

Issue number: BT-BECG-020637-560-0013

# Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

4.3 Statement of Community Consultation  
January 2022



nationalgrid



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities about its proposals to reinforce the capacity of the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex, ahead of its application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 The Bramford to Twinstead project (the “project”) is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and requires consent from the Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO). This document has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Act”) and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 1.1.3 In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities:
- Babergh District Council
  - Mid Suffolk District Council
  - Braintree District Council
  - Essex County Council
  - Suffolk County Council.

## 1.2 Nationally Significantly Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1 Installation of a new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity line is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Act. This means that development consent is required before construction of the project can begin.
- 1.2.2 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the “Secretary of State”). PINS will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether or not to grant the development consent for the project.
- 1.2.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and statutory stakeholders.
- 1.2.4 Early involvement of communities, local authorities and stakeholders helps us identify valuable information, including about the potential impacts of a project, so that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application is considered.

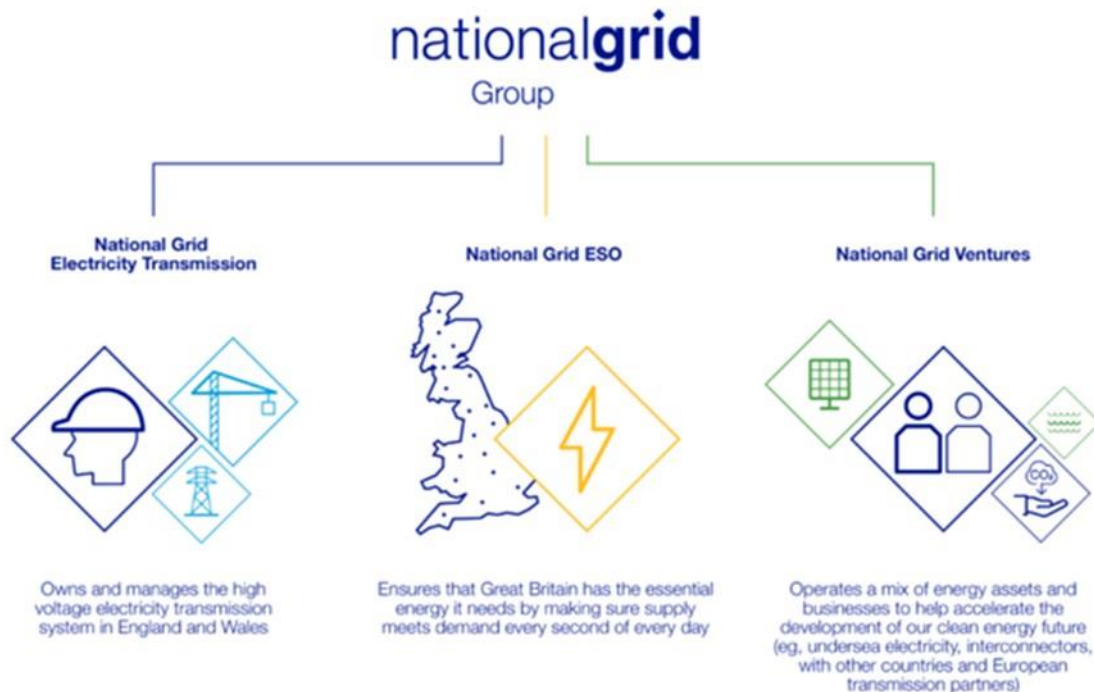
## 1.3 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

- 1.3.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer’s homes and businesses; in the way that

we support our communities and help them to grow. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.

- 1.3.2 Within the National Grid Group there are separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles (see figure 1.1 below). The project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- 1.3.3 **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. NGET owns, builds and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
- 1.3.4 **National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO)** controls the movement of electricity around the country, transporting power from generators (such as wind farms) to local distribution network operators, like UK Power Network (UKPN), ensuring that supply meets demand.
- 1.3.5 Both NGET and NGESO are licensed by the Government as electricity transmission companies. They are regulated by Ofgem which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers.
- 1.3.6 **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

Figure 1.1 – Structure of National Grid Group of companies



- 1.3.7 NGET has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989 (“the Electricity Act”). This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

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

*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 [it] 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 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#).

## 2. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Project

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The UK has set a clear ambition for our country to be a global leader in clean energy. The Government has set a commitment to reach Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and an ambition to connect 40 GW of offshore wind by 2030 – enough energy to power every home in the country.
- 2.1.2 To achieve this, offshore wind is being developed at scale and around 60% of the current offshore wind projects will come ashore along the East Coast.
- 2.1.3 Couple this with new nuclear generation proposed at Sizewell C and greater interconnection with countries across the North Sea, we expect to see a significant increase in the level of renewable and low carbon electricity generation connecting in East Anglia.
- 2.1.4 While our existing high voltage electricity network in East Anglia has been sufficient until today, it does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected by 2030 while working to the required standards.
- 2.1.5 In the first half of this decade, we are investing significantly in upgrading the existing network, but that still will not deliver the capability that is needed by the end of the decade. We need to reinforce the region's electricity network to address this, including between Bramford and Twinstead.
- 2.1.6 We need to build a new 400 kV connection between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee to improve the capability of the electricity transmission network and carry the clean green energy that is proposed in East Anglia to homes and businesses.

### 2.2 Consultation between 2009-2013

- 2.2.1 The project has already been subject to multiple rounds of consultation between 2009 and 2013. However, we paused work on the project following changes to when some of the new generation projects in the region were likely to connect to the transmission network. Between 2009 and 2013 the project was shaped by:
- feedback from public consultations on route corridor options, route alignment, Stour Valley West cable sealing end (CSE) compound location and the grid supply point substation (GSP) location
  - detailed design including engineering and environmental surveys
  - feedback from 18 months of community forums and thematic group meetings which explored significance of impacts and where undergrounding the power lines might be necessary to mitigate them
- 2.2.2 Further information on the consultation activity undertaken between 2009 and 2013 is available in the Project Development Options Report. Historic documents from these consultations are also available on the project website. Posted copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

## 2.3 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 Now that the project is once again required, we undertook a further round of non-statutory consultation from 25 March to 6 May 2021.
- 2.3.2 This consultation had the following aims:
- to reintroduce and provide an overview of the project, including how it developed before we paused work in 2013
  - to explain how we reviewed and updated the project
  - to gather feedback on the project
  - to outline next steps and programme and how we would further develop the project.
- 2.3.3 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold face-to-face events. Instead, we combined both digital and conventional methods of engagement, providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to access information and take part in the consultation.
- 2.3.4 Over the course of the consultation, the project team held ten webinars, six telephone surgeries and two live chat sessions, as well as providing relevant project documents for viewing at locations along the proposed route.
- 2.3.5 We developed an interactive project website, the functionality of which included:
- interactive maps with removable layers
  - searchable FAQs
  - automated chatbot
  - built-in visual aid tools and translation services
  - animations, videos and infographics
  - document library with interactive PDFs
  - live chat function
  - online feedback form.
- 2.3.6 To raise awareness of our consultation within the local community, we distributed an invitation newsletter to more than 3,164 homes and businesses within 1km of the emerging project, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representatives and representatives of third-party and community interest groups.
- 2.3.7 Paid-for newspaper adverts were placed in a number of local newspapers. Digital versions of these adverts ran on the websites of these publications. Notices were also placed in community news publications, further advertising the consultation.
- 2.3.8 The consultation events were further publicised through paid-for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Spotify advertising.
- 2.3.9 Briefing sessions were held with elected representatives, parish councils and third-party and community interest groups throughout the consultation period.
- 2.3.10 A total of 526 feedback responses were received from members of the public and interested parties. From the number of feedback forms received, 36.2% were submitted online and 63.8% were submitted as paper copy. We received feedback from a diverse age range of respondents.



- 2.3.11 Members of the local community were also able to submit feedback by speaking with members of the team via a number of channels, including a freephone information line (0808 196 1515), consultation email address ([contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com)), via the consultation website ([nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead](http://nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead)) or via the postage paid address (B T REINFORCEMENT).
- 2.3.12 Further information on the non-statutory consultation will be available in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, to be published at statutory consultation. Historic documents from this consultation will be available on the project website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

## 2.4 Project description

- 2.4.1 National Grid intends to submit an application for an order granting development consent to reinforce the transmission network between the existing Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. This would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new 400 kV electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29 km.
- 2.4.2 The reinforcement would comprise 19 km of overhead line (consisting of up to 55 new pylons and conductors) and 10 km of underground cable system (consisting of up to 20 cables with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 2.4.3 Four CSE compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. Each CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, a small control building and a permanent access track.
- 2.4.4 It is proposed that approximately 27.5 km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25 km of existing 132 kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2.5 km of the existing 400 kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new GSP substation is proposed at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including a single circuit CSE compound, replacement pylons and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400 kV and 132 kV networks.
- 2.4.5 The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a Development Consent Order (DCO). Some aspects of the project, such as the underground sections and the GSP substation, constitute associated development.
- 2.4.6 Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):
- modifications to, and realignment of sections of the existing 400 kV overhead line
  - temporary land to facilitate construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access
  - temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway including bellmouths for site access, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings, watercourse crossings and diversions of Public Rights of Way

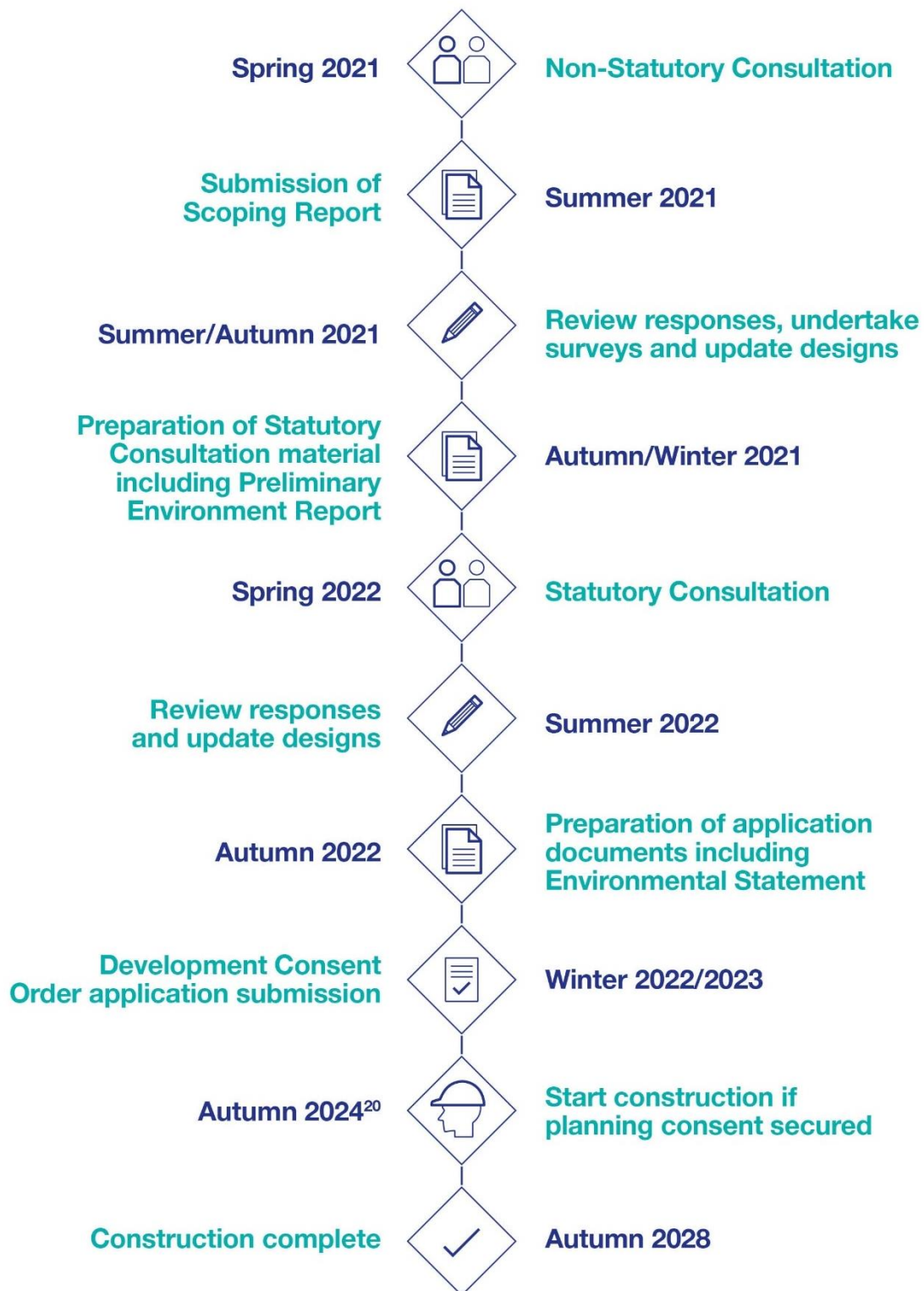
- diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint
- land for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.

2.4.7 It should be noted that we are also considering alternative consenting routes for the GSP substation and related works, including a Town & Country Planning Act planning application to Braintree District Council. For the avoidance of doubt and consistency the statutory consultation covers all elements of the proposals as listed above.

## 2.5 Project timeline

- 2.5.1 Figure 2.1 sets out the currently proposed timeline for each stage of the project from consultation through to the decision from the Secretary of State and construction.
- 2.5.2 Following feedback from stakeholders, we rescheduled the start of the statutory consultation to align with the availability of more information on other proposed NGET projects in East Anglia.
- 2.5.3 Whilst the timescales are subject to change, NGESO has identified in the Network Options Assessment 2020/21 that the project needs to be in place by 2028.

Figure 2.1 – Project timeline

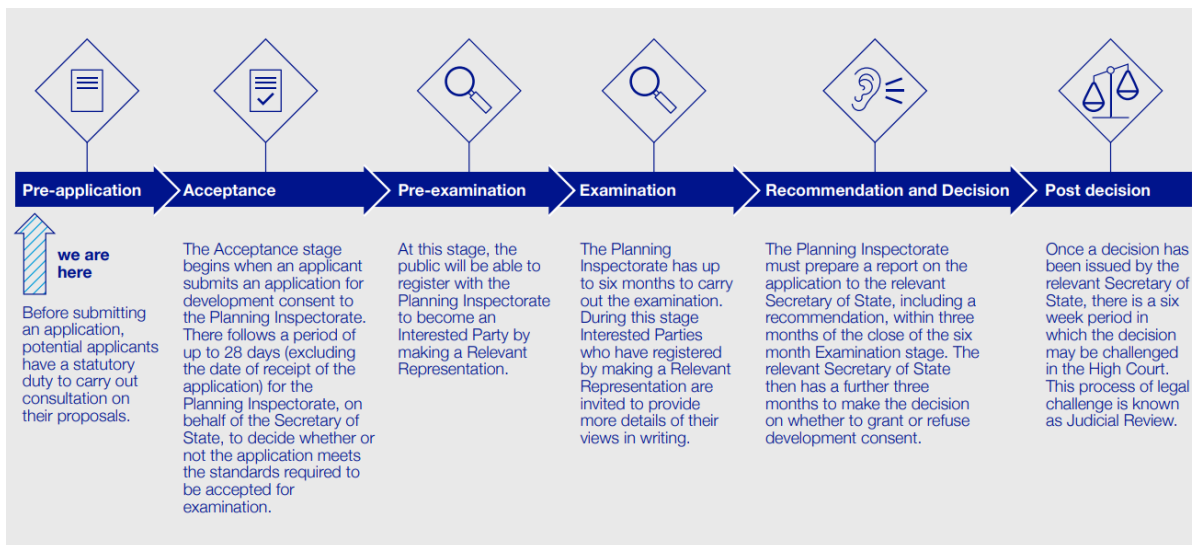


<sup>20</sup> Should planning permission be granted for the GSP substation, construction may start earlier



Figure 2.2 provides an overview of the DCO consenting process.

Figure 2.2 – DCO process



## 3. Consulting on the proposed application

### 3.1 When will the consultation take place?

3.1.1 The statutory consultation will run for eight weeks. It is expected to take place between 25 January 2022 and 21 March 2022. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted up to five working days after this date.

### 3.2 What will we consult on?

3.2.1 We will seek views and feedback on the following elements of the project including the:

- proposed route of the new 400 kV electricity line
- extent of extent of the underground cable and overhead line sections of the new 400kV reinforcement
- location and form of CSE compounds
- removal of the existing 132 kV overhead electricity line
- location and form of a new grid supply point substation at Butler's Wood
- construction methodology
- likely environmental effects arising from the project
- potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects
- preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains.

3.2.2 The project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback, further design, and assessment. The Statutory Consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will outline any limitations on the current assessments. If any substantive changes are made to the design of the project following this statutory consultation, National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation as appropriate (see paragraph 4.3).

3.2.3 We will make the full PEIR available on the project website. Paper copies of the PEIR will be available for inspection at deposit points. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

3.2.4 As part of the submission of an application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects and proposed mitigation based on the final design.

### 3.3 Who will we consult?

3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the project. We welcome all views and will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.

- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Act, we have a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community. The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ), which extends 1km from the proposed draft Order Limits for the project and the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), which extends to at least 5km from the draft Order Limits for the project (including the PCZ). The draft Order Limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the project.
- 3.3.3 We will also consult the following groups and individuals:
- parish councils representing parishes within both consultation zones and in the immediate vicinity
  - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering both consultation zones
  - elected representatives in local authorities where the project is situated, including dedicated briefings for lead members during the statutory consultation period as requested
  - ‘seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials
  - local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife.
- 3.3.4 In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act. We will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44.

## 3.4 Consultation materials

- 3.4.1 The following consultation materials will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.1 – Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Consultation pack	Summary newsletter with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overview of the proposals and project map</li> <li>• project website details and instructions on how to access information at home</li> <li>• information about webinars and how to sign up</li> </ul>	The pack will be posted to all properties within the PCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail). Members of the public will be able to access a copy of the pack at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). The information contained within the pack will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. Stakeholders identified in Section 3.3) will also be



<b>Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target audience</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>instructions on how to book telephone or video appointments with the project team and technical experts</li> <li>information on how to give feedback and speak to the project team.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, packs will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>feedback form with details of how to provide feedback</li> <li>postage-paid envelopes.</li> </ul>	<p>provided a copy of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project website	A dedicated consultation website (Table 3.2 for detail)	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail). The website will be promoted in several ways (see section 3.5 for details).
Project Background Document	<p>A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the project, its various components and where to find more detailed information or contact the project team.</p> <p>The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). The Project Background Document will also be available to download via the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of the Project Background Document.</p> <p>Copies of the material will also be made available in braille, large print, dementia friendly format and audio description upon request.</p>
Project Development Options Report	A document outlining the development of the project and the rationale behind each component.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).

<b>Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target audience</b>
		<p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail).</p> <p>The Project Development Options Report will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of the Project Development Options Report.</p>
Non-Statutory Consultation Report	A document outlining the non-statutory consultation undertaken in March 2021, a summary of the feedback received and identifying how National Grid has had regard to that feedback.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail).</p> <p>The Non-Statutory Consultation report will also be available to download from the project website.</p>
Feedback form	Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the project.	<p>Feedback forms will be posted to all residential and business properties within the PCZ as part of the consultation pack.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to collect a copy of the feedback from the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). Forms will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be mailed on request.</p>
Consultation banners	Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the project. Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the plans and allow for further discussion with members of	<p>Members of the public will be able to view consultation banners on the project website. Printed copies will be mailed on request.</p>

<b>Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target audience</b>
	the project team during telephone or video appointments. The consultation banners will be displayed in an online virtual consultation 'town hall'.	
Audio guide of consultation banners	To assist those with visual impairments, audio guides will be provided upon request, summarising the key components of the project and how to provide feedback.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail) and those with visual impairments.
Project maps	Paper copy and digital mapping will be made available to assist understanding of the proposals.	All those interested in the consultation (see Section 3.3 for detail).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	PEIR details the environmental information and the results of the preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the project.	Interested members of the public and those in SCZ (see Section 3.3 for detail). Members of the public will be able to view a copy at the deposit points (see Section 3.7 for detail). The reports will also be available to download from the project website and printed copies will be shared on request. A fee may be charged for printed copies of the PEIR.

3.4.2 To provide flexibility around changing government Covid-19 guidelines, all consultation material will be available on the project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways. This is set out in further detail in the following table.

**Table 3.2 – Website features**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Interactive project map with layers that can be added and removed	To enable members of the public to see how different components of the project fit together and how they interact with the existing landscape.
Interactive project map directing members of the	To enable members of the public and other stakeholders to access detailed maps of the proposed reinforcement.



<b>Function</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
public and stakeholders to detailed, technical maps.	
Virtual consultation ‘town hall’	This will present all consultation banners and information in the familiar format of a town hall public consultation.
Project videos, infographics and animations	To provide a simple, concise overview of key information.
FAQs	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the team or attend an in-person event.
Online feedback form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online.
Webinar sign up form	To enable members of the public to sign up to webinars.
Video and telephone appointments to ‘ask the experts’	To enable members of the public to book a video or telephone surgery appointment.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the project team.
Accessibility	The project website will be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation.

## 3.5 Promoting the consultation

3.5.1 We will continue to use a number of digital engagement channels that were successful at non-statutory consultation. These include:

- an interactive website
- online webinars
- video and telephone surgery sessions
- social media advertising

3.5.2 Further detail on these and other engagement and promotion methods are outlined in this and subsequent sections.

3.5.3 We will direct mail the consultation pack (outlined in Table 3.1) to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ. The PCZ contains approximately 4,000 addresses and is shown in Appendix A.

3.5.4 Those living outside of the PCZ and in the SCZ, will be made aware of the consultation through the following other methods of engagement.

- 3.5.5 The consultation will be advertised in the following local newspapers to provide details of where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the public exhibitions.
- 3.5.6 The newspapers will include:
- East Anglian Daily Times
  - Ipswich Star
  - West Suffolk Mercury
  - Colchester Gazette
  - Halstead Gazette
  - Braintree and Witham Times
  - Essex County Standard
- 3.5.7 The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and SCZ, and beyond.
- 3.5.8 Online advertisements will also be placed in these publications, with the addition of Essex Live.
- 3.5.9 We will work with parishes along the route to advertise the consultation in parish magazines and on local parish websites where possible.
- 3.5.10 The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers (as well as in the London Gazette), giving details about the consultation in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act. Site notices will also be placed at key locations along the route of the project.
- 3.5.11 Adverts will be placed on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to help raise general awareness and target different demographics, including those who might not otherwise engage with the consultation. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation versus other platforms.
- 3.5.12 Posters will be sent to parish councils to display locally, to raise awareness of the consultation.
- 3.5.13 In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website, [nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead](https://nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead). Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps can telephone the project team on 0808 196 1515.
- 3.5.14 Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £220 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested using the contact details at the end of this document.
- 3.5.15 We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis to take into account individual circumstances.
- 3.5.16 Requests for paper copy or alternative format of documents can be made by contacting the project by email at [contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com), or by calling 0808 196 1515.

## 3.6 Digital-first engagement

- 3.6.1 We must ensure full and ongoing compliance with all national and local legislative requirements and guidelines (including those introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic). Following the government's announcement that England is moving to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant, we will be undertaking a digital-first approach to statutory consultation.
- 3.6.2 Ten webinars will be held throughout the statutory consultation period (as outlined in Section 3.7), members of the public will also be invited to book a video or telephone appointment (as outlined in Section 3.8). These surgeries will be bespoke sessions where members of the public can ask questions of relevant technical experts.
- 3.6.3 To assist those without access to the internet, all advertisement will make clear how members of the public can request paper copies of the consultation information and encourage stakeholders to make use of the telephone and video sessions.
- 3.6.4 If at the time of consultation, or during the consultation, government guidance on in-person events changes so as to become less restrictive, some in-person events may be reinstated and advertised via leaflet drop and social media advertisement. Further steps may also be taken where necessary to ensure continued fair participation for all in the consultation process.

## 3.7 Webinars

- 3.7.1 Ten project webinars will be held throughout the consultation period at the following dates and times:
- 10 am - 11 am, Monday 31 January, overview of proposals (BSL interpreter present)
  - 6pm – 7pm, Thursday 3 February, overview of proposals
  - 7pm - 8pm, Tuesday 8 February, sections AB Hintlesham and Chattisham and C, Brett Valley
  - 7pm – 8pm, Wednesday 9 February, sections D Polstead and E Dedham Vale AONB
  - 7pm – 8pm, Thursday 10 February, sections F Leavenheath and Assington, G Stour Valley and H Grid Supply Point
  - 7pm - 8pm, Wednesday 16 February, construction and environmental impacts
  - 4pm - 5pm, Friday 18 February, overview of proposals
  - 10am – 11am, Monday 21 February, sections AB Hintlesham and Chattisham and C, Brett Valley
  - 10am – 11am, Wednesday 23 February, sections D Polstead and E Dedham Vale AONB
  - 10am – 11am, Thursday 24 February, sections F Leavenheath and Assington, G Stour Valley and H Grid Supply Point
- 3.7.2 The webinars will provide information about the proposals presented by the project team and will allow members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.

- 3.7.3 Webinars will provide opportunities for audience participation and a summary of all questions asked by other participants.
- 3.7.4 Members of the public can sign up for a webinar online through our consultation website, by email using our email address or over the phone using our freephone number.

### **3.8 Video and telephone appointments to ‘ask the experts’**

- 3.8.1 To allow members of the public to speak directly with the project team on an individual basis, appointment sessions will be made available over 10 different dates.
- 3.8.2 These appointments will take place through video conferencing software, or the telephone for those without access to the internet and are designed to address specific questions or queries, with technical experts.

Members of the public can book an available appointment from the list below, online on our consultation website, or by calling or emailing us. We will also make additional appointment sessions available if demand is high. The 10 appointment sessions will be advertised on the following dates/times:

- Tuesday 1 February, 9am – 5pm
- Monday 7 February, 5pm – 8pm
- Friday 11 February, 3pm – 7pm
- Monday 14 February, 3pm – 7pm
- Tuesday 15 February, 9am – 1pm
- Tuesday 22 February, 3pm – 7pm
- Wednesday 2 March, 9am – 1pm
- Thursday 10 March, 10am – 3pm
- Tuesday 15 March, 9am – 5pm
- Friday 18 March 3pm – 7pm

### **3.9 Stakeholder briefings and meetings**

- 3.9.1 We will offer virtual briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run up to or during the consultation:
- Members of Parliament, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone
  - elected representatives of district and county councils
  - parish councils where all or part of the parish fall inside the PCZ
  - local planning authority officers.
- 3.9.2 We will meet with other organisations and individuals on request. These may include:
- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act
  - persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1) and 44 of the Act



- third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships and business groups
- community groups or residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
- parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ
- interest groups with a close relationship to the project.

### 3.10 Deposit points

3.10.1 Whilst this is no longer a statutory requirement, paper copies of the project background document, project development options report, non-statutory consultation report, PEIR, newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be made available at the locations in the table below. This excludes circumstances outside of our control, such as those which prevent the locations specified from opening. Material will be available to view only if libraries remain open during the statutory consultation period.

Table 3.5 – Deposit points

<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Opening Times</b>
Sible Hedingham Library	169 Swan Street Sible Hedingham CO9 3PX	Monday - 9am to 1pm Tuesday - Closed Wednesday - Closed Thursday - 2pm to 7pm Friday - Closed Saturday - 9am to 5pm Sunday - Closed
Sudbury Library	Market Hill, Sudbury CO10 2EN	Monday - 9am to 5pm Tuesday – 9am to 7:30pm Wednesday - 9am to 5pm Thursday - 9am to 5pm Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday - 9am to 5pm Sunday – 10am-4pm
Hadleigh Library	29 High Street, Hadleigh IP7 5AG	Monday - Closed Tuesday – 9am to 5pm Wednesday - 9am to 5pm Thursday - 9am to 6pm Friday - 9am to 5pm Saturday – 9:30am to 5pm Sunday – 10am to 4pm

### 3.11 Seldom heard groups

- 3.11.1 We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 3.11.2 Seldom heard groups in the case of the project could consist of the groups which have been outlined in Table 3.6.
- 3.11.3 The ways in which our approach to consultation will assist in engaging with seldom heard groups is set out in the table below:

Table 3.6 – Seldom heard engagement tools

Seldom Heard Group	Consultation approach
The elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• options to engage through conventional communications channels including the postal service and the telephone</li> <li>• telephone “ask the expert” appointments</li> <li>• important information available in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request)</li> <li>• engagement with community groups serving that demographic</li> <li>• paper copies of materials available at deposit points along with contact details for the project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online</li> <li>• telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• audio guide of consultation banners</li> <li>• important information provided in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• option to enlarge text on project website</li> <li>• telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments</li> <li>• telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>
People with limited mobility/disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• online engagement through the consultation website and webinars to remove the need for travel</li> <li>• important information provided in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia friendly, braille and large print (upon request)</li> <li>• telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs providing British Sign Language signing at a webinar, which will be recorded and placed on the project website</li> <li>• telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>
Youth (13-15) age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engagement with community groups and appropriate bodies (such as schools and colleges) serving that demographic</li> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project</li> <li>• video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system</li> </ul>
15-19 and 20-39 age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engagement with community groups and appropriate bodies (such as schools and colleges) serving that demographic</li> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project</li> <li>• video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system</li> </ul>

Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility</li> <li>• video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system providing a variety of dates and times social media engagement</li> <li>• telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisement to encourage engagement with the project</li> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels to provide flexibility.</li> </ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system, removing the need to travel telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as black, asian and minority ethnic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engagement with community groups serving that demographic</li> </ul>
ESL (English as a Second Language)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consultation material provided in alternative languages (upon request)</li> <li>• translation/interpreter facilities provided during video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments (upon request)</li> </ul>
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engagement with community groups and representatives serving that demographic</li> <li>• paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; including details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>video and telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team</li> </ul>
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engagement with community groups and representatives to engage seldom heard groups who may also be digitally excluded</li> <li>Paper consultation pack and project information posted to all properties within the PCZ; and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>telephone ‘ask the expert’ appointments, with a booking system</li> <li>telephone call backs available for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>

## 3.12 Contact details

3.12.1 The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. The channels available and the hours of operation are set out in Table 3.7. Please note that the hours of operation refer to the times during which a response can be expected, however both the email address and telephone number will be able to receive emails and calls 24 hours a day.

Table 3.7 – Contact details

Method	Contact Details	Hours of Operation
Online	<a href="https://nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead">nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead</a>	24 hours
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com">contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com</a>	9am-5pm weekdays
Telephone	0808 196 1515	9am-5pm weekdays

3.12.2 The project team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that is not readily to hand, the project team will endeavour to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.

# 4. Responses to the consultation

## 4.1 Methods of responding

4.1.1 During the consultation period people will be able to submit their feedback on the proposals for the project.

4.1.2 This can be done in the following ways:

- online via the consultation website ([nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead](https://nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead))
- by post using the postage paid envelope (which are available upon email or telephone request)
- by email ([contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com)).

4.1.3 Consultation responses received by any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation. Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.

4.1.4 Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted for up-to five working days after the formal closing date of the consultation.

4.1.5 Although they will not formally be included as consultation feedback, National Grid will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.

## 4.2 Presenting the results

4.2.1 Following the close of the consultation, the feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed alongside any and all responses received as part of the consultation activities held in line with sections 42 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, in order to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and refined in light of the feedback.

4.2.2 The proposed application will then be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation

4.2.3 A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application for development consent, as required by section 37(3)(c) of the PA2008. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this document and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the final proposals. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response.

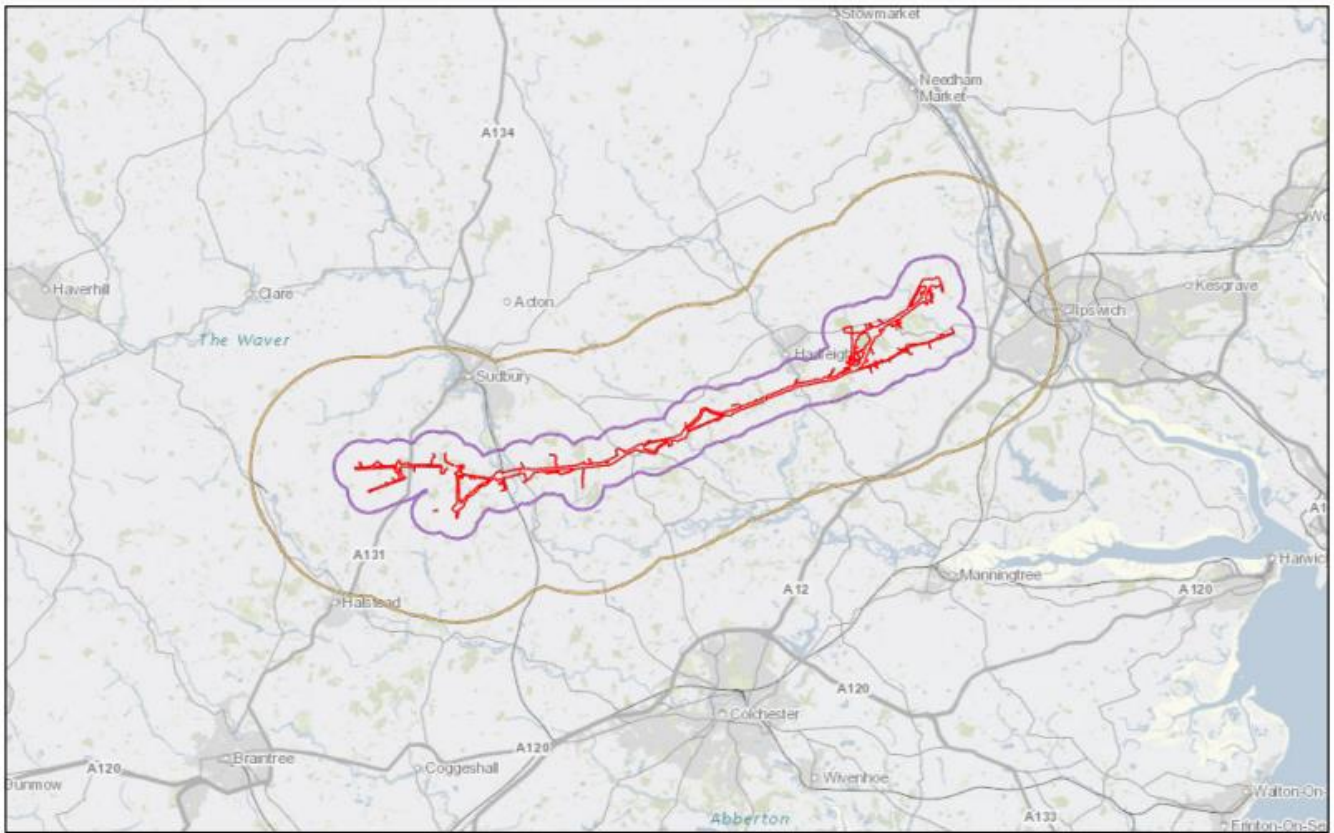
4.2.4 PINS will decide whether the Application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to comment on the adequacy of the consultation

4.2.5 The Consultation Report will be available online once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.5.12.

## 4.3 Further consultation

- 4.3.1 If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

# Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map

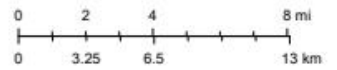


05/01/2022

- Draft Order Limits
- DF2.1 Max Order Limits 1km Buffer

- DF2.1 Max Order Limits 5km Buffer

1:250,000



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