7 5EJ.	Change of use of outbuilding to a B1 commercial unit, demolition of existing buildings including partial demolition and refurbishment of 109 High Street to create a A1/A2 retail unit and a two bed apartment, erection of age restricted dwellings comprising 35 retirement apartments, four. houses, 25 bungalows, access, car parking, open space, landscaping, footbridge and ancillary development.
APP-BMSDC-097	B/14/00804	Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd, Land East of Carsons Drive, Great Cornard, Suffolk.	Erection of 166 dwellings. New vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access. Provision for public open space and play areas. Proposed woodland planting, provision of new wildlife habitat.
APP-BMSDC-112	0156/17	Hopkins Homes Ltd, Land adjacent to Bramford Playing Field, The Street, Bramford, IP8 4DJ	Erection of 130 residential dwellings, garages, public open space, and vehicular access.

<b>ID</b>	<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Applicant and Site Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
APP-BMSDC-150	B/12/01198	West Suffolk Hospital Foundation National Health Service (NHS) Trust and the Secretary of State for Health. Harp Close Meadow (North), Alder Way, Sudbury.	Erection of 100 residential units, with associated garages, car parking and access roads. Provision of 1.8 hectares of public open space, a neighbourhood equipped area for play and a locally equipped area for play. Landscape proposals and provision of cycle and pedestrian links between Acton Lane and Waldingfield Road.
APP-BMSDC-164	3310/14	Orbit Homes (2020) Limited, Land between Gipping and Bramford Road, Great Blakenham.	Erection of 270 dwellings and associated garaging/car parking, landscaping, public open space, play areas and access to Bramford Road, together with the construction of a convenience store with six two-bedroom flats above, associated parking and servicing areas on land at Hackneys Corner.
APP-BMSDC-172	B/14/01520	Bellway Homes Ltd, Harp Close Meadow (North), Alder Way, Sudbury.	Erection of 100 dwellings with associated garages, car parking and access roads.
APP-BMSDC-183	DC/18/02200	Tidal Hill Ltd, Park Farm Barns, Vicarage Lane, Wherstead, Suffolk.	Erection of seven new commercial buildings providing 24 business units (B1, B2 and B8), 1 new general agricultural store with associated access following demolition of existing buildings. Creation of parking areas, landscaping, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and a new access road.
APP-BMSDC-187	2351/16	Curzon De Vere Ltd, Land at Blackacre Hill, Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk.	Development of business and logistics park to provide commercial floorspace principally within Use Classes B1 and B8, to include access onto the B1113 Bramford Road and a secondary means of access via Addison Way, together with the provision of estate roads and ancillary parking, servicing, and landscaping.
APP-BMSDC-307	DC/19/03008	Pivot Power, Land adjacent to Bramford Substation, Bullen Lane, Bramford, IP8 4JH	Installation and operation of a 49.9 MW Battery Storage Facility, with associated infrastructure including inverters, transformers, switchgear, spares container, fencing, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and access road. Note: Non-Material Amendment DC/21/06919 granted to remove '49.9MW' from description of development.



ID	Application Reference	Applicant and Site Location	Description
APP-CBC-031	180438	Ms L. Bowser, Colchester Northern Gateway, Cuckoo Farm Way, Colchester, CO4 5JA	Full planning application for the Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub.
APP-SCC-002	SCC/0018/19 B/VOC	Brett Aggregates Ltd, Layham Quarry, Valley Farm, Rands Road, Layham, IP7 5RW	Variation of conditions 3 (Cessation), 25 (Details of working and restoration) and 48 (Cessation of mineral working) of permission B/01/00045 to provide additional time periods for the completion of extraction and restoration.
APP-SCC-003	SCC\0132\16 B	Boxford (Suffolk) Farms Ltd, Hill Farm, Brick Kiln Hill, Boxford, Sudbury, CO10 5NY	Construction of a fourth clamp adjacent to existing three clamps at the Boxford Anaerobic Digester plant.
APP-SCC-004	B/13/01127/C MA	Brett Group, Layham Quarry, Rands Road, Layham, Suffolk	Variation of Condition of Planning Permission B/97/0765 (Landfilling and restoration to agriculture and silviculture) to extend completion of both by 15 years respectively; replace the phasing of operations plan and raise the height of perimeter bunding around Phases 4 and 5.

## Tourism and Recreation Assets

- 3.4.29 Sudbury is a large market town which lies 0.5km outside of the wider study area. Attractions in Sudbury include museums such as Gainsborough's House and Sudbury Heritage Centre and Museum, entertainment venues such as the Quay Theatre and St Peter's Cultural Venue, water-based recreation such as organised boat trips on the River Stour between Sudbury, Great Cornard and Great Henry (all upstream of the Order Limits), and markets such as the Sudbury Town Market and Sudbury Farmers Market.
- 3.4.30 Hadleigh is a market town within the wider study area that provides a focus of tourist accommodation, services and facilities. The town provides a venue for the annual (during May) Hadleigh Agricultural Show, which is a traditional agricultural show celebrating aspects of country living.
- 3.4.31 Great Cornard is a country park that lies on the southern edge of Sudbury approximately 100m beyond the wider study area. There are no National Trust properties or Countryside and Rights of Way Act Section 15 land within the Order Limits or wider study area. There are no National Trails within the Order Limits or the wider study area. Further details on PRoW can be found in ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (**application document 6.2.12**).
- 3.4.32 Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley are key visitor attractions, parts of which lie within the Order Limits. These have a strong cultural heritage due to their association with the artists John Constable, Alfred Munnings and Thomas Gainsborough (see ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (**application document 6.2.6**) and ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (**application document 6.2.8**)). Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley also cater for a wide range of recreation activities including walking, riding, boating, wildlife watching, countryside sports and visiting historical sites and buildings.

- 3.4.33 Visitor attractions and areas of informal recreation within the Order Limits or immediately adjacent to it include:
- Recreation activity locations such as Hintlesham Golf Course, commercial coarse fishing lakes at Kate’s Hill, Hadleigh Railway Walk, Stoke by Nayland Hotel Golf Course and Spa, the Painters Trail, Benton End Farm and Daws Hall Centre for Environmental Education (which offers regular public and educational events);
  - General green spaces for walking and enjoying the countryside, including Ramsey and Hintlesham Woods (a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve). Local Nature Reserves comprise Hadleigh Railway Walk within the Order Limits and Arger Fen, Tiger Hill and Broom Hill within the wider study area. Non-designated sites within the Order Limits comprise Valley Farm Meadow, Valley Farm Wood, Layham Pit Woodland and Meadow and the Dollops which are County Wildlife Sites and Loshes Meadow Complex, Moat Farm/Burnt House Marsh, Alphamstone Complex, Ansell’s Grove/Ash Ground, Twinstead Marsh and Waldegrave Woods Local Wildlife Sites. Further details of these sites can be found in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (**application document 6.2.7**).
- 3.4.34 There are the following green spaces and open spaces identified within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, 2021), Braintree District Council Local Plan to 2033 (Braintree District Council, 2022), Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan (Leavenheath Parish Council, 2022) and the Assington Neighbourhood Plan (Assington Parish Council, 2022) within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits. These include:
- Hintlesham Golf Club (within the Order Limits);
  - Hadleigh Railway Walk (crosses the Order Limits);
  - Brett Green Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGS) and Brett Green Amenity Greenspace (AGS 1 and 2), Upper Layham (within approximately 100-200m from the Order Limits);
  - Leavenheath Local Green Space (LEAV2) Area 5 (land to north of entrance of Stoke Road junction with A134) and Area 8 (western part of Leadenhall Wood) (immediately adjacent to the Order Limits);
  - Assington Greenspace (ASSN10-10) (near Mill Farm) (crosses the Order Limits);
  - Henny Road Amenity Greenspaces (50944) (immediately adjacent to the Order Limits); and
  - Twinstead Green Amenity Greenspaces (immediately adjacent to the Order Limits).
- 3.4.35 An assessment on open space can be found in Chapter 9 of the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**).

### **Water-based Recreation and Navigation**

- 3.4.36 The River Stour is navigable within both the wider study area and the Order Limits. Unpowered craft (i.e. those that are paddled, rowed or sailed) are permitted to travel the whole length of the Stour Navigation, from Brundon Mill (Sudbury) to Cattawade (on the Stour Estuary). Powered craft, with certain specified exceptions, such as the River Stour Trust trip boats, are restricted to the stretch between Ballingdon Bridge (Sudbury) and

Henny Street (within the wider study area). The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for this section of the river. None of the other watercourses within the study area are navigable. Further details on navigation can be found in ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (**application document 6.2.12**).

## Health

### Health Indicators

- 3.4.37 Health data have been obtained from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023a; 2023b). Data have been obtained for the wards located within the wider study area to provide an indication of local health issues. This is based on aggregated population level data and the health of individuals within the study area will vary considerably. Wards in which health values are significantly worse than the average for England may indicate where the population would be more sensitive to changes affecting health.
- 3.4.38 Between 2016 and 2020, life expectancy at birth for males and females across all wards ranged from significantly better than (as defined by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023b)) to not significantly different to the average for England (79.5 years for males and 83.2 years for females).
- 3.4.39 Over the period 2016/17 to 2020/21, emergency hospital admissions for coronary heart disease, stroke, myocardial infarction (heart attack), and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) across all wards ranged from significantly better than to not significantly different to the average for England (using a standardised admissions ratio, where England is 100 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023b)). The local level of emergency hospital admissions across all wards was significantly better than the average for England.
- 3.4.40 Between 2016 and 2020, deaths from circulatory disease, coronary heart disease, stroke and respiratory diseases across all wards ranged from significantly better than to not significantly different to the average for England (using a standardised mortality ratio, where England is 100 (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023b)), with the exception of Hedingham ward in the Braintree District – deaths from respiratory diseases in Hedingham ward were significantly worse than the average for England.
- 3.4.41 Data are also available by Clinical Commission Group (CCG) which own the responsibility for commissioning primary care services such as General Practices. Office for Health Improvement and Disparity data (2023b) shows that over the period 2015/16 to 2019/20, life expectancy at birth for males and females, emergency hospital admissions (for all causes, coronary heart disease, stroke, heart attack and COPD), and deaths from circulatory disease, coronary heart disease, stroke, and respiratory illness, were all significantly better in Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG and West Suffolk CCG compared to the average for England.
- 3.4.42 The overall health indicators within the wards which coincide with the study area are similar to the average in England in most instances. Overall, the baseline information does not highlight a vulnerable group of people within the surrounding community.

### Health Facilities

- 3.4.43 The project falls within the area covered by the East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (NHS, 2021). This provides hospital and community health care

services for Colchester, Ipswich and local areas. The Trust has two urgent care and accident and emergency hospitals; Ipswich Hospital and Colchester Hospital.

- 3.4.44 The Trust reported an overnight bed occupancy as 93.1% over the period of July to September 2022, which is higher than the average for the East of England (88.3%) and England as a whole (88.1%) over the same period (NHS, 2022a). Over the same period, day occupancy rates were 84.4% for East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust compared to 79.0% for the East of England and 80.6% for England as a whole (NHS, 2022b).
- 3.4.45 There are no health facilities, such as health centres or doctor surgeries within the Order Limits. Table 3.8 lists the health facilities within the wider study area. These all fall within the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG.

**Table 3.8 – Health Facilities within the Wider Study Area**

<b>Health Facility</b>	<b>Approximate Distance from Order Limits (km)</b>
Hadleigh Health Centre	1.5
Hadleigh Group Practice	2.0

## **3.5 Future Baseline**

### **Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism**

#### **Characteristics of the Population**

- 3.5.1 The socio-economic baseline within the wider study area will be continually changing due to a number of factors, including inbound and outbound migration and changes to the regional, national and international economic climate.
- 3.5.2 In the reasonably foreseeable future, resident populations within the Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Braintree districts, Suffolk and Essex counties, the East of England, and England are all projected to rise based on current trends (ONS, 2020a). The local, regional and national age distribution is projected to skew older over time, with fewer young people and a greater proportion of the population over 60 years (ONS, 2020a).

#### **Tourism**

- 3.5.3 Issues around Brexit, foreign exchange rates and the slowdown in economic recovery have generally raised a degree of uncertainty in the tourism sector, particularly outside the London Market. A weaker pound could make the UK a more affordable location to visit for overseas visitors and this may also increase the number of staycations (White Young Green, 2017).
- 3.5.4 Tourist numbers and revenue are likely to fluctuate year-on-year, primarily due to external factors such as the economy, foreign exchange rates and the weather. It is also unclear how recovery from the COVID-19 restrictions, will change patterns of tourist numbers and tourism revenue going forward.

#### **Planning and Development**

- 3.5.5 Major developments that have received planning permission may alter the socio-economic and recreation baseline, although this is unlikely to be a level that would change



the overarching summary presented within this appendix. In addition, new proposed developments will be submitted for planning. These are likely to include a number of minor housing developments to help accommodate the growing population in the region. The project will continue to review the planning registers and work with the relevant planning authorities to understand emerging proposals that could affect the project.

## Health

### Health Characteristics

- 3.5.6 There is a general trend of gradual improvement across many areas of health, particularly over longer term timescales within the UK, which is due to the steady advance of medical science, and improvements in people's standards of living (Whitty, 2020). The baseline health summary shows that the trend for the wards within the wider study area is generally significantly better than or not significantly different to the England average (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023a and 2023b).

## 4. Conclusion

- 4.1.1 This appendix has presented updated baseline data as requested within the Scoping Opinion (**application document 6.6**), and to reflect the use of the Order Limits instead of the Scoping Boundary. The updated baseline information has been used to inform the intra-project and inter-project cumulative effects assessments presented in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (**application document 6.2.15**).
- 4.1.2 National Grid has also submitted a Socio-economics and Tourism Report (**application document 5.9**) which confirms that there are no likely significant effects on socio-economics and tourism.

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