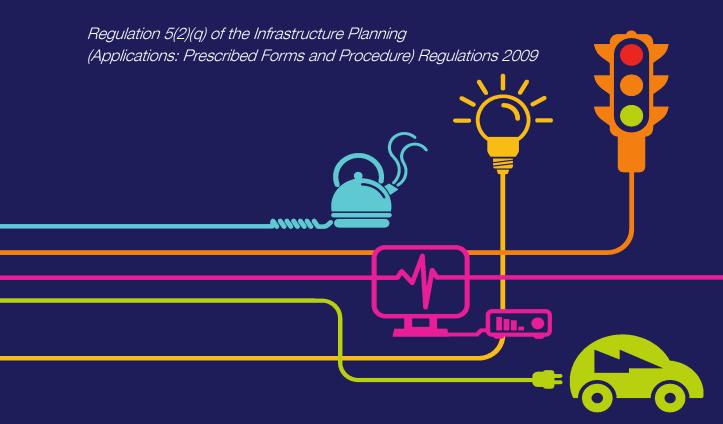
7. 13

Enhancement Strategy

National Grid (North Wales Connection Project)



nationalgrid

North Wales Connection Project

Volume 7

Document 7.13

Enhancement Strategy

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Document Control					
Document Properties					
Organisation		National Grid			
Author		Jacquie Critchley			
Approved by		Jacqui Fenn			
Title		Enhancement Strategy			
Document Reference		7.13			
Version Hist	ory				
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes		
03/05/2018	01	Draft	For Stakeholder Review		
14/08/2018	10	Draft	For review and sign off		

Enhancement Strategy Document 7.13

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1 Background

1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document accompanies an application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (plc) (National Grid) to seek powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 400,000 volt (400 kV) connection between Wylfa Substation and Pentir Substation, ("The Proposed Development"). The Proposed Development is located within the administrative boundaries of the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) and Gwynedd Council.
- 1.1.2 National Grid operates the electricity transmission system in Great Britain and owns the system in England and Wales. The system operates at 400 kV and 275 kV, connecting electricity generators to substations where the higher voltages are transformed to lower voltages, enabling the power to be distributed to homes and businesses by the Distribution Network Operators (DNO).
- 1.1.3 National Grid is the only company licensed to transmit electricity in England and Wales. National Grid's Transmission Licence was granted under the Electricity Act 1989, Section 6 (1) (b).
- 1.1.4 Under the Electricity Act 1989 National Grid is required, in this capacity, to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.

1.2 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Development consists of the following principal components:
 - Extension to the existing substation at Wylfa;
 - Sections of new 400 kV overhead line (OHL) between Wylfa substation and Braint Tunnel Head House (THH) and Cable Sealing End Compound (CSEC) on Anglesey including modifications to parts of the existing 400 kV OHL between Wylfa and Pentir;
 - Braint THH and CSEC on Anglesey;

- Tunnel between Braint and Tŷ Fodol THHs;
- Tŷ Fodol THH and CESC in Gwynedd;
- New section of 400 kV OHL between Tŷ Fodol THH and CSEC and Pentir Substation;
- Extension to the existing substation at Pentir; and
- Temporary construction compounds, access tracks, construction working areas, localised widening of the public highway and third party works that are required to construct the infrastructure listed above.
- 1.2.2 A more detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 3 Proposed Development Description (**Document 5.3**) and Chapter 4 Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning (**Document 5.4**).

1.3 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.3.1 Although the National Policy Statements (NPSs) make reference to the need to mitigate the effects of new energy infrastructure they provide little guidance on identifying wider enhancement measures or opportunities.
- 1.3.2 The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)¹ makes reference to need to mitigate the effects of new energy infrastructure. For example, 'the development of new energy infrastructure, at the scale and speed required to meet the current and future need, is likely to have some negative effects on biodiversity, landscape/visual amenity and cultural heritage. However the significance of these effects and the effectiveness of mitigation possibilities is uncertain at the strategic and non-locationally specific level at which EN-1 to EN-5 are pitched. ...In general, it should be possible to mitigate satisfactorily the most significant potential negative effects of new energy infrastructure consented in accordance with the energy NPSs', (para 1.7.2).

¹ Department for Energy and Climate Change: Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (July 2011)

- 1.3.3 Section 4.5 of EN-1 'Criteria for "good design" for energy projects' states that:
 - ...'Applying "good design" to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area' (para 4.5.1).
- 1.3.4 NPS EN-1 also makes reference to wider opportunities beyond mitigation measures, for example:
 - 'the applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve biodiversity and geological conservation intereststhe applicant should demonstrate that.....opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats and, where practicable, to create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals' (para 5.3.18).
- 1.3.5 The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)² recognises that mitigation measures can reduce the effects, for example on landscape and visual amenity.
- 1.3.6 Chapters 7 18 of the ES (Documents 5.7 5.18) provide the assessment of the anticipated effects of the Proposed Development during the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning stages, including the necessary mitigation measures, as required by EN-1 and EN-5.
- 1.3.7 National Grid recognises that there may be opportunities for measures that, whilst not mitigation, and not therefore considered in the assessments, would provide localised benefits. These measures are set out in this document.

Electricity Act (1989)

1.3.8 National Grid is required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:

² Department for Energy and Climate Change: National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (July 2011)

Schedule 9(1)(a) '...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;' and

Schedule 9(1)(b) '...do what he reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects'.

1.3.9 As noted above **Documents 5.7 – 5.18** provide the assessment of the anticipated effects of the Proposed Development including the associated mitigation measures. National Grid recognises that there may be opportunities for measures that would further support its Schedule 9 responsibilities and provide localised benefits. These measures are set out in this document.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 1.3.10 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act was introduced by the Welsh Government in 2015. It requires certain public bodies in Wales to place the well-being of society and sustainable development at the heart of decision-making and long-term planning.
- 1.3.11 Whilst the Act does not apply to private businesses who operate in Wales National Grid recognise that, while there are many benefits from our work and the new energy generation it will facilitate, developing any new infrastructure often gives rise to concerns from those people affected.
- 1.3.12 Whilst not a public body, National Grid has considered well-being in developing its proposals. The outcome is set out in the Well Being Report (Document 5.27).

Environment (Wales) Act (2016)

- 1.3.13 The Environment (Wales) Act provides the legislation to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive and sustainable manner.
- 1.3.14 Section 6 of the Act places a duty on public authorities to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity'.
- 1.3.15 Whilst not a public authority, National Grid considers that a number of the measures set out in this Enhancement Strategy support the aims of the Act.

National Grid Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy

1.3.16 National Grid's 'Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy' (December 2016)³ sets out a number of commitments in relation to undertaking works in the UK:

Commitment 4: Minimising the effects of new infrastructure

When we are developing new infrastructure, we will seek to reduce the effect of our work on communities by having particular regard to safety, noise and construction traffic.

We will also seek to minimise the impact of developing new infrastructure in areas that are nationally or internationally designated for their landscape, wildlife or cultural significance as well as other sites valued for their amenity, such as listed buildings, conservation areas, areas of archaeological interest, local wildlife sites, historic parks or gardens and historic battlefields. We will take into account the significance of these, their settings and other areas through consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders who have particular interests in these sites'.

Commitment 5: Mitigating adverse effects of works

'We will carry out relevant environmental investigations and report on these when we apply for consent for new works. We will use best practice environmental impact assessment techniques to assess possible effects of our works and identify opportunities for mitigation measures.

In the course of this we will consult with relevant stakeholders and affected landowners where works are likely to have an adverse effect on amenity'.

Commitment 6: Offsetting where mitigation is not practicable

'Sometimes the measures we take cannot adequately mitigate against loss of amenity – or mitigation might not be viable. When this happens, we will seek to offset the impact of our work in practical and sustainable ways, which we will develop by engaging with relevant stakeholders.

 $\frac{https://www.nationalgrid.com/sites/default/files/documents/National%20Grid_s\%20commitments\%20when%20undertaking%20works%20in%20the%20UK.pdf$

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³ National Grid: National Grid's commitments when undertaking works in the UK; Our stakeholder. community and amenity policy (December 2016)

Offsetting could include landscaping and planting works, contributing to heritage or community programmes or other benefits that deliver lasting value to the people and communities affected'.

Commitment 7: Enhancing the environment around our works

'When undertaking works, we will consider what practicable measures can be taken to enhance areas in the vicinity of the works for the benefit of local communities and the natural and historic environment'.

1.3.17 As noted above **Documents 5.7 – 5.18** provide the assessment of the anticipated effects of the Proposed Development including the appropriate mitigation measures. The mitigation measures together with the measures set out in this Enhancement Strategy support the commitments made by National Grid in the above policy.

1.4 WYLFA NEWYDD

- 1.4.1 National Grid has, and will continue to, work closely with Horizon Nuclear Power (HNP), the developer for Wylfa Newydd, during the construction of the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.2 Potential opportunities for the projects to work together will be identified and an 'Opportunities Register' will be jointly maintained. Discussions have already commenced and initial opportunities could include:
 - Reuse of materials potential reuse of materials generated by the construction of the Wylfa Newydd project including cloddiau, gate posts and stone walls within reinstatement of landscaping for the Proposed Development;
 - Tre'r Gof SSSI compensation sites opportunities for enhancement where the Order Limits for the Proposed Development interact with similar habitat types in close proximity;
 - Collaboration on protected species enhancement measures;
 - Collaboration on communications and information for local stakeholders during the construction phase; and
 - Collaboration with regard to initiatives to support Welsh language and culture.

2 Definitions of Mitigation and Enhancement

2.1 **DEFINITIONS**

2.1.1 Mitigation and enhancement has been defined by reference to the following categories.

Mitigation by Design

- 2.1.2 These are measures which have been built into the design (such as the alignment of the route to avoid certain receptors), pylon choice and conductor type.
- 2.1.3 During the design stages of the Proposed Development, consideration has been given to how to reduce potential adverse environmental effects where possible through an iterative design and assessment process. Early consultation, survey and assessment work has informed the development of the design and mitigation measures have become integrated mainstream components of the project's design.
- 2.1.4 Details of how the design has evolved are provided in the Design Report (Document 7.17).

Control and Management Measures

2.1.5 These are measures which are included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document 7.4) and other supporting documents (see Table 1.1). These include for example measures to control silt laden runoff during construction, traffic management, waste management and management of Public Rights of Way.

Table 1.1: Supporting Documents			
Volume	Document Name		
Document 7.4	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)		
Document 7.5	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan		

Table 1.1: Supporting Documents			
Volume	Document Name		
Document 7.6	Public Right of Way Management Plan		
Document 7.7	Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy		
Document 7.8	Archaeological Strategy		
Document 7.9	Noise and Vibration Management Plan		
Document 7.10	Outline Soils Management Plan		
Document 7.11	Outline Waste Management Plan		
Document 7.12	Outline Materials Management Plan		

Mitigation Measures

- 2.1.6 These are measures over and above mitigation by design i.e. measures that have been added to the Proposed Development purely to mitigate an effect. An example would be the landscape planting at the Braint THH/CSEC (Document 5.7.1.14) and the Ty Fodol THH/CSEC (Document 5.7.1.15).
- 2.1.7 Mitigation measures have been assessed within each of the Technical Chapters of the ES (**Documents 5.7 5.18**). These measures are also set out in the Schedule of Mitigation (**Document 5.28**) which identifies were mitigation measures are secured by Requirement as set out in the Draft DCO.
- 2.1.8 These measures are not described further in this document.

Enhancement Opportunities

2.1.9 Enhancement is not a mitigation measure. Enhancement may take many forms, for example landscape planting, creation of new habitats, interpretation of heritage features, and traffic measures. Enhancement opportunities may be within or beyond the Order Limits. This strategy outlines the enhancement opportunities that have been identified and are proposed.

Other Measures

- 2.1.10 In addition to the enhancement opportunities set out in this Strategy National Grid will continue to liaise with landowners and stakeholders and may agree bespoke works to address individual concerns.
- 2.1.11 National Grid also has, and will continue to support, a number of 'outreach' programmes which are not specific to the North Wales Connection Project. These are explained further in Section 4 of this document.

3 Enhancement Opportunities

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 This section outlines the enhancement opportunities that have been identified.
- 3.1.2 For each of the opportunities identified the enhancement opportunity benefits, in terms of the key ES technical discipline, are noted⁴. These measures may provide benefits in relation to residual effects identified by the technical disciplines as assessed in the ES, however this has not been taken into account in those assessments.
- 3.1.3 Where these measures would link with a stakeholders' existing strategy, plan or programme this has been indicated.
- 3.1.4 Enhancement opportunities identified are not mutually exclusive for example Opportunity 10 'Protected Species' may also offer benefits in relation to Opportunity 12 'Local Wildlife Sites'.

3.2 OPPORTUNITY 1 - DATA SHARING AND OUTREACH

Enhancement Opportunity Benefit: All disciplines

- 3.2.1 National Grid recognises that during, the evolution of the Proposed Development, from the initial strategic options up to the submission of the application for a DCO, a significant amount of environmental data has been gathered.
- 3.2.2 It is proposed to share the data, in appropriate formats with the relevant local organisations. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC);
 - Gwynedd Council;
 - Natural Resources Wales (NRW);

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⁴ It is also considered that other disciplines may also benefit from the opportunities identified, for example Air Quality, but these secondary benefits have not been included.

- Welsh Government;
- Cofnod (North Wales Environmental Information Service);
- University of Bangor;
- British Geological Survey
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust; and
- National Trust.
- 3.2.3 National Grid will liaise with IACC and Gwynedd Council to identify a comprehensive list of appropriate organisations. Each organisation will be contacted to understand their requirements, for example data sets of interest, data format etc.
- 3.2.4 Data gathered covers all technical disciplines assessed in the ES (**Documents 5.7 5.18**). Data for some topics will continue to be gathered during the DCO process and prior to and during construction.
- 3.2.5 Data has mostly been gathered through surveys and was required to inform the design of the Proposed Development and/or the EIA. A small amount of data has also however been gathered at the request of stakeholders for example air quality monitoring data from additional monitoring locations.
- 3.2.6 Data will be shared at appropriate points in the project timeline:
 - Post DCO consent:
 - Completion of construction;
 - Commencement of operation; and
 - Completion of decommissioning.
- 3.2.7 National Grid will maintain a comprehensive register of the data that has been shared and with which organisations. This register will be available to IACC and Gwynedd Council.
- 3.2.8 This measure will be in addition to any monitoring required by the grant of a DCO.
- 3.2.9 In addition to the data sharing National Grid will develop and implement a programme of archaeological outreach, either during or following fieldwork, as agreed between National Grid and the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

3.3 OPPORTUNITY 2 - VOLUNTARY RESIDENTIAL PLANTING SCHEME

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Visual; Landscape Character; Biodiversity; Socio Economic (including tourism)

- 3.3.1 As part of the visual assessment (Chapter 8 of the ES (**Document 5.8**)) a residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to identify properties where there would be significant visual effects due to the Proposed Development. The results of the RVVA concluded that approximately 160 properties would have significant effects.
- 3.3.2 These properties would be eligible for planting as part of a Voluntary Residential Planting Scheme (VRPS). It is considered that judgements on the opportunities to soften the effects of the Proposed Development on individual views should be made by the residents and not by National Grid therefore mitigation is not appropriate. In some cases, for example, residents may not want new planting to screen views of the Proposed Development where it could also screen a long distance view.
- 3.3.3 The properties identified for the VRPS and are identified on Figure 1.
- 3.3.4 The scope of the VRPS would include funding for tree and shrub planting, within the property curtilage, to soften the visual effects of the Proposed Development. This could include the following;
 - Trees sited within the property curtilage to screen views in the direction of the Proposed Development i.e. tree planting within views away from the Proposed Development would not be appropriate;
 - Planting of hedgerows along boundaries to screen and filter views;
 - Refocussing a view from a property away from the Proposed Development. This could include some vegetation removal and planting to open up/screen views appropriately;
 - Adding trellis and climbers to existing fencing/boundary treatments;
 and
 - In limited circumstances, where space available for planting is limited, appropriate boundary treatments which reduce the effects of the Proposed Development may be considered i.e. fencing.
- 3.3.5 The VRPS will not include works that do not reduce the effects of the Proposed Development i.e. hard landscaping within gardens, water features etc.

- 3.3.6 Under the VRPS National Grid's appointed landscape architects would offer advice to property owners including planting design, species, local provenance and future maintenance. Individual planting plans and specifications would be produced. Property owners would be responsible for future maintenance once implemented.
- 3.3.7 Consideration would also be given to the objectives of the Anglesey Gardens Habitat Action Plan (HAP) when advising on these works e.g. to improve quality of gardens for wildlife, promoting wildlife friendly gardening, and to offer advice and information on wildlife gardening.
- 3.3.8 The VRPS would remain open to expressions of interest for a period of 12 months following energising of the overhead line, allowing residents to make their own judgments on the effect of the Proposed Development once constructed.
- 3.3.9 Although the primary focus of the measure is to soften visual effects of the Proposed Development, it would also bring landscape character and biodiversity benefits. In addition, as a number of properties identified may function as holiday or bed and breakfast accommodation, this measure could also provide a socio economic enhancement.

3.4 OPPORTUNITY 3 - VOLUNTARY LANDSCAPE PLANTING

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Landscape Character; Visual Biodiversity

- 3.4.1 A number of locations have been identified that would benefit from enhancement planting, both within the Order Limits or off-site (i.e. beyond the Order Limits). Works would be subject to landowner agreement. A number of potential areas have been identified which would assist in softening effects on landscape character and views of the Proposed Development. These areas are identified on Figure 1 to this document.
- 3.4.2 Where landowners do not agree to the planting identified in the Enhancement Strategy, other areas will be considered as near to the identified areas as possible, where voluntary agreement can be secured.
- 3.4.3 A number of landowners who have land within the Order Limits have, after being contacted by National Gird, expressed an interest in additional planting (see Section 3.18 below). Any further areas suggested by landowners, either within the Order Limits or as near to the identified areas as possible, will be considered. Consideration will be given to requests up to the end of the construction phase.

- 3.4.4 The proposed areas have considered biodiversity and the historic environment to ensure they do not contradict the reasons for designation of any local or national wildlife sites, or sensitive habitats, or adversely affect heritage assets.
- 3.4.5 Undertaking this planting through voluntary landowner agreement will ensure that any planting does not interfere with use of the land and does not interfere with the operation of the Proposed Development.
- 3.4.6 National Grid will develop the planting proposals through consultation with landowners and will report on progress to the relevant planning authority (IACC or Gwynedd Council). National Grid will offer advice to landowners, similar to that for the VRPS, and each individual planting scheme will be carried out in a manner that:
 - contributes to local biodiversity;
 - is consistent with local landscape character; and
 - does not conflict with or cause potential damage to known or potential archaeology or the settings of heritage assets.
- 3.4.7 Although the primary focus of the planting proposals is to enhance landscape character and soften visual effects of the Proposed Development they could also provide biodiversity benefits and relevant BAPs / HAPS will be reviewed.
- 3.5 OPPORTUNITY 4 PROMOTED VIEWPOINT (GAERWEN)

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Visual; Socio economic (including tourism)

- 3.5.1 At the promoted viewpoint at Gaerwen (see Figure 1 to this document) it may be possible to provide some improvement to the visitor experience.
- 3.5.2 By agreement with the landowner measures could include:
 - replacement interpretation panel and plinth;
 - seating;
 - improved parking; and
 - planting.
- 3.5.3 National Grid will seek to work with the landowner to secure these improvements.

3.6 OPPORTUNITY 5 - COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Landscape Character; Visual; Biodiversity; Socio Economic

- 3.6.1 As part of the Anglesey Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy there is an objective to create one community woodland for each community council (40 no.). It is understood that at present only a small number of community woodlands have been identified.
- 3.6.2 Although this is an IACC Strategy National Grid will adopt the same approach in Gwynedd.
- 3.6.3 The Proposed Development passes through 9 no. community council areas in Anglesey and 1 no. community council area in Gwynedd, as follows;

Anglesey:

- Llanbadrig Community Council;
- Llanddyfnan Community Council;
- Llaneugrad Community Council;
- Llanfairpwll Community Council
- Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog Community Council
- Llangefni Town Council
- Mechell Community Council;
- Penmynydd and Star Community Council; and
- Rhosybol Community Council.

Gwynedd

- Pentir Community Council.
- 3.6.4 Some areas would not be appropriate for woodland planting due to the local landscape character.
- 3.6.5 National Grid will support the community woodlands projects, working with IACC, Gwynedd Council and the Community Councils, and other organisations such as the North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) and the Woodland Trust if appropriate, providing advice and trees to communities

- along the route. There may also be opportunities to link the Voluntary Landscape Planting (Opportunity 3) into this objective.
- 3.6.6 Providing new trees could soften the residual landscape, visual and ecological effects of the Proposed Development. Community woodlands would also provide socio economic benefits (through improving wellbeing).

3.7 OPPORTUNITY 6 - HEDGEROW IMPROVEMENTS

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Landscape Character; Visual; Biodiversity; Historic Environment

- 3.7.1 Improvements of hedgerows would strengthen the landscape fabric and help conserve field boundaries. Enhancement would include gapping up of hedgerows and introducing species to improve biodiversity. This enhancement opportunity would cover hedgerows within the Order Limits not affected by the Proposed Development and those that are within contiguous field boundaries. These measures would apply only in areas where boundaries are degrading and require improvements, and would be by agreement with landowners. The hedgerows that would be considered are identified on Figure 1 to this document.
- 3.7.2 Planting will consist of native species of local provenance where available with all trees and hedge plants, seed sources and nursery root management specified in accordance with UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Climate Change. New or infill planting will aim to support or improve species diversity (where appropriate) of existing vegetation patterns and 'gap up' existing vegetation patterns such as hedgerows or shelterbelts that have not been maintained.
- 3.7.3 This measure would provide support to the Anglesey Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy Objective 12 and ties into a Landscape Character Area Objective identified in LANDMAP.
- 3.7.4 Improvements to hedgerows could reinforce the historic landscape character and have additional landscape, visual and ecological benefits.

3.8 OPPORTUNITY 7 - CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CLODDIAU

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Landscape; Visual; Biodiversity; Historic Environment

3.8.1 The Proposed Development crosses areas where cloddiau field boundaries are a distinctive element of the historic landscape. Some of these field

- boundaries would be within the Order Limits but would not be directly affected by the Proposed Development.
- 3.8.2 Cloddiau are referenced in the Nature Gwynedd BAP & Cloddiau HAP. Many are in a poor condition and there would be opportunities to repair or renew these features through agreement with landowners. Cloddiau within the Order Limits but not directly affected would be considered together with those that are part of the same field boundary but beyond the Order Limits (see Figure 1 to this document).
- 3.8.3 National Grid are also, and will continue to, investigating with HNP opportunities to reuse material from cloddiau that would be dismantled as part of the Wylfa Newydd scheme.
- 3.8.4 Repair and renewal of these distinctive boundaries could reinforce the historic landscape character and have additional landscape, visual and ecological benefits.

3.9 OPPORTUNITY 8 – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Landscape; Visual; Traffic and Transport; Socio Economic (including tourism)

- 3.9.1 The Proposed Development crosses a number of Public Rights of Ways (PROWs) some of which would not be directly affected by construction activities. During the course of the assessment it has also been noted that there are a number of PROW in proximity to the Proposed Development in disrepair/inaccessible.
- 3.9.2 National Grid will liaise with the footpath officers at IACC and Gwynedd Council to develop a list of potential footpaths in proximity to the Proposed Development that form part of a wider network and which would benefit from improvements. By agreement with the landowners National Grid will then develop a programme of improvement works which could include, as appropriate, repair / improvement of signage, vegetation clearance and repair / replacement of stiles.
- 3.9.3 Improvements to PROWs could reduce the residual effects for landscape, visual and traffic and transport and have additional socio economic benefits (wellbeing and tourism).

3.10 OPPORTUNITY 9 – CORS ERDDREINIOG (ANGLESEY FENS)

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Biodiversity; Socio Economic

- 3.10.1 The Proposed Development is partly within the Cors Erddreiniog SAC. During construction, drainage works will be undertaken into the perimeter drain and once the Proposed Development is operational conductors would oversail the site. The existing 400 kV OHL is within the SAC.
- 3.10.2 The site is managed and owned by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). NRW have indicated that they have aspirations to undertake drainage works within the Fens to improve and enhance the fen habitat. These works could be in the vicinity of the perimeter drain.
- 3.10.3 National Grid will work with NRW to support existing programmes, and if appropriate agree a programme of drainage improvement works, within the SAC. Any works will be undertaken by NRW and will contribute to the ongoing management of the site.
- 3.10.4 The Anglesey Fens are identified as one of the 70 Flagship Pond sites under the Freshwater Habitats Trusts' Flagship Ponds Project. The Flagship Ponds Project aims to work on a bespoke basis, to support site managers and volunteer groups to best ensure site quality and key species can be maintained and enhanced. Works by NRW within the Fens may also support the objectives of the Flagship Ponds project.

3.11 OPPORTUNITY 10 - PROTECTED SPECIES

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Biodiversity

- 3.11.1 A number of opportunities have been identified during stakeholder meetings for measures that could provide support for protected and other species.
- 3.11.2 National Grid will work with NRW, IACC, Gwynedd Council and other organisations such as the RSPB, NWWT and the Woodland Trust to support existing programmes and identify specific proposals as appropriate.
- 3.11.3 A number of landowners who have land within the Order Limits have, after being contacted by National Gird, expressed an interest in supporting measures that would provide additional habitat for protected species (see Section 3.18 below). Approaches from other landowners in proximity to the Proposed Development will also be considered.

Great Crested Newt

3.11.4 Although effects on the Great Crested Newt population due to the Proposed Development are limited as set out in Chapter 9 of the ES, Ecology and Nature Conservation (Document 5.9), National Grid will work with NRW and contribute towards existing programmes seeking to maintain or enhance 'favourable conservation status' for this species.

Water Vole

- 3.11.5 The Proposed Development crosses a number of ditches / drains which provide habitat for water voles (see Opportunity 13 below).
- 3.11.6 Improvements to habitats for water voles would support the objectives of the LBAP for this species and would have ecological and biodiversity benefits.

Bats

- 3.11.7 Bat boxes will be offered to landowners who have the Proposed Development on their land and will be available to other landowners in proximity to the Proposed Development.
- 3.11.8 Advice will be provided by the Ecological Clerk of Works (as identified in the CEMP **Document 7.4**) as to appropriate locations / siting etc.
- 3.11.9 This measure will support the objectives of the LBAP for this species. IACC, Gwynedd Council, NWWT and the local bat group will be advised of the locations.

Barn Owls

3.11.10 Barn owl boxes will be offered to the RSPB, NWWT, landowners and community groups for siting in appropriate locations within 1km of the Proposed Development. Advice will also be offered to landowners and community groups.

3.12 OPPORTUNITY 11 - ANCIENT WOODLAND

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Biodiversity; Socio Economic

- 3.12.1 There a number of areas of Ancient Woodland in proximity to the Order Limits for the Proposed Development, many of which are identified within the JLDP as Local Wildlife Sites.
- 3.12.2 National Grid recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing ancient woodland and undertaking effective management. The

- improvement of these woodlands would benefit biodiversity but would also benefit local landscape character.
- 3.12.3 By agreement with landowners and through consultation with other stakeholders such as the NWWT, the Woodland Trust, IACC and Gwynedd Council, National Grid will develop a programme of works which could include measures such as the removal of invasive non-native species, selective thinning to encourage broadleaved trees and improve pH of soil to improve ground flora, and creation of rides or glades to increase woodland edge habitat.
- 3.12.4 The extent of works carried out under this measure will be based on the area of ancient woodland affected by the Proposed Development within each Local Authority area.
- 3.12.5 Improvements to Ancient Woodland would have ecological and biodiversity benefits as well as additional socio economic benefits (wellbeing).

3.13 OPPORTUNITY 12 - LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Biodiversity; Socio Economic

- 3.13.1 Excluding Ancient Woodland (as identified within Opportunity 11 above) there are a number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) as identified within the JLDP in proximity to the Order Limits for the Proposed Development.
- 3.13.2 National Grid will liaise with the IACC and Gwynedd Council to develop a list of LWSs which could benefit from enhancement works. Advice will be provided by the Ecological Clerk of Works and by agreement with landowners National Grid will develop a programme of works for individual sites which could include measures such as:
 - Vegetation clearance;
 - Habitat enhancement;
 - Planting; and
 - Interpretation.
- 3.13.3 Improvements to Local Wildlife Sites would have ecological and biodiversity benefits as well as additional socio economic benefits (wellbeing).

3.14 OPPORTUNITY 13 – RIVER CORRIDOR HABITATS

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Biodiversity

- 3.14.1 The Proposed Development crosses a number of watercourses. National Grid will support, subject to landowner agreement and by discussions with NRW, the improvement of riparian habitat in proximity to the Order Limits where the Proposed Development crosses the following watercourses:
 - Afon Maddanen would support targets and actions on the Rivers and Streams, Otter and Water Vole LBAPs and could provide improvements for fish populations (salmon, trout, eel and lamprey);
 - Afon Braint would support targets and actions on the River and Streams and Otter LBAPs and could provide improvements for fish populations (salmon, trout, eel and lamprey);
 - Nant y Garth would supports targets in the Gwynedd LBAP;
 - Cefni would support the Rivers and Streams Anglesey and Otter LBAPs, and could provide improvements for fish populations (salmon, trout, eel and lamprey);
 - Ceint would support the River and Streams LBAP and could provide improvements for fish populations (salmon, trout and eel).
- 3.14.2 This measure would also provide support to the Anglesey Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy and other HAP objectives to create new riparian habitat and enhance river corridors.

3.15 OPPORTUNITY 14 – HISTORIC SITES

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Historic Environment; Socio Economic (including tourism)

- 3.15.1 The Proposed Development would affect the settings of a number of designated and other heritage assets. Some of these, such as standing stones and barrows, are on open hill top locations and measures such as screening planting would be neither possible nor desirable. Therefore other enhancement opportunities have been considered.
- 3.15.2 The provision of interpretation boards and leaflets or the development of digital resources to provide information about assets could enhance understanding and appreciation of assets.
- 3.15.3 The sites in Anglesey that have been identified are:

- Maenaddwyn standing stone AN069 (Provision of interpretation panel); and
- All scheduled monuments at Llanfechell in proximity to the Proposed Development - Standing Stones (AN030) / Standing Stone 410m North of Church (AN080) / Pen-y-Morwyd Round Barrow (AN110)).
 All these monuments are on public footpaths. There is the potential to provide interpretation panels in Llanfechell in conjunction with existing footpaths.
- 3.15.4 Some assets are on public footpaths and are therefore theoretically accessible to the public. However, in some cases the footpaths are in a poor condition and structures such as stiles are damaged or missing. There are therefore opportunities to improve access.
- 3.15.5 An opportunity for such a footpath improvement has been identified at Peny-Morwyd Round Barrow (AN110) where the public footpath is in a poor condition.
- 3.15.6 In Gwynedd the following sites have been identified:
 - Fodol Ganol Enclosed Hut Group (Scheduled Monument (CN175);
 Consideration could be given to seeking agreement for the clearance of vegetation within the monument; and
 - Coed Nanty-Garth Standing Stone (Scheduled Monument (CN375).
- 3.15.7 Most assets are in a good or stable condition. However, for some it would be possible to identify simple measures for the physical enhancement or stabilisation of monuments. This could include clearance of vegetation, or basic ground stabilisation, such as by turfing. The sites that would benefit from this measure would be developed in conjunction with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS), IACC and Gwynedd Council.
- 3.15.8 All measures would require landowner agreement. Depending on the nature of the works, in some instances, a separate statutory consent may also be required.
- 3.15.9 Although the primary focus of these measure is to benefit the historic environment it would also potentially bring socio economic benefits by encouraging additional visitors to the sites.

3.15.10 National Grid has developed a scheme of archaeological investigation (Document 7.3) for the Proposed Development. In association with this a programme of 'archaeological' outreach will be produced and agreed between National Grid and GAPS including for example school visits, production of educational resources / materials and open days.

3.16 OPPORTUNITY 15 - EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Socio Economic

- 3.16.1 Any opportunities for local workers are likely to be in non-specialist construction and other non-specialist roles such as administration, security, delivery driving and hedgerow removal, maintenance and reinstatement. In order to enhance the potential for such opportunities to be realised National Grid would consider:
 - Using reasonable endeavours to actively support, and to work with those delivering, the development of skills for local people during the construction period.
 - Using reasonable endeavours to achieve a cumulative total of between 10 – 20% employment of local people in the workforce of the Proposed Development during the construction period.
 - Using reasonable endeavours to encourage and support local businesses in competition for project work during the construction period. This will include requiring Tier 1 and 2 contractors to use reasonable endeavours to:
 - publicise a range of opportunities for employment each month;
 - publicise a range of opportunities for employment for new entrants to the employment market each month;
 - work with relevant bodies including IACC and Gwynedd Council to identify opportunities for suitable local candidates for employment including amongst the unemployed, exoffenders and other groups defined by age, ethnicity, gender and/or disability which are underrepresented in the workforce, and to work with appropriate support groups and agencies to encourage their application for appropriate vacancies;
 - have regard to similar work taking place within the administrative areas of the Councils;
 - work collaboratively on similar initiatives with HNP; and

- identify a single point of contact to discuss the delivery of the above initiatives with the Councils.
- Tier 1 and 2 contractors could also be required to use reasonable endeavours to:
 - explain and detail what procurement qualifications, standards and methods will be used to procure project work;
 - engage with local suppliers and/or subcontractors to explain the range of opportunities;
 - hold or get involved with procurement workshops, events or meetings and have regard to similar work taking place within the administrative areas of the Councils:
 - work collaboratively on similar initiatives with HNP;
 - work with local chambers of commerce, trade associations and other local business and enterprise forums; and
 - use existing procurement portals where available.
- 3.16.2 Through its Procurement Sustainability Policy, National Grid gives a corporate commitment to embedding sustainability within its sourcing processes which includes providing local employment opportunities. This commitment is passed down the supply chain via the Supplier Code of Conduct (SCOC). The SCOC states that 'It is National Grid's corporate policy to provide small and local businesses, minority ethnic, women owned and diverse business enterprises, with an equal opportunity to participate in National Grid's procurement and sourcing processes. The Procurement Department will develop, administer, and implement processes to ensure these businesses have an opportunity to participate in the procurement process at National Grid, which will include extending this policy through our supply chain'.

3.17 OPPORTUNITY 16 – TRAFFIC INITIATIVES

Enhancement Opportunity Benefits: Traffic and Transport; Socio Economic

- 3.17.1 A number of temporary traffic measures included within the Construction Traffic Management Plan could be retained, if requested. This would be subject to the necessary consents and adoption by the local highway authority. These could include:
 - permanent speed restrictions at agreed locations;

- improved road traffic signage and road markings;
- retention of temporary access points at selected locations; and
- retention of temporary access points to become permanent passing places.

3.18 FEEDBACK

3.18.1 National Grid has made initial contact with landowners regarding enhancement measures. To date (01/08/2018) there have been 30 responses from landowners within the Order Limits expressing a positive interest, as set out below. Engagement will continue up to and post grant of a DCO.

Table 3.1 Landowner Feedback				
Opportunity		Responses		
		Anglesey	Gwynedd	
Opportunity 1	Voluntary Planting			
	Additional Tree Planting	14	3	
	Woodland Management	8	4	
Opportunity 6	Hedgerow Improvements	20	3	
Opportunity 7	Conservation & Restoration of Cloddiau			
	Improvements to Stone Walls	19	4	
Opportunity 8	Public Rights of Way			
	Footpaths / Stiles	8	1	
Opportunity 10	Protected Species			
	Bird / Bat / Barn Owl Boxes	14	4	

Table 3.1 Landowner Feedback				
Opportunity 13	River Corridor Habitats			
. 5	Improvements to Water Features	17	3	

3.19 **SUMMARY**

3.19.1 A summary of the enhancement opportunities and the potential opportunity benefits by discipline is provided in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2 – Summary							
Enhancement Opportunity		Landscape	Visual	Ecology & Nature Cons	Historic Environment	Traffic & Transport	Socio Economic (inc Tourism)
1	Data Sharing & Outreach	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
2	Voluntary Residential Planting Scheme	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$			\checkmark
3	Voluntary Landscape Planting	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$			
4	Promoted Viewpoint (Gaerwen)		$\sqrt{}$				√
5	Community Woodlands	$\sqrt{}$	√	$\sqrt{}$			\checkmark
6	Hedgerow Improvements	V	√	√	√		
7	Conservation & Restoration of Cloddiau	$\sqrt{}$	√	V	√		
8	Public Rights of Way	$\sqrt{}$	√			$\sqrt{}$	√
9	Cors Erddreiniog (Anglesey Fens)			$\sqrt{}$			\checkmark
10	Protected Species			$\sqrt{}$			
11	Ancient Woodland			$\sqrt{}$			\checkmark
12	Local Wildlife Sites			$\sqrt{}$			\checkmark
13	River Corridor Habitats			√			
14	Historic Sites						
15	Employment Initiatives						√
16	Traffic Initiatives					√	V

4 Community Outreach and Other Measures

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 In addition to the enhancement opportunities identified above National Grid has, and will continue to support, a number of 'outreach' programmes.
- 4.1.2 These initiatives are not included as enhancement opportunities specific to the Proposed Development. These, and any subsequent initiatives, will be available across Anglesey and in Gwynedd in the locality of the Proposed Development, and will continue throughout construction and operation of the Proposed Development.

4.2 NATIONAL GRID PROGRAMMES

4.2.1 National Grid has a corporate programme of educational initiatives for communities affected by works, which has been and would continue to be promoted locally.

4.2.2 These include:

National Grid Science Programme

- 4.2.3 The Science Programme promotes:
 - Science equipment for primary schools (to assist with the teaching of STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics));
 - National Grid Engineering Challenge (a programme for secondary schools, to encourage pupils to explore careers in engineering); and
 - Teaching the principles of electricity (training teachers and providing equipment to help pupils benefit from a scientific understanding of electricity).

Community Grant Programme

4.2.4 National Grid's Community Grant Programme, formerly known as Bringing Energy to Life, provides support to a wide range of charities and community organisations, with grants totalling more than £380,000 to date.

4.2.5 It seeks to support:

- Initiatives that support hard-to-reach members of the community improving inclusion and diversity;
- Initiatives that support community safety from gas or electricity safety to protecting at-risk members of society including the elderly and those with special needs;
- Education projects especially those that support the development of STEM skills, including VEX Robotics;
- Activities that promote or support health and wellbeing in the local community (e.g. addressing fuel poverty);
- Initiatives that support economic regeneration or prosperity (e.g. the development of a social enterprise);
- Initiatives that support a work placement or retraining scheme which increases employability of people disadvantaged in the workplace and helps get people back to work;
- Initiatives that support capacity building for community, charity or voluntary groups to help them improve their services, whether it be reaching more users or extending the hours that the service is available;
- Initiatives such as renewable energy or conservation projects; and
- Awareness-raising projects that improve environmental behaviour or understanding, from recycling to water resource management.
- 4.2.6 The First Menai Bridge Scout Group was awarded a grant in February 2016 to help fund the cost of a second-hand minibus.



4.2.7 A number of laptops have been presented to local schools and a local football team has been awarded funding towards new changing rooms.

GetSkilled Initiative

4.2.8 National Grid's 'GetSkilled' initiative is designed to support 16-20 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) who find it hard to progress into work or further training. Students initially attend a National Grid Business Learning Centre uniquely located within a university site before progressing onto work placements. The individually tailored programme lasts up to a year and is designed to build work-related skills before providing students with opportunities to take part in work placements equipping them with the experience needed by employers.

Open House

4.2.9 Open House, informative educational visits at operational sites (e.g. substations), organised so that secondary school pupils can learn about energy, engineering and National Grid in general including energy infrastructure, people and their jobs, the future of energy and career paths.

Other Measures

4.2.10 National Grid has also and will continue to support information events for local community groups. In excess of 80 meetings / events have been attended since 2015 covering for example Community Council meetings, the Anglesey Show, STEM and careers events at local schools (including mock interviews and CV advice), school presentations, Engineering Apprenticeship Fairs and presentations to community groups (for example Scouts, PROBUS, Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway, Gwynedd Engineering Society, Age Concern, Caernarfon Young Farmers and the WI).

4.3 INTERPRETATION BOARDS AT CAE GLAN MOR

- 4.3.1 It has been suggested by a stakeholder that the commemorative stone in the layby at Cae Glan Mor, adjacent to the National Trust plaque, is in need of restoration. This commemorative stone identifies the location where gas was first provided to the Island by National Grid.
- 4.3.2 National Grid will investigate the ownership of this feature and set out a restoration package.

5 Delivery Mechanisms

- 5.1.1 National Grid will work with IACC and Gwynedd Council to develop appropriate means of securing these enhancement opportunities. Other similar DCO projects which have been consented have entered into Section 106 Agreements and National Grid considers that it would be appropriate to explore this mechanism for the North Wales Connection Project.
- 5.1.2 National Grid will also enter into bespoke agreements with landowners as appropriate.

Figure 1

