

The AONB Partnership consider that the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues, as outlined in Annex C, item 10. Landscape and Views should include a consideration of impacts on the nationally designated Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The request is based on statements in the applicants document Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement, Volume 6: Environmental Information, Document 6.3.6.2: ES Appendix 6.2 –Assessment of Effects on Designated Landscapes Final Issue A, April 2023 para 4.1.1 that says:

Significant adverse landscape effects during construction are predicted for the AONB and Stour Valley SLA, however only a localised part of the designation within approximately 1km of the LoD would be affected. These significant effects would mainly be associated with the large scale of the construction activities associated with the 400kV underground cables compared to the smaller scale works to remove or construct pylons.

The AONB Partnership consider that the AONB is a single entity and that significant adverse landscape effects on part of the AONB equates to significant adverse landscapes on the AONB and should not be downplayed as only impacting part of the AONB.

The AONB Partnership recognise this significant adverse landscape effect will only occur during the construction phase.