

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

# Environmental Implications of Change – Suffolk 5

January 2025

**nationalgrid**

AENC-ARC-CNS-REP-0006

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# 1. Environmental Implications of Change – Suffolk 5

## 1.1 Introduction
















- 1.1.1 This Environmental Implications of Change document should be read alongside the associated Suffolk 5 targeted consultation leaflet. This Environmental Implications of Change document can also be viewed on the Project website.
- 1.1.2 Image 1 presents the Statutory Consultation design and the proposed change together with key environmental constraints using the key below.

### Key







#### Proposed land use

-  Draft order limits
-  Statutory undertaker works

#### Proposed project design details

-  New lattice pylon
-  Gantry
-  Full line tension gantry
-  New overhead line
-  Lower height pylons
-  New underground cable swathe centreline
-  New underground cable construction swathe
-  Cable sealing end compound boundary
-  Substation boundary
-  New underground cable trenchless crossing
-  Permanent access route including visibility splays (substations and cable sealing end compound)
-  Existing DNO lattice pylon - to be dismantled
-  Existing DNO lattice pylon - to be modified
-  Existing DNO overhead line - to be dismantled
-  Existing DNO overhead line - to be modified

#### Temporary works

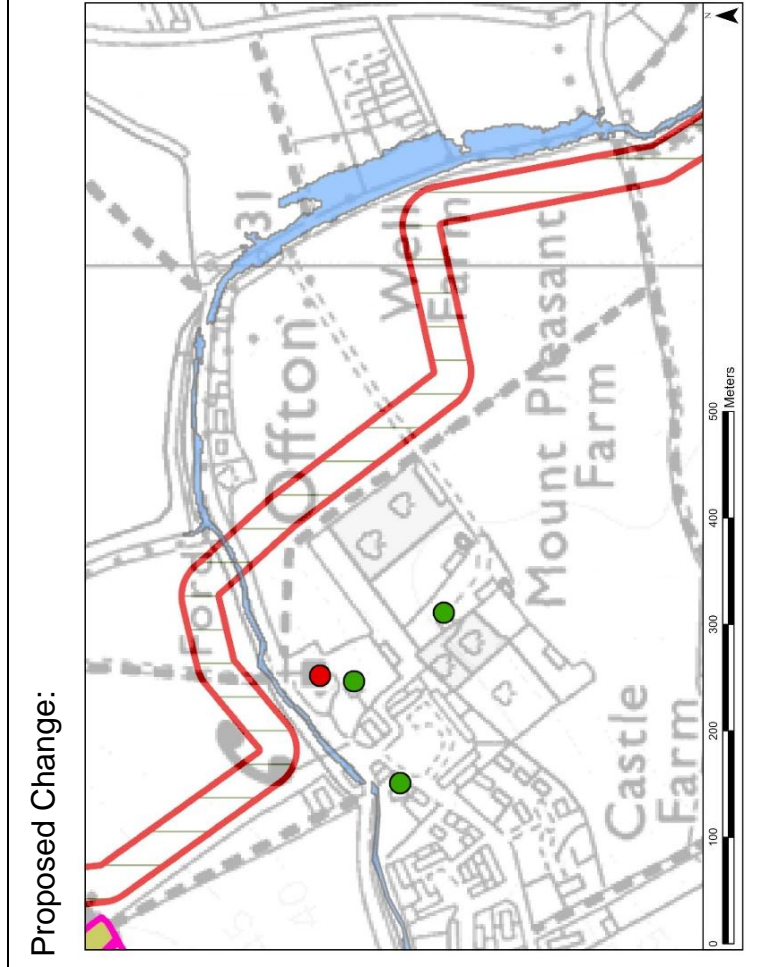
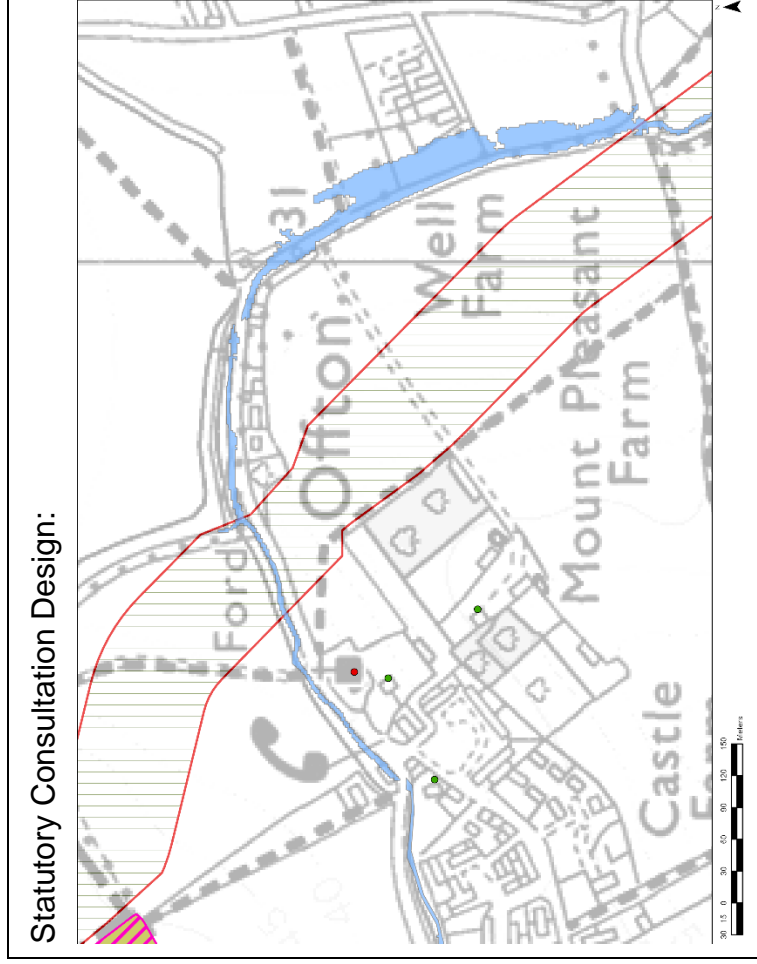
-  Site access, crossover points and visibility splays
-  Haul roads
-  Haul roads for underground cable, cable sealing end compounds and substation works
-  Crossing protection work area
-  Construction compound
-  Construction laydown area

#### Environmental constraints

##### Listed Buildings

-  Grade I
-  Grade II
-  Grade II\*
-  Local Nature Reserves
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Areas
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  County / Local Wildlife Sites
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Countryside and Rights of Way Open Access Land
-  National Landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural beauty)
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Flood Zone 3

**Image 1: Proposed Change**





## 1.2 Environmental Implications of Change

- 1.2.1 We have reviewed the proposed change set out in the consultation information leaflet and its likely environmental implications against the preliminary assessment reported in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) published as part of our summer 2024 statutory consultation. We have undertaken this review against each of the technical topics covered by the PEIR, with respect to this location within the Project, including: agriculture and soils; air quality; ecology and biodiversity; contaminated land, geology and hydrogeology; health and wellbeing; historic environment; hydrology, land drainage and flood risk; landscape and visual; noise and vibration; socio-economics, recreation and tourism; and traffic and transport. We have applied the same methodologies and principles set out in the PEIR based on the information available and recognising that the Project is the subject of ongoing consultation and environmental surveys.
- 1.2.2 For information on the environmental implications of a change following our review, National Grid has produced an ‘Environmental Implications of Change document’ (EIC), like this one, with location reference to the specific area where the proposed change is located.
- 1.2.3 The table below outlines the environmental implications of a change which is proposed as a result of feedback received during statutory consultation in 2024. The information provided here is proportionate and appropriate information on the environmental implications when looked at both in local context and in the context of the project as a whole.

<b>Environmental Topic</b>	<b>Comments / observations / identified environmental implications of the change requested proposed change when compared to the preliminary assessment presented in the PEIR</b>
Agriculture and Soils	Indicative mapping shows similar ‘Provisional Agricultural Land Classification’ grading and soil types as identified for the design presented at statutory consultation. There would be no change to the type or significance of agriculture and soil effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Air Quality	There would be no change to the type or significance of air quality effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Ecology and Biodiversity	The proposed change would reduce the width of underground cabling which would be likely to have less effects on ecological features and lower fragmentation effects when compared to the design presented at statutory consultation. There would be no change to the type or significance of ecology and biodiversity effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology	There would be no change to the type or significance of contaminated land, geology and hydrogeology effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.

<b>Environmental Topic</b>	<b>Comments / observations / identified environmental implications of the change requested proposed change when compared to the preliminary assessment presented in the PEIR</b>
Health and Wellbeing	There would be no change to the type or significance of health and wellbeing effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Historic Environment	<p>The proposed change would locate the underground cabling works closer to the Grade I listed Church of St Mary and the Grade II listed The Green and The Old Vicarage, however, any potential effects on these listed buildings would be temporary during the construction period.</p> <p>There would be no change to the type or significance of historic environment effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.</p>
Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk	<p>Compared to the design presented at statutory consultation, the proposed change would result in a larger construction footprint adjacent to 'The Channel', a watercourse that flows into the River Gipping.</p> <p>However, there would be no change to the type or significance of hydrology, land drainage and flood risk effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.</p>
Landscape and Visual	<p>The proposed change would bring the route of the underground cable works closer to residential properties at the edge of Offton, although potential visual effects would be temporary. The cable route would be reduced in width when compared with the design presented at statutory consultation, potentially requiring less vegetation loss.</p> <p>In terms of landscape, effects on landscape character are likely to be similar. This is because the design presented at statutory consultation and the proposed change would both introduce underground cable into the rolling valley farmland. Effects would be temporary during construction.</p> <p>There would be no change to the type or significance of landscape and visual effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.</p>
Noise and Vibration	There would be no change to the type or significance of noise and vibration effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	There would be no change to the type or significance of socio-economic, recreation and tourism effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.
Traffic and Transport	There would be no change to the type or significance of traffic and transport effects as a result of the proposed change, when compared to the design and PEIR presented at statutory consultation.

## 1.3 Conclusion

- 1.3.1 The proposed change would not materially change the conclusions that were reported within the PEIR (National Grid, 2024) which was published for statutory consultation. The PEIR can be viewed [here](#).
- 1.3.2 If the proposed change is taken forwards, the baseline information (and environmental surveys) and assessment associated with this change would be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES).

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