

The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) and
Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL 4)

2024 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report

May 2025

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Executive Summary

National Grid Electricity Transmission, referred to as NGET within this report, is developing proposals to enhance the electricity network between Scotland and England.

As part of this, NGET is developing plans for EGL 3 and EGL 4, (referred to as the 'Projects' in this report), for two new primarily offshore high voltage electricity links and associated onshore infrastructure between Scotland and England.

The links would transport enough clean energy from Scotland to power up to four million homes in the Midlands and South of England, playing an important role in building a more secure and resilient future energy system and contributing to the decarbonisation of the UK electricity system.

NGET wants to ensure that members of the public and all stakeholders are engaged at each stage in the development of the draft proposals and that everyone who wishes to do so has the opportunity to comment on the draft proposals at key decision-making points.

A non-statutory consultation was held for a period of eight weeks, between 23 April 2024 and 17 June 2024. This non-statutory consultation introduced the Projects, explained how NGET had developed its proposals, and sought the views of the public and stakeholders. During the eight-week period, a general election was announced to take place on 4 July 2024. As a result, NGET re-scheduled events that were planned to take place during the pre-election period and the deadline for consultation feedback was extended by three weeks to 15 July 2024.

The non-statutory consultation sought views on where the new onshore infrastructure in England could be built and what should be considered as we further develop our proposals. The feedback received during the non-statutory consultation has been carefully reviewed and considered.

This report details the consultation process, provides an analysis of the feedback, and demonstrates how NGET has had regard to the feedback.

NGET is planning to hold a statutory public consultation in 2025. This will provide the opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to see how the Projects have evolved since the non-statutory consultation, and to review and comment on how the proposals were developed. A further consultation feedback report will be produced following the 2025 statutory consultation.

The feedback from the non-statutory and statutory consultations will be used to inform the final design that will be put forward in the application for development consent. NGET expects to submit an application for consent for the Projects in 2026.

Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIT	Carbon Interface Tool
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CPRSS	Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study Report
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
EGL	Eastern Green Link
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPS	National Police Statement
Ofgem	Office of gas and electricity markets
PCZ	Primary Consultation Zone
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
REAC	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SAC	Special Area of Conservation

SCZ	Secondary Consultation Zone
SPA	Special Protection Area
SOR	Strategic Options Report
UKPN	UK Power Networks

1. Introduction

1.1 Structure of this Report

1.1.1 The report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter provides background to the Projects and information about the purpose and the structure of the report.

- **Chapter 2: Methodology**

This chapter presents a summary of the non-statutory consultation exercise, including the various methods and communication channels used and the approach to the analysis of feedback.

- **Chapter 3: Analysis of feedback**

This chapter presents and discusses the feedback received during the non-statutory consultation.

- **Chapter 4: How feedback has influenced design**

This chapter summarises the regard had to feedback received from the non-statutory consultation and how the feedback has influenced design.

- **Chapter 5: Next Steps**

This chapter summarises the next steps in the Development Consent Order (DCO) process.

1.1.2 This Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report was prepared in line with advice set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Page: 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report' published August 2024.

1.1.3 This Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report is available to view online as a PDF document, which can be viewed in your web browser. To find specific issues easily, you can search for keywords, phrases, or locations by using the 'Search' function.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 NGET owns, builds, and maintains the transmission network in England and Wales connecting electricity from generating stations to local distribution companies. NGET does not distribute electricity to individual premises, but its role in the wholesale market is fundamental to ensuring a reliable and quality supply to all. NGET's high voltage electricity transmission system operates at 400,000 volts (400 kilovolts (kV)) and 275,000 volts (275 kV).

1.2.2 Separate regional companies (Distribution Network Operators (DNOs)) own and operate the electricity distribution networks that comprise overhead lines and

underground cables at 132,000 volts (132 kV) and below. It is the role of these local DNOs to distribute electricity to homes and businesses. The DNO in East Anglia is UK Power Networks (UKPN).

- 1.2.3 NGET is developing plans for Eastern Green Link 3 and Eastern Green Link 4 (the 'Projects'). NGET is working to build a cleaner, fairer, and more affordable energy system that serves everyone, powering the future of our homes, transport, and industry. The proposed Projects will support the UK's net zero target through the connection of new low carbon energy generation, and by the transmission network.
- 1.2.4 The UK Government has committed to reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050. This means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. Decarbonising the energy system is vital to achieving net zero.
- 1.2.5 NGET is investing around £1.3bn each year to adapt and develop their network – of pylons, overhead lines, cables and substations – to connect new sources of low carbon energy to homes and businesses. They are investing for the future, connecting more and more low carbon electricity to our network and playing a crucial role in turning the UK's net zero ambitions into reality.

1.3 The Projects

- 1.3.1 NGET is planning to enhance the electricity network with proposals for Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) and Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL 4) – two new primarily offshore high voltage electricity links and associated onshore infrastructure between Scotland and England.
- 1.3.2 The links would transport enough clean energy from Scotland to power up to four million homes in the Midlands and South of England, playing an important role in building a more secure and resilient future energy system and contributing to the decarbonisation of the UK electricity system.
- 1.3.3 At the time of the non-statutory consultation, the proposed onshore elements of EGL 3 and EGL 4 in England were in the districts of:
 - East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland in Lincolnshire
 - King's Lynn and West Norfolk, in Norfolk
- 1.3.4 Since the close of non-statutory consultation, the proposals now include an option for a route through Fenland in Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3.5 The offshore elements of EGL 3 and EGL 4 will pass through inshore and offshore English waters to the marine boundary of Scottish waters.
- 1.3.6 These proposals form part of **The Great Grid Upgrade**, which is the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.
- 1.3.7 Although EGL 3 and EGL 4 would be independent of one another, the English Onshore Scheme is being developed in parallel. This coordinated development allows for a single set of draft Order Limits onshore, this would provide the opportunity for co-located construction, reducing disturbance to local communities and the environment when compared to EGL 3 and EGL 4 being developed individually and separately.

1.4 Purpose of the Consultation

- 1.4.1 NGET undertook a non-statutory consultation for an eight-week period from Tuesday 23 April to Monday 17 June 2024. During this time, a general election was announced to take place on 4 July 2024. As a result, NGET re-scheduled consultation events that were planned to take place during the pre-election period and extended the consultation deadline by three weeks to Monday 15 July 2024.
- 1.4.2 The non-statutory consultation sought views on where the new onshore infrastructure in England could be built and what should be considered as the Projects are developed. NGET invited views on the Projects as a whole, where further work may be needed, and whether anything further should be considered beyond that already presented on the emerging design.
- 1.4.3 Consultation materials explained why additional capacity is needed on this part of the network and outlined the technical appraisal work that has been undertaken to identify six possible locations. The consultation presented the emerging preferred corridor ('the swathe') and siting zones.

1.5 Purpose of this Report

- 1.5.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the feedback received during the non-statutory consultation, and to demonstrate how NGET has had regard to that feedback.
- 1.5.2 This report identifies where NGET has made changes to the Projects as a result of the feedback and how the responses received have influenced those changes. It will be used to inform the preparation of a Consultation Report which will be submitted in support of an application for development consent in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.

2. Methodology

2.1 Consultation Process

Our approach to Public Consultation

2.1.1 Listening to communities gives valuable feedback and insight as proposals are developed and provides opportunities to minimise potential impacts. NGET will continue to carefully consider feedback received as the Projects develop.

2.1.2 Prior to the non-statutory consultation process, NGET prepared a Consultation Strategy and consulted with the below local authorities to seek feedback on the strategy.

- Lincolnshire County Council
- South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (East Lindsey, Boston South Holland)
- Norfolk County Council
- King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Fenland District Council

2.1.3 Feedback from the local authorities was incorporated into the strategy.

2.1.4 Non-statutory consultation on the proposals took place from Tuesday 23 April to Monday 15 July, including the three-week extension as a result of the general election and subsequent changing of consultation event dates.

2.1.5 As required under the Planning Act 2008, a statutory consultation will take place, which will be in 2025. The feedback received at the non-statutory consultation has been combined with our ongoing environmental assessments and technical studies to help identify the proposals being presented at statutory consultation.

2.1.6 An indication of the Projects' timelines through to operation is provided in Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1 EGL 3 and EGL 4 timeline



2.1.7 Public and other stakeholder involvement are important components of the UK planning system. Legislation and Government guidance aims to ensure that the public, local communities, statutory and other consultees as well as interested parties, have ample opportunities to have their views considered throughout the planning process. Within the DCO process, the emphasis is on engagement prior to the submission of the consent application, through the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation stages.

2.1.8 NGET wants to ensure that all stakeholders and consultees are engaged in the development of the Projects and have the opportunity to comment at key decision making points. Further information on consultation process is provided below.

2.1.9 Further information about the DCO planning process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website: national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

2.1.10 NGET aims to ensure effective, inclusive, and meaningful engagement with the local community, statutory and other consultees, and interested parties as reflected in its Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/81026/download which incorporates NGET’s Schedule 9 Electricity Act 1989 Statement relating to the preservation of amenity. It makes the following commitments to consultation when undertaking electricity works:

‘We will promote genuine and meaningful stakeholder and community engagement. We will meet and, where appropriate, exceed the statutory requirements for consultation or engagement. We will adopt the following principles to help us meet this commitment:

- *we will seek to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may be affected by our works;*
- *we will provide opportunities for engagement from the early stages of the process, where options and alternatives are being considered and there is the greatest scope to influence the design of the works;*

- *we will endeavour to enable constructive debate to take place, creating open and two-way communication processes;*
- *we will ensure that benefits, constraints and adverse impacts of proposed works are communicated openly for meaningful stakeholder and community comment and discussion. We will be clear about any aspects of the works that cannot be altered;*
- *we will utilise appropriate methods and effort in engaging stakeholders and communities, proportionate to the scale and impact of the works; and*
- *we will provide feedback on how views expressed have been considered and the outcomes of any engagement process or activity.'*

2.1.11 NGET's commitments align with the 'Gunning Principles' which must be adhered to for a lawful consultation to be held. The four Gunning Principles are:

- proposals are consulted on when they are still at a formative stage;
- there is sufficient information to allow for 'intelligent consideration';
- there is adequate time for consideration and response; and
- 'conscientious consideration' must be given to consultation responses before decisions are made.

2.2 Non-statutory consultation

2.2.1 The information below outlines how the non-statutory consultation was publicised, the consultation zones and the material produced.

Website, Email and Information Line

2.2.2 NGET set up a website to publish information on the Projects along with the non-statutory consultation materials. The website URL used was:

www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-3-and-4

2.2.3 The website included links to additional resources in the document library, in addition to the following information:

- an interactive map to show more detail of the proposals. The map also included pointers to further information, which may contain images, text or signpost to a different page that expands on the subject;
- public consultation pages – with details of the dates and timings of public consultation events and webinars;
- a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs);
- event banners and newsletters;
- information for landowners;
- feedback form; and
- contact details

2.2.4 During the non-statutory consultation period, the Projects' website received a total of 26,584 unique page views from 17,200 individual users.

Direct Mailing to the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ)

2.2.5 The PCZ included stakeholders whose property lies within 1 km of the edge of the emerging preferred corridor and siting zones and 1.5 km around the converter and substation as detailed in Figure 2-2. Where appropriate, the PCZ was extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods. All relevant stakeholders within this area were consulted, including contacting each residential and business address directly.

2.2.6 On 23 April 2024, at the launch of the consultation, a newsletter was posted to all properties within the PCZ. The newsletter can be found on the project website.

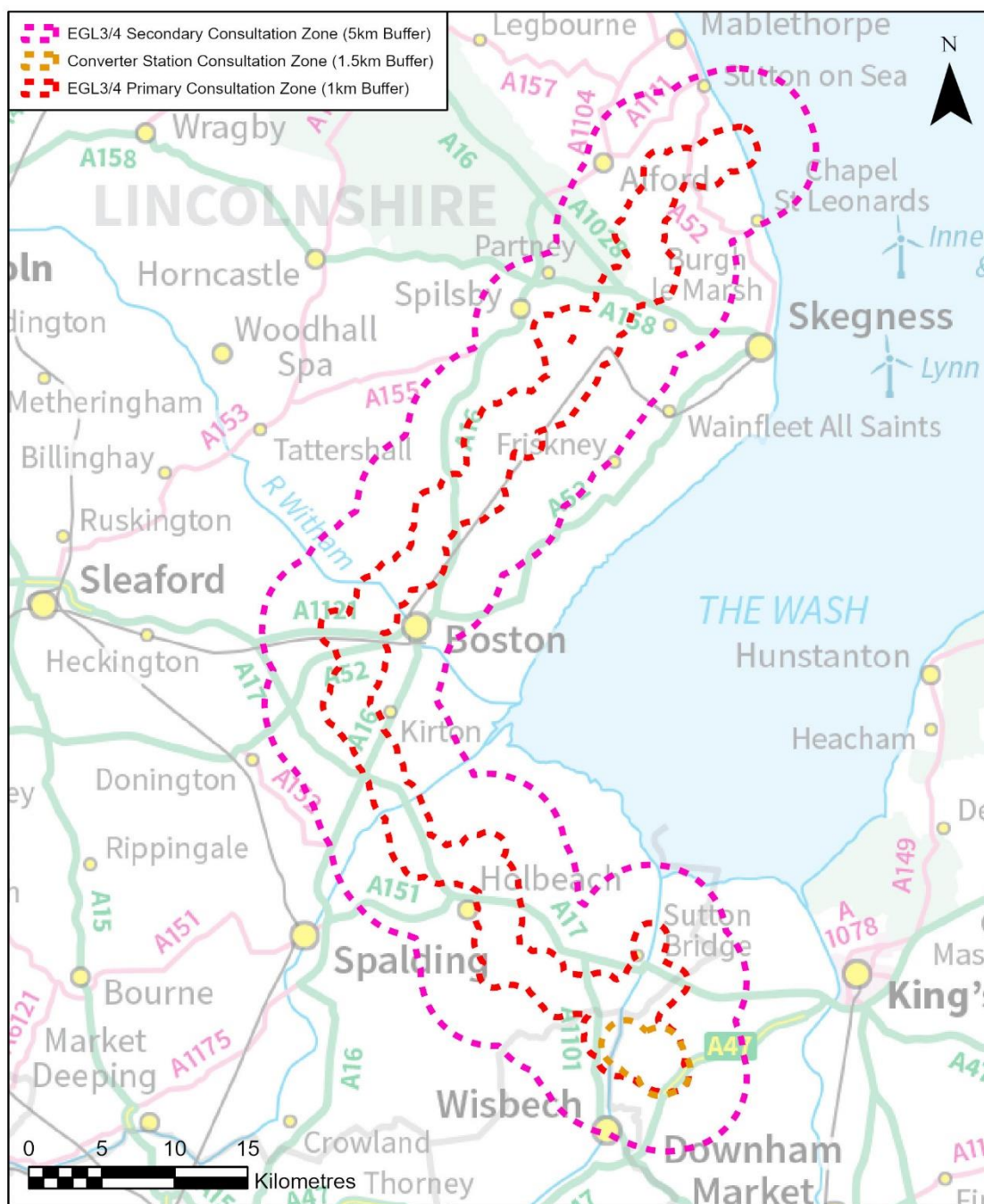
2.2.7 The newsletter included:

- An overview of the Projects and an explanation of what was being consulted on;
- Details of the Projects' website, public consultation events, public webinars and how stakeholders could leave their feedback on the proposals;
- Information on further consultation materials and where those could be accessed;
- A map showing the emerging preferred corridor and landfall areas for underground cables, siting zones for the proposed converter stations and substation near Walpole, King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and our preferred siting zone for the proposed converter station and direct current switching station near Bilsby, East Lindsey;
- A timeline of the Projects.

2.2.8 A map of the PCZ is provided at Figure 2-2. The PCZ is shown with a dashed red line.

2.2.9 To note, the English Offshore Scheme has followed a separate, phased approach to marine route alignment and landfall appraisal

Figure 2-2 Map of the primary and secondary consultation zones



2.2.10 On 29 May 2024, a letter was sent out via first class mail after the general election was called to take place on 4 July 2024 to notify residents of the rescheduling of events and the three-week extension of the consultation to Monday 15 July 2024.

2.2.11 A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix A.

Materials Produced to Support the Non-Statutory Consultation

2.2.12 A range of consultation materials were provided as part of the non-statutory consultation which included appropriate levels of technical detail for the intended audience. These materials are described in Table 2-1 and can be found under the documents tab of the project website.

Table 2-1 non-statutory consultation materials

Material	Location
Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation feedback form	Appendix A
Resident mailshots	Appendix B
Newspaper / online adverts	Appendix C
Social media adverts	Appendix D
Consultation newsletter	available on the project website
2024 Projects Background Document: to provide an overview of the Projects and detailing the proposals and consultation	available on the project website
Projects Background Document – Quick read	available on the project website
Consultation banners	available on the project website
Consultation event banner – Marine proposals	available on the project website
Strategic Options Report (SOR)	available on the project website
Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study Report (CPRSS)	available on the project website
CPRSS Appendix 1 – Option Selection	available on the project website
CPRSS Appendix 2 – Graduated Swathe Plans	available on the project website
Soils and drainage leaflet	available on the project website
EGL 3 and EGL 4 potential cable routes (offshore)	available on the project website
Eastern Green Link 3 – Marine Route Options Appraisal non-technical summary	available on the project website
Eastern Green Link 4 – Marine Route Options Appraisal non-technical summary	available on the project website

Public Consultation Events

- 2.2.13 A programme of both in-person public consultation events and online public webinars provided stakeholders with opportunities to find out more about the proposals and to provide feedback on the proposals.
- 2.2.14 The online public webinars enabled the Projects team to present the same information as that at the public consultation events.

In-person public consultation events

- 2.2.15 In total, nine in-person public consultation events were organised, to be accessible to as many people as possible and held at suitable community hubs along the proposed route. The public consultation events provided the opportunity to speak to technical experts within the team and are detailed in Table 2-2.
- 2.2.16 In total, 623 attendees joined the team at the in-person public consultation events.

Table 2-2 Schedule of in-person public consultation events

Date and time	Venue	Attendees
30 April 2024, 2pm-7pm	Mablethorpe, Dunes Complex, Central Promenade, Mablethorpe, LN12 1RG	37
1 May 2024, 2pm-7pm	Anderby, Anderby Village Hall, Sea Road, Anderby, Skegness, PE24 5YD	24
9 May 2024, 12:30pm-6pm	Alford, Alford Corn Exchange, 9 Market Place, Alford, LN13 9EB	158
13 May 2024, 2pm-7pm	Wisbech, Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Rd, Leverington, Wisbech, PE13 5AT	17
15 May 2024, 2pm-7pm	Eastville, Midville and New Leake Village Hall, Station Rd, Eastville, PE22 8LS	62
16 May 2024, 2pm-7pm	Kirton Holme, Poachers Country Hotel, Swineshead Road, Kirton Holme, PE20 1SQ	66
20 May 2024, 2pm-7pm	Walpole, Walpole Community Centre, Summer Close, Walpole St Andrew, PE14 7JW	57
8 July 2024, 2pm-7pm*	Holbeach, The Holbeach Hub, Boston Rd South, Holbeach, PE12 7LR	165

Date and time	Venue	Attendees
10 July 2024, 2pm-7pm**	Burgh le Marsh, Burgh le Marsh Village Hall, Jacksons Lane, Burgh le Marsh, Skegness, PE24 5LA	37
Total		623

* This event was originally scheduled for 29 May 2024, 2pm-7pm but was rescheduled due to the general election and extension of consultation. See paragraph 1.3.1 for details.

** This event was originally scheduled for 5 June 2024, 2pm-7pm but was rescheduled due to the general election and extension of consultation. See paragraph 1.3.1 for details.

Public Webinars

- 2.2.17 Online public webinars were organised so that the team could present information about the Projects to a large number of people and for them to be able to ask the team questions. Information included an overview and background to the Projects; context and need; the proposals and how they were developed; and information about the non-statutory consultation.
- 2.2.18 Following the information presentation, members of the public could submit questions to NGET during the webinar for the Projects team to answer.
- 2.2.19 Members of the public were invited to register to attend a webinar via the Projects' website or by calling the Projects' telephone information line. They were then sent details through email of how to join the webinar via a desktop, tablet, or mobile device.
- 2.2.20 During the public webinars, members of the team explained an overview of the Projects and details related to the non-statutory consultation.
- 2.2.21 A total of four public webinars were held during the non-statutory consultation period. These were held over a variety of times to maximise opportunities for interested people to join the webinars. The Projects team provided morning, afternoon, and evening sessions throughout the non-statutory consultation period. For those unable to attend the live webinar sessions, a recording was made available on the Projects' website for playback at a more convenient time.
- 2.2.22 A total of 46 stakeholders and members of the public attended the webinars. The attendance at each is set out in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3 Schedule of online public webinars

Webinar	Date and Time	Locations covered	Attendees
Webinar 1	Monday 29 April 2024 at 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1a – Theddlethorpe landfall to Bilsby 	22

Webinar	Date and Time	Locations covered	Attendees
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1b – Anderby Creek landfall to Bilsby 	
Webinar 2	Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 7 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2 – Bilsby to Welton le Marsh Section 3 – Welton le Marsh to Little Steeping Section 4 – Little Steeping to Sibsey Northlands 	13
Webinar 3	Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5 – Sibsey Northlands to Hubbert’s Bridge Section 6 – Hubbert’s Bridge to River Welland Section 7 – River Welland to Foul Anchor 	6
Webinar 4	Thursday 11 July 2024 at 7 pm*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 8 – Foul Anchor to Walpole 	5
Total			46

* This webinar was originally scheduled for 6 June 2024, 7pm but was rescheduled due to the general election and extension of consultation. See paragraph 1.3.1 for details.

Information Point Locations

2.2.23 In addition to information being available via the Projects’ website and on request, paper copies of consultation documents were made available at 11 locations within the consultation zone throughout the non-statutory consultation. Stock levels were regularly checked and supplies replenished as needed during the consultation period.

2.2.24 Consultation materials made available at the information point locations consisted of paper copies of the Project Background Document 2024, Consultation Newsletter and Feedback Forms. Reference only copies of the CPRSS and SOR were available to view, but not to remove.

2.2.25 The information locations used consisted of:

- Mablethorpe Library, Stanley Avenue, Mablethorpe, LN12 1DP
- Alford Library and Focal Point, 6 Market Place, Alford, LN13 9AF
- Sutton on Sea Library and Community Centre, Broadway, Sutton on Sea, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire LN12 2JN
- Burgh le Marsh Library Tinkers Green, Jacksons Lane, Burgh le Marsh, Skegness, PE24 5LA
- Skegness Library, 23 Roman Bank, Skegness, PE25 2SA

- Boston Library County Hall, Bank Street, Boston, PE21 6DY
- Holbeach Community Library, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding, PE12 7AD
- Long Sutton Library, Trafalgar Square, Long Sutton, Spalding, PE12 9HB
- Spalding Library, Victoria Street, Spalding, PE11 1EA
- Wisbech Library, Ely Place, Wisbech, PE13 1EU
- King’s Lynn Library, London Rd, King’s Lynn PE30 5EZ

Promotional Activity – Press and Social Media

- 2.2.26 NGET identified a secondary consultation zone (SCZ) which extended to 5 km from the edge of the emerging preferred corridor and siting zones. The SCZ included stakeholders who are less likely to be directly affected by the Projects due to distance, but who may, for example, still be impacted by construction traffic and long-distance views. A map of the SCZ can be seen in Figure 2-2.
- 2.2.27 All members of the public, including those within the SCZ, could register to receive all consultation information and engage as they wished. NGET raised awareness of the Projects and the non-statutory consultation with stakeholders within the SCZ through the broad dissemination of information. This included:
- placing advertisements in local newspapers, regional newspapers and online publications providing information about the non-statutory consultation and how to get involved. See Table 2-4 and Table 2-5 for the schedule of adverts and Appendix C for copies of the adverts;
 - providing consultation documents at information point locations around the Projects area for public viewing. See paragraph 2.2.25 of this report for a list of locations;
 - placing advertisements on social media to target different demographics and to include those who might not otherwise engage with the non-statutory consultation. See Table 2-6 for information about the social media campaigns;
 - publishing full details of the non-statutory consultation and public consultation events on the Projects website; and
 - providing contact details for queries and how to request paper copies of the 2024 consultation materials.

Table 2-4 Newspaper adverts schedule

Publication	Date(s)
Eastern Daily Press	Tuesday 23 April 2024 – Monday 29 April 2024 Friday 31 May 2024 – Thursday 6 June 2024
Lincolnshire Free Press	Tuesday 23 April 2024 – Monday 29 April 2024
Lincolnshire Echo	Tuesday 23 April 2024 – Monday 29 April 2024

Publication	Date(s)
Spalding and South Holland Voice	Tuesday 23 April 2024 – Monday 29 April 2024
Louth Leader Series: Boston Standard Skegness Standard Louth Leader	Wednesday 1 May 2024 – Tuesday 7 May 2024

2.2.28 Digital promotion of the non-statutory consultation was conducted through digital marketing campaigns hosted by online news providers. Online adverts were placed in the Eastern Daily Press, Wisbech Standard, Lincolnshire Live, Lincolnshire World and Lincolnshire Free Press. Details of these adverts can be seen in Table 2-5 Online adverts schedule.

Table 2-5 Online adverts schedule

Publication	Date(s)
Eastern Daily Press	Tuesday 23 April 2024 to Monday 20 May 2024
Wisbech Standard	Tuesday 23 April 2024 to Monday 20 May 2024
Lincolnshire Live	Tuesday 23 April 2024
Lincolnshire Free Press	Tuesday 23 April 2024
Lincolnshire World	Saturday 27 April 2024

2.2.29 Across the social media platforms Facebook and LinkedIn, advertising campaigns ran from 23 April 2024 – 17 June 2024. Each advert directed users to visit the Projects’ website and engage with the non-statutory consultation, with adverts targeted at users living within the PCZ and SCZ and nearby communities. The traffic generated from this campaign is set out in Table 2-6.

Table 2-6 Social media campaign

Platform	Campaign dates	Total impressions	Advert clicks
Facebook	Tuesday 23 April 2024 to Monday 17 June 2024	1,606,485	9,715
LinkedIn	Tuesday 23 April 2024 to Monday 17 June 2024	66,483	547

2.2.30 Copies of the social media adverts can be found in Appendix D.

Engagement activities

- 2.2.31 NGET undertook several engagement activities leading up to and throughout the non-statutory consultation period.
- 2.2.32 Best efforts were made to contact all parish councils within 5 km of the emerging preferred route and siting areas. Briefings were offered to three county councils, 5 district councils, 72 parish councils and Members of Parliament across all eight constituencies within the vicinity of the Projects. On 9 July 2024, after the general election, a further offer for a briefing went to all elected MPs across the eight constituencies.
- 2.2.33 Briefings were given to those who accepted the offer and provided an overview and background to the Projects; context and need; the proposals and how they were developed; and information about the non-statutory consultation. There were also question and answer sessions at the end of each briefing. These sessions are listed in Table 2-7.

Table 2-7 Briefing webinars held with councillors and MPs

Meeting	Date and time	Method	Attendees
MP briefing	1 April 2024, 2pm-3pm	Virtual	1
Parish council briefing 1	23 April 2024, 6.30pm–7.30pm	Virtual	1
Parish council briefing 2	24 April 2024, 6.30pm–7.30pm	Virtual	2
Parish council briefing 3	25 April 2024, 6.30pm–7.30pm	Virtual	0
Parish council briefing 4	26 April 2024, 6.30pm–7.30pm	Virtual	3
County and district council briefing 1	8 July 2024, 11.30am – 12.30pm	Virtual	3
County and district council briefing 2	8 July 2024, 1pm-2pm	Virtual	1
County and district council briefing 3	9 July 2024, 11.30pm – 12.30pm	Virtual	6
County and district council briefing 4	9 July 2024, 1pm-2pm	Virtual	0

Ask the expert sessions

2.2.34 Residents had the opportunity for an 'Ask the expert appointment' by contacting the Projects' team. This was advertised on the 'Have your say' tab of the website. The team received one request for an 'Ask the expert' session.

2.3 Ways to respond

2.3.1 Consultees could respond to the non-statutory consultation by:

- completing the feedback form (online and paper copies were available),
- through email to the Projects email address: contactegl3and4@nationalgrid.com
- or by sending a response directly to the Projects' postal address: Freepost EASTERN GREEN LINKS 3 & 4

2.3.2 A dedicated freephone community telephone information line 0800 298 0405 (lines were open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) was also set up for people to call if they had any queries.

2.4 Responses

2.4.1 A total of 280 feedback submissions were received during the non-statutory consultation period from local communities, stakeholders, and other consultees. This comprised of paper response forms, online response forms, emails, and letters as detailed in Table 2-8.

2.4.2 Feedback sent directly to NGET in these formats has been accounted for in the relevant categories within this table.

2.4.3 All feedback where extensions were agreed (one response) has also been considered in the reporting process for this report.

Table 2-8 Breakdown of responses received

Response Method	Number of Responses
Online feedback form (full responses)	99
Online feedback form (partial responses*)	57
Paper feedback form (via post/events)	36
Free text response (letter)	6
Free text response (email)	82
Total	280

*Partial responses have been included in the analysis of results from the online feedback form to ensure that all responses were taken into account, even where respondents did not press submit on the form.

3. Analysis of Feedback

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This chapter details the responses received to the non-statutory consultation and the changes to the Projects made as a result.

3.1.2 Chapter 3 is structured as follows:

- 3.2 Feedback form: contains a breakdown of the feedback form in terms of open and closed questions;
- 3.3 Approach to analysis: outlines the approach taken;
- 3.4 Responses to closed questions: details the results to the closed questions;
- 3.5 Responses to open questions: details the themes raised from the open questions;
- 3.6 Summary of stakeholder comments: contains tables which summarises feedback received to the non-statutory consultation.

3.2 Feedback Form

3.2.1 The feedback form asked a total of 16 questions, including a mix of closed and open questions. The closed questions asked about certain aspects of the Projects and, where appropriate, open questions invited consultees to give further information through comment boxes. The questionnaire consisted of:

- Why are EGL 3 and EGL 4 needed? (closed/open);
- Section 1a – Landfalls to Bilsby (open);
- Section 1b – Anderby Creek landfall to Bilsby (open);
- Section 2 – Bilsby to Welton le Marsh (open);
- Section 3 – Welton le Marsh to Little Steeping (open);
- Section 4 – Little Steeping to Sibsey Northlands (open);
- Section 5 – Sibsey Northlands to Hubbert’s Bridge (open);
- Section 6 – Hubbert’s Bridge to River Welland (open);
- Section 7 – River Welland to Foul Anchor (open);
- Section 8 – Foul Anchor to Walpole (open);
- The emerging preferred corridor and siting zones (closed/open);
- Converter station building design approaches (closed/open);
- Construction (closed/open);

- Our consultation (closed/open);
- Equality and diversity (closed); and
- About you (closed/open).

3.2.2 A copy of the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Form can be found at the following link: nationalgrid.com/document/151421/download

3.2.3 The analysis of the closed (quantitative) questions is detailed in Section 3.4, while comments received during the open (qualitative) questions are detailed in Section 3.5.

3.3 Approach to Analysis

3.3.1 The responses to the closed questions were analysed and the outcome of this analysis is set out in Section 3.4. The percentages on the graphs in Section 3.4 have been rounded to the nearest whole percent so the totals do not always add up to 100%.

3.3.2 To analyse the responses received to the open questions, a coding framework was used, based on the structure of the non-statutory consultation response form. This enabled the grouping of responses into themes which was considered a reasonable and proportionate approach given the volume of feedback received. This approach was considered preferable to setting out each individual item of feedback in this report which would lead to duplication.

3.3.3 A response to an open text question could receive multiple codes to highlight different themes covered. Responses were also accepted through letter and email, and these were recorded and analysed in the same way as the open question responses to the feedback forms.

3.3.4 A classification tree was created to code all written/longform feedback – this comprised of letters, emails, and the free text sections on the response form.

3.3.5 Classification categories were created based on issues raised at events and briefings. In addition, new classifications were added on an ad-hoc basis as feedback was received allowing for further breakdown of themes.

3.3.6 Some categories (such as visual impact) were also split so that comments could be coded as being specific to a certain area of the Projects. The thematic analysis groups common themes, statements and feedback for specific locations to enable a structured and organised report which is user-friendly. Throughout this process, the detail of comments is not lost in any way, with new code summaries added with each new piece of feedback.

3.3.7 All responses, regardless of their origin, were analysed by the Projects team and assigned with codes based upon the content of the response(s) provided.

3.3.8 Each response was assigned a unique reference number to create an audit trail throughout the analysis process. Quality assurance checks were undertaken to ensure that each response was accounted for and analysed, and that the coding undertaken accurately reflected the feedback within the comment.

3.3.9 NGET has considered every issue raised and had regard to all feedback, albeit it has not been able to accede to every suggestion or request.

3.3.10 NGET’s response to feedback at this stage is preliminary and based on the Government’s specific nationally applicable guidance to electricity infrastructure companies. NGET will back check decisions at each future stage as the Projects proceed and in conjunction with feedback received from future consultations.

3.4 Responses to Closed Questions

3.4.1 This section presents feedback gathered through the closed questions on the feedback form (questions 1, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7-11, 13-16 and ‘about you’) during the non-statutory consultation period.

3.4.2 Although some feedback was received after the close of the non-statutory consultation, NGET continues to review and consider these as and when they are received. A summary of any feedback received between the non-statutory consultation and the start of the next consultation (2025) will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the DCO application.

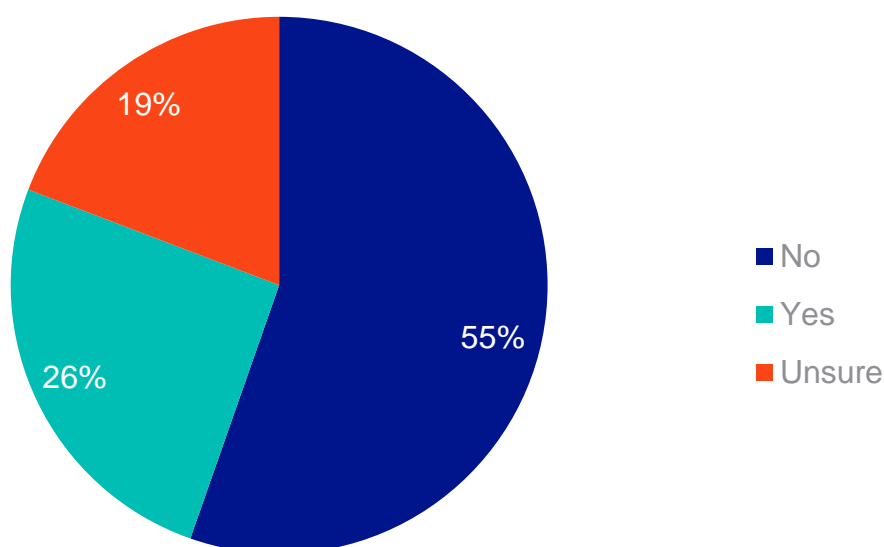
Question 1 (PART 1) - Why are EGL 3 and EGL 4 needed?

3.4.3 Question 1 asked respondents “Based on the information shared in this consultation, do you support the need for the proposed projects, which will reinforce the electricity transmission network between Scotland and England?”.

3.4.4 Respondents were asked to select one option between yes, no or unsure. The responses are presented within Figure 3-1.

3.4.5 A total of 177 respondents answered the question. Over half of respondents (55%) selected ‘No’, followed by a little over a quarter of respondents (26%) who selected ‘Yes’. The remaining 19% of respondents answered ‘Unsure’.

Figure 3-1 Question 1 (part 1) results - Do you support the need for the proposed projects?



Question 4a - The emerging preferred corridor and siting zones

- 3.4.6 Question 4a asked respondents *“We considered and assessed several options to select an emerging preferred corridor and siting zones. What are your thoughts on whether we have identified the right corridor (and siting zones, where relevant) for each section of the route?”*.
- 3.4.7 Respondents were asked to select one option between strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree or strongly disagree. The responses are presented within Figure 3-2.

Section 1a – Theddlethorpe landfall to Bilsby

- 3.4.8 A total of 106 respondents answered the question. The majority of respondents (71%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 6% of respondents selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’ and 4% selected ‘Disagree’. 20% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 1b - Anderby Creek landfall to Bilsby

- 3.4.9 A total of 104 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (68%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 7% of respondents selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’ and 7% selected ‘Disagree’. 18% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 2 - Bilsby to Welton le Marsh

- 3.4.10 A total of 103 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (67%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 4% of respondents selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’ and 6% selected ‘Disagree’. 23% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 3 - Welton le Marsh to Little Steeping

- 3.4.11 A total of 103 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (63%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 7% of respondents selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’ and 5% selected ‘Disagree’. A quarter of respondents (25%) of selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 4 - Little Steeping to Sibsey Northlands

- 3.4.12 A total of 100 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (61%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 2% of respondents selected ‘Disagree’ and 6% selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’. 31% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 5 - Sibsey Northlands to Hubbert’s Bridge

- 3.4.13 A total of 97 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (62%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 6% of respondents selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’ and 4% selected ‘Disagree’. 28% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 6 - Hubbert’s Bridge to River Welland

- 3.4.14 A total of 100 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (67%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 6% of respondents selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’ and 5% selected ‘Disagree’. 22% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

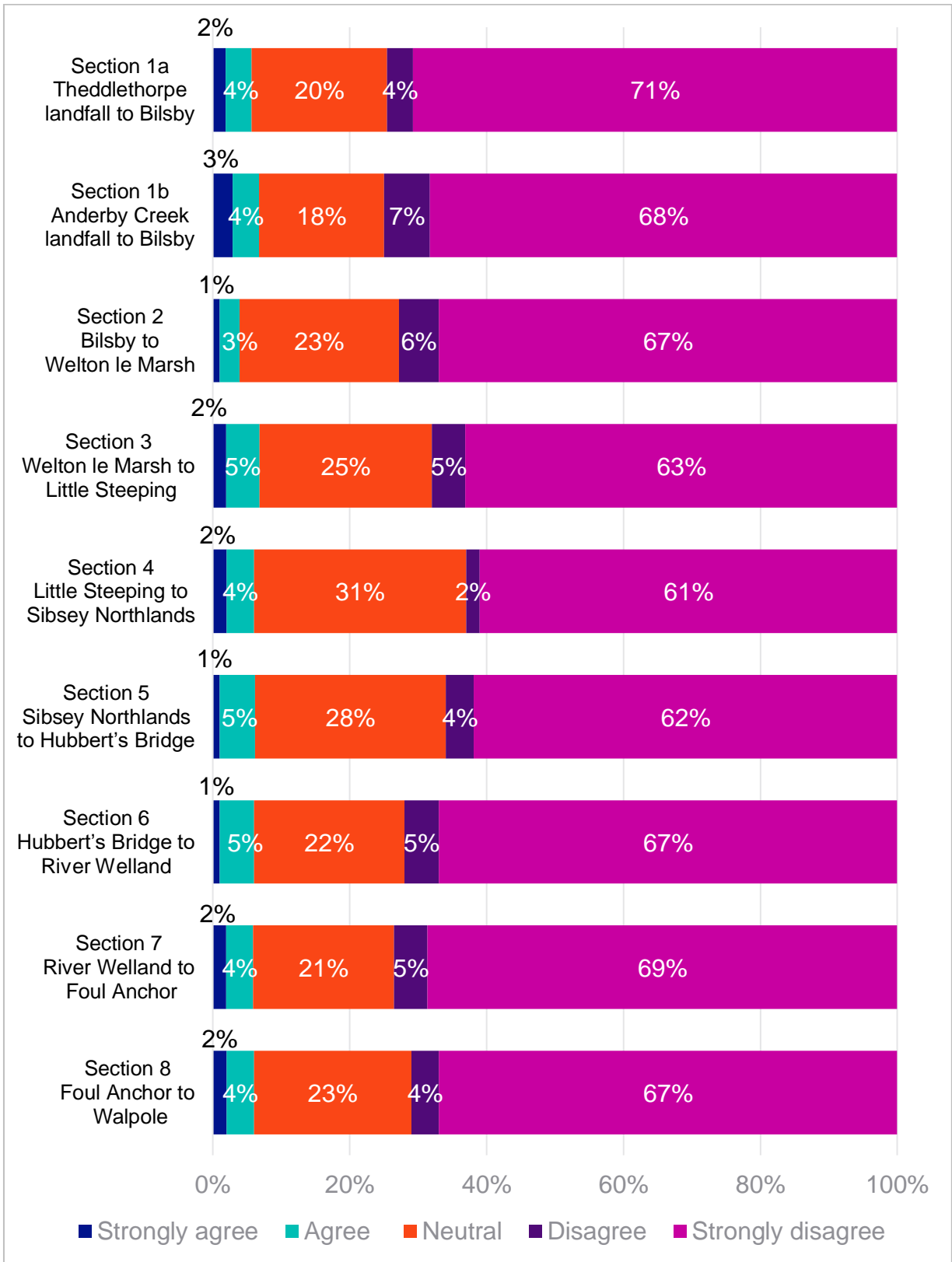
Section 7 - River Welland to Foul Anchor

- 3.4.15 A total of 102 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (69%) selected ‘Strongly disagree’. 5% of respondents selected ‘Disagree’ and 6% selected ‘Strongly agree’ or ‘Agree’. 21% of respondents selected ‘Neutral’.

Section 8 - Foul Anchor to Walpole

- 3.4.16 A total of 100 respondents answered the question. Over half of the respondents (67%) selected 'Strongly disagree'. 6% of respondents selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree' and 4% selected 'Disagree'. 23% of respondents selected 'Neutral'.

Figure 3-2 Question 4a results - What are your thoughts on whether we have identified the right corridor (and siting zones, where relevant) for each section of the route?



Question 5a - Converter station building design approaches

- 3.4.17 Question 5a asked respondents *“There are several potential design approaches for the proposed converter station buildings as seen in the diagram below. Which approach(es) would you like to be explored at later design stages?”*.
- 3.4.18 Respondents were asked to select options from the converter station near Bilsby and converter stations in the Walpole area.
- 3.4.19 The options were: enhanced elevations, horizontal colour bands, green roof & bunding, vernacular building forms, layering and softening of building forms, and mosaic patterns.
- 3.4.20 The responses are presented within Figure 3-3.

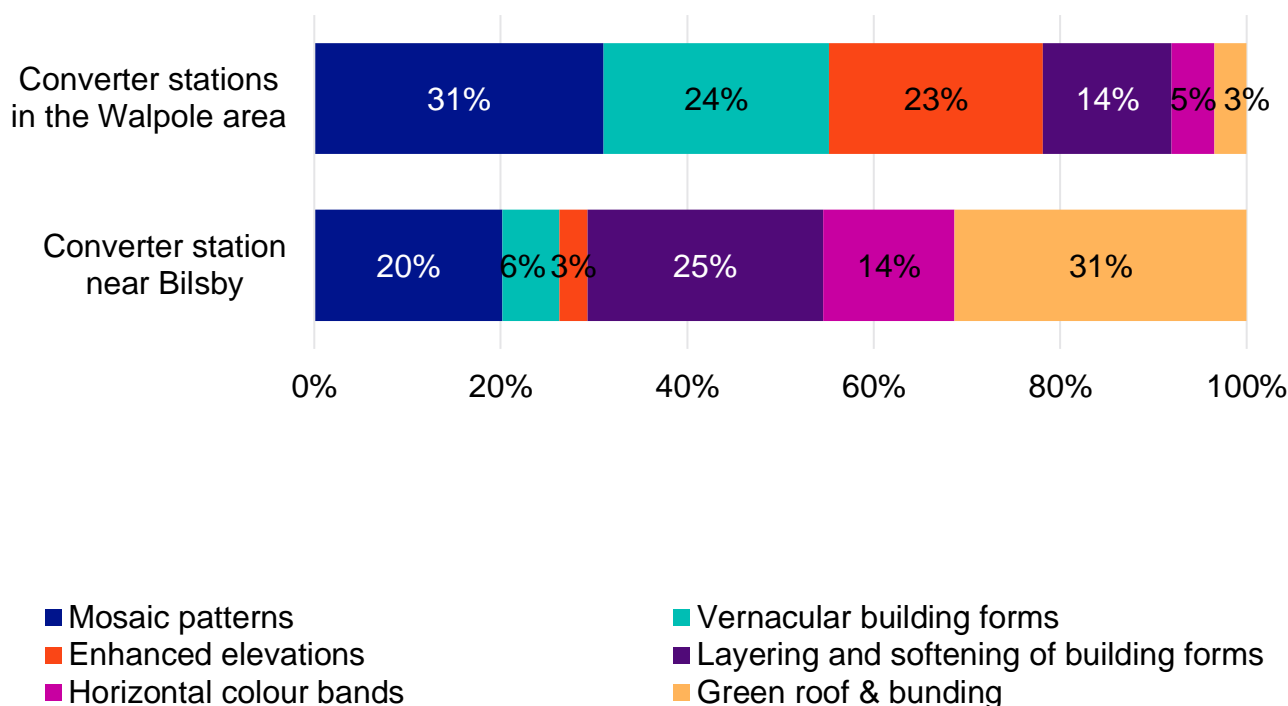
Converter stations in the Walpole area

- 3.4.21 In total there were 87 responses submitted to this question. Most respondents (31%) answered ‘Mosaic patterns’, followed by 24% who selected ‘Vernacular building forms’. This was closely followed by 23% of respondents who selected ‘Enhanced elevations’.
- 3.4.22 Some responses (14%) indicated ‘Layering and softening of building forms’. 5% selected ‘Horizontal colour bands’ and 3% answered ‘Green roof & bunding’.

Converter station near Bilsby

- 3.4.23 In total there were 99 responses submitted to this question. 31% of respondents selected ‘Green roof & bunding’, followed by 25% of respondents selected ‘Layering and softening of building forms’. 20% selected ‘Mosaic patterns’, 14% selected ‘Horizontal colour bands’.
- 3.4.24 6% of respondents answered ‘Vernacular building forms’ and 3% selected ‘Enhanced elevations’.

Figure 3-3 Question 5a results - Which approach(es) would you like to be explored at later design stages?



Question 6a- Construction

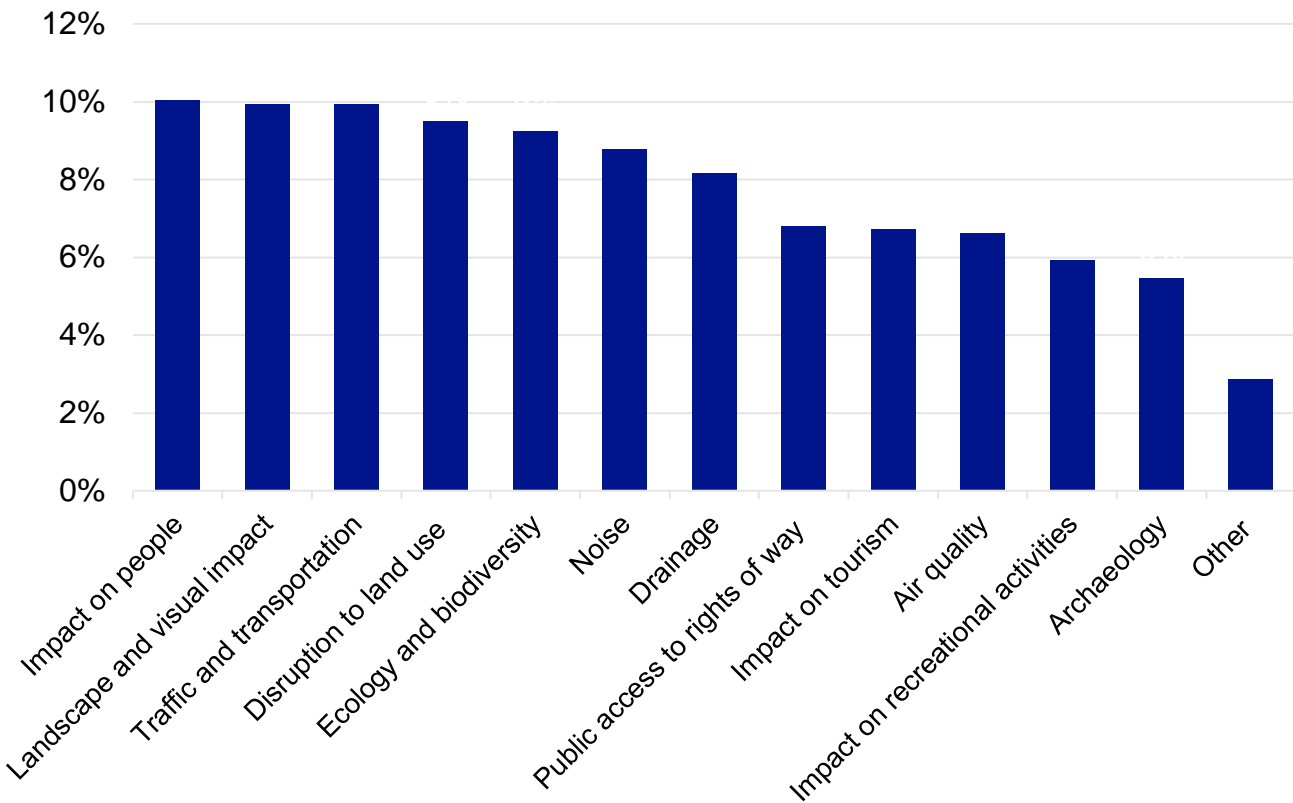
3.4.25 Question 6a asked respondents “Do you have any key concerns regarding the construction of EGL 3 and EGL 4 that you would like us to focus on as we develop our plans?”.

3.4.26 In total there were 1116 responses submitted to this question (respondents could select multiple responses). Respondents were asked to select all that apply from impact on people, archaeology, landscape and visual impact, public access to rights of way (such as footpaths), ecology and biodiversity, disruption to land use (such as farming), air quality, drainage, noise, impact on tourism, traffic and transportation, impact on recreational activities and other, where they needed to specify.

3.4.27 The responses are presented within Figure 3-4.

3.4.28 The three most frequent responses, each selected by 10% of respondents were ‘Impact on people’, ‘Landscape and visual impact’ and ‘Traffic and transportation’. The least frequent response was ‘Archaeology’ (selected by 5%). 3% of responses answered ‘Other’.

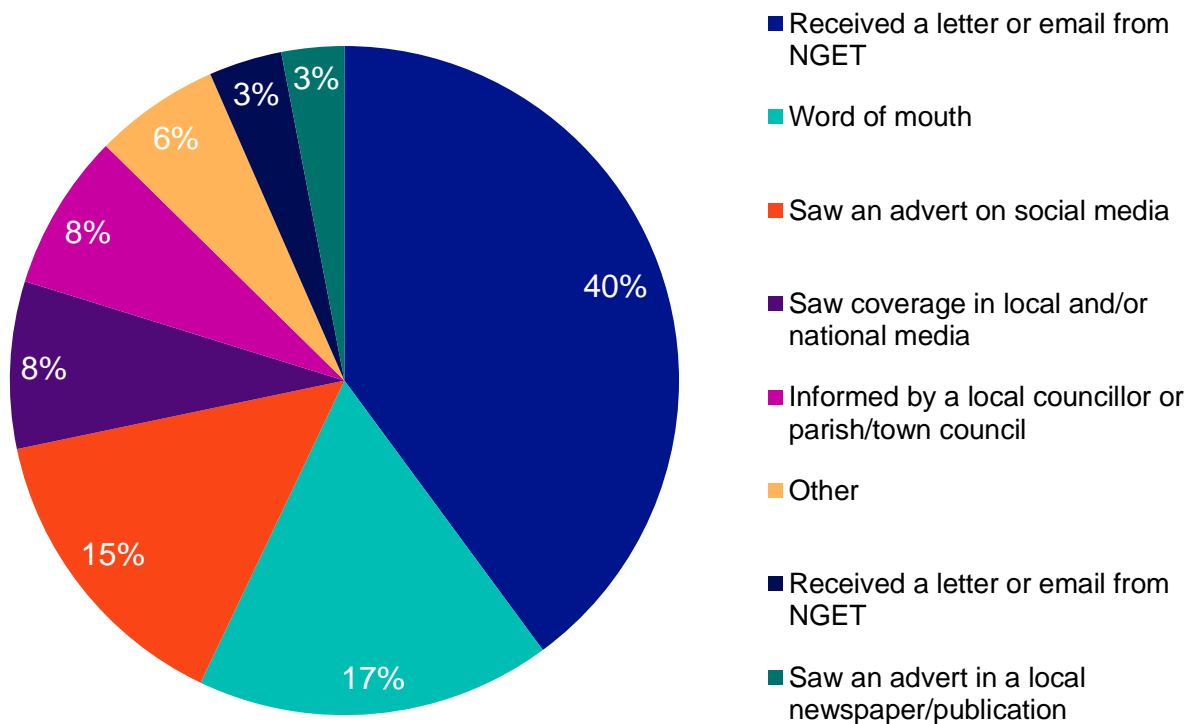
Figure 3-4 Question 6a results - Do you have any key concerns regarding the construction of EGL 3 and EGL 4 that you would like us to focus on as we develop our plans?



Question 7- Our public consultation

- 3.4.29 Question 7 asked respondents *“How did you hear about this consultation?”*.
- 3.4.30 In total there were 198 responses submitted to this question. Respondents were asked to select all that apply from; received a letter or email from NGET Electricity Transmission, received information from a local authority, informed by a local councillor or parish/town council, saw an advert in a local newspaper/publication, saw coverage in local and/or national media, saw an advert on social media, word of mouth or other where they needed to state how.
- 3.4.31 The responses are presented within Figure 3-5.
- 3.4.32 The most common response received was ‘Received a letter or email from NGET’ comprising of 40% of responses. The second most frequent response was ‘Word of mouth’ which represented 17% of responses. This was closely followed by ‘Saw an advert on social media’ with 15% of responses received.

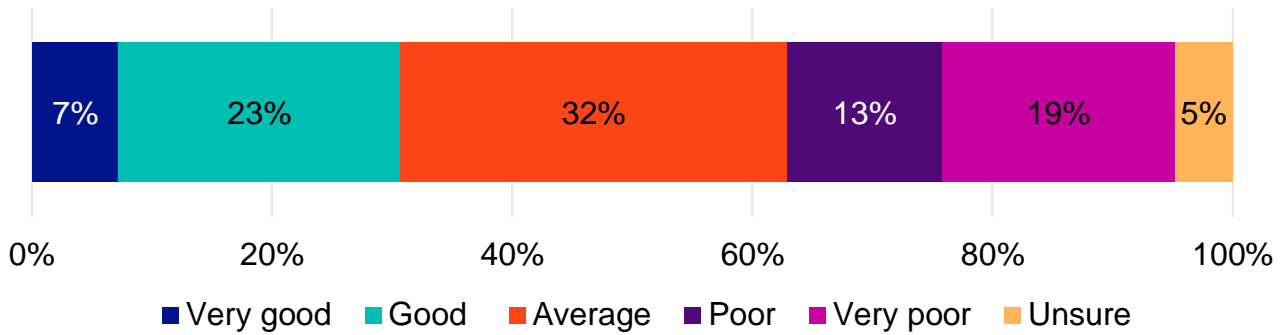
Figure 3-5 Question 7 results - How did you hear about this consultation?



Question 8 - Our public consultation

- 3.4.33 Question 8 asked respondents *“What did you think of the information we have published for this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand?”*.
- 3.4.34 Respondents were asked to select one option between very good, good, average, poor, very poor or unsure.
- 3.4.35 The responses are presented within Figure 3-6.
- 3.4.36 Within this question, respondents were then asked to *“Tell us more about why you selected the above option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration”*.
- 3.4.37 A total of 124 respondents answered the question. 30% of respondents rated the information as good to some extent (7% selected ‘Very good’ and 23% selected ‘Good’). This compared to 32% of respondents that rated the information as poor to some extent (19% selected ‘Very poor’ and 13% selected ‘Poor’). Over a quarter (32%) of respondents rated the information as ‘Average’ whilst the remaining 5% were ‘Unsure’.

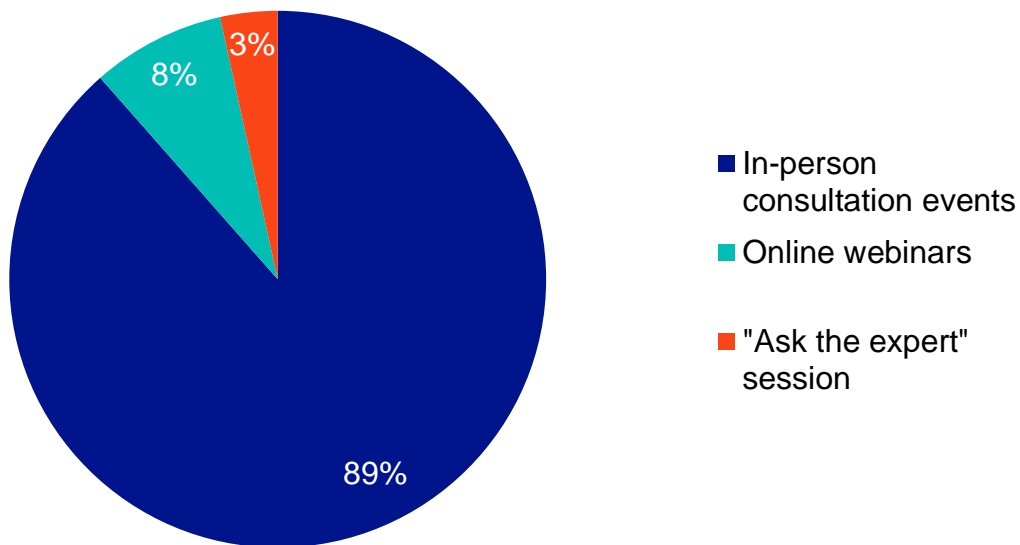
Figure 3-6 Question 8 results - What did you think of the information we have published for this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand?



Question 9- Our public consultation

- 3.4.38 Question 9 asked respondents “Did you attend any of the following events/meetings?”.
- 3.4.39 In total there were 87 responses submitted to this question. Respondents were asked to select all that apply from in-person consultation events, online webinars and ‘ask the expert’ session.
- 3.4.40 The responses are presented within Figure 3-7.
- 3.4.41 The majority of responses (89%) indicated attendance at an ‘In-person consultation event’. 8% of responses indicated attendance at an ‘Online webinar’ whilst 3% of responses indicated attendance at an ‘Ask the expert’ session.

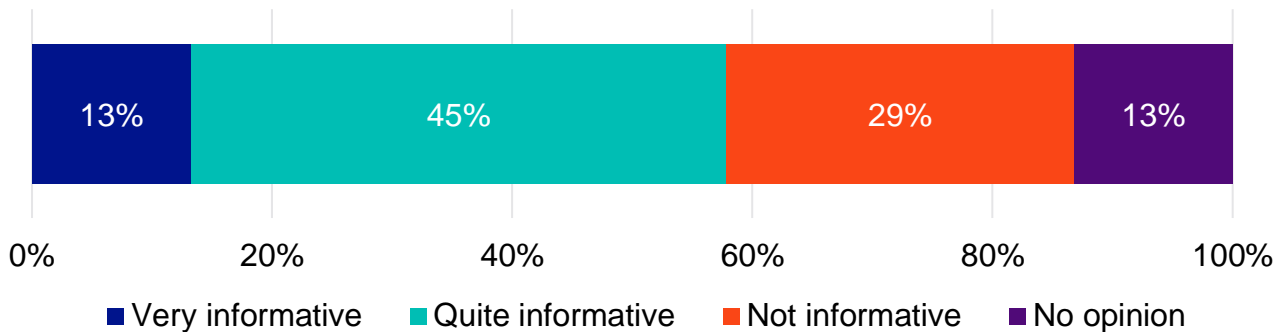
Figure 3-7 Question 9 results - “Did you attend any of the following events/meetings?”



Question 10- Our public consultation

- 3.4.42 Question 10 asked respondents *“If you attended one of our in-person consultation events, how did you find it?”*.
- 3.4.43 Respondents were asked to select one option between very informative, quite informative, not informative and no opinion.
- 3.4.44 The responses are presented within Figure 3-8.
- 3.4.45 A total of 83 respondents answered the question. 13% of respondents described the public consultation events as ‘Very informative’ and just under a half described the events as ‘Quite informative’. Over a quarter (29%) described them as ‘Not informative’, whilst the remaining 13% of respondents had ‘No opinion’.

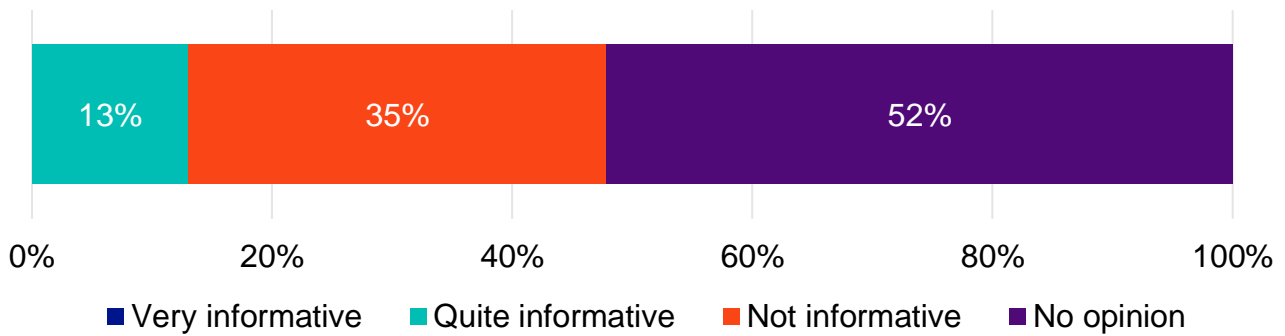
Figure 3-8 Question 10 results



Question 11- Our public consultation

- 3.4.46 Question 11 asked respondents *“If you attended one of our online webinars, how did you find it?”*.
- 3.4.47 Respondents were asked to select one option between very informative, quite informative, not informative and no opinion.
- 3.4.48 The responses are presented within Figure 3-9.
- 3.4.49 A total of 23 respondents answered the question. 13% of respondents found the webinars ‘Very informative’ and 35% found them ‘Not informative’ and 52% of respondents had ‘No opinion’.

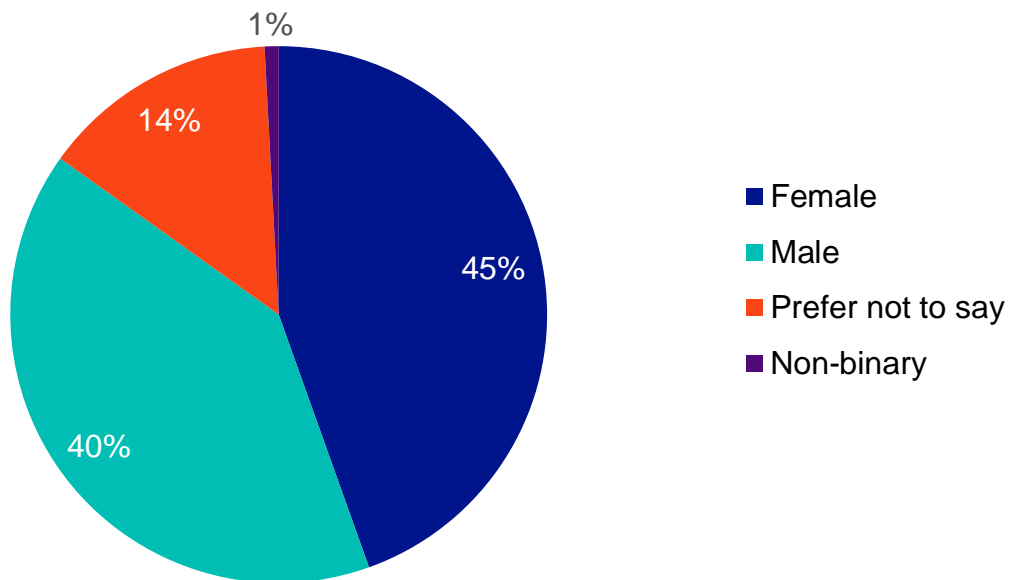
Figure 3-9 Question 11 results - If you attended one of our online webinars, how did you find it?



Question 13- Equality and diversity

- 3.4.50 Question 13 asked respondents *“What is your gender?”*.
- 3.4.51 Respondents were asked to select one option between male, female, non-binary and prefer not to say.
- 3.4.52 The responses are presented within Figure 3-10.
- 3.4.53 A total of 119 respondents answered the question. 45% of responses were from males, compared to 40% of responses from females and 1% non-binary. 14% of respondents did not wish to provide their gender.

Figure 3-10 Question 13 results - What is your gender?



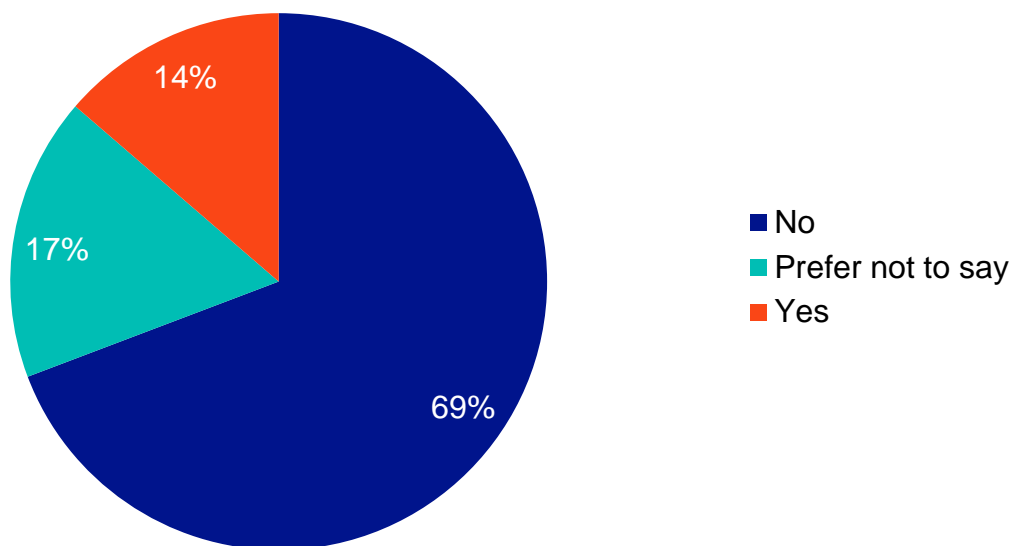
Question 14- Equality and diversity

- 3.4.54 Question 14 asked *“Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?”*.
- 3.4.55 Respondents were asked to select one option between yes, no and prefer not to say.

3.4.56 The responses are presented within Figure 3-11.

3.4.57 A total of 117 respondents answered the question. The majority of respondents (69%) answered 'No', whilst 17% did not wish to answer. The remaining 14% of respondents selected 'Yes'.

Figure 3-11 Question 14 results - Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?



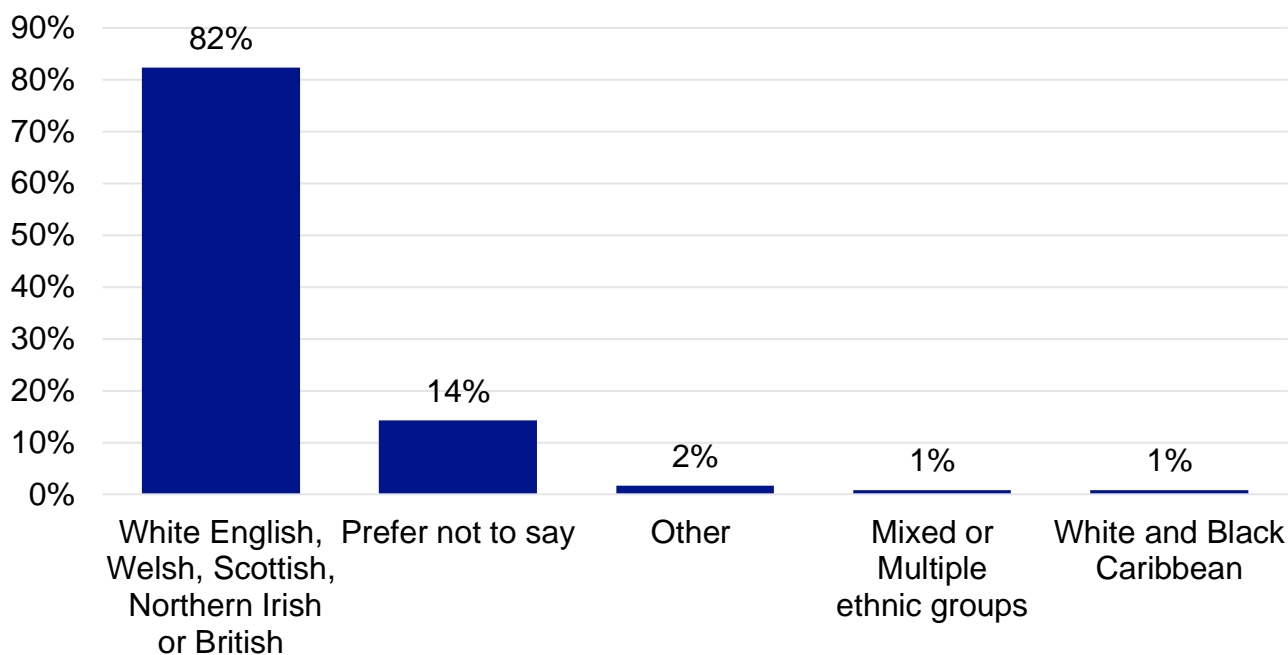
Question 15- Equality and diversity

3.4.58 Question 15 asked *“How would you describe your ethnic background?”*.

3.4.59 A total of 119 respondents answered the question. The majority of respondents (82%) indicated they were 'White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British'. This was followed by 14% of respondents who did not wish to express their ethnic background. 1% of respondents described their ethnic background as 'Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups' and 1% as 'White and Black Caribbean'. 2% selected 'Other'.

3.4.60 The responses are presented within Figure 3-12.

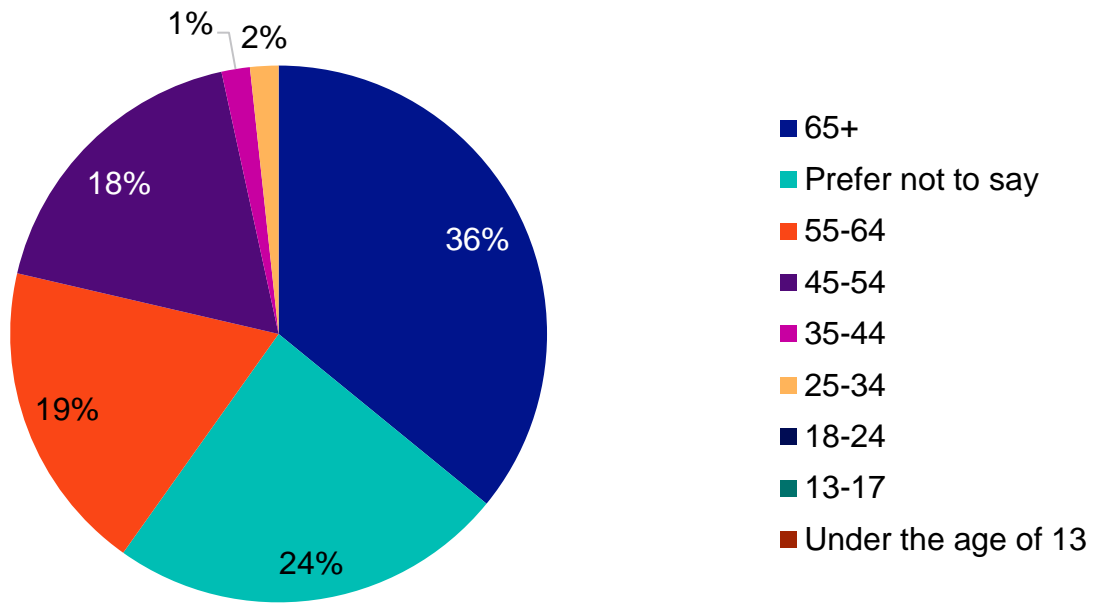
Figure 3-12 Question 15 results - How would you describe your ethnic background?



Question 16- Equality and diversity

- 3.4.61 Question 16 asked “*What is your age?*”.
- 3.4.62 The responses are presented within Figure 3-13.
- 3.4.63 A total of 117 respondents answered the question. The highest number of responses were from the ‘65+’ category, representing 36% of the responses received. The ‘55-64’ age bracket represented a 19% share of the responses, closely followed by ‘45-54’ at 18% of the responses received. The least represented age groups who responded were ‘25-34’ and ‘35-44’ with 2% and 1% respectively. 24% of respondents preferred not to identify their age group.

Figure 3-13 Question 16 results - What is your age?

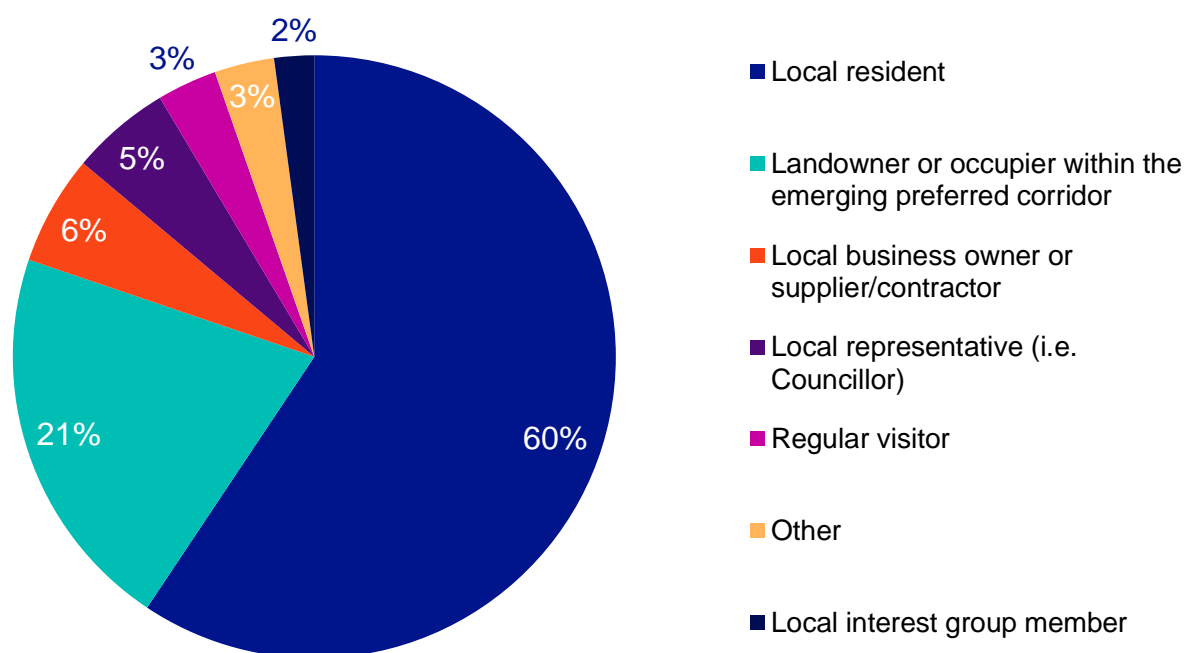


About you

3.4.64 This question was not numbered, asking “How would you describe your interest in EGL 3 and EGL 4?”. The responses are presented within Figure 3-14.

3.4.65 In total, there were 187 responses submitted to this question. A majority of respondents indicated their interest in the Projects (60%) came from being a ‘Local resident’. The next most frequent category was ‘Landowner or occupier within the emerging preferred corridor’ with 21% of responses for this option. A small percentage of responses were received from ‘Local business owner or supplier/contractor’ (6%), ‘Local representatives’ (5%), ‘Regular visitor’ (3%) and ‘Local interest group member’ (2%). ‘Other’ was selected by 3% of respondents.

Figure 3-14 How would you describe your interest in EGL 3 and EGL 4?



3.5 Responses to Open Questions

- 3.5.1 This section outlines the different open questions that were asked as part of the feedback form (questions 1, 2, 3a – 3n, 4b, 5b, 6b, 8, 12 and about you).
- 3.5.2 For an overview of feedback received in relation to the open questions, please refer to Table 3-1 below.
- 3.5.3 Although some feedback was received after the close of the non-statutory consultation, NGET continues to review and consider these as and when they are received. A summary of feedback received between the non-statutory consultation and the start of the next consultation (2025) will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the DCO application.

Question 1 (PART 2) - Why are EGL 3 and EGL 4 needed?

- 3.5.4 Question 1 asked respondents *“Do you have any comments to make in relation to our proposals for reinforcing the electricity transmission network between Scotland and England with EGL 3 and EGL 4?”*.

Question 2- Why is National Grid proposing to route and site EGL 3 and EGL 4 across the districts of East Lindsey, Boston, South Holland, and King’s Lynn and West Norfolk?

- 3.5.5 Question 2 asked respondents *“Do you have any comments in relation to the work we have undertaken to identify our preferred option?”*.

Question 3a- Section 1a – Theddlethorpe landfall to Bilsby

3.5.6 Question 3a asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the cable route?”*

Question 3b- Section 1a – Theddlethorpe landfall to Bilsby

3.5.7 Question 3b asked *“Do you have any comments about the potential cable landfall at Theddlethorpe?”*

Question 3c - Section 1a – Theddlethorpe landfall to Bilsby

3.5.8 Question 3c asked *“Do you have any comments about the siting zone of the proposed converter station and direct current switching station, near Bilsby? (Note that this the same converter station and direct current switching station as in section 1b as these maps/areas overlap)”*.

Question 3d- Section 1b – Anderby Creek landfall to Bilsby

3.5.9 Question 3d asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3e- Section 1b – Anderby Creek landfall to Bilsby

3.5.10 Question 3e asked *“Do you have any comments about the potential cable landfall at Anderby Creek?”*.

Question 3f- Section 2 – Bilsby to Welton le Marsh

3.5.11 Question 3f asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3g- Section 3 – Welton le Marsh to Little Steeping

3.5.12 Question 3g asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3h- Section 4 – Little Steeping to Sibsey Northlands

3.5.13 Question 3h asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3i- Section 5 – Sibsey Northlands to Hubbert’s Bridge

3.5.14 Question 3i asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3j- Section 6 – Hubbert’s Bridge to River Welland

3.5.15 Question 3j asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3k- Section 7 – River Welland to Foul Anchor

3.5.16 Question 3k asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3l- Section 8 – Foul Anchor to Walpole

3.5.17 Question 3l asked *“Do you have any comments about this section of the proposed cable route?”*.

Question 3m- Section 8 – Foul Anchor to Walpole

3.5.18 Question 3l asked *“Do you have any comments about the proposed siting zone of the Walpole substation?”*.

Question 3n- Section 8 – Foul Anchor to Walpole

3.5.19 Question 3n asked *“Do you have any comments about the proposed siting zone of the Walpole converter stations?”*.

Question 4b- The emerging preferred corridor and siting zones

3.5.20 Question 4b asked *“Please give us the reason for this answer.”*

Question 5b- Converter station building design approaches

3.5.21 Question 5b asked *“Are there any other design options you would like us to take into consideration for these converter stations?”*.

Question 6b- Construction

3.5.22 Question 6b asked *“Do you have any general comments about construction aspects at this stage that you would like us to consider?”*.

Question 8- Our public consultation

3.5.23 Question 8 starts with a closed question *“Do you have any general comments about construction aspects at this stage that you would like us to consider?”*. This is then followed by an open-ended question *“Tell us more about why you selected the above option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration”*.

Question 12- Our public consultation

3.5.24 Question 12 asked *“Do you have any further comments about our materials, consultation process or suggestions on how we can improve our consultation?”*.

About you

3.5.25 This question does not have a number. Applicants were asked to provide title, first name, surname, organisation/group (if responding on behalf of an organisation), address, postcode, and email.

3.6 Summary of Stakeholder Comments

- 3.6.1 This section summarises responses to open questions in the feedback form as well as written responses received via email and freepost from the non-statutory consultation.

Table 3-1 Summary of feedback received

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Agricultural land	
Concern that the Projects will take away valuable agricultural land / disrupt farming operations and have a negative impact on agricultural livestock.	<p>NGET is and will continue to work with all landowners, including farmers, who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the Projects are developed.</p> <p>The quality of agricultural land affected will be fully assessed through the completion of detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys. The Environmental Statement (ES) will report on the extent of land at each grade affected temporarily and permanently, and mitigation will be set out in relation to the implementation of good practice in soil handling and land reinstatement.</p> <p>We will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. This includes providing prior warning of works which may result in the need to move livestock. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be proven. Particular agricultural matters can also be addressed through voluntary land agreements.</p>
Airfield	
Concerns about the potential impact of the Projects on operations at the former RAF Silsby airfield.	Further consultation will be undertaken with RAF Silsby Airfield to understand their concerns about the potential impact of the Projects on the airfield, as the design progresses.
Community / Social impact	
The Projects have the potential to negatively impact people, leisure, educational facilities and health related services.	NGET recognises people may have concerns about the potential impacts of living close to electricity infrastructure. We have sought to reduce potential effects on communities, residents - including children - through careful routeing and design. We have also sought to reduce concern or uncertainty about the proposals

through making timely design decisions and engaging with people and stakeholders throughout the development of the Projects.

NGET has a duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) preserving natural beauty, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate the associated effects of new infrastructure. Through routeing and siting we have sought to avoid, as far as practicable, locations important for education, health, leisure and tourism. We will also continue to consider appropriate control measures for construction related traffic movements during the construction phase to minimise impacts for residents and tourism and leisure facilities. Where impacts on leisure and tourism are identified, these will be presented within the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment which forms part of the EIA.

We urge anyone with concerns to get in touch through the Freephone number, address or email throughout the development of the Projects:

- Call our Community Helpline: **0800 298 0405**
- Email us: **contacteg13and4@nationalgrid.com**
- Write to us: **Freepost EASTERN GREEN LINKS 3 & 4**

Need to consider cumulative impacts including carbon capture pipelines, nuclear waste sites, Viking Link, and other future developments. Concern about the Projects being in close proximity to recently built housing developments / land being considered for potential future development.

Where there is certainty of a development (such as a new residential development, an offshore wind farm and its associated onshore equipment etc.) being constructed, and there is adequate information in the public domain to understand the impacts of that development on the receiving environment, these will be considered within the cumulative effects assessment of the Projects and will form part of the EIA. The cumulative effects assessment will follow the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 17 'Cumulative Effects Assessment' and will be presented in the ES. NGET will continue to engage with other developers who are proposing development in proximity of the Projects to understand their requirements. In respect of concerns relating to the development being in close proximity to recently built development, NGET has sought to reduce potential effects through careful routeing and design.

The Projects only benefit those living elsewhere (e.g. England / the south etc) as the Projects are transmitting energy

The Projects will bring electricity to this area from Scotland, along with the wider Midlands and South.

elsewhere. Suggestions that communities should benefit from the Projects by providing the energy to them as they have to deal with the impacts.

NGET wants to ensure that there is a lasting legacy for the community from projects like this and will be considering opportunities for benefits for the local community.

Construction impacts

Need to mitigate the impact, disruptions and concerns from construction and construction traffic such as noise, closure of carparks, dust, dirt, light pollution, environmental pollution and overnight working.

NGET is undertaking an EIA for the Projects. The results of this assessment, which covers air quality and traffic, will be provided in the ES that will accompany the DCO application. The ES will identify and assess the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the construction of the Projects and will recommend appropriate mitigation measures (in consultation with relevant stakeholders) to reduce potential effects.

As part of the DCO application, an Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be submitted which will outline the good practice and standard control measures to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase. Many of the control measures will be based on the results from a Dust Risk Assessment (undertaken in accordance with Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance) and will likely include wheel washing of vehicles and the correct and tidy management of works areas to reduce, as far as practicable, dust and mud entering the local road network in the form of 'track-out'.

Local road infrastructure is not suitable for heavy construction vehicles and machinery (including the A1111, Crook Bank and roads around Alford). Concern about impact on traffic levels in local area caused by construction works.

An Outline CoCP and an Outline CTMP will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. These documents will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design stage in order to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase.

Concern about location of construction compounds. Suggestions that if site compounds were located next to A17, haul roads wouldn't be needed for access due to the proximity to the A17.

NGET will look to locate construction compounds away from residential properties where possible.

NGET is completing an EIA for the Projects. The results of this assessment will be provided in the ES that will accompany the DCO application. The ES will identify and assess the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the construction of the Projects and will recommend appropriate mitigation measures (in consultation with relevant stakeholders) to reduce potential effects. Should consent be granted, it is

anticipated that access and construction of the Projects would commence in 2029, starting with enabling workings, including site clearance activities, the installation of construction compounds and access roads. It is expected that the main construction works continue through to 2033. While the phasing of the construction programme is yet to be confirmed, it will be programmed and sequenced to reduce disruption to the local surroundings and the environment, residents, businesses, and road users as far as practicable. Further information will be presented in the ES. An Outline CoCP and an Outline CTMP will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. These documents will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts, together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design stage in order to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase.

Supportive of proposed construction methods (trenchless and ducted methods).

NGET notes this feedback.

Comments stating the amount of land needed during construction is too much/ would require a lot of land.

NGET has to justify all land required for the Projects as part of the DCO process and endeavours to minimise the amount of land needed during construction, and to return land to its current condition in discussion with landowners and other stakeholders where possible after construction is complete.

Suggestion that consideration is given to the carbon footprint of the Projects during construction (e.g. construction methods, materials, transport).

NGET has set challenging targets to reduce the carbon emissions of our organisation, including a specific commitment to deliver carbon neutral construction by 2025 / 2026. Key to the delivery of this commitment is to measure the carbon footprint of our projects through concept, detailed design and into delivery and construction using a range of best practice carbon tools and data sets.

Prior to construction, and as part of our procurement process, carbon management and carbon reduction are key award criteria for all projects. At tender stage, we require all contractors to calculate a detailed carbon footprint of the Projects using our Carbon Interface Tool (CIT), this provides a Capital Carbon baseline in Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent* (CO₂e) from which the contractors are then incentivised (via Key Performance Indicators) and quarterly reviews to reduce the Carbon Footprint of the Projects during construction. Contractors are contractually required to provide carbon data on a

quarterly basis to demonstrate performance against carbon reduction commitments agreed at contract award.

We also have a range of Net Zero working groups within NGET that explore low carbon innovations and approaches. These groups bring together our contractors and our supply chain to help to reduce the carbon footprint of the materials and resources required to deliver our projects. These groups are: Low-carbon concrete, Low-carbon steel and aluminium, Net Zero construction and Low Carbon cables. These working groups all report progress to an overarching Net Zero forum.

The carbon calculations derived from the CIT are used to inform progress against our overall strategic commitments to reducing carbon emissions across our portfolio of projects and meeting the Net Zero targets for construction projects.

*CO₂e / Carbon Dioxide equivalent: is the number of metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions with the same global warming potential as one metric tonne of another greenhouse gas.

Suggest using bored cabling (trenchless) rather than ducted (cut and cover).

Trenchless crossing techniques, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) can be used as an alternative to a trenched (cut and cover) approach to install underground cables. Trenchless methodologies are usually the preferred choice where minimal disturbance to above ground features is required, given trenched methods are more disruptive in terms of the level of disturbance to the landscape and environment. The benefits of using trenchless methods need to be carefully considered to ensure ground conditions are suitable and that the balance of potential environmental effects is achieved.

HDD as a methodology requires a wider construction swathe with cables spread out over a wider area than for open cut techniques, increased complexities with regards to engineering, programme and in turn increase cost. These reasons are why HDD is not the preferred primary method of underground cable installation for projects of this type, but is used as an alternative means of cable installation where the route passes close to environmental sensitive receptors.

As part of the EIA process, we fully assess the underground cable routes in detail considering the

	<p>constraints and environmental features and potential effects of installation by open trench method. The findings will be reported in the ES. Where such methodology is deemed not preferred then installation by HDD or other trenchless methods will also be assessed before deciding on where they will be used.</p>
<p>NGET should fund any road maintenance required as a result of construction vehicles and heavy plant using the public road network.</p>	<p>Where NGET or its contractors are at fault for any damage to existing highways, they will be liable for the repair of such under the instruction of the relevant highway authority.</p>
<p>Work should be timed to avoid peak operational times, with clear communication to farms about access changes and animal welfare requirements during construction.</p>	<p>NGET will continue to discuss proposed construction working hours with the relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and further details will be presented in the ES.</p> <p>An Outline CoCP and an Outline CTMP will be prepared and submitted with the application for development consent. These documents will provide a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design stage in order to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase.</p>
<p>Concerned about vibrations / structural damage by bored underground cable (trenchless).</p>	<p>NGET will undertake an EIA for the Projects, including the detailed assessment of construction, noise and vibration, and the identification of the potential for significant effects. The results of the noise and vibration assessment will be provided in the ES that will accompany the application for development consent. Where appropriate the ES will recommend mitigation measures to reduce potential significant effects of noise and vibration.</p> <p>NGET will also produce as part of the Development Consent Order application a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and a CoCP containing a Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) to fully control construction and operational noise associated with the Projects, containing agreed commitments specifically to reduce impacts. These will be draft management plans at the point of the DCO application and will be finalised prior to construction starting.</p>
<p>Concerns that construction could damage drainage systems, increasing the risk of flooding / drainage and land not</p>	<p>The installation of underground electricity cables and associated infrastructure has the potential to affect agricultural drainage systems.</p>

being reinstated resulting in drainage being inadequate.

NGET understands the importance of drainage along the route and has prioritised this from the start of the Projects. NGET will instruct suitably qualified, independent consultants to provide advice on land drainage. This will include arranging meetings with landowners to discuss and obtain information on existing systems, undertaking detailed site surveys, intrusive investigations, leading to the design and installation of appropriate mitigation drainage systems, both before main construction works commence (pre-construction) and after the completion of works (post-construction).

The pre-construction mitigation systems will be designed to ensure that offsite drainage schemes and land are not compromised both during and after the build phase of the Projects. Post-construction drainage schemes are required to replace existing drains compromised by construction processes and to assist with soil structural regeneration.

Consultation

Supportive comments on engagement that has taken place, easy to understand consultation material and well-informed consultation team.

NGET notes this feedback.

Criticism that consultation won't make a difference (e.g. we won't be listened to). Negative comments about the consultation material and documents. Criticism that consultation was not accessible to those without IT access / internet access / IT capability.

Consultation is an important part of the development of our Projects, and all comments and feedback are welcomed and noted. We are progressing with our proposals in line with our duties and all relevant policies. We will continue to review and consider feedback and make changes where appropriate. Consultation feedback, NGET's response and the way in which such feedback impacts the design of the Projects will be reported in the Consultation Report which will accompany the DCO Application.

NGET made best efforts to ensure that people without IT and internet access could engage with our consultation. These included issuing a hard copy newsletter to properties in our Primary Consultation Zone, holding nine in-person consultation events with hard copy consultation material free to be taken away and consultation material placed at 11 public local information points, offering 'Ask the expert' sessions via telephone and operating a FREEPOST address and freephone number to allow contact with the team.

<p>Criticism of consultation in-person events. Comments stating issues with the consultation events (e.g. hard to find venue, clashes with another meeting, inadequate facilities, or issues getting to the venue). Criticism that it was difficult to find the consultation / feedback form / information on the Projects. Criticism that consultation events are held during working hours / more events should be outside of working hours.</p>	<p>NGET made efforts to hold events and webinars that took place outside normal 9am – 5pm working hours. Consultation events were held weekdays, but all events continued into the evening to 7pm except for the Alford event that continued until 6.30pm due to other bookings at the venue. Two of the four webinars also took place at 7pm. Nonetheless, NGET notes this feedback and will look to hold in-person events and webinars during weekends, as well as weekdays, for the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Not enough time to consider the proposals. Criticism of when the consultation was held (e.g. time of year), consultation advertising was not adequate, and consultation letter was not received.</p>	<p>NGET believes that the consultation period was adequate at its original eight-week period from Tuesday 23 April to Monday 17 June. Following the calling of the General Election, the consultation period was extended until 15 July 2024 to give consultees further time to consider and respond to the consultation.</p>
<p>Comments about the graduated swathe including criticism of the use of the swathe.</p>	<p>NGET notes this feedback. NGET showed a graduated swathe to illustrate where the Projects’ infrastructure could be located within the emerging preferred corridor, allowing consultees to share their views. NGET considers this best practice for this early stage of consultation on network transmission projects.</p>
<p>Suggestions to ensure that owners of caravans at Anderby Creek are informed of the plans / how are you informing owners of caravans at Anderby Creek holiday site.</p>	<p>As a business in the Primary Consultation Zone, the owners/operators of caravan holiday sites at Anderby Creek should have received notification of the consultation via our project consultation newsletter. This would have allowed them to inform their clients of the consultation.</p> <p>NGET notes the respondents’ feedback and for our statutory consultation, best efforts will be made to contact the owners of the holiday parks directly to request that they pass on information on the consultation to their clients.</p> <p>Owners of caravans can also sign up for updates on our website to receive latest project news, including advance notice of public consultation.</p>
<p>Suggestions of improvements to the consultation/consultation materials, such as to include more information. Suggestion to</p>	<p>All comments and feedback are welcomed and noted, and NGET will bear this in mind when developing documents for the 2025 statutory consultation.</p>

show other alternatives / options for the Projects.

Suggestion that the feedback is listened to / considered and suggestions that there is need for further consultation (generally). Request to generally speed up the process (e.g. the consultation / construction) / Suggest the Projects needs to be completed sooner.

NGET has had regard to all consultation responses. Section 4 of this report details changes made as a result of consultation feedback.

Constraints of the planning and construction processes impact how quickly any project can be completed. The Government has recently raised concerns about how long the DCO process takes and is considering changes to speed it up.

Suggestion that the Gunning Principles have not been considered.

NGET disagrees that consultation has not met the Gunning Principles on public consultation. The Projects are at an early and formative stage; we believe we have been clear and transparent about the Projects, the rationale behind them and how we have developed the design; we believe that we gave adequate time consultees to consider and make a response; and the feedback from the consultation will be taken into account by the decision maker.

Design

Suggestion that the Projects are routed away from / should not be located at a specific location such as residential areas, should avoid features and towns, should avoid the countryside and suggestions for alternative landfall.

Deciding where and how to build new high voltage electricity circuits is a complex issue and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. Proximity to residential areas was considered as a factor through the early routeing and siting work for the Projects. NGET also implements a Design Change Control (DCC) process through which requests made to amend the Project design were considered in response to feedback made at the non-statutory consultation. As part of this process NGET has sought to avoid environmental impacts and impacts on the community where possible.

NGET, through the EIA process, will reduce or mitigate impacts through other types of measures including the sensitive design of watercourse crossings, such as (where applicable) use of trenchless crossing methods, and culverts to allow species, for example water vole, to pass through safely. In addition, an Outline CoCP, will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. This CoCP will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design

stage to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase.

NGET has considered multiple locations for a potential landfall location for the Projects. As part of the Strategic Options Report (SOR) consideration was given to strategic Project options which made landfall on either the Lincolnshire coastline (between south of Cleethorpes and north of Chapel St Leonards) or the North Norfolk coastline (between Blakeney Point and Cromer). A further desktop preliminary landfall assessment was undertaken in 2022 to appraise 90 km of Lincolnshire coastline, from the Humber Estuary in the north, to the north side of the Wash in the south to inform the routing and siting work presented in the CPRSS, presented at the non-statutory consultation in 2024. The outcome of the and EIA Scoping Report noted optionality for a landfall for the Projects along the Lincolnshire coastline; Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek. Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to utilise a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek.

Oppose the use of underground cables generally.

NGET has noted feedback from the respondent. Cables are put underground where feasible as an alternative to using pylons. Through the EIA process, measures to reduce or mitigate impacts associated with the construction of the proposed underground cables will be identified. These measures will be set out within the Outline CoCP and the ES that will accompany the DCO application.

Suggestion that existing overhead lines should be replaced by underground cables.

The existing electricity transmission network provides power, via the local distribution network, into the local area where it is used in homes and businesses. The need case and funding for the Projects is to deliver the new network reinforcement needed, rather than to remove existing overhead lines by undergrounding them.

We have identified a number of locations where existing 132 kV and lower voltage lattice pylon lines are crossed by the proposed underground cables and / or mitigation of effects is considered necessary. This includes locations such the existing 4ZM 400 kV overhead line and numerous existing 132 kV overhead lines in the vicinity of the existing Walpole substation and proposed Walpole B substation. Suitable mitigation will be considered and reported in the ES.

Suggestion that the Projects should run adjacent to existing transport infrastructure.

While there could be potential benefits from infrastructure being concentrated geographically, i.e., by routeing the Projects in close proximity to existing road and rail infrastructure, NGET do not consider these benefits arise for the whole route. Rail lines or roads potentially align (at least in part) with the general routeing of the Project.

However, there are constraints and features that mean that we do not consider close paralleling will reduce environmental effects or improve compliance with the Holford Rules or be more consistent with the policy requirement to be economic and efficient.

A number of residential properties, as well as hamlets, villages and towns, are present in close proximity to the existing transport infrastructure necessitating multiple diversions of an underground cable. There are also some locations where the combination of existing physical and environmental features (railway and road infrastructure, commercial and residential property, woodlands and orchards) present very substantial challenges to routeing and siting. As a result, whilst close paralleling of transport infrastructure may appear beneficial in some short sections, overall, the increased environmental effects from multiple changes of direction are considered greater and less compliant with the Holford Rules than those that are associated with a new route alignment.

Suggestion that the Projects should avoid the area of Lincolnshire entirely.

Deciding where and how to route new high voltage electricity cables is a complex issue and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the concerns these may bring. Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, and report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. The EIA starts early in the process, and a considerable amount of assessment work has been undertaken to allow preliminary judgements to be made about the design and routeing of the Projects.

NGET has considered multiple locations for a potential landfall location for the Projects. As part of the Strategic Options Report (SOR) consideration was given to strategic Project options which made landfall on either the Lincolnshire coastline (between south of Cleethorpes and north of Chapel St Leonards) or the North Norfolk coastline (between Blakeney Point and Cromer). A further desktop preliminary landfall assessment was undertaken in 2022 to appraise 90 km of Lincolnshire

coastline, from the Humber Estuary in the north, to the north side of the Wash in the south to inform the routeing and siting work outlined in the CPRSS, presented at the non-statutory consultation in 2024. Landfalls closer to the proposed connection point were not progressed due to the presence of environmentally sensitive areas and technical challenges. Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek both in Lincolnshire were identified as the preferred landfalls at non-statutory consultation. Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to progress a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek. Further detailed assessment work has been undertaken since the 2024 non-statutory consultation and is published in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to accompany the statutory consultation stage of the Project.

Suggestion that the Projects should use existing electrical infrastructure rather than building new infrastructure.

The existing assets / networks are not able to be upgraded sufficiently to cope with the future demands expected on the network. As a result, new transmission lines, converter stations and substations will be required to accommodate the changing demands on the network. The Projects would benefit the UK, including local communities, by enabling the connection of new sources of renewable energy and by contributing to our energy security in the future, helping the country to achieve the Government's Net Zero target and ensuring that the national grid meets future power demands.

Suggestion that alternative energy sources are used instead of nuclear / wind. Suggest schemes to reduce energy consumption / other energy saving schemes.

To meet the predicted doubling in electricity demand by 2050 and the Government's 2050 Net Zero target, the Government Energy White Paper (EWP), whilst not planning for a specific technology solution, predicts that *'a low cost, Net Zero consistent system is likely to be composed predominantly by wind and solar'* but also complementing intermittent renewables with technologies including nuclear and gas with carbon capture and storage. Under its transmission licence, NGET has a statutory duty to respond to generation customers wanting to connect to the transmission network. The Projects will form part of a major programme of reinforcement of the electricity transmission system to accommodate substantial power flows between Scotland and England to meet the requirements of generation connections in Scotland, helping take power generated from low-carbon sources to areas of consumer demand. The Projects will contribute to the Government's 50 GW offshore wind target. The advantages of offshore wind farms compared to onshore are that they are considered

more efficient (with higher wind speeds and consistency in direction) and are further away from local populations.

Suggestion that the Projects should be offshore / suggest an offshore grid is used instead (including partial offshore option).

There is no fully offshore solution to connect power generated or transported offshore to the grid. We have to bring the power onshore somewhere. Our job is to carefully consider the most feasible options and present proposals for public consultation, which go as far as possible to address impacts on local communities and the environment and also deliver for electricity consumers.

The electricity grid, built predominantly in the 1960s, wasn't designed to transport renewable energy from different sources, or meet the forecast increase in demand because of decarbonisation, so it has to be upgraded.

We continue to consult with local communities and will always endeavour to reduce impacts as much as possible so that we can deliver this infrastructure, which is vital for the country as a whole.

EGL 3 and EGL 4, and the other projects that form The Great Grid Upgrade will play a big part in the UK government's plan to boost homegrown power. It will help the UK switch to clean energy and make sure our electricity network is fit for the future; carrying more clean, secure energy from where it's generated to where it is needed.

Suggestion that energy is generated near to where it is needed instead (e.g. London). Criticism that energy is being generated far from where it is needed.

NGET does not determine or implement policies that influence the form and location of energy developments. Those matters are for Government to take forward. Our role is to respond to the connection requirements for projects that are developed in line with Government Policy to integrate them into the National Transmission System in a timely, economic and efficient manner in line with relevant policies and our duties.

Economic / Employment impact

Negative impact of the Projects on the economy / businesses in the area.

Through the routeing and siting exercise NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable, impacts to all businesses. To reduce potential impacts, we are identifying the location and type of businesses and allocated employment land, to determine the sensitivity and potential magnitude of change they could experience. These have been and will continue to be considered during the iterative design process. Impacts on local businesses and employment land will be

presented within the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment which forms part of the EIA.

As part of this assessment, a range of measures will be considered throughout the construction phase of the Projects to minimise disruption to businesses and their users. These measures will be identified within the Outline CoCP and the ES that will accompany the DCO application.

Concern about impact of the Projects' construction period on tourism.

Through the routeing and siting exercise NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable impacts to businesses. To reduce potential impacts, we are identifying businesses and enterprises and their primary function, and also those that are likely to generate tourism such as private gardens and parks. These have been and will continue to be considered during the iterative design process.

Impacts on local businesses will be presented within a Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment which is being undertaken and will be written up to form part of the EIA. As part of this assessment, a range of measures will be considered throughout the construction phase of the Projects to minimise disruption to businesses and their users. These measures will be identified within the ES that will accompany the DCO application.

Environmental impact

The Projects will result in a negative impact on the environment / countryside generally.

Through routeing and siting, NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable impacts on the environment. NGET is undertaking an EIA for the Project. The results of this assessment will be provided in the ES that will accompany the DCO application. The ES will identify and assess the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the construction and operation (and maintenance) of the Projects and will recommend appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential effects.

The Projects will impact nature reserve / RSPB reserve, including the King Charles Nature Reserve and Theddlethorpe Nature Reserve.

We will continue to engage with Natural England, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and other relevant stakeholders on aspects relating to biodiversity and the natural environment, including appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures and techniques, and will take their views into account as the Projects develop.

The Projects will impact SSSIs and designated sites, including

Through routeing and siting, NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable impacts on

<p>Humber Estuary SPA, Greater Wash SPA, Humber Estuary Ramsar, Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe and Gibraltar Point SAC, Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe Dunes SSSI and Lincolnshire Coronation Coast NNR.</p>	<p>biodiversity and in particular features of high ecological value, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar sites and Ancient Woodland. The process of route design takes account of existing biodiversity, the natural environment and, where practicable, seeks to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, through avoidance or mitigation.</p>
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<p>Only AONB have been considered. Suggestion that areas other than the AONB should be protected.</p>	<p>Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, and report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. The EIA starts early in the process, and in that respect, a considerable amount of assessment work has been undertaken to allow preliminary judgements to be made about the design and routing of the Projects. This has been set out in the CPRSS, published as part of the 2024 non-statutory consultation, and the EIA Scoping Report, published in July 2024, with feedback helping shape the preliminary proposals. Further detailed assessment work has been undertaken since the 2024 non-statutory consultation and is published in the PEIR to accompany the statutory consultation stage of the Projects.</p>
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NGET will be writing up its Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form the latter part of the EIA for the Projects. This will include a write-up of an assessment on both landscape character and visual amenity. Where likely significant effects are anticipated the LVIA will consider and identify areas where it may be necessary and appropriate to put forward potential mitigation as part of an iterative design and assessment process.

<p>Consideration needs to be given to the impact of the Projects on Ancient Woodland.</p>	<p>Through routing and siting, NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable impacts on biodiversity and in particular features of high ecological value, such as Ancient Woodland.</p> <p>The process of route design takes account of existing biodiversity, the natural environment and, where practicable, seeks to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, through avoidance or mitigation. The EIA for the Projects will assess the effects on biodiversity (which includes receptors such as Ancient Woodland) and where necessary will detail avoidance and mitigation requirements.</p>
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Projects do not have sufficient information on environmental impacts / need for more environmental assessments.

Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, and report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. The EIA starts early in the process and, in that respect, a considerable amount of assessment work has been undertaken to allow preliminary judgements to be made about the design and routing of the Projects.

Concern that concrete areas used for the converter station will increase localised flooding.

The potential for the Projects' construction activities and permanent infrastructure to increase flood risk and change existing land drainage regimes are being assessed within the ES and the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) that will be prepared. The Projects will secure good practice and will embed design measures to capture rainfall runoff from new impermeable areas, providing for its attenuation before it is discharged so as not to increase flood risk. Flood risk and drainage controls will be agreed with the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority and relevant Internal Drainage Board (as applicable).

Do not detract from features of AONB and Coastal Areas.

Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, and report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. The EIA starts early in the process, and in that respect, a considerable amount of assessment work has been undertaken to allow preliminary judgements to be made about the design and routing of the Projects. This has been set out in the CPRSS, published as part of the 2024 non-statutory consultation, and the EIA Scoping Report, published in July 2024, with feedback helping shape the preliminary proposals. Further detailed assessment work has been undertaken since the 2024 non-statutory consultation and is published in the PEIR) to accompany the statutory consultation stage of the Projects.

NGET will be writing up its Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form the latter part of the EIA for the Projects. This will include a write-up of an assessment on both landscape character and visual amenity. Where likely significant effects are anticipated the LVIA will consider and identify areas where it may be necessary and appropriate to put forward potential mitigation as part of an iterative design and assessment process.

Comments relating to concerns about impacts on soil (including soil nutrients, biology etc).

Agricultural Land Classification and soil surveys will be undertaken to inform the understanding of the baseline soil characteristics and conditions. These will describe the soil characteristics down to a maximum depth of 1.2m below ground level and this information will be used to inform the development of an outline Soil Management Plan (SMP) which will be submitted with the DCO application. The SMP will also include data on soil nutrient levels.

The SMP will set out good practice in relation to soil handling and reinstatement and how this will be implemented to minimise the risk of damage to the soil resources, minimising therefore the risk of change to soil function.

Negative impact of the Projects on the Green Belt.

The Projects do not route through, and will not impact upon, areas designated as Green Belt.

Concern about quicksand and running silt in the River Welland - raised previously in relation to Outer Dowsing.

Any environmental and technical issues related to the River Welland will be considered by the Projects Teams in consultation with the Environment Agency and adjoining landowners. Any relevant matters will be considered in the EIA and details will be included in the documentation submitted with our DCO application.

Financial compensation

Request for adequate financial compensation. Suggestions that impacted individuals and communities need to be compensated. Suggestion of compensation measures.

Landowners will be compensated for temporary/permanent losses, and this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you are a landowner and believe your property may be affected by our proposals, and want to talk to our lands team, please contact the team:

- Call us: **0203 693 2500**
- Email us: **egl3and4@ardent-management.com**
- Write to us: **EGL 3 and EGL 4, Ardent, 36 Park Row, Leeds, LS1 5JL**

The Projects will devalue property / impact on property value.

NGET acknowledges that its proposals may cause concern to landowners. Diminishment of property value known as 'injurious affection' and any other appropriate heads of claim will be considered on an individual basis in accordance with current legislation. We will pursue a voluntary agreement with affected landowners, acquiring rights in accordance with our Land Rights Strategy (the strategy is subject to review). If a voluntary agreement cannot be reached, then the Compulsory Purchase Code allows for a claim of compensation for the loss that

property owners may have suffered as a direct result of the retained part of your property ownership being worth less as a direct result of the works.

If there are any specific concerns about the devaluation of property NGET would advise seeking third party advice or alternatively, please contact the Project team:

- Call our Community Helpline: **0800 298 0405**
- Email us: **contactegl3and4@nationalgrid.com**
- Write to us: **Freepost EASTERN GREEN LINKS 3 & 4**

Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Concern about health risks (including mental health) associated with overhead or underground lines / physical health risks associated with the Projects.

The UK has a carefully thought-out set of policies for protecting us all against Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs), the main component of which is exposure guidelines. Those exposure guidelines are set by independent scientific bodies and are based on decades-long studies into the effects of EMFs and ill health. After those decades of research, the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. These policies are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent in National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-5. All the equipment which forms part of the Projects, will be fully compliant with these policies, set to protect everyone. This will be fully and publicly documented in the DCO application.

Heritage

Negative impact on heritage buildings. Suggestions that the Projects should be routed away from heritage buildings / listed buildings / historical sites.

Through routing and siting NGET has sought to and will continue to reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings and known non-designated heritage assets. If potential impacts on the historic environment are identified, we will explore a range of mitigation measures such as screening and archaeological recording to reduce potential impacts where practicable.

Mitigation

Criticism of mitigation plans / measures in place to offset negative impacts.

NGET is undertaking an EIA. The results of this assessment will be provided in the ES that will accompany the application for development consent. The ES will identify and assess the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the construction and operation of the Projects and will recommend appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential effects.

We will continue to engage with a range of stakeholders (including Statutory Environmental Bodies (SEBs) and relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)) throughout the development of the Projects' design and environmental assessment work.

Suggest mitigation measures (including drilling between 5 m and 25 m below the riverbed). Comments suggesting mitigation measures are used throughout the Projects (construction to completion).

Where the cable route crosses watercourses, design principles are being discussed and will be agreed with the relevant authorities (the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards) such that impacts on watercourses will be avoided or mitigated so far as possible. Measures will include, for example, set backs from river banks, clearances to the hard bed of watercourses and commitments to re-instatement of riparian corridors

NGET has sought to and will continue to seek to reduce the impacts of the Projects on the environment and community as far as practicable. We utilise the Holford and Horlock Rules and topic specific guidance informed by feedback and professional judgement to define appropriate alignments and siting of infrastructure (such as the converter stations, Walpole B substation and construction compounds) that are consistent with the relevant policy framework and duties. We are undertaking an EIA to assess the potential impact of the Projects, and this will identify any need for additional mitigation.

In addition, The Environment Act 2021 introduces a mandatory requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for new DCO developments (which is not yet in force). We have committed to deliver Net Gain of at least 10% or greater in environmental value (including BNG) on all construction projects. The Net Gain target for the Projects is currently voluntary and aligned with our corporate sustainability commitment. As well as seeking to avoid and minimise impacts to nature, the Projects will consider the land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement that can deliver BNG and wider environmental benefits, which will be identified as the Projects design develops. This may require delivery of offsite Biodiversity Units via habitat creation or enhancement actions in strategic areas, and we will consider all options that are available to us.

Needs case

Comments supportive of the proposals and the Projects aims

NGET has noted this feedback.

(e.g. investment in offshore / nuclear / low carbon energy).

Criticism of needs case for the Projects. Comments suggesting that the Projects are not needed or wanted. General opposition of the Projects and criticism of the government's policies.

NGET has noted this feedback.

Other NGET Projects

Comments suggesting works for Grimsby to Walpole and EGL3 and 4 should be coordinated during construction to minimise overall disruption to the area.

The two projects will continue to work closely together to ensure construction works are coordinated to minimise overall disruption in the area.

General criticism of the Grimsby to Walpole project.

NGET has noted this feedback.

Comments suggesting Grimsby to Walpole should be underground cables/should be integrated into these projects and that it is unfair that EGL 3 and 4 proposes underground cables whilst Grimsby to Walpole proposes overhead lines.

Eastern Green Link 3 and Eastern Green Link 4 and Grimsby to Walpole are separate projects needed for different reasons.

Grimsby to Walpole is a proposal for 90 miles (140 kilometres) of onshore electricity network needed to connect energy projects that are mostly onshore, including seven onshore solar farms with onshore battery storage, two offshore wind farms and two interconnectors. This will enable enough clean energy to power up to six million homes (Grimsby to Walpole is also connecting three onshore gas-fired generation projects with battery storage).

Eastern Green Link 3 and Eastern Green Link 4 are two 400-mile (640 kilometre) electricity subsea superhighways needed to move the plentiful supplies of clean offshore wind generated in Scottish waters through offshore subsea cables to the Midlands and South of England. The two projects will each power up to two million homes with clean, renewable energy.

Other Projects

Proposals should make use of Viking Link infrastructure for electricity transmission / there should have been enough capacity built into Viking Link to no longer need EGL 3 and 4.

The Viking Link is an interconnector between the UK and Denmark, connecting into the UK's national grid at a converter station in Lincolnshire. While it provides a critical link for energy exchange between countries, its design and capacity are specific to its function as an interconnector.

Comment referring to other projects (non-NGET).	Non-NGET projects are outside the scope of this consultation.
Suggest Solar Farms should be integrated with the proposed infrastructure.	There is a significant amount of local generation that connects directly to the local Distribution Network Operators (DNO) all around the country. If the DNO need more capacity in their network, they would apply to NGET for a new grid supply point.

Project Finance / Costs

Criticism of using financial compensation to go ahead with the Projects. Concern about the cost to the consumer for financing the Projects.	<p>NGET is funded by a price control mechanism which is agreed with and set by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem). We pay up front the many millions of pounds it costs to build a new power transmission line. The cost is then gradually passed on to customers through their electricity bills over the next 40 years or so. The funding for these up-front costs comes from our shareholders and the institutions that lend us money. Across all our investments in our vital infrastructure, this amounts to many billions of pounds. They invest in us because they expect that we will make a sufficient profit to provide an appropriate return on their investment and eventually pay them back. This brings a major benefit to electricity bill payers as it allows the recovery of the cost of our investment to be spread out over many years, rather than having a spike in electricity bills when we build a large new transmission connection.</p>
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Too much weight has been given to keeping the cost of the Projects low / criticism that NGET have gone with the cheapest option (e.g. initial costs).	<p>Cost is one of the factors that needs to be considered in making decisions on the Projects as guided by our duties under the Electricity Act 1989.</p> <p>The relevant NPS is EN-5 which makes it clear that applicants should consider environmental issues from the earliest stage to balance the technical benefits and capital cost requirements for new developments against the consequential environmental effects in order to keep adverse effects to a reasonably practicable minimum. The process of appraising different identified options is undertaken using guidance (NGET's Approach to Consenting). Its aim is to ensure that decisions regarding the scheme design (route, location, or technology option) are based on a full understanding and balance of the technical, socio-economic, environmental, and cost implications of each option. Once all identified options have been appraised, the option or options that best meet NGET statutory duties and obligations are selected as the preferred option or options. These duties include balancing the need to be economic and efficient, which includes keeping costs down in the interests of the bill-</p>
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	<p>paying consumers to whom the costs are eventually passed, with a duty to have regard to preserving amenity, which includes the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality. The consideration of cost within the decision-making process is therefore one of our statutory duties and is not something that we could make representation to the Ofgem to waive.</p>
<p>Request for transparent costings for Projects and alternative options.</p>	<p>NGET has set out the calculation of costs for the Projects and alternatives in the Strategic Options Report (SOR), published as part of the 2024 non-statutory consultation. This document has been reviewed and updated and is published alongside our material which is the subject of consultation in our stage 2 statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Criticism that impact on property value has not been included in the costings provided for different options by NGET for the consultation (including cumulative costs of legal fees).</p>	<p>As the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) deemed the Projects to be of national significance, the process by which the Projects must progress through the planning process is set out in the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. In addition, the potential impacts of the proposal are required to be assessed under environmental impact assessment regulations and legislation. There is no requirement for a potential effect on property prices to be assessed or be included in the costing of options.</p>
<p>Criticism of the costings provided by NGET for the Projects and alternative options (including offshore).</p>	<p>NGET has set out the calculation of costs for the Projects in the Strategic Options Report (SOR), published as part of the 2024 non-statutory consultation. The SOR considers the overall estimated costs for each strategic option, including a comparative assessment of the lifetime costs associated with each technology option that is considered to be feasible. The major factors considered in these calculations include procurement, construction resource, land costs, and the length of the line. The SOR is updated periodically to take account of any new cost or technology information, for instance along with any other changes in the planning and regulatory framework. This document has been reviewed and updated and is published alongside our material which is the subject of consultation in our stage 2 statutory consultation.</p> <p>NGET also published a CPRSS as part of the 2024 non-statutory consultation, which contains further information on how we arrived at our preferences for infrastructure locations, such as the routing of the overhead lines and the siting of the substations. Within the CPRSS is a detailed overview of the decisions that we took to reach our preferred corridor, including costs and the findings of</p>

	our Options Identification and Selection Stage. The feedback received on the CPRSS during the 2024 non-statutory consultation was used to inform the design and alignment of the Projects. These documents were published as part of the 2024 non-statutory consultation.
Suggestions that the money for these Projects could be used on improving existing infrastructure/elsewhere.	EGL 3 and EGL 4 are needed as the existing transmission network does not have enough capacity to securely and reliably transport the increasing amount of energy generated in Scotland and Scottish waters, particularly from offshore wind to population centres in the Midlands and South of England
Criticism that Horlock Rules have not been considered. Suggest that the Projects should follow the HM Treasury Green Book (e.g. legal requirements and methodology) / criticism that HM Treasury Green Book has not been followed.	<p>NGET disagrees that the Horlock Rules have not been considered as these are referenced within the policy framework which is relevant to the Projects. Application of the Horlock Rules typically involves balancing alternative solutions which can present conflicting compliance and may from some perspectives appear to suggest an aspect has not been considered.</p> <p>NGET is confident that the process followed to identify and then assess potential strategic options is robust and appropriate. This has been tried and tested through numerous previous projects, the formal examination process and ultimately decided by the relevant Secretary of State. The Treasury Green Book provides guidance on the interpretation by public servants of public spending, assets and resources for projects, policies and spend from the public purse.</p>

PRoW (Public Rights of Way)

Concern about negative impact on PRoW / footpaths / cycle paths. Suggestion that alternative PRoWs should be provided during construction – i.e. not closing these off during construction.	<p>Through routeing and siting, NGET has sought to and will continue to reduce, as far as practicable, impacts and disruption to Public Rights of Way (PRoW). The iterative process of route design has identified the existing PRoW network and their wider connectivity and sought where practicable to reduce and where possible remove impacts to PRoW. If mitigation is required, measures may include the temporary closure of PRoW during the construction phase, and where practicable a diversion to allow for the continued use and movement of the wider PRoW network.</p> <p>Effects on PRoW will be mitigated where possible, maintaining access where practicable, with closures as a last resort. We will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders on the PRoW network to enable feedback and input to be considered as the Projects develop. A PRoW Management Strategy will be prepared as part of</p>
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the Outline CoCP and submitted with the DCO application.

Technology / Operations

Comment supportive of use of underground cables (generally).

NGET has noted this feedback

Concern around the noise generated from new substations and converter stations.

Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, and report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. The EIA starts early in the process and, in that respect, a considerable amount of assessment work has been undertaken to allow preliminary judgements to be made about the design and routeing of the Projects.

Noise and vibration will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form part of the EIA for the Projects. Noise levels and the effect on residential properties as well as other sensitive areas, such as hospitals and schools, are carefully considered during planning, assessed according to the appropriate UK standards, and mitigated where necessary. We set strict technical standards for the equipment we install on our network. These will apply to the proposed two new converter stations and the proposed new Walpole B substation located in the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. These standards include requirements to ensure the occurrence of audible noise is eliminated or reduced as far as practicable. Therefore, significant adverse effects from noise are not expected.

Policies for noise are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent as set out in NPS EN-5. It is NGET's policy to ensure that all its equipment complies fully with those policies and guidelines. The application for a DCO will include assessments against these policies, including both construction and operational noise.

Concern relating to the longevity / operation of infrastructure to potential future sea flooding and ground instability. Concern about operation of infrastructure during winter floods (e.g. large amounts of rainfall in winter) / need for appropriate drainage systems to handle rainwater.

Permanent buildings and structures will be designed with finished floor levels set to account for the predicted effects of climate change on river flows and sea level rise over their lifetime, providing future resilience to flooding. The Projects will be served by surface water drainage systems that accommodate provision for the predicted effects of climate change on rainfall over their lifetime, building in additional storage capacity for rainfall runoff volumes so as to prevent increases in flood risk and provide future resilience to flooding.

<p>Comments that subsea cable may be susceptible to tampering / national security concern (e.g., terrorism / disruptive activities).</p>	<p>The potential threat from tampering has been considered in the routeing and design of the subsea cables.</p>
<p>Suggestion to use a 'cable plough' to lay cables when on land.</p>	<p>Suitable and appropriate cable laying methods for this type of HVDC cable are outlined and assessed within the PEIR. The final construction approach will be assessed in the ES submitted with the DCO.</p>
<p>Suggestion to target for Biodiversity Net Gain for the Projects (BNG).</p>	<p>There is a commitment to delivering BNG for the English Onshore Scheme as previously highlighted during scoping. It is anticipated that BNG delivery will become mandatory under the Environment Act 2021 (which requires a 10% increase from the baseline) for DCO applications from November 2025. UKHab surveys and BNG unit calculations are ongoing following a staged approach to assessment in order to inform the design and discussions on ecological compensation in line with the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy. However, it is acknowledged that the government's consultation on this element has not yet commenced and therefore the approach to BNG assessment and delivery will be kept under review and the final BNG approach for the English Onshore Scheme will be revised in line with the latest guidance.</p>

As well as seeking to avoid and minimise our impacts to nature, the Projects will consider the land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement that can deliver BNG and wider environmental benefits, which will be identified as the Project design develops. This may require delivery of offsite Biodiversity Units via habitat creation or enhancement actions in strategic areas, and we will consider all options that are available to us.

Visual impact

<p>The Projects will be unsightly / visually intrusive. Concern that the Projects will cause a negative impact on views, with the proposed substation near Walpole and the proposed converter station and switching station near Bilsby both mentioned.</p>	<p>NGET will be writing up its Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form the latter part of the EIA for the Projects. This will include a write-up of an assessment on both landscape character and visual amenity. Where likely significant effects are anticipated the LVIA will consider and identify areas where it may be necessary and appropriate to put forward potential mitigation, for example screen planting, as part of an iterative design and assessment process.</p>
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Concern about operational lighting on equipment related to the Projects.

Construction lighting will be directional and minimised where possible. Any activity carried out or equipment located within a construction compound that may produce a noticeable nuisance, including but not limited to dust, noise, vibration and lighting, will be located away from sensitive receptors such as residential properties or ecological sites, where practicable.

Wildlife / Ecology impact

Concern that the Projects will result in a negative impact on land wildlife / biodiversity / ecology and affect the biodiversity of land areas such as bogs or marshes or the ecology/ecosystem.

Through routeing and siting NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on biodiversity including protected and notable species. The process of routeing takes account of existing biodiversity, the natural environment and, where practicable, seeks to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity including protected and notable species and their associated habitats, through avoidance or mitigation.

The EIA for the Projects will assess the potential impact and subsequent effects on protected species.

The mitigation hierarchy has and will continue to be followed, with potential impacts and effects avoided where possible. Where avoidance cannot be achieved, impacts are to be minimised and/or remediated through the design and implementation of appropriate mitigation and restoration measures. Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigated or remediated, compensation would be explored.

We will continue to engage with Natural England and other key stakeholders on aspects relating to biodiversity and the natural environment, including appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures and techniques for protected and notable species and to take their views into account as the Projects continue to develop. Where/if necessary, we will seek to obtain letters of no impediment from Natural England by producing draft protected species licences, to ensure legal compliance and best practice guidance are adhered to and ensure that Natural England agree with our mitigation approach.

Suggest ecological enhancements as part of the Projects (including increasing the BNG target).

In accordance with national policy (such as NPS EN-5) and local planning policy relevant to the location of the Projects, NGET will explore opportunities for ecological enhancement during the design process. These enhancements would go beyond the mitigation measures needed to minimise the adverse effects of the Projects.

We will continue to engage with key stakeholders to identify and appraise opportunities for enhancement that could be delivered as part of the Projects.

There is a commitment to delivering BNG for the English Onshore Scheme as previously highlighted during scoping. It is anticipated that BNG delivery will become mandatory under the Environment Act 2021 (which requires a 10% increase from the baseline) for DCO applications from November 2025. UKHab surveys and BNG unit calculations are ongoing following a staged approach to assessment in order to inform the design and discussions on ecological compensation in line with the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy. However, it is acknowledged that the government's consultation on this element has not yet commenced and therefore the approach to BNG assessment and delivery will be kept under review and the final BNG approach for the English Onshore Scheme will be revised in line with the latest guidance.

The Projects will result in a negative impact on rivers / sea (including Anderby Marshes). The Projects will result in a negative impact on marine / aquatic wildlife / biodiversity / ecology.

Through routeing and siting NGET has sought and will continue to reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on biodiversity including river ecology. The process of routeing takes account of existing biodiversity, the natural environment and, where practicable, seeks to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity such as river corridor habitats and any associated protected species, through avoidance or mitigation.

The EIA for the Projects will assess the potential impacts and subsequent effects on biodiversity.

The mitigation hierarchy has and will continue to be followed, with potential impacts and effects to ecological receptors avoided where possible. Where avoidance cannot be achieved, impacts are to be minimised and/or remediated through the design and implementation of appropriate mitigation and restoration measures. Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigated or remediated, compensation would be explored.

We will continue to engage with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) (and other relevant stakeholders) on aspects relating to river ecology, including appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures and techniques and to take their views into account as the Projects continue to develop.

There is a commitment to delivering BNG for the English Onshore Scheme as previously highlighted during scoping. It is anticipated that BNG delivery will become mandatory under the Environment Act 2021 (which requires a 10% increase from the baseline) for DCO applications from November 2025. UKHab surveys and BNG unit calculations are ongoing following a staged approach to assessment in order to inform the design and discussions on ecological compensation in line with the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy. However, it is acknowledged that the government's consultation on this element has not yet commenced and therefore the approach to BNG assessment and delivery will be kept under review and the final BNG approach for the English Onshore Scheme will be revised in line with the latest guidance.

As well as seeking to avoid and minimise our impacts to nature, the Projects will consider the land required for watercourse mitigation, compensation and enhancement that can deliver BNG and wider environmental benefits, which will be identified as the Project design develops. This may require delivery of offsite Biodiversity Units via habitat creation or enhancement actions in strategic areas, and we will consider all options that are available to us.

The Projects will have a negative impact on bees, birds, plants, woodlands, hedgerows and protected species.

Birds are being assessed in the biodiversity assessment which will form part of the EIA following extensive desk study and field work. Should potential adverse impacts be identified, they will be avoided or minimised as far as possible, where practicable. It is anticipated that a range of habitats within the land required for the construction of the Projects may provide suitable habitat to support breeding and wintering birds and particularly those associated with farmland habitat. Precautionary working methods and appropriate mitigation measures for the construction phase of the Projects will be included within the Outline CoCP that will accompany the DCO application.

In addition, a number of bird species represent qualifying species of internationally designated sites for nature conservation. An assessment in relation to impacts to the qualifying bird species will be presented within a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

It should be noted that the Projects are primarily underground cables rather than overhead lines. Bees can be affected if the hive is under (or very close to) a power line and the hive becomes charged. This can be

eliminated by screening or earthing the hive. NGET has worked with the British Beekeeping Association to establish hives around our sites, including high voltage substations, which have thrived.

Minimising impacts on woodlands have been considered through careful routeing of the Projects, whilst impacts on hedgerows will be considered through the construction design and mitigation where impacts are identified.

Concern about impact on sand dunes / Saltfleet.

Originally there was optionality for a landfall for the Projects along the Lincolnshire coastline at Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek. Sand dune habitat and Saltfleet are located at the Theddlethorpe landfall location only. Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to utilise a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek. As such, impacts are not predicted to sand dune habitat at Theddlethorpe or the Saltfleet location.

Technical consultee/statutory body responses

3.6.2 NGET has analysed responses from key technical consultees and statutory bodies in the same way as other responses. Given their importance, a summary of these responses is included below. This summary lists key points and does not include all the information submitted and analysed. Feedback received through the scoping opinion process from technical consultees and statutory bodies is set out and addressed within the PEIR and is therefore not reported and considered in this report.

Anglian Water:

- Requested early engagement with NGET relating to the impacts of the Projects on Anglian Water's assets, including watercourses and their water supply infrastructure, confirmation of cumulative impacts, mitigation and any requirements for water recycling connections, towards formation of draft Protective Provisions.

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk:

- The need to set out alternative options for siting of infrastructure at Walpole.
- Cumulative impacts upon receptors from other large-scale developments.

- Potential for impacts on fluvial and coastal flood risk (the Wash/River Nene); landscape areas (flat Fenland areas and Norfolk Coast National Landscape, east of The Wash); and Classified Shellfish Beds within The Wash were raised.
- Advises NGET considers the Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan.
- High levels of concern for Listed Buildings defined as Designated Heritage Assets and other designated and non-designated heritage assets that may need to be considered, alongside key viewpoints and Salt working archaeological references in the area. Encourages consultation with Historic Environment Record at NCC.
- Request that additional environmental surveys are undertaken (including an Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Arboricultural Impact Assessment).
- Requests appropriate consideration of noise, dust and vibration impacts/assessments during construction including Construction & Traffic Management Plans, including consideration of working hours.
- Requests appropriate compensation packages for homes and businesses – ‘local community fund’.

Cambridgeshire County Council:

- Notes the proximity of the graduated swathe to the Council’s boundary and reserves their right to review the Transport Assessment and Construction Traffic Management Plans and comment at future stages of the Projects.

Canal and River Trust:

- Request that should the proposals affect land which within their undertaking, acquisition of any Trust land or rights over Trust land should be secured by agreement and strongly recommend early contact with the Trust’s Utilities Team to commence discussions prior to DCO application.
- Request note of invasive species known to be present on the River Witham: Azolla Water Fern is present around Antons Gowt, and Floating Pennywort has been present in the past too. Both species cause issues with navigation. Strict biosecurity controls to ensure boots and equipment do not spread these to other watercourses should be always observed. To prevent the spread of Crayfish plague disinfection is required. The disinfectant must be one that is suitable for use near waterbodies.
- Indicate that it is important that visual impacts are assessed within the context of the river being a navigable waterway and that visual impacts on the river do not result in any harm to navigational safety.

Coal Authority:

- Confirmed the proposed scheme passes through no high-risk areas. There are however areas of low risk on the coastline between Theddlethorpe and Northcotes and again from Cleethorpes north.

Forestry Commission:

- Confirmation there are mixed deciduous woodlands within the emerging preferred corridor, but no ancient semi natural woodlands within the current proposed project area.
- It is expected that there will be a thorough assessment of any loss of trees and woodlands within the project boundary and the development of mitigation measures to minimise any risk of net deforestation because of the scheme. Would expect to see hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development.

Lincolnshire County Council:

Objects to proposals for the following reasons:

- Refers to a lack of detail at this very early stage.
- Concern about potential for cumulative impacts with other projects; the potential to overwhelm communities during construction; significant impacts on the environment (AONB), transport (critical routes such as the A16 through Boston and the A158 through Horncastle), and tourism.
- Advises the applicant considers alternative routes at AONB boundary.
- Notes the internationally important ecological sites (SSSI/SPA/SAC/Ramsar) along the coast and role within East Atlantic Flyway migration route.
- Concern about loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.
- Challenged strategic options and expressed concern that the focus of the land-based route in England is from a landfall on the Lincolnshire coast.
- Requests a masterplan of the proposed Lincolnshire Connection Substation(s).

National Farmers Union (NFU):

- Suggests cables be laid to a depth of 1.2 metres to minimise risk of damage during farming operations.
- Requests that NGET agrees temporary and permanent access routes with landowners and would like to see these highlighted on individual landowner plans.
- Requests NGET considers impact of heat dissipation from cables and how this can affect crop growth, plus measures to mitigate this.

- Does not support compulsory acquisition of agricultural land for BNG purposes - this should be done through voluntary negotiation.
- Requests agreement of working for Code of Construction in relation to soils and drainage.

National Gas Transmission:

- Notes the presence of feeder mains, AGI Cathodic Protection Ground beds and other Ancillary apparatus, in proximity to the order limits.
- Informs NGET of easements for its pipelines and points to its guidance for working in proximity to assets.

National Trust:

- Gunby Estate and Sandilands are the National Trust's main land interest in this area. They are also the joint applicants with the RSPB and Wildlife Trust to designate coastal area as UNSECO site of international importance East Atlantic Flyway.

Natural England:

- Expects the project to follow the 'avoid, mitigate, compensate' hierarchy.
- Prefers Anderby Creek to Theddlethorpe as a landfall location as it avoids designated sites.
- Raises significant concerns regarding the efficacy and feasibility of the use of HDD for cable installation in the SSSI/SAC area, including GI required to support this approach.
- Advises NGET considers vertical change in beach profile and coastal retreat over lifetime of projects at Anderby Creek.
- Urges coordinated approach with Outer Dowsing Offshore Windfarm and other relevant projects.

Norfolk County Council:

- Refers to the need to demonstrate all alternatives have been considered; Question the reasoning and the need for the infrastructure to come into Norfolk at all. Would have serious concerns about a landfall in North-West Norfolk.
- Asks for reassurance that no additional transmission cabling (e.g. above ground power lines) will subsequently be built-out from the substation (i.e. become a transmission hub). Request that any further projects should be placed underground to avoid any further landscape impacts and impacts on local communities.

- Focus on Cumulative Impacts and coordination with other projects.
- Requests comprehensive landscape mitigation around substation.
- Notes importance of environmental designations and significant loss of prime agricultural land.
- Clear asks in terms of community benefits/compensation e.g. funding towards Energy Plan for County - power to Norfolk, EV charging in West Norfolk.
- Expect that a full Health Impact Assessment will be provided, covering impacts during the construction and operation of the Projects. This would be preferable as a chapter within the Environmental Statement.
- Request that an Employment and Skills Plan is provided covering local employment and skills development.
- Request that a Transport Assessment is undertaken to account for impacts of the use of roads by construction traffic, including vehicle type and proposed access routes during construction and operation.
- Requests that further consideration of the impact of the scheme on drainage, surface water management (including run-off), ground water and flood risk are given. Suggest that the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) should be a risk management authority and that all watercourses the scheme crosses, need to be considered regardless of size (ordinary watercourse consents). Further work is needed in this area.
- Considers that the scheme should not be in close proximity to any Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) or high-risk sites, and request that NGET engage with Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service (including for training or equipment purchases).

Water Management Alliance:

- Request that NGET obtain the relevant consents relating to works affecting watercourses, discharge of water and that flood risk is duly taken into consideration (this includes any temporary works within 9 metres of flood risk management infrastructure).
- Request that where possible, haul roads should avoid crossing watercourses, and any cable crossings should be done via a trenchless method.

UK Health Security Agency:

- Notes there may be impacts on health during construction but have no comments based on the current assessments received.

3.6.3 NGET has considered the feedback and matters raised above and is working closely with key technical consultees and statutory bodies throughout the development of the

Projects. These matters will continue to inform future stages of the design development process.

- 3.6.4 The next section of the report outlines several design changes incorporated into the proposals following the non-statutory consultation.

4. How Feedback Has Influenced Design

4.1 Regard had to feedback

- 4.1.1 Following the close of the non-statutory consultation, a number of design changes have been incorporated into the proposals. Proposed design changes were carefully considered in the context of environmental constraints and opportunities, engineering feasibility and cost, and planning policy considerations.
- 4.1.2 The process of considering potential design changes comprised of an initial filter for benefit and feasibility, an assessment incorporating inputs from relevant technical experts, and further stages of additional study if required.
- 4.1.3 The outcome of the consideration of potential design changes was either that a change was included in the proposed Projects' design, or that the change was not made following balanced and informed consideration.
- 4.1.4 Respondents made several requests for changes to the Projects' proposals in their responses to the non-statutory consultation, some of which it has been feasible to adopt by NGET and taken into consideration in the development of the Projects.
- 4.1.5 Accordingly, the key changes identified in response to the 2024 non-statutory consultation are summarised in Table 4.18. This table demonstrates how regard has been had to each of the design change suggestions made and summarises the rationale behind the decision making. The below table also identifies where NGET has made changes to the Projects as a result of the ongoing feedback or stakeholder engagement received since the non-statutory consultation and how the responses received have influenced those changes.
- 4.1.6 In addition to the above and below, NGET has made changes to the Projects in response to ongoing technical and environmental studies and survey results. The details of how these influenced the design are reported within the documents submitted for statutory consultation including the PEIR (see Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3: Reasonable Alternatives Considered) and the Design Development Report.

A summary of the key changes identified in response to non-statutory consultation and continued engagement with landowners and stakeholders

Table 4-1 non-statutory consultation materials

Change requested	How was this change considered and addressed
Routewide	
Suggestion for offshore alternatives	There were several suggestions stating a preference for an entirely offshore or predominantly offshore connection alternative. The purpose of the Projects is to transfer electricity between Scotland and the South Humber region, as part of a network reinforcement. The Projects must come onshore to connect to the existing transmission network. Alternatives for the landfall have been considered and Anderby Creek has been identified as the preferred landfall location. The PEIR (see Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3: Reasonable Alternatives Considered) sets out the consideration of alternatives in reaching this position. When considering the need case for the Projects, legislative and policy changes as well as further environmental and technical studies, the Preferred Strategic Options as presented in the non-statutory consultation remain valid and form an appropriate basis on which to take the Projects forward.
Suggestion that existing overhead lines should be replaced by underground cables	Undergrounding of existing overhead lines does not form part of the Projects need case therefore these suggestions could not be considered further.
English Offshore Scheme	
Requests to discount the offshore route options that routed directly through the centre of the Holderness Offshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	Following feedback from stakeholders, NGET and its technical specialists have explored options for indicative cable routes offshore within the English waters. The draft Order Limits of the English Offshore Scheme, namely the EGL 3 route completely avoids the Holderness Offshore MCZ. The draft Order Limits of the EGL 4 route cross the south-east corner of the Holderness Offshore MCZ but minimises interaction with it as much as possible.
Section 1a – Theddlethorpe landfall to Bilsby	
Suggestion that the Projects should not make landfall at Theddlethorpe and should be in another location	Suggestions were made to make landfall in a different location, avoiding Theddlethorpe. Comments stated that Theddlethorpe is a very rural area with a local economy dependent on tourism and agriculture and that there are other more industrialised areas on the Lincolnshire coast that would have less impact. NGET also received feedback from both Natural England and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in relation to the proposed landfall at Theddlethorpe. Concerns were raised with

	<p>regard to the potential environmental impact on designated and sensitive ecological sites within the Projects' footprint.</p> <p>Drawing from the valuable feedback received during and since the non-statutory consultation, NGET completed a comparative appraisal of the two landfall options presented at non-statutory consultation incorporating inputs from relevant technical experts. The appraisal identified that a longer crossing would be required at Theddlethorpe Landfall when compared to the Anderby Creek Landfall resulting in potential design complexities and increased costs. The analysis also identified that an exit point on the beach would be required at the Theddlethorpe Landfall outside of the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) but within the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar, within the Greater Wash SPA, and within the Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe Dunes SSSI and the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve (NNR), adding to the consenting complexity. NGET recognised that designated and sensitive ecological sites of concern cannot be avoided should the Theddlethorpe Landfall have been chosen.</p> <p>Additional feedback from the Environment Agency requested that direct impacts on the tidal flood defences be avoided. Additional flood information confirmed that the dominant source of flood risk is tidal at both landfalls, but the predicted extent of flooding was identified to be less extensive at the Anderby Creek Landfall than at the Theddlethorpe Landfall.</p> <p>As a result of this feedback and additional technical and environmental studies and analysis, Anderby Creek has been identified as the preferred landfall location, and the Projects will not be making landfall at Theddlethorpe.</p>
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<p>Suggestion that the Projects landfall at Theddlethorpe should avoid certain features / locations</p>	<p>There were several suggestions that the Projects' landfall at Theddlethorpe should avoid certain locations such as farmland and houses in the area. Comments also referred to avoiding the area adjacent to King Charles Nature Reserve and the dunes.</p> <p>As identified above, NGET completed an appraisal of the two landfall options and based on feedback received to date and additional technical and environmental studies and analysis, Anderby Creek has been identified as the preferred landfall location. These suggestions therefore were not considered further.</p>
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Section 2 – Bilksby to Welton le Marsh

<p>Suggestion the converter station near Bilksby is relocated/routed away from certain features</p>	<p>Section 2 of the preferred corridor runs from Bilksby to Welton le Marsh and includes the connection point at the new LCS converter station for the three-ended HVDC link.</p> <p>Several respondents raised concerns about the siting of infrastructure near Bilksby and Alford areas due to the existing rural character of the area, the adjacent Lincolnshire Wolds, existing heritage assets and potential residential amenity impacts.</p>
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	<p>As outlined in the CPRSS and SOR, the project infrastructure associated with the three-ended HVDC link was optional and was subject to further studies and discussions with the ESO.</p> <p>In response to further studies completed by NGET since the non-statutory consultation, the three-ended HVDC link and its associated infrastructure have been removed from the Projects and are not presented at this statutory consultation.</p>
Suggestion that the infrastructure near Bilsby is removed from the Projects	As identified above, the three-ended HVDC link and its associated infrastructure have been removed from the Projects and are not presented at this statutory consultation.

Section 4 – Little Steeping to Sibsey Northlands

Request to minimise impact on farm impacted by the Grimsby to Walpole Project, EGL 3 and EGL 4 by collocating infrastructure as close together as possible	<p>Section 4 of the preferred corridor runs from a point at Little Steeping to a point immediately south of the village of Sibsey Northland.</p> <p>Requests were raised to seek opportunities to co-ordinate the development of infrastructure with the Grimsby to Walpole Project to reduce land take and potential impacts on farmland and farm operations. Since the non-statutory consultation, discussions with the Grimsby to Walpole Project have continued as these projects co-ordinate their designs and landowner engagement.</p> <p>NGET has reviewed requests raised and proposes changes to the Projects to route in proximity to the Grimsby to Walpole Project in this section, increasing opportunities for sharing co-ordinated construction, and reducing potential disruption to neighbouring communities.</p>
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Section 6 – Hubbert’s Bridge to River Welland

Request to fully avoid an existing organic farm or seek alternatives to avoid specific fields	<p>In response to feedback received, NGET and its technical specialists have explored alternative options as suggested. The alternative option which would fully avoid the farm was considered as part of the non-statutory consultation (referred to as Corridor 20 in the CPRSS). The main engineering risks associated with this route involved the presence of a high-pressure gas main as well as a less direct and longer route to River Welland. Access was also deemed to be less favoured in comparison with the chosen option. Based on the conclusions drawn as part of the CPRSS, this suggestion was discounted by NGET.</p> <p>The suggestions to avoid specific fields which produce a higher crop yield were also reviewed by NGET and its technical specialists. The review also took into account other forms of constraints including technical constraints as well as socio-economic factors. Where alternative options were suggested and these did not result in any new or worse engineering or environmental impacts, these areas were included within the draft Order Limits for further consideration and assessment as the</p>
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	design develops. Options which resulted in new impacts which could not be avoided or mitigated were discounted.
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Section 7 – River Welland to Foul Anchor

Removal of the A17 route option near the River Welland/Foul anchor	<p>Section 7 of the preferred corridor runs from a point north of Moulton Seas End to a point immediately east of Foul Anchor (east of the A1101). An option to route along approximately 6 km of the A17 between a point north of the Saracen’s Head to a point between Holbeach and Fleet Hargate was included in the CPRSS, seeking to utilise a more direct route southeast towards the proposed converter stations near Walpole.</p> <p>The development of these options and continued engagement with key stakeholders identified that routeing alongside the A17 in this section is likely to result in significant impacts and would not be acceptable to road users and the community. This is because the A17 is currently heavily constrained, being the main route to link the eastern and western parts of the county. As a result, the A17 alternative route has been discounted as part of the process and has not been taken forward. The option NGET intends to take is the alternative cable route presented at the non-statutory consultation 2024.</p>
Suggestion that the Projects route via A17 to avoid the alternative option	<p>NGET has considered these suggestions; however, these were discounted based on the findings of additional studies and feedback received from stakeholders which confirmed that routeing via A17 is likely to result in significant impacts to the local road network. As a result, the A17 alternative route has been discounted as part of the process and has not been taken forward.</p>
Suggestion to exclude a location-specific property	<p>A request was raised to seek options to avoid an existing equestrian area location in Section 7. NGET has reviewed the location of the identified equestrian area and options for avoiding this. The option NGET intends to take forward in this section avoids the equestrian area identified.</p>

Section 8 – Foul Anchor to Walpole

Amendments to route around planned / potential solar farms / energy projects around Walpole substation	<p>Section 8 of the preferred corridor runs from a point east of Foul Anchor to the siting options for the proposed converter stations near Walpole. This section includes options for multiple entry points to get to the siting options for the proposed converter stations near Walpole. Two options were proposed to the northwest of Ingleborough and two connection options to the north and south of the Rose and Crown Solar Farm.</p> <p>Feedback from multiple landowners and developers in this area suggested that NGET seeks options to avoid, and where possible route around, any planned and potential developments. NGET reviewed options to avoid and reduce potential interactions, whilst also taking into account other forms of constraints identified to the east of River Nene and within the surroundings of Walpole Marsh.</p>
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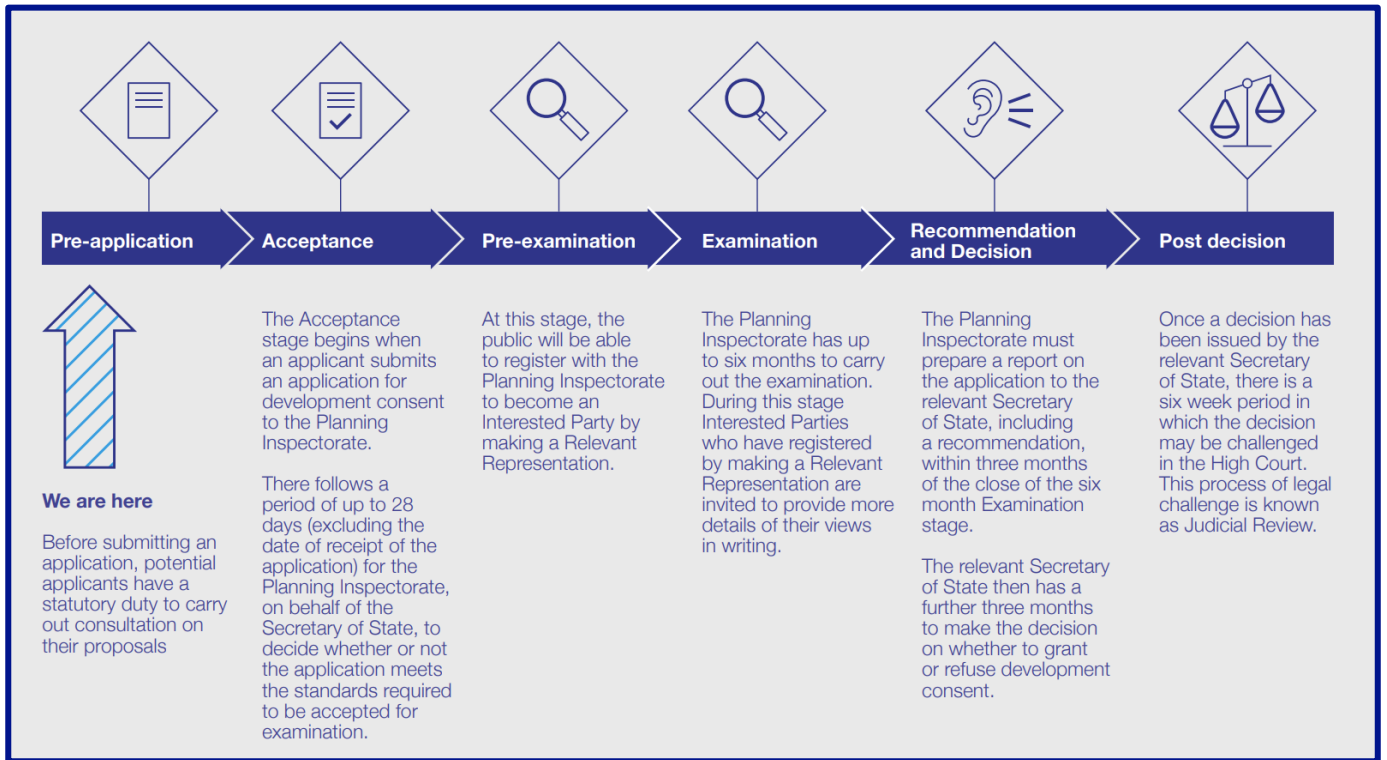
	<p>In response to the feedback received and based on the findings of additional studies and reviews, an additional option is proposed between the A1101 Sutton Road and the River Nene which sits to the west of the River Nene. The additional option was identified to have several potential constraints and benefits. Specifically, it would reduce the extent of potential impacts associated with habitat loss and agricultural land and avoid routing through proposed and potential developments including renewable energy projects. However, it is also recognised that the additional option, specifically, where it crosses the North Level Main Drain at Foul Anchor, may potentially result in further residential amenity temporary impacts during the construction works and introduce an additional watercourse crossing. As a result, both options are taken through to statutory consultation and will be subject to further studies and assessments before a final option is selected.</p>
<p>Suggestions for aesthetic design considerations and visual screening of the proposed converter stations at Walpole</p>	<p>The converter station design had not been fully developed at the non-statutory consultation. However, the individual buildings that form the converter station can be designed in various ways and feedback was sought on possible design approaches.</p> <p>NGET has reviewed the feedback received and has further developed the preferred design options for statutory consultation and will continue to explore the potential design solutions through to DCO submission.</p>
<p>Suggestion to avoid location specific farmland around proposed converter stations at Walpole</p>	<p>Feedback was received regarding the location of the converter stations potentially overlapping with farmland which produces a higher crop yield. NGET and its technical specialists have reviewed the siting areas identified at non-statutory consultation. The review considered siting two converter stations together within one siting area and explored options for split arrangements to fully consider all feasible options. For the statutory consultation, a total of four options for siting the converter stations are proposed. NGET will continue to investigate the converter station siting options via a range of investigations. Any decisions will be informed through consideration of likely environmental effects along with the findings of technical and ground investigations among a range of factors including feedback received.</p>

- 4.1.7 Respondents made several requests regarding the implementation of the Projects, such as aspects of construction methods. NGET will consider this feedback as the Projects progress and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures as detailed design and construction methods are developed.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1.1 The information presented at the non-statutory consultation is published on the Projects' website and is available in the online document library.
- 5.1.2 This report shows feedback received from the non-statutory consultation and how this has informed and shaped the proposals to be presented at a statutory consultation.
- 5.1.3 As the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) deemed the Projects to be of national significance, they require a DCO under the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Act 2008 requires applicants to undertake statutory consultation which provides those with an interest in the Projects, including local authorities, statutory consultees, people with an interest in the land affected, and the local community to provide feedback on the proposed Projects.
- 5.1.4 The DCO process is shown in Figure 5-1. After the application has been submitted, PINS has 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for examination. Once the application is accepted, the pre-examination period starts. Whilst this does not have a statutory timescale, it typically takes 3 – 7 months. At the beginning of this period, stakeholders can register as 'Interested Parties' and make further representations (called 'Relevant Representations') on the application to PINS. The SoS appoints an inspector or panel of inspectors (called the 'examining authority') who will set out the timeline for the examination, and the matters to be examined. The examination itself takes up to six months. It is followed by a three-month period for the examining authority to make a recommendation on whether or not to grant development consent, and a further three months for the SoS to decide the application. For more information, visit the Planning Inspectorate's website at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.
- 5.1.5 The feedback from the non-statutory consultation and the statutory consultation will be used to inform the final designs that will be put forward in the application for development consent. NGET expects to submit the application in 2026.
- 5.1.6 A report on the statutory consultation and how NGET has had regard to feedback will be prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 5.1.7 Ahead of all rounds of consultation, NGET has and will continue to hold dialogue with the public including landowners and people with an interest in land which interacts with the Projects.
- 5.1.8 The Projects team is carrying out formal EIA work and undertaking surveys along the route. The preliminary findings of the formal assessments are presented in the PEIR at the statutory consultation.

Figure 5-1 DCO Process



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