

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Grimsby to Walpole

# Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document

November 2025

national**grid**



# Introduction

National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting communities and stakeholders, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight that will help shape the design of Grimsby to Walpole.

As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, our approach to engagement is guided by the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and government guidance as set out in Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

We undertook Stage 1 non-statutory consultation in relation to the Project between 18 January and 13 March 2024. Following this, we considered feedback from the local community, alongside outputs from ongoing engagement with stakeholders, technical assessments and environmental surveys to further develop the proposals.

We then held a Stage 2 consultation on our refined plans between 11 June and 6 August 2025. At this stage, the proposals were detailed, presenting a proposed route alignment, substations, and associated infrastructure.

However, at this stage, the design and siting of the substation infrastructure at Weston Marsh was still being considered and therefore, the Stage 2 consultation presented a Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone. This showed the proposed location for substation infrastructure with a commitment that more detail would be consulted on later.

Following engagement with energy generators, and ongoing surveys, design for 'Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B' has now been prepared for consultation, as part of the DCO planning process. At this consultation, we are presenting the equivalent level of detail for Route section 5, as was presented for other Route sections of the Project at Stage 2 consultation.

We are therefore undertaking a targeted consultation to gather feedback on this section of the proposals. This consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the principles of the Grimsby to Walpole Stage 2 consultation, as outlined in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

# Our approach to consultation

We are presenting our proposals for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B, as part of the Grimsby to Walpole DCO.

We are also presenting information regarding the TCPA and S37 applications that form an earlier phase of development. Aligning the consultation for both consenting routes will support interested parties to understand the full picture of our plans for Weston Marsh.

The consultation will run between **18 November and 11:59pm on 19 December 2025**. All feedback received will be carefully considered as we develop our proposals.

As outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the Grimsby to Walpole Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), the consultation for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B, as part of the DCO application, will be undertaken so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the Grimsby to Walpole SoCC. The SoCC can be found in **Appendix B** of this document.

Within this Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document, we have listed the engagement activities outlined in the SoCC, and how we propose to undertake these activities as part of the Weston Marsh targeted consultation.



**Consulting locally**

The PCZ includes all residential properties, businesses and community organisations with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project Area of the proposals for both planning application processes (also known as the draft order limits). This PCZ includes approximately 946 addresses. A copy of the PCZ can be found in **Appendix A**.

An updated (SCZ) has been developed, extending 5 km around the Project Area, whereby wider publicity of the Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in **Appendix A**.

The proposals for Weston Marsh have been further refined since the Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone presented at the Stage 2 consultation and therefore the PCZ and SCZ have been updated accordingly.

**Timing of consultation**

The consultation on our proposals for Weston Marsh will be open for 31 days. This duration will provide people with an appropriate amount of time to review the information presented for both construction phases and to respond to the consultation.

# Weston Marsh targeted consultation activities

The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the Project and National Grid will have regard to all consultation feedback received by the relevant statutory consultation deadline when developing our designs further.

Table 1: Consultation materials

National Grid has developed a range of consultation materials to help people understand the proposals for Weston Marsh, why consent is sought via two different planning regimes, and how interested parties can provide feedback. These will be available online, at our public information events, at local information points and to be sent in the mail, by request.

These materials will include, but are not limited to:

- Weston Marsh targeted consultation document
- Community newsletter
- Feedback form
- Supplementary Preliminary Environmental Information Report (SPEIR)
- Non-technical summary (NTS) of the SPEIR
- Design development report
- Section 5 consultation feedback report
- Project plans / Project area maps
- Consultation banners
- Interactive project map
- Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document
- Guide to interacting with our consultation plans.

The methods to make consultation documents available are set out in **Table 1**.



Method	Suggested approach in relation to SoCC
Project website	All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation and planning process.
Public information events	Paper copies of selected consultation materials will be made available at two public information events. More information on Public information events can be found in <b>Table 3</b> .
Local information points	<p>While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, National Grid will seek to ensure that key consultation materials are available to view at multiple venues within the vicinity of the proposals during the consultation period.</p> <p>The materials available at the local information points to collect will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weston Marsh targeted consultation document</li><li>• Community newsletter</li><li>• Feedback form</li><li>• Non-technical summary (NTS) of the SPEIR</li><li>• USB sticks including SPEIR.</li></ul> <p>Further to these, various materials will be available to as reference copies to inspect at the local information points, but not take away. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document</li><li>• Strategic options report</li><li>• Supplementary design development report</li><li>• Section 5 consultation feedback report.</li></ul> <p>More information about Local information points can be found in <b>Table 5</b>.</p>
Document requests	<p>Following the launch of the Weston Marsh targeted consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request free of charge will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weston Marsh targeted consultation document</li><li>• Community newsletter</li><li>• Feedback form</li><li>• Non-technical summary (NTS) of the SPEIR</li><li>• Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document.</li></ul> <p>Paper copies of other technical documents, including the SPEIR, will be available on request. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents.</p> <p>Requests can be made by contacting the Community Relations Team, who will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as braille, speaking text and alternative languages, on a case-by-case basis.</p>

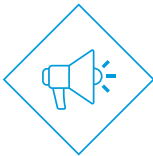


Table 2: Promoting the consultation

All residential properties, businesses and community organisations with property postcodes within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) will be notified of the start of the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community newsletter. A map showing the PCZ (approximately **946** addresses) can be found in **Appendix A**.

A range of other methods will be used to promote the consultation to local communities, set out in **Table 2**. These methods are in accordance with, and proportionate to, the methods outlined in the Grimsby to Walpole SoCC.

Method	Suggested approach in relation to SoCC
Press release	<p>A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list will be more limited than the Grimsby to Walpole Stage 2 consultation, circulating only to press outlets with a readership relevant to the proposals for Weston Marsh.</p> <p>The distribution list is likely to include the following media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lincolnshire Echo</li><li>Boston Standard</li><li>Wisbech Standard</li><li>Lynn News</li><li>Spalding Today</li><li>local BBC news outlets</li><li>local radio stations.</li></ul>
Newspapers and advertisements	<p>National Grid will advertise the consultation in locally circulated newspapers and online.</p> <p>Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ.</p>
Emails and letters	<p>National Grid will send, via email and by post, letters about the consultation and how to get involved, to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>all consultees prescribed under s42 of the Planning Act</li><li>non-prescribed consultees, including but not limited to, elected councillors within the PCZ, community organisations, underrepresented groups and others</li><li>those that have registered for updates on the Grimsby to Walpole proposals.</li></ul>



Statutory notices	<p>To publicise the Weston Marsh targeted consultation, as part of the Grimsby to Walpole DCO, National Grid will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>publish the Section 47 statutory notice in locally circulating newspapers</li><li>publicise the Section 48 notice – once in a national newspaper and the Gazette and twice in locally circulating newspapers.</li></ul>
Information posters	<p>National Grid will produce posters that include details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved. These will be available online and a digital copy shared with stakeholders, including parish councils, to help them raise awareness of the consultation.</p>
Social media	<p>National Grid will publicise the consultation via social media which may include National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts, <a href="#">@NationalGridUK</a>.</p>



### Table 3: Public information events

Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ. These venues, dates and times are set out in **Table 3**.

Date and Time	Venue
Friday 28 November 2025 2–7pm	Weston Village Hall, Small Drove, Weston, Spalding, PE12 6HU
Saturday 29 November 2025 11am–4pm	Moulton Seas End Village Hall, 21 Seas End Road, Moulton Seas End, Spalding, PE12 6LE

### Table 4: Webinar

We will hold one webinar during the consultation period, providing information about both phases of development at Weston Marsh.

The date, time and topic of the webinar is set out in **Table 4**. People will be able to sign up to the webinar via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details.

Date and Time	Webinar
3 December 2025 6:30–7:30pm	Weston Marsh Substations A and B (including proposals for an earlier phase of development)

National Grid intends to record and publish the webinar on the Project website.



### Table 5: Local information points

Paper copies of the Weston Marsh targeted consultation document, Community newsletter, Feedback form, Non-technical summary of the SPEIR and Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document will be available to take away at the following locations throughout the consultation period.

Reference copies of the Strategic options report, Design development report and Non-technical summary of the SPEIR are also available at these locations, as well as USB sticks containing the SPEIR.

Locations, addresses and opening hours of these local information points are set out in **Table 5**. Please check with the relevant venue for the most up-to-date opening times.

Location	Address	Opening hours	
Spalding Library	Victoria Street, Spalding, PE11 1EA	Monday	9am-5pm
		Tuesday	9am-5pm
		Wednesday	9am-5pm
		Thursday	9am-6pm
		Friday	9am-5pm
		Saturday	9am-1pm
		Sunday	Closed
Long Sutton Library	Trafalgar Square, Long Sutton, Spalding, PE12 9HB	Monday	2-6pm
		Tuesday	10am-5pm
		Wednesday	Closed
		Thursday	2-6pm
		Friday	10am-5pm
		Saturday	10am-1pm
		Sunday	Closed





## Underrepresented and local interest groups

We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Our approach for engaging with underrepresented and local interest groups will consider the local requirements of identified groups.

In accordance with our commitment in the Grimsby to Walpole SoCC, all identified underrepresented and local interest groups will be contacted by letter at the launch of the consultation. They will be encouraged to request alternative formats of consultation materials, where appropriate.

As set out in the Grimsby to Walpole SoCC, we will seek to engage and encourage feedback from:

- older people
- people with visual impairments
- people with limited mobility / disability
- youth groups
- carers and families with young children
- economically inactive individuals
- geographically isolated individuals or communities
- locally underrepresented minority groups (such as black, Asia and minority ethnicity)
- english as an Additional Language (EAL)
- travelers
- digitally isolated.

More details of the methods we propose to engage these underrepresented and local interest groups can be found in the Grimsby to Walpole SoCC in **Appendix B**.

## Stakeholder briefings and meetings

National Grid will offer briefings and/or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:

- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone
- elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ
- parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the draft Order Limits, and neighbouring parish councils.
- local authorities, including neighbouring authorities and the Combined Mayoral Authority for Lincolnshire
- key prescribed consultees, such as Natural England
- persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Sections 42(1)(d) of the Act.




National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.





# Methods of responding to the consultation

Interested parties will be able to submit their feedback on our plans for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substation A and B, as part of the Grimsby to Walpole DCO, and the plans to deliver infrastructure early via a TCPA and s37 application in the following ways:

-  completing the feedback form online via the Project website [nationalgrid.com/g-w](https://nationalgrid.com/g-w).
-  providing feedback by email ([contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com))
-  completing a paper feedback form available at our public information events, local information points or by downloading and printing a copy from our website. Paper Feedback forms can be returned free of charge using the Freepost address **FREEPOST G TO W** (no stamp required).

Comments received via any other method than those listed above may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.

Comments given orally, such as via telephone on **0808 258 4395** or at public information events will only be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.

All responses must be submitted by **11:59pm on Friday 19 December 2025**. Feedback submissions sent via post will be accepted for up-to five working days after this date.

All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Responses may be made public within the Consultation Report submitted as part of our DCO application or the Statement of Community Involvement submitted as part of our TCPA application.

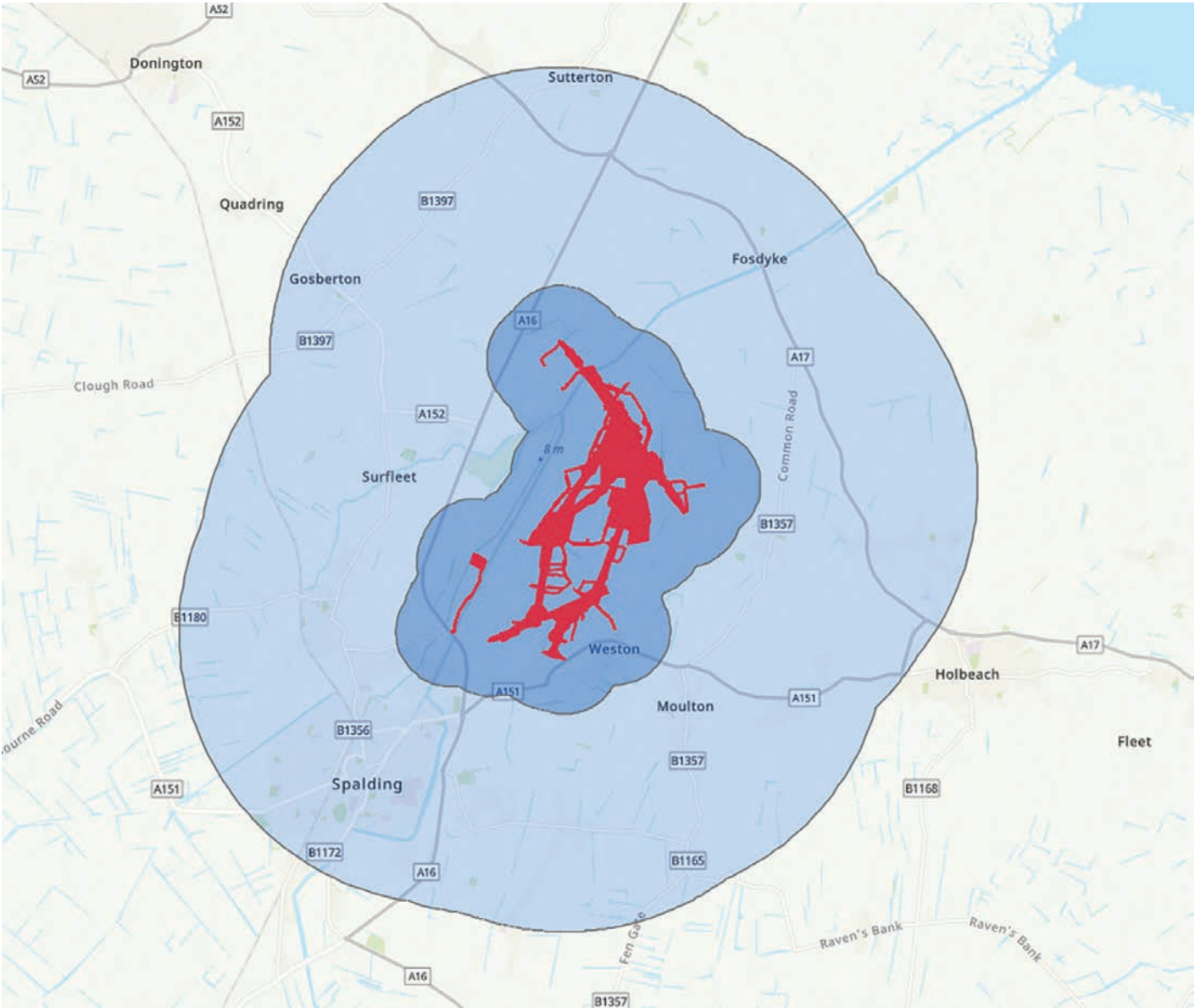
More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the Feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.





# Appendices

## Appendix A – Weston Marsh targeted consultation primary consultation zone (PCZ) and secondary consultation zone (SCZ)



## Appendix B – Grimsby to Walpole Statement of Community Consultation





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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1
- This document is a Statement of community consultation (SoCC) and relates to the Grimsby to Walpole project (the Project), which is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid). National Grid is promoting the Project to provide an upgrade to the electricity transmission network between a new substation at Grimsby West in North East Lincolnshire and a new substation in the Walpole area, in Norfolk. The SoCC sets out how we propose to consult people living in the vicinity of the Project about the proposals, including residents, businesses and local community groups. This would take place alongside our consultation with statutory bodies and stakeholders.
- 1.1.2
- The Project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the SoS) via a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 1.1.3
- Engagement with the local community is an important part of the development of the Project and has been ongoing with the community and other stakeholders since 2023. This document has been prepared in line with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act). The section requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be located (referred to in this document as 'the local community') about the proposed DCO application. Applicants are then required to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with the statement.
- 1.1.4
- As the Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, this SoCC therefore also sets out how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).
- 1.1.5
- National Grid has already undertaken a non-statutory consultation in relation to the Project between 18 January and 13 March 2024. Having engaged with the local authorities, we produced the Grimsby to Walpole [Consultation Strategy](#) for the non-statutory consultation. Minor comments were made by the local authorities on the approach to consultation. The Project took account of the views of the authorities listed below and this document builds on that previous approach for the Statutory Consultation. The Project is within the boundaries of the following host authorities:
  - Lincolnshire County Council
  - North East Lincolnshire Council
  - East Lindsey District Council
  - Boston Borough Council
  - South Holland District Council
  - Norfolk County Council

- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
  - Cambridgeshire County Council
  - Fenland District Council
- 1.1.6
- In accordance with Section 47 (2) of the Act, the following host and neighbouring authorities were consulted on the SoCC for 28 days, between 27 February and 27 March 2025.
  - Lincolnshire County Council
  - North East Lincolnshire Council
  - East Lindsey District Council
  - West Lindsey District Council
  - Boston Borough Council
  - South Holland District Council
  - Norfolk County Council
  - Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
  - Cambridgeshire County Council
  - Fenland District Council
  - North Lincolnshire Council
  - North Kesteven District Council
  - South Kesteven District Council
  - North Norfolk District Council
  - Breckland District Council
  - West Suffolk District Council
  - Huntingdonshire District Council
  - Peterborough District Council
  - Nottinghamshire District Council
  - Suffolk County Council
  - Essex County Council
  - Hertfordshire County Council
  - Rutland County Council
  - Bedford Borough Council
  - Central Bedfordshire Council
  - North Northamptonshire Council
- 1.1.7
- We are publishing this Statement of community consultation (SoCC) to outline our approach to consulting with the local community for the above scheme. It provides

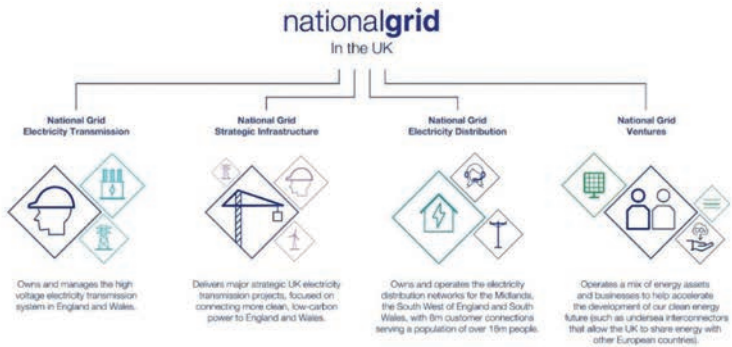


- details about how you (the local community) can take part and how feedback will be used to influence our proposed design.
- 1.1.8 Modifications have been made to the Project since the previous non-statutory consultation, resulting in some amendments to the area we currently expect to be needed to construct and operate the Project. Statutory consultation in accordance with section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 will be held with Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) whose land is affected by the Project.
- 1.2 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**
- 1.2.1 The Project is classified as an NSIP under Section 14(1)(b) and Section 16(1)(a) of the Act, because it comprises a new above ground electric line of more than 2 kilometres (km), with an operating voltage of above 132 kilovolts (kV). National Grid intends to submit an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 37 of the Act.
- 1.2.2 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate, who will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application on behalf of the SoS. The Examining Authority will provide a recommendation to the SoS, who will ultimately decide whether to grant development consent for the Project.
- 1.2.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the Project and prescribed stakeholders.
- 1.2.4 Early involvement of communities, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information about the potential effects of the Project where feedback from consultees can help shape the Project's development.
- 1.2.5 Early involvement also ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application for a DCO is submitted.
- 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**
- 1.3.1 The Project is an 'EIA Development'. On 2 August 2024, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero to inform the EIA for the Project.
- 1.3.2 Within the Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal written notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the Project will require (and that National Grid will in due course provide) an Environmental Statement in respect of the Project and it is considered to be an 'EIA Development'
- 1.3.3 A Scoping Opinion for the Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the SoS) and published<sup>1</sup> on 10 September 2024.

<sup>1</sup> Planning Inspectorate Grimsby to Walpole Documents. Available online: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020036/documents>

- 1.4 About National Grid Group PLC**
- 1.4.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customers' homes and businesses, in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow, and in the way we show up in the world. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.
- 1.4.2 Within the wider National Grid plc group of companies, there are three separate legal entities, each with their own roles and responsibilities.
- 1.4.3 National Grid Electricity Transmission (referred to here as National Grid) holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. National Grid owns, builds and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country. It is National Grid Electricity Transmission that is developing the proposals for the Grimsby to Walpole Project, referred to in this document as National Grid. National Grid Strategic Infrastructure is a part of National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and is responsible for delivering 17 major new projects to connect more clean, low-carbon power to the transmission network in England and Wales, including the Grimsby to Walpole project.
- 1.4.4 National Grid Electricity Distribution owns and operates the distribution networks for the Midlands, the southwest of England and south Wales.
- 1.4.5 National Grid Ventures (NGV) is the unregulated commercial arm of National Grid plc. It invests in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean-energy future. This includes interconnectors, which connect the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

Image 1.1 National Grid Group of business areas:





1.5 National Grid's duties

- 1.5.1 Under the Electricity Act 1989 National Grid holds a transmission licence. Under this we are required to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electricity transmission system and to facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.
- 1.5.2 National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to preserve amenity, as outlined below:

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

*Schedule 9(1)(b): "...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects."*
- 1.5.3 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities, and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#)<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> National Grid's commitments when undertaking works in the UK - Our stakeholder, community and amenity policy. Available online: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/81026/download>

2. The Project

2.1 Project background and need

- 2.1.1 As the UK moves to cleaner, more affordable and more secure sources of energy, such as offshore wind, our infrastructure needs to be upgraded to connect this power to the homes and businesses that need it.
- 2.1.2 The existing transmission network was mostly built in the 1960s, to connect inland coal-fired power stations. Later, gas-fired power stations were connected in areas such as the Humber. However, the Lincolnshire coastal region currently has limited transmission infrastructure, restricting its ability to support new renewable energy connections.
- 2.1.3 Electricity generators such as solar and offshore wind farms apply to the National Energy System Operator to connect to the electricity network.
- 2.1.4 Once a connection is given these are contractually secured, and National Grid Electricity Transmission must provide the connection to the network, whilst also making sure the transmission system meets the performance and security standards outlined in NESO's Security and Quality of Supply Standard. For example, the network must be designed to handle existing and new connections in peak demand conditions and to have sufficient spare capacity to prevent widespread supply interruptions when there are certain faults on the network.
- 2.1.5 To understand current and future demands on the electricity network, the concept of network boundaries is used. A boundary splits the system into sections and shows where there are high power flows between parts of the network. When flows across a network boundary are higher than what the network can transport whilst meeting standards, National Grid Electricity Transmission must reinforce the network.
- 2.1.6 In this case, we must build new parts of the network to connect new generation and resolve capacity issues across network boundaries known as B8 and B9.
- 2.1.7 When looking at new electricity generation in the area, there are two clusters of new connections that are most relevant.
- 2.1.8 The first is the Creyke Beck generation group. This includes connections to existing substations and contracted new generation comprising offshore wind, interconnectors, energy storage, and combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power stations, with a total contracted capacity of approximately 18.88 gigawatts (GW)<sup>3</sup> by 2035.
- 2.1.9 The second is the East Coast generation group. This area has around 14.15 GW<sup>4</sup> of new contracted generation including offshore wind, energy storage, solar, and CCGT.

<sup>3</sup> The calculation is based on data from the National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) TEC Register, 22 April 2025.

<sup>4</sup> The calculation is based on data from the National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) TEC Register, 22 April 2025



- 2.1.10Both generation groups need about 7 GW of extra capacity in the electricity network to connect new generation and meet NESO's Security and Quality of Supply Standard.
- 2.1.11Grimsby to Walpole is also needed to provide reinforcement across boundaries B8 and B9.
- 2.1.12B8 needs around 7,899 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity by 2035, and B9 needs around 4,708 MW by 2030 in accommodating the two generation groups.
- 2.1.13To fix these deficits, B8 needs two 400 kV alternating current (AC) double circuits or six high voltage direct current (HVDC) connections, and B9 needs one 400 kV AC double circuit or three HVDC connections.
- 2.1.14Upgrading the existing network won't solve the problem, so reinforcements are essential.
- 2.1.15Grimsby to Walpole will add one of the needed network reinforcements with new overhead line and substation infrastructure to connect new offshore wind, energy storage, solar, interconnectors and CCGT that are contracted to connect to homes and businesses.

2.2Project description

- 2.2.1The Project, proposed by National Grid includes:
- approximately 140 km of new 400 kV Overhead transmission line (OHL)

•a new 400 kV substation to be built next to the existing Grimsby West 400 kV Substation in North East Lincolnshire (to be referred to as the new Grimsby West Substation). The existing substation will be decommissioned, in all, or part. The extent of decommissioning will be determined and reported in the Environmental Statement

•two new 400 kV Lincolnshire Connection Substations located south-west of Mablethorpe in East Lindsey (to be referred to as Lincolnshire Connection Substation A and Lincolnshire Connection Substation B)

•up to two new 400 kV substations in the vicinity of the Spalding Tee-Point in South Holland District (to be referred to as Weston Marsh Substation A and Weston Marsh Substation B)

•a new 400 kV substation near to the existing Walpole Substation west of the village of Walpole St Andrew and north of the town of Wisbech, in King's Lynn and West Norfolk District (Walpole B Substation)

•replacement of short sections of existing 400 kV OHL and local changes to the lower voltage distribution networks to facilitate the construction of the new OHL and substations.
- 2.2.2The Project will include other required works, for example, temporary and permanent diversions for works on existing overhead line routes, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds and ancillary works. The Project will also include utility diversions and drainage works. There would also be land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment.

3.Consultation and engagement to date

3.1Approach

- 3.1.1National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.
- 3.1.2National Grid's approach to engagement in support of the Project is to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation guided by the requirements of the Act.

3.2Non-statutory (Stage 1) consultation

- 3.2.1The non-statutory consultation was held between 18 January to 13 March 2024. For the purposes of this document, non-statutory consultation will now be referred to as Stage 1 consultation. This consultation aimed to:
- introduce National Grid and the early-stage proposals

•explain the needs case for the project and the requirement for building new electricity transmission infrastructure in the area

•outline the work carried out to identify the emerging preferred route corridor, emerging preferred substation siting zones and emerging preferred substation siting areas.

•ensure all stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback on the work to date

•outline next steps and programme for how the proposals would be developed further.
- 3.2.2At this stage, we presented an emerging preferred corridor and substation siting areas, which included 'graduated swathes' to illustrate where new infrastructure (pylons, conductors, and substations) was considered more or less likely to be located.
- 3.2.3At the Stage 1 consultation National Grid sought to identify and understand the views and opinions of stakeholders and communities who may potentially be affected by the Project. National Grid engaged with key stakeholders at a non-statutory stage to provide information about the early development of the Project. These stakeholders included statutory bodies, local authorities, elected representatives, local residents, underrepresented groups, and local interest groups.
- 3.2.4National Grid provided digital and non-digital opportunities to engage with the proposals through a dedicated website, public events and webinars, as well as the ability to provide feedback on the project via email, phone and freepost.
- 3.2.5At the launch of the Stage 1 consultation, National Grid wrote to all property postcodes within a 1 km Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) of the Project – approximately 21,000 addresses, including residential addresses and businesses.



- 3.2.6
- National Grid also sought to engage residents and businesses located within 5 km of the preferred route as part of the identified Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ). The engagement methods used for the SCZ included placing adverts in local newspapers and the use of social media.
- 3.2.7
- All project documents and information relating to the Stage 1 consultation were made available on the Project website upon the start of consultation.
- 3.2.8
- Paper copies of key consultation documents were also placed at information points in publicly accessible venues - libraries, and where possible, council offices - along the emerging preferred corridor. Alternative formats of the documents were available on request.
- 3.2.9
- More information on the Stage 1 consultation and how the feedback received helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2024 Stage 1 consultation feedback report. This will be made available on the Project website.
- 3.2.10
- Methods used to continue to engage during and between consultation periods have included:
  - providing updates to the Project website when new information is available
  - providing updates in relation to ongoing environmental survey access
  - responding to ongoing requests and queries
  - continuing to engage proactively with key stakeholders and requests for meetings
  - issuing an interim newsletter in Winter 2024 to all addresses within the 2024 PCZ providing an update following the Stage 1 consultation.
- 3.2.11
- Following the conclusion of the consultation, we analysed the feedback and, along with further technical studies and design work, developed the Project design ahead of the statutory consultation which we will refer to publicly as Stage 2 consultation.

## 4. Project timeline

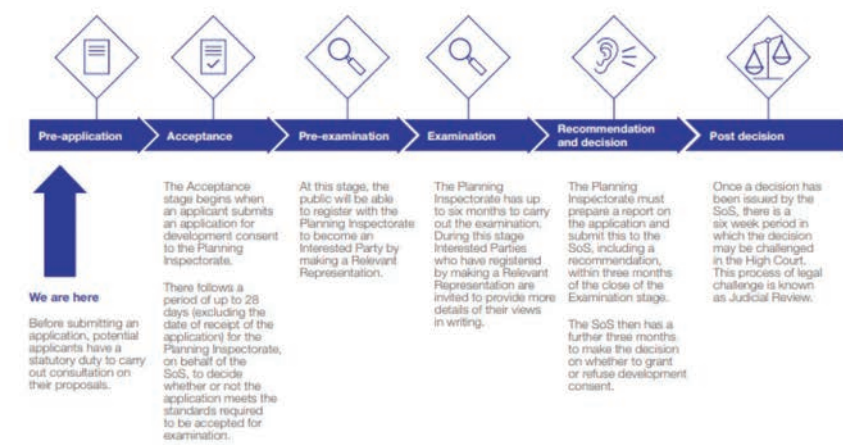
- 4.1.1
- The Project is currently in the pre-application stage of the national infrastructure planning process. Table 4.1 sets out the milestones for each stage of the Project from pre-application consultation through to construction.
- 4.1.2
- A Programme Document is available on the Applicant's website, detailing the timetable and activities undertaken during pre-application on a DCO project. This is a live document and will be updated by the Applicant as necessary until the submission of the DCO.
- 4.1.3
- Figure 4.1 sets out the DCO consenting process.

Table 4.1 Project stages

Stage	Date
<b>Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation</b> – We held a period of non-statutory consultation to receive early feedback on the Project.	January 2024 to March 2024
<b>Consideration of 2024 Stage 1 consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during Stage 1 consultation to inform the design of the Project.	April 2024 to May 2025
<b>Stage 2 (statutory) consultation</b> – We will consult the public and discharge our duties to publicise and carry out consultation in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act on the draft proposals.	June 2025 to August 2025
<b>Consideration of statutory consultation feedback</b> – In accordance with Section 49 of the Act, we will review and have regard to the feedback received from the Stage 2 consultation and finalise the proposed design. We will also continue engagement with stakeholders prior to submission of our DCO application.	September 2025 to Spring 2027
<b>DCO application submission</b> – We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, has up to 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.	Expected Summer 2027
<b>Examination</b> – If the application is accepted, it will go through a six-month examination period. Prior to this period, stakeholders can register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an 'Interested Party' by making what is called a 'Relevant Representation'. Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing during this phase. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority, including to all relevant and written representations, and supporting evidence. The Examining Authority is the Inspector, or the Panel of Inspectors appointed to conduct the Examination of the application for the DCO.	Expected Winter 2027
<b>Recommendation and Decision</b> – Within three months of the close of the examination, the Examining Authority who conducted the examination will	Expected 2028

Stage	Date
prepare a report on the examination, including a recommendation for the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will then make a decision on the application.	
<b>Post-decision</b> – Once a decision has been issued by the Secretary of State, Expected 2029 there is a six-week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court, known as Judicial Review. If granted development consent, construction can begin.	

Image 4.1 The DCO process



5. Consulting on the proposed application

5.1 When will the Stage 2 (statutory) consultation take place?

5.1.1 The statutory consultation (under Sections 42 and 47 of the Act) will run for eight weeks between 11 June and 6 August 2025.

5.2 What will be consulted on?

- 5.2.1 The Project comprises a reinforcement of the Electricity Transmission system between Grimsby and Walpole. National Grid will consult on aspects of the Project, including but not limited to:
- approximately 140 km of new 400 kV overhead transmission line (OHL),
  - the location of new steel lattice pylons
  - a new 400 kV substation in the vicinity of the existing Grimsby West 400 kV Substation in North East Lincolnshire (to be referred to as the new Grimsby West Substation). The existing substation would be decommissioned, in all, or part. The extent of the decommissioning will be determined and reported in the Environmental Statement
  - two new 400 kV Lincolnshire Connection substations located south-west of Mablethorpe in East Lindsey (to be referred to as Lincolnshire Connection Substation A and Lincolnshire Connection Substation B)
  - a refined siting zone that could host up to two new 400 kV substations in the vicinity of the Spalding Tee-Point in South Holland District (to be referred to as Weston Marsh Substation A and Weston Marsh Substation B)
  - a new 400 kV substation in proximity to the existing Walpole Substation west of the village of Walpole St Andrew and north of the town of Wisbech, in King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (herein after referred to as Walpole B Substation)
  - replacement short sections of existing 400 kV OHL and local changes to the lower voltage distribution networks to facilitate the construction of the new OHL and substations
  - third-party utility diversions and/or modifications required to facilitate the construction of the Project
  - land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment
  - land temporarily required for construction activities, including, for example, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and both temporary construction and operational access.
- 5.2.2 The Project is classified as an 'EIA development' and therefore we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this statutory consultation, in the form of a Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, together with a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.



5.3 Who will be consulted?

- 5.3.1 The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the Project and National Grid will have regard to all consultation received by the relevant statutory consultation deadline when developing the design of the project.
- 5.3.2 Under Section 47 of the Act, we have a duty to consult the local community. In consultation with local authorities set out in Section C, we have developed an updated Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) for the distribution of our Community newsletter, as shown in Appendix A.
- 5.3.3 The PCZ includes all residential properties, businesses and community organisations with property postcodes within 1 km of the Project Area (also known as the draft order limits). The PCZ has been updated since the non-statutory consultation as a result of feedback and environmental studies as well as the inclusion of more detailed information such as construction accesses, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction.
- 5.3.4 The PCZ includes approximately 19,550 addresses.
- 5.3.5 An updated Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) has been developed, **extending 5 km** around the Project Area, whereby wider publicity of the Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.3.6 Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via the methods outlined in Section 5.5 of the SoCC.
- 5.3.7 As well as the residents, businesses and community organisations within the PCZ, we will also consult various groups and individuals within the PCZ as required by the Act.
- 5.3.8 In parallel with the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a) and (b), and Section 43 of the Act. We will also consult persons who fall within Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the Act.

5.4 Consultation materials

- 5.4.1 Table 5.1 sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the Project and provide their feedback.

Table 5.1 Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Stage 2 consultation document	<div>This document will provide a summary of the Project including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the background to the Project</li><li>information about design changes as a result of the 2024 non-statutory consultation</li></ul></div>	<div>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</div> <div>This document will be published on the Project website, in paper copy at public information events and available on request at local information points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b>.</div> <div>National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats (such as braille) on a case-by-</div>

Material	Description	Target audience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>information about potential benefits and impacts of the Project</li><li>approach to assessing likely significant environmental effects</li><li>how we might propose to mitigate impacts</li><li>signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project.</li></ul>	basis, taking into account individual circumstances.
Community newsletter	The newsletter will set out the Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period.	<div>All residential properties, businesses and community organisations with property postcodes within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ).</div> <div>The Community newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ at the start of the statutory consultation. It will be published on the Project website, and will be available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.</div> <div>National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.</div> <div>Elected members, prescribed and non-prescribed consultees and those groups outlined in Appendix B will also receive a digital or paper copy of the newsletter.</div>
Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)	The PEIR will contain a description of the Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project based on the initial information available at that time of assessment. It will also set out how we propose to	<div>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</div> <div>The PEIR will be available on the Project website, and available to view on pre-loaded USB sticks which can be taken away from public information events and local information points.</div>



Material	Description	Target audience
	mitigate these effects of the Project. A non-technical summary ("NTS") of the PEIR will also be made available.	<p>The NTS will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request, at local information points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.</p> <p>Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>
Design development report	An in-depth technical document detailing the design development work we have undertaken to date, focusing on the work since the 2024 non-statutory consultation.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.</p> <p>Paper copies of the Design development report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>
Strategic options report	<p>Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options.</p> <p>These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.</p> <p>Paper copies of the Strategic options report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees</p>
2024 Non-statutory (stage 1) consultation feedback report	Summarising the feedback, we received during the Stage 1 consultation and how we have had regard to this feedback.. The report also shows how feedback has influenced the Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.</p> <p>Paper copies of the 2024 Non-statutory (stage 1) consultation feedback report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
Project plans / Project area maps	A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>These will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.</p>
Consultation banners	A series of pull-up banners with information relating to the Project that will be used at the public information events.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.</p>
Interactive project map	An interactive map of the Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The Interactive project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.</p>
Consultation notices	We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 47, and 48 of the Act.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>These will be published in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the Act. (see <b>Section 5.5</b> for detail)</p>
Statement of community consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC sets out how National Grid intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The SoCC will be published on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at local information listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.</p> <p>As required under Section 47 of the Act, notice of the SoCC will also be published in local newspapers.</p>
Feedback form	An online and paper feedback form to gather responses to the statutory consultation.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The feedback form will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at local</p>



Material	Description	Target audience
		information points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.  Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST G TO W.
Guide to interacting with our consultation plans	A guide outlining the consultation maps and plans, and how to use them.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).  This document will be available on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at public information events.
Project website	An online site hosting all our project information, including downloadable versions of all the above documents.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).

- 5.4.2National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in Table 5.1 in alternative formats on a case-by-case basis, taking into account individual circumstances.
- 5.4.3All consultation materials will also be available on the Project website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements.
- 5.4.4Table 5.2 sets out how we will make consultation documents available.

Table 5.2 Methods to make consultation documents available

Activity	Detail
Project website	All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation and planning process.  Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
Local information points	While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure the Community newsletter, Stage 2 consultation document, NTS of the PEIR, Design Development Report, Strategic Options Report Update, SoCC and Feedback form are available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period.

Activity	Detail																				
	<table><tr><th>Local information points</th><th>Opening times</th></tr><tr><td>Cleethorpes Library, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 8LG</td><td>Monday – Thursday – 8:30am-5:30pm Friday – Closed Saturday – 9am-1pm Sunday - Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Waltham Library High Street, Waltham, Grimsby DN37 0LL</td><td>Monday – Closed Tuesday–Friday – 8:30am–12:30pm and 1:30pm–5:30pm Saturday – 9am–1pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Louth Library Northgate, Louth LN11 0LY</td><td>Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Tuesday – 9am–6pm Thursday – 9am–2pm Saturday – 9am–4pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Burgh le Marsh Library and Community Hub Tinkers Green, Jacksons Lane, Burgh le Marsh, Skegness PE24 5LA</td><td>Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Closed Tuesday – 2pm–4pm Thursday and Saturday – 10am–1pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Skegness Library 23 Roman Bank, Skegness PE25 2SA</td><td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Thursday – 9am–6pm Saturday – 9am–1pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Boston Library County Hall (Bank Street entrance), Boston PE21 6DY</td><td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Thursday – 9am–6pm Saturday – 9am–4pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Spalding Library Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA</td><td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Thursday – 9am–6pm Saturday – 9am–1pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr><tr><td>Holbeach Community Library Co-Op Store, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7AX</td><td>Monday–Friday – 9am–5pm Saturday – 9am–12pm Sunday – Closed.</td></tr><tr><td>Long Sutton Library Trafalgar Square, Long Sutton, Spalding PE12 9HB</td><td>Monday and Thursday – 2pm–6pm Tuesday and Friday – 10am–5pm Wednesday – Closed Saturday – 10am–1pm Sunday – Closed</td></tr></table>	Local information points	Opening times	Cleethorpes Library, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 8LG	Monday – Thursday – 8:30am-5:30pm Friday – Closed Saturday – 9am-1pm Sunday - Closed	Waltham Library High Street, Waltham, Grimsby DN37 0LL	Monday – Closed Tuesday–Friday – 8:30am–12:30pm and 1:30pm–5:30pm Saturday – 9am–1pm Sunday – Closed	Louth Library Northgate, Louth LN11 0LY	Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Tuesday – 9am–6pm Thursday – 9am–2pm Saturday – 9am–4pm Sunday – Closed	Burgh le Marsh Library and Community Hub Tinkers Green, Jacksons Lane, Burgh le Marsh, Skegness PE24 5LA	Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Closed Tuesday – 2pm–4pm Thursday and Saturday – 10am–1pm Sunday – Closed	Skegness Library 23 Roman Bank, Skegness PE25 2SA	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Thursday – 9am–6pm Saturday – 9am–1pm Sunday – Closed	Boston Library County Hall (Bank Street entrance), Boston PE21 6DY	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Thursday – 9am–6pm Saturday – 9am–4pm Sunday – Closed	Spalding Library Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9am–5pm Thursday – 9am–6pm Saturday – 9am–1pm Sunday – Closed	Holbeach Community Library Co-Op Store, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7AX	Monday–Friday – 9am–5pm Saturday – 9am–12pm Sunday – Closed.	Long Sutton Library Trafalgar Square, Long Sutton, Spalding PE12 9HB	Monday and Thursday – 2pm–6pm Tuesday and Friday – 10am–5pm Wednesday – Closed Saturday – 10am–1pm Sunday – Closed
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Long Sutton Library Trafalgar Square, Long Sutton, Spalding PE12 9HB	Monday and Thursday – 2pm–6pm Tuesday and Friday – 10am–5pm Wednesday – Closed Saturday – 10am–1pm Sunday – Closed																				

Activity	Detail
	<div><div>Wisbech Library</div><div>Ely Place, Wisbech PE13 1EU</div><div>Monday – 9:30am–1pm Tuesday – 9:30am–7pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 9:30am–5pm Saturday – 9:30am–4pm Sunday – Closed</div></div>
	<div><div>King's Lynn Library</div><div>London Road, King's Lynn PE30 5EZ</div><div>Monday–Friday – 8am–7pm Saturday – 8am–4pm Sunday – 10am–4pm</div></div>
	<div><div>Sutton Bridge Community Library,</div><div>Curlew Centre</div><div>Bridge Road, Sutton Bridge, Spalding PE12 9SA</div><div>Monday, Friday and Saturday – 10am-12pm Wednesday – 2pm-4pm Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday - closed</div></div>
	<div><div>Walpole Community Centre</div><div>Summer Close, Wisbech, PE14 7JW</div><div>For opening hours, please contact the venue.</div></div>
	<p>Prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked. We will check that consultation documentation remain at the local information points throughout the consultation period.</p>
Document requests	<p>Following the launch of the statutory consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request free of charge will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community newsletter</li><li>• Stage 2 consultation document</li><li>• Feedback form</li><li>• NTS of the PEIR</li><li>• SoCC.</li></ul> <p>Paper copies of other technical documents, including the PEIR, will be available on request. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents.</p> <p>Requests can be made by contacting the Community Relations Team, using the details provided in <b>Section 6.1</b>. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as braille, speaking text and alternative languages, on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Public information events	<p>Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review at the public information events.</p> <p>More detail on the public events is available in <b>Section 5.6</b>.</p>

5.5 Promoting the consultation

5.5.1 All residential properties, businesses and community organisations with property postcodes within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) will be notified of the start of

the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 above. A map showing the PCZ (approximately 19,550 addresses) can be found in Appendix A.

5.5.2 A range of other methods will be used to promote the consultation to local communities, as set out in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3 Promotion methods

Method	Detail
Press release	<p>A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list is likely to include the following media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grimsby Telegraph</li><li>• Skegness Standard</li><li>• Boston Standard</li><li>• Lincolnshire Echo</li><li>• Lincolnite</li><li>• Burgh Le Marsh News</li><li>• Alford News</li><li>• Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea Leader</li><li>• Cambridge Live (Cambridge News)</li><li>• Wisbech Standard</li><li>• Lynn News</li><li>• Spalding Today</li><li>• Eastern Daily Press</li><li>• Local BBC news outlets</li><li>• Local radio stations</li></ul>
Newspaper advertisements	<p>We will advertise the statutory consultation in locally circulated newspapers and online. Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ.</p>
Emails and letters	<p>We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members of Parliament, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone</li><li>• elected representatives within the PCZ including at:</li><li>• Lincolnshire County Council</li><li>• North East Lincolnshire Council</li><li>• East Lindsey District Council</li><li>• Boston Borough Council</li><li>• South Holland District Council</li><li>• Norfolk County Council</li><li>• Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk</li></ul>



Method	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cambridgeshire County Council</li><li>Fenland District Council</li><li>Parish Councils within the PCZ</li></ul>
Statutory notices	We will publish the Section 47 statutory notice in locally circulating newspapers. We will publicise the Section 48 notice – once in a national newspaper and the Gazette and twice in locally circulating newspapers.
Information posters	We will produce posters that include details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved. These will be available online and a digital copy shared with stakeholders, including parish councils, to help them raise awareness of the consultation via their channels.
Social media	We will publicise the consultation via social media which may include National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts, @NationalGridUK. We will also engage with host local authorities to encourage communications teams to advertise the consultation on their channels.
Project website	The consultation, the availability of consultation materials, and the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals, will be publicised on the Project's website.

- 5.5.3Any activity (or activities) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity (or activities) and communicated with consultees.
- 5.5.4Any activity changes will also be published on the Project website and on National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts @NationalGridUK.

5.6Public information events

- 5.6.1Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.
- 5.6.2Details of where and when the events are taking place will be included on the Project website, in newspaper adverts, in our community newsletter and on social media.
- 5.6.3The events will be held on a variety of days and times, where feasible including evenings in the week and at least one weekend.
- 5.6.4Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available at each event, including a series of consultation banners to present the proposals for the Project, including plans and maps.
- 5.6.5Those attending the events will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals for the Project.

- 5.6.6If for any reason it is necessary to cancel a scheduled event, for example as a result of adverse weather, we will publish this on our website and place a notice at the venue, if practicable. We will also consider organising additional events, in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authority(ies), if we deem this to be reasonably necessary.

5.7Webinars

- 5.7.1We will hold webinars during the consultation period. We will run webinars that provide a general overview of the Project and also webinars that focus on specific Route sections. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in Section 6.1.
- 5.7.2The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team.
- 5.7.3National Grid intends to record and publish one of the general overview webinars on the Project website.

5.8Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 5.8.1National Grid will offer briefings and/or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:
  - MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone
  - elected representatives of district, county and borough councils within the PCZ
  - parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the draft Order Limits, and neighbouring parish councils.
  - local authorities, including neighbouring authorities and the Combined Mayoral Authority for Lincolnshire
  - key prescribed consultees, such as Natural England
  - persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Sections 42(1)(d) of the Act.
- 5.8.2National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.

5.9Underrepresented and local interest groups

- 5.9.1National Grid wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 5.9.2Our approach to consultation will look to reach out to underrepresented groups for the purposes of the Project and the organisations that represent them, as identified in discussions with local authorities and other stakeholders.
- 5.9.3Our approach for engaging with underrepresented and local interest groups will consider the local requirements of identified groups.



- 5.9.4A list of organisations representing underrepresented groups can be found in **Appendix B**.
- 5.9.5In the first instance, all identified underrepresented and local interest groups will be contacted by letter at the launch of the consultation. They will be encouraged to request alternative formats of consultation materials, where appropriate.
- 5.9.6We will maintain and update the list of underrepresented and local interest groups as the consultation progresses to ensure that we have the correct contact details and that we can engage with any newly identified groups.
- 5.9.7Table 5.4 sets out how the Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.

Table 5.4 Underrepresented group engagement tools

Group category	Methods to be used
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>directly mailing the Community newsletter to all residential properties, businesses and community organisations with property postcodes within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed</li><li>options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary</li><li>face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route</li><li>webinar events for people unable to attend in-person events</li><li>consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis</li><li>engaging with community groups serving the demographic</li><li>providing paper copies of materials at local information points along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online</li></ul>
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>on request, audio guide of consultation banners</li><li>consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis</li><li>options to enlarge text on the Project's website.</li></ul>
People with limited mobility / disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary</li><li>directly mailing the Community newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed</li><li>online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel</li><li>consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis</li><li>face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the Project.</li><li>virtual webinar sessions for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs</li></ul>

Group category	Methods to be used
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>if necessary, providing a British Sign Language interpreter for a recording of our webinars.</li></ul>
Youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>online engagement and provision of the Project website</li><li>social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield. Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project</li><li>contacting local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li></ul>
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>directly mailing the Community newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed</li><li>options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility</li><li>face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project</li><li>online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel</li><li>social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>online engagement</li><li>social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield</li><li>options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li></ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>directly mailing the Community newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed</li><li>face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project</li><li>online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>emailing community groups representing underrepresented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities</li><li>directly mailing the Community newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed</li><li>face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project</li><li>online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel</li></ul>



Group category	Methods to be used
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>if necessary, we will provide consultation materials in alternative languages upon reasonable request.</li></ul>
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>contacting community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities</li><li>social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities</li><li>directly mailing the Community newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed</li><li>advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ, SCZ and further afield</li><li>providing paper copies of the key consultation materials at local information point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online.</li></ul>

## 6. Responding to the consultation

### 6.1 Methods of responding

- 6.1.1 People will be able to submit their feedback on the proposals for the Project. This can be done in the following ways:
- completing the feedback form online via the Project website [nationalgrid.com/g-w](https://nationalgrid.com/g-w).
  - providing feedback by email ([contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com))
  - completing a paper feedback form available at our public information events, local information points or online. The feedback form can be returned free of charge using the Freepost address FREEPOST G TO W (no stamp required).
- 6.1.2 Comments received via any other method than those listed above may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.
- 6.1.3 Comments given orally, such as via telephone on 0808 258 4395 or at public events will only be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.
- 6.1.4 All responses must be submitted by **6 August 2025**. Feedback submissions sent via post will be accepted for up-to five working days after this date.
- 6.1.5 All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 6.1.6 Responses may also be made public as part of the consultation report submitted as part of our DCO application.
- 6.1.7 More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the consultation feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.

### 6.2 Presenting the results

- 6.2.1 Following the close of the consultation, the feedback will be reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where appropriate, refined having taken account of feedback.
- 6.2.2 The DCO application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Act.
- 6.2.3 A Consultation report will be produced as part of the application for a DCO, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for a DCO.
- 6.2.4 Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.



- 6.2.5

Upon receipt of an application for a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate. The Consultation report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for a DCO has been accepted. Paper copies will be available from the project team on request and may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
- 6.3

### Consulting on Weston Marsh siting area
- 6.3.1

Detailed design work is progressing for proposals to build up to two new 400 kV substations in the vicinity of the Spalding Tee-Point in South Holland District (to be referred to as Weston Marsh Substation). As such, the information surrounding proposals for the refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone is less developed at this stage.
- 6.3.2

Comments on the refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone will be accepted as part of the statutory consultation and will be used to inform the design.
- 6.3.3

Following further design work, National Grid will undertake a localised statutory consultation on detailed proposals for Weston Marsh. Feedback received as part of this consultation will be considered as part of the Consultation Report, in accordance Section 6.2 of the SoCC.
- 6.4

### Further consultation
- 6.4.1

If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.
- 6.5

### Other developers' consultations
- 6.5.1

The Project team is aware that a number of other organisations are developing proposals in the area, this also includes a number of other Great Grid Upgrade proposals by National Grid. Other developer consultations include:

Table 6.1 Customer connections which may be undertaking engagement include:

Project name	Type	Connection location
Mablethorpe Storage	Energy Storage/ CCGT	Lincolnshire Connection Substation A/ B
Theddlethorpe Flexible Generation	Storage/ CCGT	Lincolnshire connection substation A/B
Walpole Flexible Generation	Energy Storage/ CCGT	Walpole B
Ossian	Offshore wind	Weston Marsh
Stallingborough PV & BESS	Energy Storage/ Solar	Grimsby West

Project name	Type	Connection location
Stallingborough Carbon Capture CCGT	Storage/ CCGT	Grimsby West
EGL5	Offshore transmission link	Lincolnshire Connection Substation A/ B
Meridien Solar Farm	Energy Storage/ Solar	Weston Marsh
EGL 3 & 4	Offshore transmission link	Walpole B

- 6.5.2

National Grid will work to understand other developer's local projects to ensure that the scope and context of the Project is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include, where appropriate:

  - having headline information about the other consultations at our events
  - where possible, seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations
  - endeavouring to signpost people with specific questions about other projects, to the relevant project team(s) to ask questions and/or provide feedback.
- 6.6

### Other National Grid projects
- 6.6.1

National Grid is currently developing proposals for other electricity transmission network reinforcements in the region, including Eastern Green Link 3, Eastern Green Link 4, Eastern Green Link 5, North Humber to High Marnham and Western Marsh to East Leicestershire.
- 6.6.2

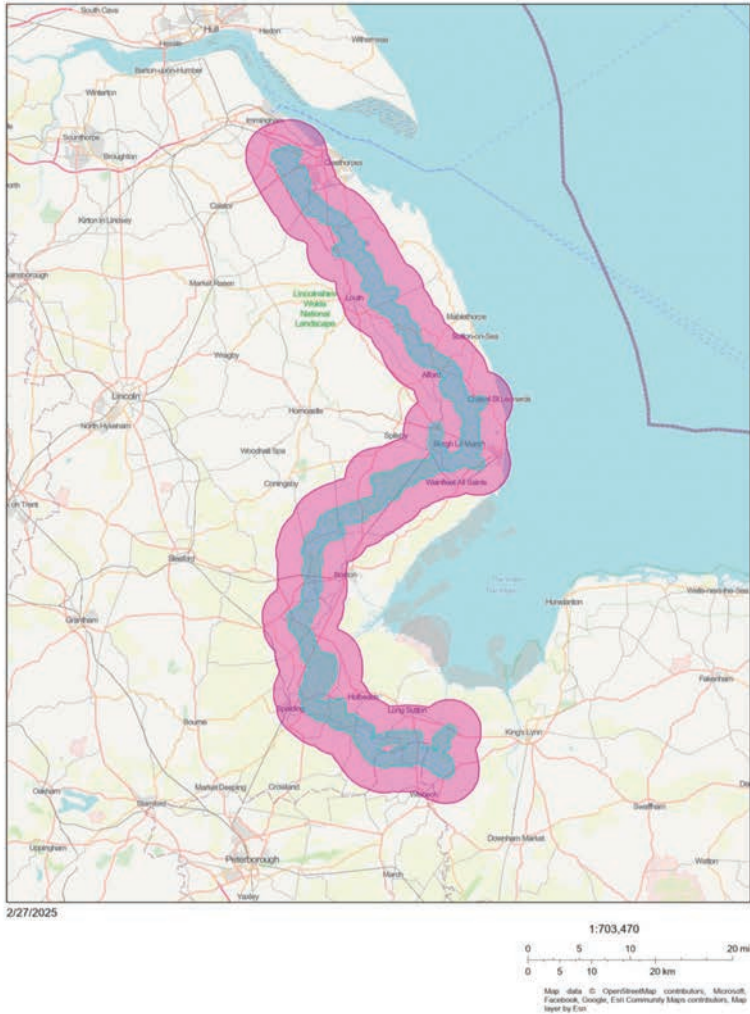
National Grid is mindful of its potential project interactions and overlaps when developing consultation programmes for its forthcoming projects in the region. This includes:

  - developing consistent messaging across its potentially interacting National Grid projects to support local understanding of the interactions between these
  - co-ordinating consultation timelines to minimise potential impacts on the local community, while maintaining transparency around forthcoming National Grid projects and consultations
  - ensuring staff at public information events are equipped with an oversight and understanding of other forthcoming local National Grid projects
  - ensuring that any responses submitted as part of the statutory consultation that are intended for, or are clearly relevant to another National Grid consultation, are passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team. However, should interested parties have specific questions about other National Grid projects, they should engage directly with relevant project team(s) to ask questions and/or provide feedback.



Appendix A  
Primary consultation zone and secondary consultation zone

Image A.1 Grimsby to Walpole statutory consultation primary and secondary consultation zones



Appendix B  
Underrepresented groups

Consultee / Organisation / Ward
Just Lincolnshire
Disability Lincs
SENSE Lincolnshire
Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society
Lincolnshire Autistic Society
North Lincolnshire Youth Council
Lincolnshire Youth and Community Development
Alzheimer's Society - North & North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire Dementia Action Alliance
Norfolk Chambers of Commerce
Natural England Norfolk (and Suffolk)
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
Climate Hope Action in Norfolk
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Norwich Environmental Weekenders
Norwich FWAG (Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group)
Forestry Commission - East & East Midlands Area
Age UK Cambridgeshire
Rosmini Centre Wisbech
Wisbech College and Rural
Cambs Citizen Advice Bureau
Fenland Youth Worker Network
Fenland Diverse Community Forum
Love of Wisbech

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