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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 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.
- This appendix sets out the local planning policy relevant to the project and has been produced to support the application for development consent and the accompanying Environmental Statement (ES) under the Planning Act 2008. The planning policies presented here have been considered during the preparation of the ES.
- The application for development consent will be considered by the Secretary of State primarily against the policies in the relevant National Policy Statements, as described in ES Chapter 2: Regulatory and Planning Policy Context (application document 6.2.2). The Secretary of State must also take Development Plans into consideration if they are 'both important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision' (Section 104 of the Planning Act 2008) to the decision on the application.
- National Grid has identified the policies that may be considered important or relevant by the Secretary of State. These are referred to in Chapters 2 and 3 of this Appendix for completeness to allow the Secretary of State to make such a determination. A full assessment of the project against national and local planning policy is contained in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).

1.2 Relevant Planning Authorities

- 1.2.1 The project is located in the following relevant planning authority areas (referred to collectively as the Host Authorities):
 - Suffolk County Council;
 - Essex County Council;
 - Babergh District Council;
 - Mid Suffolk District Council; and
 - Braintree District Council.

- Although Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have been legally separate councils since 2011, they have been working together and they share many services, including a planning service, have the same office location and are currently preparing a Joint Local Plan.
- National Grid has had meetings with the Host Authorities since the recommencement of the project in December 2020. These were originally held once every three months. In June 2021 the relevant planning authorities requested that the frequency of these meetings increase from January 2022 and since then they have been held once every two months. These meetings have provided an opportunity for the Host Authorities to share information about the status of their planning documents and to outline particular policies that they consider to be important and relevant to the project.

1.3 Definition of Development Plan

- In England, the legal definition of a 'Development Plan' is confined in Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The definition comprises regional strategies, Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Neighbourhood Development Plans that have been adopted or approved.
- Development Plan Documents are in turn defined by Section 37 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which states, 'a development plan document is a local development document which is specified as a development plan document in the local development scheme'.
- A Local Development Scheme (LDS) is established in Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which requires the DPD to be specified in the LDS and the proposals must be in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.
- Essentially, therefore, to form part of the Development Plan, documents must be defined in the LDS, carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and be adopted or approved.
- Paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) asserts that 'weight' may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans according to their stage of preparation, the extent to which there are unresolved objections to the relevant policies and the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the NPPF. These emerging policies do not however, form part of the Development Plan until such a time that they are adopted or approved.
- Supplementary Planning Guidance are not part of the Development Plan but are normally material considerations in conventional decision making and are capable of being important and relevant when determining an application for development consent.
- In March 2021, at the Host Authority meeting, it was agreed that, in the case of Braintree District Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Essex County Council (in the case of the Minerals Local Plan Review), only the emerging development plan

- documents would be considered for the project, as these emerging plans were likely to have been adopted well in advance of submission of an application for development consent, superseding other development plan documents.
- However, delays and changes of approach, as explained in Chapters 2 and 3 of this Appendix, have meant that Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and Essex County Council are unlikely to have adopted their emerging plans prior to the submission of the application for development consent. Therefore, the planning policy assessment has reverted to considering the current adopted Development Plans, with variable weight afforded to the emerging planning policy, where relevant. Further details can also be found in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).

2. County Policy

2.1 Suffolk County Council

- The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted in July 2020. It is understood that there are no plans to undertake a review of this Local Plan prior to submission of the application for development consent for the project.
- The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan indicates that large parts of the Order Limits fall within the Suffolk County Council Minerals Consultation Area (MCA). Policy MP10 advises that these areas will be safeguarded from proposed development in excess of 5ha. As the Order Limits exceed 5ha in the MCA, the application for development consent needs to demonstrate that 'the sand and gravel present is not of economic value, or not practically or environmentally feasible to extract, or that the mineral will be worked before the development takes place or used within the development'. Potential effects on minerals are considered in ES Appendix 10.3: Minerals Resource Assessment (application document 6.3.10.3).
- The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan also shows that the project is located within the following site allocated for sand and gravel extraction: Allocation M5 (Layham Quarry) is for an extension to the existing sand and gravel operations at Rands Hall Pit in Layham.
- The Order Limits include parts of Layham Quarry. Policy MP10 advises that the County Councill will safeguard 'areas falling within 250m of an existing, planned or potential site allocated in the Plan for sand and gravel extraction. The MPA [Minerals Planning Authority] will advise the Local Planning Authority whether any proposed development might prejudice the future extraction of minerals and should be refused, or whether such development itself might be prejudiced by proposed mineral working.' As such, this policy is also engaged on the project.
- Discussions have taken place with Suffolk County Council and the Quarry owners (Brett Aggregates) regarding Layham Quarry, to obtain an understanding of the history of mineral extraction at the site along with any future plans. It is understood from these discussions that the site is inactive at present (since 2013). It is understood that a planning application to extend the timescales for extraction and restoration at Layham Quarry to April 2032 and October 2033, respectively, was approved in October 2019 (Planning Reference: SCC/0018/19B/VOC). This planning application is considered further in the Planning Statement (application document 7.1).
- The Waste Policies Map identifies two allocated waste sites in Suffolk (AD5 and AW93) where the Order Limits cross the waste management site safeguarding areas. The project would not impact on these allocated waste sites.
- The policies from the Minerals and Waste Local Plan that may potentially be important and relevant to the project are listed in Annex A of this document. These policies have been considered as part of the assessment presented within the ES.

2.2 Essex County Council

- The Minerals and Waste Development Plan for Essex currently consists of the following:
 - Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2017); and
 - Essex Minerals Local Plan (adopted July 2014).
- 2.2.2 It is understood there are no plans by Essex County Council to review the Waste Local Plan prior to submission of an application for development consent for the project.
- The Essex Minerals Local Plan originally covered the period to 2029. It was the intention of Essex County Council to publish a new Local Development Scheme imminently after the consultation of the Draft Minerals Local Plan Review ended in March 2021, which would set out a new timetable for adoption of the Minerals Local Plan Review. However, Essex County Council recently made the decision to extend the plan period for the Minerals Local Plan from 2029 to 2040 as part of the ongoing review of the Minerals Local Plan. Meanwhile, a new 'Call for Sites' exercise for the Minerals Local Plan was undertaken, closing on 9 November 2022.
- 2.2.4 It is understood following discussions with Essex County Council with regards to progress with the ongoing Minerals Local Plan Review, the intention is to carry out an additional consultation in late 2023 which would incorporate newly amended draft policies reflecting the extension of the Plan period to 2040, as well as interim site assessments for all sites received through the two 'Call for Sites' exercises.
- The Waste Policies Map that forms part of the Waste Local Plan identifies the allocated waste sites in Essex. The project would not impact on any allocated waste sites.
- The Policies Map within the adopted Minerals Local Plan confirms that parts of the project fall within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for sand and gravel. Policy S8 of the Minerals Local Plan requires that the Minerals Planning Authority be consulted, and its views taken into account on 'all planning applications for development on a site located within an MSA that is 5ha or more for sand and gravel, 3ha or more for chalk and greater than 1 dwelling for brickearth or brick clay.'
- 2.2.7 Where development exceeds these thresholds, a Minerals Resource Assessment is required. The project Order Limits exceeds 3ha and potential effects on minerals are considered in ES Appendix 10.3: Minerals Resource Assessment (application document 6.3.10.3).
- The policies from the Essex Minerals and Waste Local Plans that may potentially be important and relevant to the project are listed in Annex A of this document. These policies have been considered as part of the assessment presented within the ES.

3. Local Policy

3.1 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

- The current Development Plan for Babergh District Council consists of the saved policies of the Local Plan (adopted in June 2006) and the Babergh Core Strategy 2011-2031 (adopted in February 2014).
- The current Development Plan for Mid Suffolk District Council comprises the saved policies of the 1998 Local Plan (adopted September 1998), Local Plan First Alteration (adopted July 2006), the Core Strategy (adopted September 2008), the Core Strategy Focused Review (adopted in December 2012) and the Stowmarket Area Action Plan (adopted in February 2013). No policies in the Core Strategy Focused Review or Stowmarket Area Action Plan are considered relevant in the context of the ES and project. Only a very short stretch of the Order Limits extend into the Mid Suffolk administrative area.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are currently working together to prepare the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. Once adopted, the Joint Local Plan will replace all previously adopted Local Plans, Core Strategies and the Stowmarket Area Action Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.
- The Joint Local Plan was submitted for examination in March 2021 and concerns were raised at the hearing sessions about the soundness of various aspects of the Plan. Due to the significant amount of work involved to make the Plan sound, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Councils now propose to prepare a Part 2 Plan. The Part 2 Plan is programmed to reach the pre-submission consultation during the autumn of 2024. Consequently, only some weight is afforded to this aspect of the Development Plan as it is not considered to be at an advanced stage of the local plan process and has significant unresolved objections.
- The policies of the currently adopted Development Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils that may be important and relevant to the application for development consent for the project are listed in Annex A. These policies have been considered as part of the assessment presented within the ES. Weight has also been afforded where appropriate to the emerging policies in the draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan which are contained in Annex B.

3.2 Braintree District Council

Braintree District Council has recently adopted a new Local Plan for the period 2013-2033. The new Local Plan is split into two sections as follows:

- Section 1: Strategic Plan for North Essex shared with Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council. Section 1 was adopted on 22 February 2021. Section 1 is not considered to be an important or relevant consideration to the project as it covers strategic issues, including Garden Community development, across the three local authority areas; and
- Section 2: Contains the policies, maps and sites for development within the Braintree District. Section 2 was adopted on 25 July 2022.
- Those policies from the Section 2 Plan that may be important and relevant to the project are listed in Annex A of this appendix. These policies have been considered as part of the assessment presented within the ES.

3.3 Neighbourhood Plans

A Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for a relevant planning authority once it has been approved at a referendum. At this point, it comes into force as part of the statutory Development Plan. Table 3.1 summarises the current status of Neighbourhood Plans relevant to the project. There are two adopted Neighbourhood Plans within the Order Limits; the Assington Neighbourhood Plan and the Little Cornard Neighbourhood Plan. Meanwhile, the Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan is currently awaiting referendum.

Table 3.1 – Status of Relevant Neighbourhood Plan

Parish	Plan and Status
Alphamstone and Lamarsh	No emerging plan
Assington	Neighbourhood Plan adopted 2 March 2022
Bramford	No emerging plan
Bulmer	No emerging plan
Bures St Mary	Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary are in the process of preparing a joint Neighbourhood Plan
Burstall	No emerging plan
Gestingthorpe	No emerging plan

Parish	Plan and Status
Hadleigh	Neighbourhood Plan in progress
Hintlesham and Chattisham	Neighbourhood Plan in progress
Layham	No emerging plan
Leavenheath	Neighbourhood Plan in progress (Referendum due imminently)
Little Cornard	Neighbourhood Plan adopted 20 July 2022
Little Maplestead	No emerging plan
Pebmarsh	No emerging plan
Polstead	No emerging plan
Reydon	No emerging plan
Shelley	No emerging plan
Sproughton	Neighbourhood Plan in progress (Submitted Nov 2022)
Stoke by Nayland	Neighbourhood Plan in progress
The Hennys', Middleton & Twinstead	No emerging plan
Wenham Magna	No emerging plan
Wickham St Paul	No emerging plan

Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan

On 1 December 2022, the Inspector issued her final report recommending that, subject to modification, the Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

- On 31 January 2023, Babergh District Council recommended that, 'Leavenheath Parish Council make all the necessary modifications to their Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Inspector's Report and, subject to the satisfactory completion of that task, this Plan will be advanced to a local referendum covering the parish of Leavenheath.' Subsequently, in March 2023, Babergh published the referendum version of the Neighbourhood Plan, but at the time of writing (March 2023) a referendum date had not been set.
- The Order Limits are located across an area subject to the following policies in the Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan, as detailed in the published referendum version:
 - Policy LEAV4: Surface Water Drainage Issue Locations:
 - Location 3: Road outside Harrow Lodge driveway; and
 - Location 6: High Road outside Gedding Hall.
- The project Order Limits are located immediately adjacent to an area subject to the following policies in the Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan:
 - Policy LEAV2: Local Green Space (Area 5): Land to north of entrance to Stoke Road junction with A134. As this allocation is outside
 the Order Limits, it has not been considered further;
 - Policy LEAV2: Local Green Space (Area 8): Western part of Leadenhall Wood. Both areas are shown on Figure 15 of the Neighbourhood Plan. Policy LEAV2 only includes provisions for development on designated Local Green Space, therefore, this policy has not been considered further; and
 - Policy LEAV3: Leavenheath Special Landscape Area: Policy LEAV3 only makes provision for development proposals within the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity, therefore, this policy has not been considered further.

Assington Neighbourhood Plan

- In a meeting on 2 March 2022, Babergh District Council agreed to adopt the Assington Neighbourhood Plan. This now forms part of the Development Plan for Babergh District Council. The Order Limits are located across an area benefiting from the following policy allocations of the Assington Neighbourhood Plan:
 - ASSN 7: Local Landscape Sensitivity;
 - ASSN 8: Protected views 12, 13, 14 and 15 shown on Map 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan; and

- ASSN 10: Protected Local Green Space (Mill Farm Land).
- The policies contained in the Assington Neighbourhood Plan that may be important and relevant to the project are listed in Annex A of this Appendix. These policies have been considered as part of the assessment presented within the ES.

Little Cornard Neighbourhood Plan

- In a meeting on 20 July 2022, Babergh District Council agreed to adopt the Little Cornard Neighbourhood Plan. This now forms part of the Development Plan for Babergh District Council. The project Order Limits are located across an area benefiting from the following policy allocations of the Little Cornard Neighbourhood Plan:
 - LC02: Access into the Countryside; and
 - LC03: Views.
- The policies contained in the Little Cornard Neighbourhood Plan that may be important and relevant to the project are listed in Annex A of this Appendix. These policies have been considered as part of the assessment presented within the ES.

Annex A: Schedule of Adopted Potentially Important and Relevant Local Planning Policies

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
Suffolk County Coun	cil Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2020)	
MP10: Minerals consultation and safeguarding areas	The County Council has defined the Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSA) which will be safeguarded from proposed development exceeding 5ha. Development within 250m of an existing/planned site will be subject to scrutiny by the County Council.	The Order Limits cross MSA including Layham Quarry. ES Appendix 10.3: Minerals Resource Assessment (application document 6.3.10.3) assesses the likely significant effects of the project on MSA.
MS5: Layham	Layham Quarry is allocated for mineral extraction in the adopted version of the Suffolk Minerals Local Plan, having an estimated mineral resource of 829,000 tonnes. The policy states that the Council will grant planning permission at this site for future sand and gravel extraction.	The existing 132kV overhead line currently crosses through the quarry. The Order Limits cross Layham Quarry and National Grid has undertaken discussions with the quarry owner. There are unlikely to be effects on the quarry operations. Further details can be found in ES Appendix 10.3: Minerals Resource Assessment (application document 6.3.10.3).
WP18: Safeguarding of waste management sites	The Policy seeks to ensure that existing and allocated waste sites and infrastructure are protected from inappropriate nearby developments that may prejudice their continuing efficient operation or ability to carry out their allocated function in the future. Consultation is required with the County Council when a potentially conflicting proposal falls within the 250 or 400m safeguarding zones as defined in the Safeguarding Maps. The Order Limits cross the following waste allocations: Anaerobic Digestion Plant (AD5) Hill Farm, Boxford and water recycling centre (AW93) Hintlesham-Wilderness Hse Stw (Anglian Water)	The project would not affect the waste management site safeguarding areas. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 9: Water Environment (application document 6.2.9).

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
Essex County Counc	il Minerals Local Plan 2014	
S8: Safeguarding Minerals Resources	Sets out the approach to the safeguarding of both mineral resources that are potentially viable to extract as well as associated mineral infrastructure such as quarries and processing plants. This policy incorporates two separate safeguarding approaches – one based on a resource (MSA), the other based around protecting existing mineral operations (MCA).	The Order Limits cross a MSA for sand and gravel in Essex. ES Appendix 10.3: Minerals Resource Assessment (application document 6.3.10.3) assesses the likely significant effects of the project on MSA.
S4: Reducing the Use of Mineral Resources	The Policy applies to all development across Essex to promote a reduction in mineral use when determining planning applications. The Policy advocates for the reducing of the use of mineral resources through reusing and recycling minerals generated as a result of development.	The Materials and Waste Management Plan (MWMP) (application document 7.7) outlines the measures that are proposed for reducing the use of raw materials through reuse and recycling.
Essex and Southend-	on-Sea Waste Local Plan (2017)	
Policy 2: Safeguarding Waste Infrastructure	The Policy seeks to ensure that existing and allocated waste sites and infrastructure are protected from inappropriate neighbouring developments that may prejudice their continuing efficient operation or ability to carry out their allocated function in the future.	The project would not impact on any existing or allocated waste sites.
Mid Suffolk District L	ocal Plan 1998 (saved policies)	
HB14: Ensuring archaeological remains are not destroyed	Where there is an overriding case for preservation, planning permission for development that would affect an archaeological site or its setting will be refused. Or in appropriate cases, planning permission may be granted subject to agreements and/or conditions with regards to excavation and recording.	The Archaeological Framework Strategy (application document 7.9) sets out the proposed programme of archaeological investigation, recording, reporting and archiving. The Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) (application document 7.10) details the proposed excavation and recording that would be undertaken prior to construction.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
CL2: Development within special landscape areas (SLA)	The Policy requires particular care to be taken within SLA. Development should be sensitively designed, high quality (layout, materials and landscaping). Existing SLA are defined on the proposals map.	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects of the project on SLA.
CL3: Major utility installations and power lines in countryside	New major installations for utilities and power lines exceeding 33kv should be carefully sited to ensure minimal intrusion in the landscape. The feasibility of undergrounding electricity lines will be regarded as a material consideration.	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out how landscape character and views were taken account of in the options appraisal. This includes consideration of overhead line or underground cables.
Mid Suffolk District	Local Plan 1998 (saved policies)	
CL5: Protecting existing woodland	Development which would result in the loss of or damage to woodland, particularly ancient woodland, or disruption to commercial forestry will be refused. The felling of commercial conifer woodland will be supported where it does not adversely affect the character and appearance of the landscape.	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out how the National Grid sought to avoid woodland, including ancient woodland during the initial routing studies. ES Appendix 7.4: Ancient Woodland and Potential Ancient Woodland Report (application document 6.3.7.4) describes the Ancient Woodland and potential ancient woodland that could be affected by the project and the assessment is presented in ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7).
CL8: Protecting wildlife habitats	The Policy seeks to resist development which will result in the loss or significant alteration of important habitats, including heathland, woodland, water meadows, other permanent pasture, parkland, marches, streams, ponds, green lanes, alder carr and osier beds. The Policy also seeks to protect 'vulnerable species' and advocates for the retention of important wildlife habitats through obligation/conditions and management agreements.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the assessment of effects of the project on habitats and species.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
CL9: Recognised wildlife areas	Development proposals which would harm the nature conservation interest of RAMSAR sites, SSSI and other nationally designated wildlife areas, will not be permitted apart from exceptional circumstances. Suffolk county wildlife sites and local nature reserves will also be protected from harm to their nature conservation subject to their weight. The presence of a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 will be a material consideration.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the assessment of effects of the project on designated and non-designated habitats.
CL11: Retaining high quality agricultural land	The conservation of agricultural land is encouraged. Particular protection will be afforded to the best and most versatile agricultural land (Agricultural Land Classification grades 1, 2 and 3a).	ES Chapter 11: Agriculture and Soils (application document 6.2.11) presents the likely significant effects of the project on agricultural land and soils, including best and most versatile agricultural land. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (application document 7.5) includes the good practice measures to protect soil during construction.
Mid Suffolk District C	Core Strategy (saved policies)	
CS5 Mid Suffolk's Environment	The Policy requires all development to maintain and enhance the environment, including the historic environment. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. Emphasis is given to the creation of new habitats, particularly in connection with flood management schemes and green tourism opportunities.	The Environmental Impact Assessment presented within the ES outlines how the project would seek to maintain and enhance the environment, in particular, ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) and ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6). The Environmental Gain Report (application document 7 outlines how National Grid is seeking to deliver 10% environmental gain (including biodiversity net gain (BNG)) the project.
	The Council will protect and conserve the landscape and its overall character. Development will be of a high quality, that respects local distinctiveness and built heritage and, where appropriate, encourage people to walk and cycle. The Council will introduce policies in the other DPD to enhance the natural and built historic environment including archaeology.	

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
Babergh District Cou	ıncil Local Plan (adopted in June 2006) (saved policies)	
CR01: Landscaping Quality	The landscape quality and character of the countryside will be protected by restricting development to that which is essential for the efficient operation of agriculture, forestry and horticulture and for appropriate outdoor recreation. Development in the countryside should be of an appropriate scale, take into account local characteristics, be sensitively designed, be of a high quality, maximise wildlife, be of an appropriate density and be well related to the highway network.	The Planning Statement (application document 7.1) sets out the national need for the project. ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the alternative options considered and the environmental effects associated with these. ES Appendix 4.1: Good Design (application document 6.3.4.1) describes how the project has considered good design criteria during its development.
CN15: Historic Parks and Gardens – Local	Development in or adjacent to an historic park or garden, listed in the Suffolk Register of locally important sites, will be expected to preserve or enhance the character of the area. Proposals that lead to the erosion of their character, appearance or setting will be refused.	ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) presents the assessment of effects on heritage assets including their setting.
CR02: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape	The landscape of the Dedham Vale and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB will be safeguarded through the strict control of development. Unless there is an overriding national need for development having a significant impact in the particular location and no alternative site is available, such developments will not be allowed. Due regard will be given to the provisions contained within the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley, and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Management Strategies.	The Planning Statement (application document 7.1) sets out the national need for the project. ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the options appraisal process and the potential effects of the alternative options on the AONB. Underground cables are proposed within Section E: Dedham Vale AONB, as well as removing the existing 132kV overhead line (embedded measure), which would help to protect and enhance this high value landscape. ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects on the AONB and gives due regard to the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Management Plan (Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project, 2021).

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
CR04: SLA	Development proposals in SLA will only be permitted where they: maintain or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area, identified in the relevant landscape appraisal; and are designed and sited so as to harmonise with the landscape setting.	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects of the project on SLA.
CR07: Landscaping Schemes	If planning permission is granted for development in the countryside, a high standard of landscaping will be required. This must reflect the characteristics of the locality; use indigenous species; and avoid exotic trees or shrubs. Where possible, new planting must link with existing features to provide wildlife corridors and may also involve creating woodland in appropriate circumstances.	The Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (application document 7.8) outlines the proposals for landscaping on the project, including using local provenance species, where appropriate and reinforcing existing hedgerows to enhance wildlife corridors through the landscape.
CR08: Hedgerows	Where development proposals affect hedgerows of amenity or landscape significance, planning permission will only be granted where hedgerows are retained in full, or suitable mitigation such as replacement planting and management programmes are proposed.	The LEMP (application document 7.8) outlines the measures that would be taken with regard to hedgerows, including Important Hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Hedgerows removed on the project would be reinstated and maintained for five years in accordance with good practice measures LL01 and LL03 in the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (application document 7.5.1).
Babergh Core Strate	egy 2011-2031 (saved policies)	
CS14: Green Infrastructure	The policy sets out requirements for protection and enhancement and its provision in new developments, including encouragement for establishing new networks of Green Infrastructure.	The Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4) outlines how National Grid is seeking to deliver 10% environmental gain (including BNG) on the project.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
Braintree District Co	uncil Local Plan to 2033 - Section 2 (adopted July 2022)	
LPP 47 – Built and Historic Environment	Concerns development that may affect the. Promote heritage as a driving of re setting of listed buildings and buildings of historic or architectural significance, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens and areas of high archaeological and landscape sensitivity generation through tourism and leisure. Encourage locally listed buildings. Create good quality-built areas and promote	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the options appraisal process and how designated heritage sites, such as Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens, were avoided during the routing studies.
	the reuse of buildings.	ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) presents the assessment of effects on heritage assets including their setting.
LPP 50 Provision for Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Existing open space, sports and recreational land and buildings should not be lost or built on unless an a robust and up to date assessment has been undertaken which has clearly demonstrated that they are surplus to requirements or the proposed development is otherwise compliant with this policy as a whole.	The Planning Statement (application document 7.1) includes an assessment of effects on open space.
	For open space, 'surplus to requirements' should include consideration of all the functions that open space can perform. Not all open space, sport and recreational land and buildings are of equal merit and some may be available for alternative uses. Developers will need to consult the local community and demonstrate that any proposals are widely supported by them.	
LPP 53 – Conservation Areas	Development proposals in Conservation Areas, or affecting their setting, should be of a quality that respects the historic and architectural character of the area.	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the options appraisal process and how direct effects to conservation areas were avoided during the routing studies.
		ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) presents the assessment of effects on the setting of conservation areas.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LPP 57 – Heritage Assets and their Settings	Works to heritage assets including a listed building/structures have equal status. Works should not harm the setting, character, stability, fabric of the building resulting in substantial harm. Works should comprise suitable materials. A Heritage Statement and specialist building recording may be required. The immediate settings of heritage assets will be preserved.	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the options appraisal process and how direct effects to listed buildings were avoided during the routing studies. ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document
		6.2.8) presents the assessment of effects on the setting of listed buildings.
LPP 59 – Archaeological Evaluation,	Record (HER) should be the primary source of information for development impacting archaeology. Archaeological evaluations will be required where important archaeological	The HER is one of the desktop sources that has been used as part of developing an understanding of the baseline environment in ES Appendix 8.1: Historic Environment
Excavation and Recording		Baseline (application document 6.3.8.1). This data, along with project specific survey reports, has been used to identify areas for further evaluation.
	subject to an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation, recording, reporting and archiving.	The Archaeological Framework Strategy (application document 7.9) and the OWSI (application document 7.10) set out the proposed programme of archaeological investigation, recording, reporting and archiving.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LPP 63 – Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure	Developments should protect and enhance the natural environment, habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity; taking climate change and water scarcity into account. Proposals which adversely affect designated nature conservation will not normally be acceptable.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the assessment of effects on habitats and species. The Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4) outlines how National Grid is seeking to deliver 10%
	Proposals inside the district which are likely to adversely affect, either individually or cumulatively, International or Nationally designated nature conservation sites within and outside the district will not normally be acceptable. All developments should contribute towards the delivery of new Green Infrastructure, proportionate to the scale of the development and context. The Council encourage development which contributes to the District's existing Green Infrastructure. Open space and green infrastructure may in some instances be required to provide alternatives to European sites.	environmental gain (including BNG) on the project.
LPP 64 – Protected Sites	Concerns the protection of local, national and international environmental designations. Supports proposals which provide a net gain in priority habitats. Proposals for the loss of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland will not normally be supported. Endorses Appropriate Assessment and proposals should follow the avoid, mitigate, compensate hierarchy. Compensation measures will be secured through planning conditions/obligations where necessary.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the assessment of effects on habitats and species. The Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4) outlines how National Grid is seeking to deliver 10% environmental gain (including BNG) on the project.
LPP 65 – Tree Protection	Promotes the protection of established healthy trees which offer significant amenity value and considers the impact to trees a material consideration. Advocates British Standards in terms of planting new trees.	The project has undertaken an arboricultural survey in accordance with British Standard (BS) 5837:2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. This has identified trees that offer significant amenity value, such as veteran trees, which the project has sought to avoid where practicable. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (application document 5.10) has also informed the reinstatement proposals and protective measures set out within the LEMP (application document 7.8).

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LPP 66 – Protection, Enhancement, Management & Monitoring of Biodiversity	Development proposals shall provide for the protection of biodiversity and the mitigation or compensation of any adverse impacts or shall be refused. Proposals are encouraged to be in compliance with the Anglian River Basin Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2015). The reuse of Previously Developed Land for biodiversity is a possibility.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the assessment of effects on habitats and species. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment (application document 5.6) sets out the assessment work undertaken in relation to the Anglian River Basin Management Plan.
LPP 67 – Landscape Character and Features	Proposals for new development should be informed by, and be sympathetic to, the character of the landscape as identified in the District Council's Landscape Character Assessments. Additional landscaping including planting of native species of trees, hedgerows and other flora may be required to maintain and enhance these features. Green infrastructure is encouraged and development proposals which result in harm to the setting of the AONB will not be permitted.	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects on landscape character and on the setting of Dedham Vale AONB.
LPP 69 – Protected Lanes	The Council will seek to protect and influence others to protect the features of a Protected Lane including their verges. Material increases in traffic using a protected lane due to development proposals will not be permitted.	The project has sought to avoid works at Protected Lanes, where practicable. ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) presents the assessment of effects on Protected Lanes.
LPP 70 – Protecting and Enhancing Natural Resources, Minimising Pollution and Safeguarding from Hazards	Proposals should prevent unacceptable risks from all pollution including, emissions, noise, light, ground contamination, air quality, water quality, unstable land and hazardous substances. Development which poses unacceptable risks will not be supported. Soil quality must be protected during development to protect good quality land and to protect the ability of soil to allow water penetration by avoiding compaction.	The ES sets out the likely significant effects of the project from pollution including ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13), ES Chapter 9: Water Environment (application document 6.2.9), ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) and ES Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology (application document 6.2.10). The CEMP (application document 7.5) includes details of the measures proposed to reduce effects from emissions.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LPP 74 – Flooding Risk and Surface Water Drainage	Reflects NPPF in respect to flood risk and seeks to steer development away from areas at high risk from flooding. Provides parameters for when a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required and advises that FRA must take into account climate change. that needs to be adhered to in respect to development adjacent to watercourses.	The FRA (application document 5.5) demonstrates how the project meets the requirements of the NPPF in respect of flood risk.
	In addition, development should not have an adverse impact on any flood defence, watercourse, local flood storage, reduce existing development in the floodplain, be at least 8m from Main Rivers and 3m from Ordinary Watercourses.	
LPP 75 – Surface Water Management Plan	The provisions of the Braintree and Witham Surface Water Management Plan shall in general be supported and, taken into account when determining planning applications, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Greenfield run off rates should be adhered to for certain types of development. Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) measures should be used in Critical Drainage Areas.	The Braintree and Witham Surface Water Management Plan lies beyond the 500m study area for the FRA and is not applicable to the project.
		Good practice measure W12 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) states that the drainage design associated with permanent features would be in accordance with the Suffolk SuDS Palette and the Essex SuDS Design Guide.
LPP 76 – Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	The Lead Local Flood Authority, Risk Management Authorities and planners will be working together to achieve SuDS and early engagement with these bodies is key to ensuring that adequate surface water management measures are included in new developments. SuDS design should be an integral part of the layout and clear details of proposed.	Good practice measure W12 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) states that the drainage design associated with permanent features would be in accordance with the Suffolk SuDS Palette and the Essex SuDS Design Guide.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
Leavenheath Neighbo	ourhood Plan (Babergh) (Emerging)	
LEAV4: Surface water drainage	Locations 3 (road outside Harrow Lodge driveway) and 6 (High Road outside Gedding Hall) are identified as localised flooding areas in this policy. Development proposals within the immediate locality of any of the surface water drainage areas should use appropriate drainage methods to prevent, and, where appropriate, alleviate the drainage issues. Future development must not cause or contribute to new flooding or drainage issues, exacerbate existing issues, or cause water pollution, and should mitigate its own flooding and drainage impacts.	ES Chapter 9: Water Environment (application document 6.2.9) assesses the effects of the project on surface water and drainage. Good practice measure W12 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) states that the drainage design associated with permanent features would be in accordance with the Suffolk SuDS Palette and the Essex SuDS Design Guide.
Assington Neighbour	hood Plan (Babergh) 2022	
ASSN7: Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity	Development proposals in the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity, as identified on the Policies Map, will be permitted only where they: i) protect or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area; and ii) are designed and sited so as to harmonise with the landscape setting.	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects on the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity.
ASSN8: Protected Views	Development proposals must not have a detrimental impact on the key features of the 'protected views' identified on the Policies Map.	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects on the protected views. Viewpoint F-06, F-09 and F2.14 are the representative views from Assington in ES Appendix 6.4: Viewpoint Assessment (application document 6.3.6.4).
ASSN10: Local Green Spaces	Local Green Spaces are designated in this Plan and identified on the Policies Map. Development in the Local Green Spaces will be consistent with national policy for Green Belts	The Planning Statement (application document 7.1) includes an assessment of effects on open space.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
ASSN11: Biodiversity	Development proposals should avoid the loss of, or harm to trees, hedgerows and other natural features. Where such losses are unavoidable, adequate mitigation measures or, as a last resort, compensation measures will be sought. If suitable mitigation or compensation measures cannot be provided, then planning permission should be refused. Proposals should result in a BNG.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) presents the assessment of effects on habitats. The Environmental Gain Report (application document 7.4) outlines how National Grid is seeking to deliver 10% environmental gain (including BNG) on the project.
ASSN12: Heritage Assets	General policy which requires development to be appropriate to its historical context. Requires development to preserve or enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their setting and the wider built environment; retain buildings and spaces, the loss of which would cause harm to the character or appearance of the Special Character Area; contribute to the village's local distinctiveness; be of an appropriate scale, form, height, massing; also providing a clear understanding / assessment of significance.	ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) and ES Appendix 8.2: Historic Environment Impact Assessment (application document 6.3.8.2) presents the assessment of effects on the listed buildings (including their setting) noted in the Assington Neighbourhood Plan.
Little Cornard Neighb	ourhood Plan (Babergh) 2022	
LCO2: Access into the countryside	The Policy seeks to promote access to the countryside by preserving and enhancing Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Development which leads to the loss or degradation of PRoW will not be supported. Proposals which enhance pedestrian routes will be encouraged.	ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport (application document 6.2.12) presents the assessment of effects on PRoW.
LCO3: Views	Development proposals are expected to conserve the scenic beauty of the Parish. In particular, the views as identified on the Policies Map. Development which may impact on any of these views must demonstrate through its layout how vistas from public viewpoints will be preserved.	ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the assessment of effects on the views. The area around Little Cornard is underground cable and therefore would benefit from the removal of the 132kV overhead line.

Annex B: Schedule of Emerging Potentially Important and Relevant Local Planning Policies

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
Draft Essex County	y Council Minerals Local Plan (emerging)	
S8: Safeguarding Mineral Resources (emerging)	Sets out the approach to the safeguarding of both mineral resources that are potentially viable to extract as well as associated mineral infrastructure such as quarries and processing plants. This Policy treats both the resource (MSA), and existing mineral operations (MCA) the same in this context. The Policy also places more emphasis on prior extraction of minerals before surface development, if feasible. Similar wording to the existing policy.	The Order Limits cross a MSA for sand and gravel in Essex. ES Appendix 10.3: Minerals Resource Assessment (application document 6.3.10.3) assesses the likely significant effects of the project on MSA.
S4: Reducing the Use of Mineral Resources (emerging)	The Policy applies to all development across Essex to promote a reduction in mineral use when determining planning applications. The Policy advocates for the reducing of the use of mineral resources through reusing and recycling minerals generated as a result of development. Similar wording to the existing policy.	The MWMP (application document 7.7) outlines the measures that are proposed for reducing the use of raw materials through reuse and recycling.
Babergh and Mid S	Suffolk Joint Local Plan – Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) (November 2020) docu	ment
SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment	General policy which seeks development to support and enhance the management of the natural, local environment and green infrastructure (landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and the historic environment/ landscapes). Development required to comply with the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and maintain, protect, and enhance BNG.	The Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (application document 5.3) concludes that there are no likely significant effects to Natura 2000 site. The Environmental Gain Report (application document
		7.4) outlines how National Grid is seeking to deliver 10% environmental gain (including BNG) on the project.
LP17 – Environmental Protection	To ensure that all developments are environmentally sustainable and appropriately mitigated against adverse environmental impacts and climate change. Development proposals must consider a broad range of environmental issues such as air quality, water consumption and quality, drainage, sewerage, energy, noise, light, waste, contamination, design and building materials.	The ES sets out the likely significant effects of the project on the environment including ES Chapter 13: Air Quality (application document 6.2.13), ES Chapter 9: Water Environment (application document 6.2.9), ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration (application document 6.2.14) and ES Chapter 10: Geology and Hydrogeology (application document 6.2.10).

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LP18 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Part 1 advocates a hierarchical approach to development affecting habitats; enhance, mitigate, compensate. Part 2 seeks to protect designated sites, improve sites of geological value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, creation of biodiversity networks, demonstrate a BNG of at least 10%, apply measures to assist with protected species recovery. Part 3 states development which has an adverse impact on protected species will not be supported. Part 4 concerns the use of planning conditions and obligations to secure appropriate mitigation.	ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7)
LP19 – Landscape	Part 1 seeks development to protect and enhance landscapes, landscape character, visual amenities, dark skies etc. and proposals should have regard to the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment and Settlement Sensitivity Assessment. Part 2 considers that some proposals should be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), a strategic, landscape masterplan and/or a landscape and a management plan detailing mitigation.	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the options appraisal process and how the project had regard for landscape character and features during the appraisal. Underground cables are proposed within Section E: Dedham Vale AONB and parts of Section G: Stour Valley, as well as removing the existing 132kV overhead line, which would help to protect these high value landscapes. ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (application document 6.2.6) presents the results of the LVIA that has been undertaken on the project. The LEMP (application document 7.8) outlines the proposals for landscaping on the project.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LP20 – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Part 1 reflects the NPPF where great weight is given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty in the AONB and the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and why cultural heritage are important considerations.	The options appraisal has identified the need for undergrounding within Dedham Vale AONB, as a high value landscape. The project is also removing the existing 132kV overhead line, which would help to conserve and enhance the AONB.
		ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity and Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application documents 6.2.7 and 6.2.8) present the assessment of effects on wildlife and cultural heritage respectively.
LP21 – The Historic Environment	Reflects the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Historic England Advice and Guidance and the NPPF paragraphs in respect to the historic environment including, listed buildings, ancient scheduled monuments, and archaeology. Requires Heritage Assessments in some cases.	ES Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered (application document 6.2.3) sets out the options appraisal process and how designated heritage sites, such as scheduled monuments and listed buildings, were avoided during the routing studies. ES Chapter 8: Historic Environment (application document 6.2.8) presents the assessment of effects on heritage assets and their setting, along with the proposed mitigation measures to reduce any likely significant effects. The Archaeological Framework Strategy (application document 7.9) and OWSI (application document 7.10) set out the proposed approach to managing and recording archaeological features on the project.

Policy	Policy Description	How Has the Project Considered the Policy?
LP27 – Energy Sources, Storage and Distribution	Policy support for renewable, decentralised and community energy generating proposals, subject to material considerations, being considered suitable technology, impact of any ancillary infrastructure, mitigation and grid connections capacity. Planning obligations and conditions will be used to ensure site restoration when energy generation ceases. Development must mitigate against impacts to Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, AONB and Local Wildlife sites.	The Planning Statement (application document 7.1) sets out the need case for the project.
		ES Chapter 7: Biodiversity (application document 6.2.7) assesses the likely significant effects of the project on designated sites. The ES includes mitigation proposals for reducing any likely significant effects.
LP29 – Flood Risk and Vulnerability	Reflects National Planning Policy in respect to flood risk, sequential/exception tests, SuDS, surface water drainage and coastal erosion.	The FRA (application document 5.5) demonstrates how the project meets the requirements of National Planning Policy in respect of flood risk.
		Good practice measure W12 in the CoCP (application document 7.5.1) states that the drainage design associated with permanent features would be in accordance with the Suffolk SuDS Palette and the Essex SuDS Design Guide.
LP30 – Designated Open Spaces	The protection of designated open spaces includes allotments, amenity green space accessible natural green space and sports and recreation facilities. Where partial loss or loss is proposed, certain criteria need to be met and consideration should be given to the Open Space Assessment.	The Planning Statement (application document 7.1) includes an assessment of effects on open space.

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