



Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement (Case Reference: EN020002)

Examination Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspections 1 and 2 undertaken on 11 July 2023 (USI1) and 12 July 2023 (USI2)

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook Unaccompanied Site Inspections on 11 and 12 July 2023 (USI1 and USI2) in preparation for the Examination of the application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for the proposed Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement project. The inspections were undertaken by minibus on public roads and on foot using public rights of way (PRoW). All members of the ExA were present (Andrew Mahon, Julie de-Courcey, Jason Rowlands, John McEvoy).

The planned inspection route had particular regard to the:

- (1) proposed installation, diversion and removal of overhead power lines;
- (2) proposed line undergrounding and trenchless technology, including exit and entry pits;
- (3) proposed sealing end compounds for connecting overhead and underground lines;
- (4) existing and proposed substations;
- (5) proposed locations for temporary construction compounds;
- (6) proposed permanent and temporary access arrangements.

The route also took into account the environmental and community context, some of the issues raised in the Relevant Representations that had been received to date, and matters arising from the ExA's reading of the application documents.

The inspection route also included some of the viewpoints used in the visual assessment in the Environmental Statement (ES Appendix 6.4: Viewpoint Assessment [APP-101] to [APP-107]) and Photomontages (application documents [APP-062] to [APP-065]).

Other application documents were used during the inspections, including the Access Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans [APP-012], Appendix A of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [APP-183], the Work Plans [APP-010] and the General Arrangement Plans [APP-018].

The full driven routes of the inspections are shown on Figures 1 and 2. Inspections on foot were made in the order set out in Tables 1 and 2. Routes are shown where the inspection route went beyond the roadside. The weather was warm and dry with clear skies on both days, with light variable winds and good long-range visibility.

Further USIs may be undertaken by the ExA. A summary note will be published following any inspection.

Figure 1 Unaccompanied Site Inspection route driven by the ExA on 11 July 2023 (USI1)

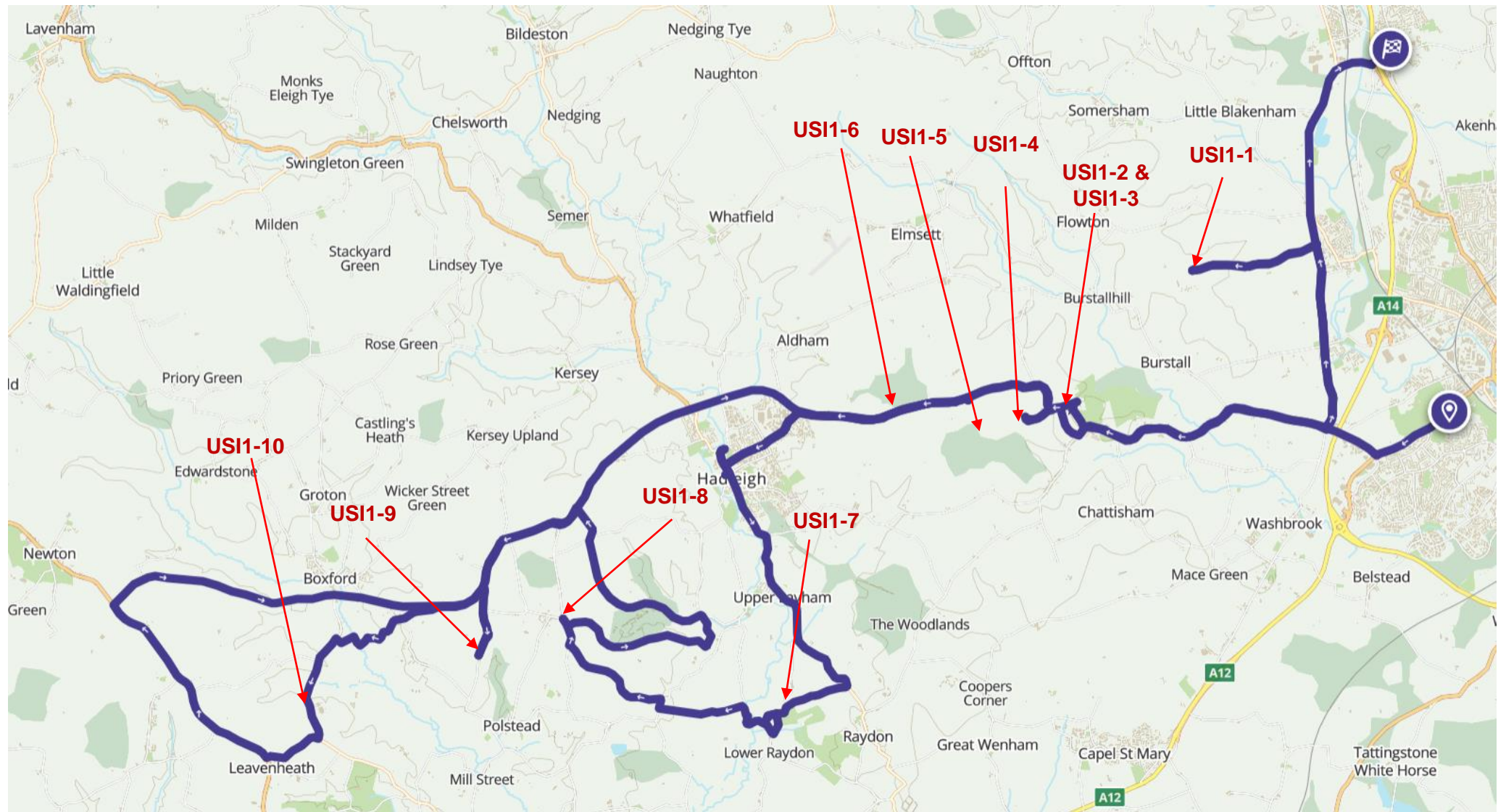
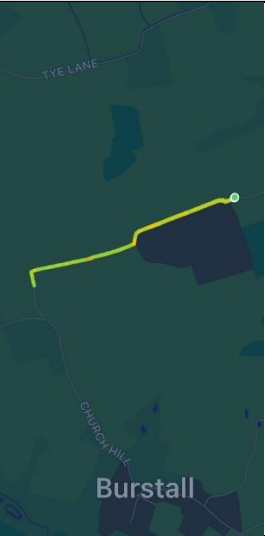
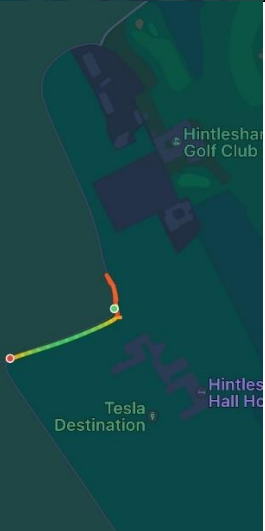
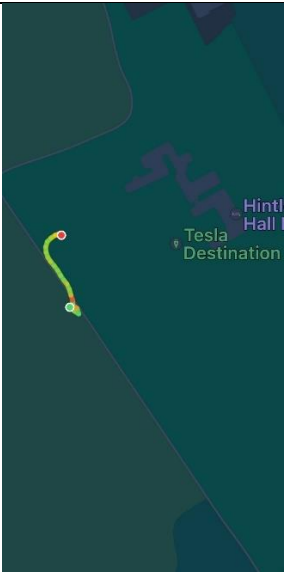

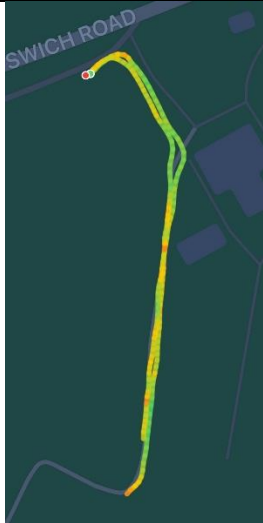


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Table 1 Unaccompanied Site Inspections undertaken on foot on 11 July 2023

| Ref | Location | Viewpoints / Proposed Features | |
|--------|--|--|---|
| USI1-1 | PRoW Bullen Lane | <p>Bramford Substation: the ExA followed the bridleway from the substation entrance to Hill Farm. Observed the nature and condition of the bridleway; looked into the existing substation (including internal layout and levels) and across towards the new substation for the East Anglia offshore wind farm; noted lines and pylons, including the line and three pylons that would be removed; observed point where new line would emerge, its route and replacement pylon at Hill Farm; temporary construction accesses.</p> |  <p>The map shows the Bramford Substation area. A yellow line indicates a proposed route starting from the substation entrance, following a bridleway towards Hill Farm. Labels include 'TYE LANE' at the top, 'BURSTALL' in the center, and 'CHURCH HILL' below it.</p> |
| USI1-2 | PRoW in the grounds of Hintlesham Hall | <p>Viewpoint HV01: viewpoint near to Hintlesham Hall. Views, existing and proposed pylons, routes and construction accesses; proposed sites for mitigation.</p> |  <p>The map shows the Hintlesham Hall area. A yellow line indicates a proposed route near Hintlesham Hall. Labels include 'Hintlesham Golf Club' and 'Hintlesham Hall' in the upper right, and 'Tesla Destination' in the lower left.</p> |

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| USI1-3 | PRoW in the grounds of Hintlesham Hall | Viewpoint AB20: viewpoint near to Hintlesham Hall. Views, existing and proposed pylons, routes and construction accesses; proposed sites for mitigation. |  A map snippet showing a viewpoint location. A red dot marks the viewpoint, with a yellow line indicating a path or route. The map includes labels for 'Hintlesham Hall' and 'Tesla Destination'. |
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| <p>USI1-4 and USI1-5</p> | <p>Unclassified road, off the A1071 Ipswich Rd, to College Farm and PRow off the A1071 Ipswich Road</p> | <p>Ramsey Wood: RSPB nature reserve. Looked at the two woodland areas and the relationship with the exiting line and pylons (visually, ecologically and in landscape terms). Examined the existing maintenance swathe between woodlands and considered proposals; habitat types; views and amenity of PRow; route of new line and pylons around the woodland; considered transference of existing line to proposed route; construction accesses.</p> |  |
| <p>USI1-6</p> | <p>PRow off the A1071 Ipswich Road</p> | <p>Viewpoint AB10: impact of removal of 132kV line and addition of new 400kV line and pylons. Observed difference in heights of each; difference in prominence depending on backdrop (vegetation versus sky); considered the selection and orientation of the viewpoint for assessment and whether it was reasonably representative.</p> |  |

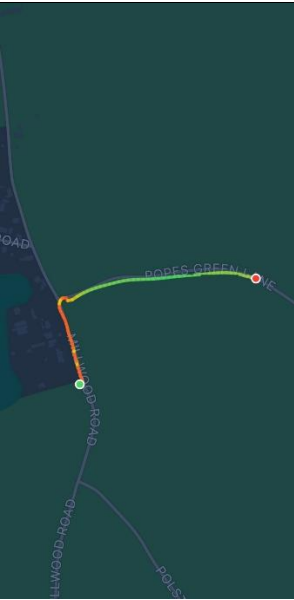
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| USI1-7 | Wade's Lane | Viewpoint C08: appraised the changes expected through the addition of the proposed 400kV line in the context of a wider and open landscape and views. | Viewed from roadside. |
| USI1-8 | Millwood Road | Dedham Vale East Cable Sealing End Compound. Landscape enclosure, disposition and screening effect of woodlands; proximity of residential properties; land use; location and extent of Sealing End Compound and temporary construction compound, site access. |  |
| USI1-9 | Holt Road | To gain an appreciation of an underground road crossing location and temporary access bellmouth (E-AP1) in the context of the local highway network, environmental setting and community considerations. | Viewed from roadside. |
| USI1-10 | B1068 Stoke Road | Looked towards the proposed location of the Dedham Vale West Cable Sealing End Compound and considered the landscape, visual and community context. | Viewed from roadside. |

Figure 2 Unaccompanied Site Inspection route driven by the ExA on 12 July 2023 (USI2)

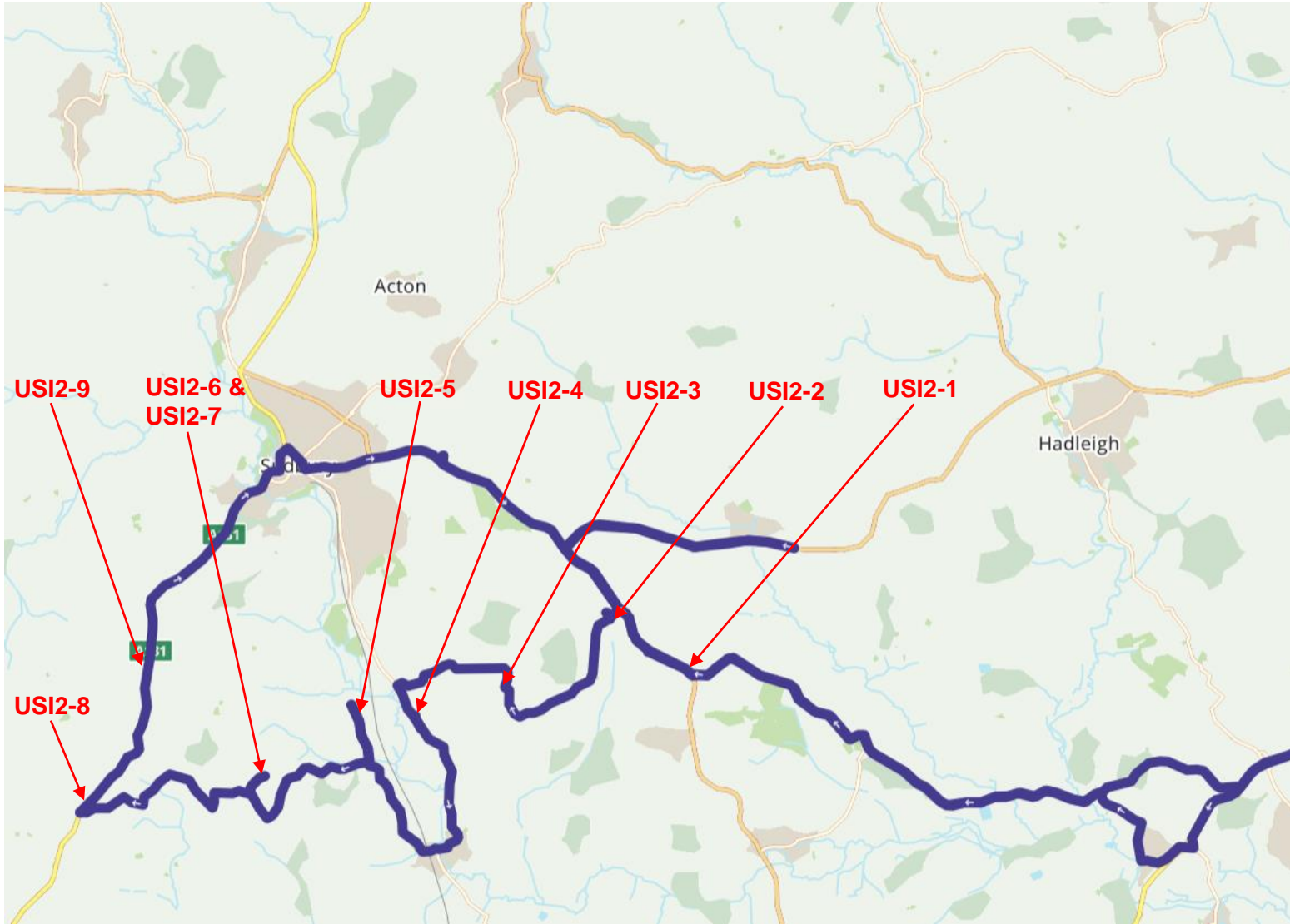
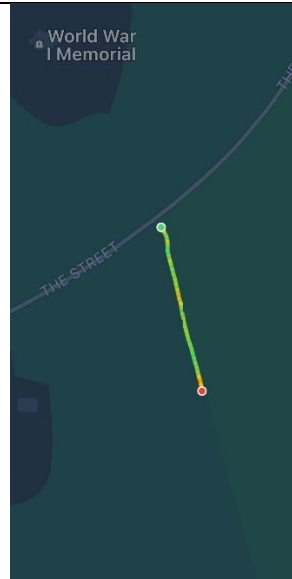


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Table 2 Unaccompanied Site Inspections undertaken on 12 July 2023

| Ref | Location | Viewpoints / Proposed Features | |
|--------|------------------------------|--|--|
| USI2-1 | A134 Leavenheath | Main temporary site compound adjacent to the A134. Scale, position and extent of the proposed compound in the local and wider landscape and visual context. Observed relationship with nearby receptors. | Viewed from the roadside. |
| USI2-2 | PRoW south of Assington Hall | Viewpoint F2.14. Walked from the church access track along the PRoW up the hill to the viewpoint. Observed the local and wider visual context, landscape setting, views of existing 132kV and 400V lines and pylons. Considered effect of swapping 132kV line for proposed 400kV line. Noted water tower. Considered whether this is a reasonably representative view. |  |
| USI2-3 | Upper Road | Looked towards Stour Valley East Cable Sealing End Compound. Observed local and wider visual and landscape context and proximity and nature of receptors. | Viewed from the roadside. |
| USI2-4 | PRoW off B1508 Bures Road | Looked towards the proposed locations of the horizontal directional drilling pits either side of the River Stour in the context of local and wider views and the landscape. Noted proximity and nature of environmental and community receptors. | Viewed from the roadside and adjacent PRoW. |

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| USI2-5 | Henny Road | Looked towards the horizontal directional drilling either side of the Sudbury Branch Line and the temporary construction compound west of Henny Road. Observed the nature and location of community and highway receptors. | Viewed from the roadside. |
| USI2-6 | Henny Back Road | Stour Valley West Cable Sealing End Compound. Appreciated scale and location in relation to local topography and landscape features. Considered the visual context. | Viewed from the roadside. |
| USI2-7 | Henny Back Road | Looked towards Habitat ID H_A_1029 - Section G, nature and disposition of woodlands and wetlands in the wider environmental context. | Viewed from the roadside. |
| USI2-8 | A131 Sudbury Road (layby) | Temporary Access Bellmouth H-AP20. Considered the access to the proposed temporary haul road in relation to the highway network, local topography, the visual context and local and wider landscape features. | Viewed from the roadside. |
| USI2-9 | A131 Sudbury Road | Grid Supply Point Substation. Observed: preliminary construction activities; context of adjacent woodlands; visual screening as existing and as proposed; local and wider views and landscape context. Considered access proposals in the context of the local highway network. | Viewed from vehicle parked on the roadside. |