

The Great Grid Upgrade

Chesterfield to Willington

Statement of Community Consultation

March 2026

nationalgrid

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 Chesterfield to Willington (“The Project”) is a proposed new 60-kilometre high voltage overhead line which would carry more power to homes and businesses. This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“NGET” or “we”) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities on its proposals in Derbyshire, ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”).
- 1.1.2 The Project requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) via a DCO. This document has therefore been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Planning Act”), which requires applicants to prepare a statement that explains how they will intend to consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement.
- 1.1.3 As the Project is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC sets out how NGET 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”).
- 1.1.4 In accordance with section 47(2) of the Planning Act, NGET has consulted with and had regard to comments from the following host and neighbouring local authorities that may be affected by the Project while developing the SoCC:

Host authorities:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- East Midlands County Combined Authority
- Erewash Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council

Neighbouring authorities:

- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Broxtowe District Council
- Cheshire West and Chester County Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Leicestershire County Council
- Lichfield District Council

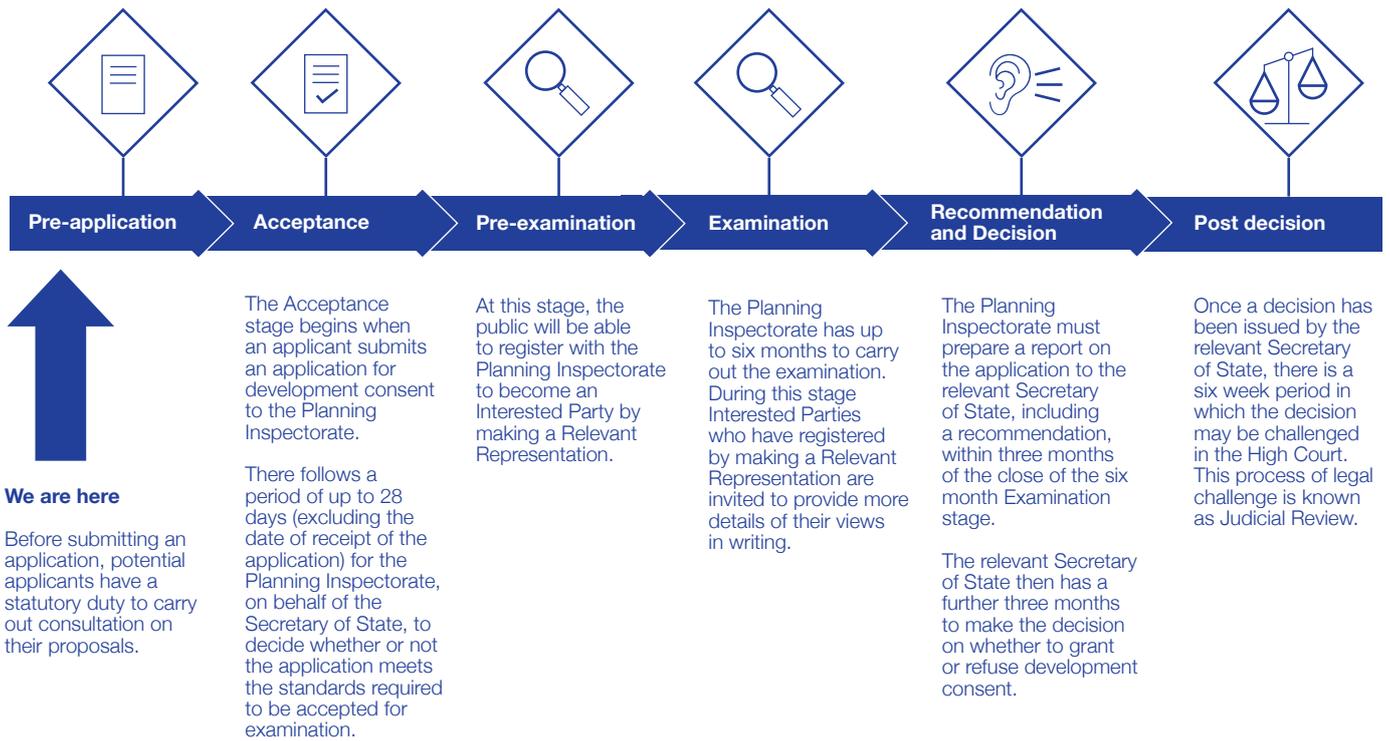
- Mansfield District Council
- North West Leicestershire Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Sheffield City Council
- South Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Staffordshire County Council
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority

The listed local authorities were consulted for 29 days, between 6 October and 3 November 2025 on the contents of this SoCC.

1.2 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

- 1.2.1 The Project is defined as a NSIP under Section 14(1)(b) and Section 16(1)(a) of the Planning Act, because it comprises a new above-ground electric line of more than two 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 Planning Act.
- 1.2.2 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate, which appoints an Examining Authority to examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Examining Authority will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, which will ultimately decide whether to grant development consent for the Project. The full DCO process is outlined in Figure 1.1.
- 1.2.3 Before submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Act requires NGET to carry out consultation, including with Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) identified as being potentially impacted and other statutory consultees.
- 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 its 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.

Figure 1.1 Development Consent Order process



1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 1.3.1 Due to its size and nature, the Project is an ‘EIA Development’ in accordance with the EIA Regulations. On 31 October 2024 NGET submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate, to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- 1.3.2 Within this Scoping Report, NGET gave formal notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the Project will require (and that NGET will in due course provide) an Environmental Statement 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 Secretary of State) on 11 December 2024. An EIA will be undertaken in accordance with this Scoping Opinion.

1.4 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

- 1.4.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer’s homes and businesses; in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow; 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 National Grid Group there are distinctly separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles. The roles of these are summarised below. The Project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET).
- **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989 (“the Electricity Act”). NGET owns, builds, and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
 - Formerly known as Western Power Distribution, **National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED)** is the local distribution network operator for the Midlands, South West of England and South Wales. Other distribution network operators manage electricity networks across the rest of the UK.
 - **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.
- 1.4.3 National Grid does not operate the electricity transmission network. **The National Energy System Operator (NESO)** is the independent system planner and operator for Great Britain’s energy system, ensuring supply meets demand every second of every day.
- 1.4.4 NESO brings together activities required to deliver the plans, markets and operations of the energy system of today and the future. Fundamental to NESO is the ability to bring an independent, impartial voice to energy system planning and operations that takes a whole system view. NESO is built on its previous experience as the Electricity System Operator (ESO).
- 1.4.5 NGET is regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers. NESO is licensed and regulated by Ofgem, with responsibilities across both the electricity and gas systems.
- 1.4.6 NGET has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act. This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.
- 1.4.7 National Grid is also required to consider ways to preserve amenity under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:
- Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest.’ and*
- Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.’*
- 1.4.8 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](#). Please note, our Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy may have been updated since the publication of this SoCC.

2. The Chesterfield to Willington Project

2.1 Background and need

- 2.1.1 The way we generate electricity has changed and is continuing to change. The demand for electricity is set to double by 2050 as the way we power our homes, businesses, industry and transport changes. We need to upgrade the grid now to ensure we can meet this increase in demand.
- 2.1.2 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, published in December 2024, sets out the Government's ambition to see 43-50 GW of offshore wind, 27-29 GW of onshore wind, and 45-47 GW of solar power connected by 2030, significantly reducing our dependency as a country on fossil fuels. Meeting these targets will be a major step towards decarbonising our economy and providing customers with more secure, cleaner, home-grown energy from more affordable sources.
- 2.1.3 To deliver more secure, cleaner power to homes and businesses and increase our energy security, we must also upgrade the electricity transmission system – ‘the grid’ – at an unprecedented scale and pace.
- 2.1.4 This is because the existing transmission system – the infrastructure including pylons, overhead lines and underground cables, which transports electricity around the country – was largely built in the 1960s. It was not designed to transport electricity from where it is increasingly being generated today – offshore and from solar.
- 2.1.5 Chesterfield to Willington would play an important role in transporting more secure, cleaner, home-grown energy from more affordable sources – generated off the coast of Britain – to around two million homes in the Midlands and beyond.
- 2.1.6 Chesterfield to Willington is part of The Great Grid Upgrade: the largest upgrade of the electricity network in England and Wales for generations.

2.2 The Project

- 2.2.1 Our proposals for Chesterfield to Willington include the following principal components:
- a new 400 kV overhead line, approximately 60 kilometres (km) in length between a new substation in the Chesterfield area and the existing Willington Substation;
 - a new 400 kV substation at Chesterfield, to be built in the vicinity of the existing 275 kV Chesterfield Substation and the existing 132 kV National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) substation to the south east of Chesterfield (referred to as the ‘new Chesterfield Substation’);
 - replacement of short sections of existing overhead line and local changes to the lower voltage distribution network to facilitate the construction of the Project; and
 - other works needed for construction, such as temporary access roads, highway improvements, construction work compounds, ancillary works, utility diversions and drainage. Land would also be required for environmental mitigation and enhancement, which would deliver an overall Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), an approach to development that leaves habitats in a better state than before.
- 2.2.2 The Project would connect into the existing Willington Substation and a proposed new substation at Chesterfield (known as the new Chesterfield Substation). The new Chesterfield Substation is expected to be delivered through a separate National Grid project (Chesterfield to High Marnham). However, it is possible it could be included in this Project’s DCO application using land we already own and minimising visual impacts. This approach allows National Grid to demonstrate that the Project can be delivered and that it can connect to the national electricity transmission network.
- 2.2.3 The location selected for the substation was identified through consultation carried out by the Chesterfield to High Marnham project. It was selected as the preferred location due to its technical, land and environmental benefits. Building immediately adjacent to the existing substation reduces the extent of required existing overhead line and underground cable diversions. This location also allows us to use land already within National Grid’s ownership which was also formally used for open cast mining. Existing screening at Bolehill would also help to mitigate potential visual impacts on nearby residential areas.

2.3 Consultation and engagement to date

- 2.3.1 NGET 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.
- 2.3.2 NGET’s approach to engagement in support of the Project is to carry out both Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation and Stage 2 (statutory) consultation guided by the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (as in force at the date of publication of this document).
- 2.3.3 NGET held Stage 1 consultation on the Project between 14 May 2024 and 17 September 2024. It will be followed by our Stage 2 consultation as set out in Section 3.

- 2.3.4 The consultation had the following aims:
- to introduce the Project to the public, provide an overview of the early-stage proposals and explain why the Project is needed;
 - to set out options that have been considered and the decision-making undertaken so far;
 - to present early plans, including the Emerging Preferred Corridor and graduated swathe;
 - to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and those interested in the Project to give their feedback on our early-stage proposals; and
 - to outline the next steps and programme for the development of the Project.
- 2.3.5 During the Stage 1 consultation, NGET presented an Emerging Preferred Corridor and a graduated swathe to illustrate where the new Project's infrastructure could be located. Following the conclusion of the consultation, we analysed the feedback and, along with further technical studies and design work, developed the Project's design ahead of the Stage 2 consultation.
- 2.3.6 NGET gave the stakeholders and the local community digital and non-digital opportunities to engage with the proposals through a dedicated website, public information events and webinars, as well as the ability to provide feedback on the Project via our consultation feedback form, email and freepost (see Section 2.3.9).
- 2.3.7 Over the course of the Stage 1 consultation, the Project team held nine face-to-face in-person public consultation events, eight public webinars, nine stakeholder webinars (two for Parish Councils and seven for County, District and County Councils) and four MP briefings.
- 2.3.8 The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, email updates, newspaper and social media adverts. Consultation materials were made available online and at 18 local information points in the vicinity of the Project. Some of these materials at local information points were able to be taken away and some were to be left in situ. Dedicated contact channels were also established for those who had questions about the Project.
- 2.3.9 NGET provided several ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to give their feedback and ask any questions they had. These included:
- completing an online consultation feedback questionnaire on the Project website (nationalgrid.com/chesterfieldtowillington);
 - completing a paper consultation feedback questionnaire or sending written comments by post (**FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS (JBP)** no stamp or further address is needed);
 - emailing feedback to the Project email address (chesterfield-willington@nationalgrid.com); and
 - freephone telephone (**0800 073 1047**).
- 2.3.10 2,643 feedback responses to the proposals were submitted during the Stage 1 consultation period. Although some feedback was received after the close of the Stage 1 consultation, all responses have been considered in the development of plans. National Grid continues to review and consider all feedback as and when it is received.
- 2.3.11 In addition to the consultation periods listed above, NGET has engaged with key stakeholders through meetings and other forms of discussion on a regular basis. These stakeholders include local authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England, Canal & River Trust, Mining Remediation Authority, Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, CPRE, National Trust, Severn Trent Water, Yorkshire Water, Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and UK Civil Aviation Authority.

- 2.3.12 More information on the Stage 1 consultation carried out can be found in the **Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Report**, which is part of the suite of documents published at Stage 2 consultation. Archive documents from Stage 1 consultation will remain available on the Project website. Paper copies are available on request.
- 2.3.13 Methods used to continue to engage during and between the Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultation periods included:
- providing updates to the Project website when new information was made available;
 - providing updates in relation to surveys;
 - responding to ongoing requests and queries;
 - continuing to engage proactively with key stakeholders and requests for meetings;
 - sending interim community newsletters distributed to addresses within the Primary Consultation Zone; and
 - sending interim email updates to stakeholders and residents subscribed to updates.

2.4 Project milestones

- 2.4.1 The Project is currently in the pre-application stage of the DCO process. Table 2.1 sets out the milestones for the Project from the pre-application consultation through to examination.

Table 2.1 Project milestones

Stage
Stage 1 consultation – We held a period of non-statutory consultation between 14 May 2024 and 17 September 2024.
Consideration of 2024 Stage 1 consultation feedback – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during Stage 1 consultation to inform the ongoing design of the Project.
Stage 2 consultation – 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 Planning Act on the proposals.
Consideration of Stage 2 consultation feedback – We will review and have regard to the feedback received from the Stage 2 consultation and finalise the proposed design of the Project. We will also continue to engage with stakeholders prior to submission of our DCO application.
DCO application submission – We plan to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2027. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has up to 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.
Examination – 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.

3. Consultation on the proposed application

3.1 When will the consultation take place?

3.1.1 The Stage 2 consultation (under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act) will run for a minimum period of eight weeks. No events or webinars will take place during school holidays or on bank holidays. The consultation dates will be announced on the first day of the consultation. All responses to the consultation (except postal) must be received before 11:59pm on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted until a week after the consultation closes.

3.2 What proposals will be consulted on?

3.2.1 NGET will seek views and feedback on all aspects of the Project, including, but not limited to:

- a new 400 kV overhead line, approximately 60 kilometres (km) in length between a new substation in the Chesterfield area and the existing Willington Substation;
- a new 400 kV substation at Chesterfield, to be built in the vicinity of the existing 275 kV Chesterfield Substation and the existing 132 kV National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) substation to the south east of Chesterfield (referred to as the ‘new Chesterfield Substation’);
- replacement of short sections of existing overhead line and local changes to the lower voltage distribution network to facilitate the construction of the Project; and
- other works needed for construction, such as temporary access roads, highway improvements, construction work compounds, ancillary works, utility diversions and drainage. Land would also be required for environmental mitigation and enhancement, which would deliver an overall Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), an approach to development that leaves habitats in a better state than before.

3.2.2 The Project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback and further technical and design assessments. The Stage 2 consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”)** will allow consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project. The PEIR will outline any limitations on the current assessments. If any substantive changes are made to the design following this Stage 2 consultation, NGET will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation (see Section 4.3).

3.2.3 Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the Project and will be provided during the Stage 2 consultation.

3.3 Who will be consulted?

- 3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the Project. All views are welcomed, and NGET will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the details of the Project for our application for development consent.
- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Planning Act, NGET has a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community.
- 3.3.3 The draft Order limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the Project. From the draft Order limits, the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) extends 1 km. The Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) extends to approximately 5 km from the draft Order limits. Appendix A sets out the boundaries of these two consultation zones.
- 3.3.4 Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the boundary dissecting them.
- 3.3.5 Wider publicity for the Project's consultation will take place in the SCZ. The SCZ boundary can be viewed in Appendix A.
- 3.3.6 NGET will directly consult the following groups and individuals:
- all properties (residential, business and organisations) with postcodes within the PCZ;
 - Parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and SCZ;
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within the PCZ and SCZ;
 - elected representatives of district and county councils that are within the PCZ and SCZ;
 - seldom-heard groups within both the PCZ and SCZ who have been drawn to our attention, including people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques, and may need additional support to access materials; and
 - identified and subscribed relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups.
- 3.3.7 Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via the methods outlined in Section 3.5.
- 3.3.8 In addition to the local community, NGET will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities as required under section 42(1)(a), and (b) of the Planning Act and undertake the relevant notification under the EIA Regulations. NGET will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under section 42(1)(d).

3.4 Consultation materials

3.4.1 Table 3.1 sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the Project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.1 Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience and locations for viewing
Consultation newsletter	The newsletter will set out Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the Project's area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested and identified as possibly having an interest within the local community (Section 3.3) will be emailed a digital copy of the newsletter on the launch of the consultation. The newsletter will be posted to all properties (residential, business and organisations) within the PCZ. The document will be available to download via the Project website and available to collect at public information events and information points. Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy of the document at local information points (see Section 3.10).
Stage 2 Consultation Document	A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the Project, its various components and where to find more detailed information. It will outline the consultation activity and how to provide feedback and contact the Project team. Project area maps will be included within the document, and it will be written in non-technical language that is accessible to the general public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The document will be available to download via the Project website and to collect at public information events. Members of the public will be able to access a copy at local information points (Section 3.10).
Feedback form	Consultation feedback questionnaire with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The document will be available to access via the Project website, collect at public information events and printed copies will be posted on request. Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy at local information points (Section 3.10). Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS (JBP).

Material	Description	Target audience and locations for viewing
Interactive map	An interactive map of the Project, which shows a high level of detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The interactive Project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical capabilities.
Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Report	Detailing how stakeholders and the public were informed at Stage 1; describing the proposals that we consulted on; giving a summary of the feedback we received; summarising the feedback we received during the Stage 1 consultation and how it has been considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The document, including the appendices, will be available to download via the Project website. The document, not including the appendices, will be available to view at public information events.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC (this document) sets out how NGET intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The SoCC will be published on the Project website and at public information events. Members of the public will also be able to access a copy at local information points (Section 3.10).
Plans and drawings	Plans and drawings of the Project to assist with understanding the proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). Members of the public will be able to view the plans and drawings on the Project website and at public information events.
Guide to consultation plans	A guide outlining the consultation plans, and how to use them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). This document will be available on the Project website and to collect at public information events.
Photomontages and fly-through videos	Providing illustrative visualisations of where the proposed infrastructure would be located and how it would look.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). Photomontages will be made available on the Project website and at the public information events. The flythrough will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical capabilities.

Material	Description	Target audience and locations for viewing
Consultation event banners	Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the Project. Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the Project and will allow for further discussion with members of the Project team during public consultation events and other meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.
Strategic Options Report (SOR) Update	Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are regularly reviewed as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The document will be available to access via the Project website, and to view at public information events. Members of the public will also be able to access a copy at local information points (Section 3.10).
Design Development Report (DDR)	Explains the design development of the Project since the Stage 1 consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). This document will be available on the Project website and to view at public information events. Members of the public will also be able to access a copy at local information points (Section 3.10).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR will contain a description of the Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the Project's benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The document will be available to access via the Project website and to view at public information events. The PEIR will also be made available on USB, which are available to collect at local information points (Section 3.10) and public information events.
Non-technical summary of the PEIR	A condensed version of the PEIR, intended to concisely summarise and explain the purpose of the PEIR and its findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). The document will be available to access via the Project website, and available to collect at public information events. Members of the public will also be able to access a copy at local information points (Section 3.10).

Material	Description	Target audience and locations for viewing
Consultation notices	We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 47, 48 of the Planning Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). These will be published in accordance with section 47 and 48 of the Planning Act (Section 3.5.4).
Project website	An online site hosting all our Project information, including downloadable versions of all the above documents (see Table 3.2 for detail).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those interested in the consultation (Section 3.3). See Table 3.2 for detail on what the website will include.

- 3.4.2 In accordance with the Government’s approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available in the Document Library on the Project website: nationalgrid.com/chesterfieldtowillington.
- 3.4.3 Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and will be up-to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents.
- 3.4.4 NGET will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis to take into account individual circumstances.
- 3.4.5 For enquiries relating to the consultation materials or for requests of printed or alternative formats, the Project team can be contacted by email at chesterfield-willington@nationalgrid.com, or by calling **0800 073 1047**.
- 3.4.6 Printed copies of key consultation materials at public information events and local information points that are free to takeaway are subject to availability.
- 3.4.7 Table 3.2 sets out the website features and functionality that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the Project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.2 Website features

Function	Rationale
Interactive map	To enable members of the public to see how different components of the Project fit together, how they interact with the existing area.
Frequently asked questions (FAQs)	To provide answers to frequently asked questions.
Online feedback form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.
Webinar sign-up form	To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the Project team for any further questions.
Landowners and surveys	To provide information and contact details for landowners who may be affected by the Project and to provide updates on ongoing and upcoming surveys.

3.5 Promotion of the consultation

- 3.5.1 NGET will contact all properties (residential and business) with postcodes within the PCZ with a consultation newsletter.
- 3.5.2 Properties that were included within the Stage 1 PCZ and now fall outside of the Stage 2 PCZ will also be contacted via email and distribution of the newsletter to advise of the updated plans.
- 3.5.3 In line with statutory requirements pursuant to the Act, we will advertise the consultation in locally circulated newspapers. Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ. A map showing the PCZ and SCZ can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.5.4 A press release will be issued to locally circulated newspapers to publicise the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved. The press release will be issued ahead of the consultation for publication from the launch of the consultation.
- 3.5.5 The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices in relevant newspapers as prescribed by sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act.

- 3.5.6 We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following persons and organisations:
- Parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and SCZ;
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within the PCZ and SCZ elected representatives of district and county councils that are in the PCZ;
 - seldom-heard groups within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, including people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques, and may need additional support to access materials; and
 - identified and subscribed relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups.
- 3.5.7 We will seek to send digital information posters to the above stakeholders to display and raise awareness of the consultation via their channels.
- 3.5.8 Adverts will be placed on Facebook to help raise general awareness of the consultation and target a broad range of demographics across the PCZ and SCZ, including those that might not otherwise engage with the consultation.
- 3.5.9 Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated with consultees, where possible.

3.6 Public information events

- 3.6.1 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 exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near the PCZ.
- 3.6.2 Details of where and when the events are taking place will be included on the Project website, in newspaper adverts and in our consultation newsletter.
- 3.6.3 The events will be held on a variety of days and times, where feasible, including evenings in the week and at least one weekend. No events will take place during school holidays or on bank holidays.
- 3.6.4 Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available at each event (detailed in Table 3.1).
- 3.6.5 Those attending the events will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 3.6.6 If, for any reason, it is unfortunately necessary to cancel a scheduled event, for example, as a result of adverse weather, this cancellation will be published on the Project website and a notice will be placed at the venue, if practicable. In these circumstances NGET will also consider organising additional events if deemed to be reasonably necessary.
- 3.6.7 The Project has undertaken in-depth assessment and venue visits to determine the final selection. This was based factors such as safety, suitability, accessibility and availability.

3.7 Webinars

- 3.7.1 Community webinars will also be held during the Stage 2 consultation period. Each webinar will provide an overview of NGET, the need for the Project, the infrastructure being proposed and information on the consultation. Each webinar will be pertinent to an area of the route so the community can receive consultation on routeing and siting most relevant to them.
- 3.7.2 Each live webinar will include a question and answer session, enabling members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.
- 3.7.3 People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting NGET using the contact details set out in Section 3.11.

3.8 Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 3.8.1 NGET will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:
- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within the PCZ and SCZ;
 - elected representatives of district and county councils that are in the PCZ and SCZ;
 - Parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ or SCZ;
 - elected representatives and officers of district and county councils that are in the PCZ and SCZ;
 - key prescribed consultees, such as Natural England; and
 - persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act.
- 3.8.2 NGET will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.
- 3.8.3 The Project will consider the most appropriate times for these briefings to take place for the invited stakeholders i.e. evenings for parish council members.

3.9 Seldom-heard groups

- 3.9.1 Seldom-heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 3.9.2 NGET wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation activity is inclusive and wants to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Table 3.3 sets out how the Project will seek to engage underrepresented groups in the consultation.
- 3.9.3 We will maintain and update the list of seldom-heard 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.

Table 3.3 Engagement tools for seldom-heard groups

Seldom-heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing a consultation newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post. • Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post, as well as telephone if deemed necessary and in exceptional circumstances. • Face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis. • Providing important consultation materials digitally and in print, including alternative options such as braille, large print (upon request and reviewed on a case-by-case basis) or formats that support screen readers. • Notifying community groups serving the demographic. • Providing paper copies of materials at public information points along with contact details for the Project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation packs to those who are unable to access the material online upon request.
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing important consultation materials digitally and in print, including alternative options such as braille, large print (upon request and reviewed on a case-by-case basis) or formats that support screen readers. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.
People with limited mobility/disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options are available to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post, as well as telephone if deemed necessary and in exceptional circumstances. This is in addition to our digital feedback channels via email and our online feedback form. • Directly mailing a consultation newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post. • Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel. • Providing important consultation in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as braille and large print (upon request and reviewed on a case-by-case basis). • Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the Project. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis. • If necessary, providing a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter or captions for a recording of our webinars.

Seldom-heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
Youth age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online engagement. • Social media advertisements. • Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. • Notifying local centres of education that serve the demographic.
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing a consultation newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post. • Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility. • Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. • Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and ‘Team call-back’ sessions, to negate the need for travel. • Social media advertisements. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing a consultation newsletter to all properties within the PCZ; and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post. • Online engagement. • Social media advertisements. • Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing a consultation newsletter to properties within the PCZ; and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post. • Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. • Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.

Seldom-heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
Locally seldom-heard minority ethnic groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailing groups and organisations representing seldom-heard minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities. • Directly mailing a consultation 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. • Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the Project. • Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel. • Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.
English as a second language (ESL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If necessary, we will provide consultation materials in alternative languages upon reasonable request. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis and provision of a translator as required.
Traveller community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to groups and organisations representing travellers to inform them of the consultation and its engagement opportunities. • Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities. • Directly mailing a consultation newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post. • Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis. • Advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ and SCZ. • Providing paper copies of materials at public information points along with contact details for the Project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send consultation material. • In exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis, where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation, we will accept feedback via telephone.

3.10 Local information points

- 3.10.1 While this is no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure that paper copies of the below consultation documents will be available to view or collect at several locations near to the proposals:
- SoCC (to view);
 - Stage 2 Consultation Document (to view);
 - Non-technical summary of the PEIR (to view);
 - Design Development Report (to view);
 - Strategic Options Report Update (to view);
 - USB sticks containing the PEIR (to take away);
 - Consultation newsletter (to take away); and
 - feedback form and pre-paid return envelope (to take away).
- 3.10.2 Multiple suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ will be selected for communities.
- 3.10.3 Materials will be available to view during the venues' opening hours, except in circumstances outside of NGET's control, such as severe weather, which prevent the locations specified from opening.
- 3.10.4 Materials will be delivered to information points before, the first day of, consultation. Where venue opening hours do not align with the start-day of consultation, documents will instead be accessible from the next working day the venue is open.
- 3.10.5 The latest opening times as confirmed with each venue will be detailed in all materials. However, prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked with the venues.
- 3.10.6 Stocks of materials for visitors to take away will be checked throughout the consultation and replenished as needed.

Table 3.4 Information point locations and opening times

District	Local information point	Opening times
Chesterfield	Chesterfield Library New Beetwell Street, Chesterfield S40 1QN	Monday - Wednesday, Friday: 9am-5pm Thursday: 9am-6pm Saturday: 9am-3pm Sunday: closed
Chesterfield	Chesterfield Town Hall Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP	Monday - Friday: 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday: closed
North East Derbyshire	Clay Cross Library Kenning Park, Holmgate Road, Clay Cross S45 9PH	Monday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-6pm Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm Friday: 9:30am-1pm Saturday: 9:30am-12:30pm Wednesday and Sunday: closed

District	Local information point	Opening times
North East Derbyshire	Holmewood Library Heath Road, Holmewood S42 5RB	Monday: 9:30am-1pm Thursday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm Friday: 2pm-5pm Saturday: 9:30am-12:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday: closed
Bolsover	South Normanton Library The Hub, Shiners Way, South Normanton DE55 2AA	Monday: 9:30am-1pm Tuesday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-6pm Thursday and Friday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm Saturday: 9:30am-12:30pm Wednesday and Sunday: closed
Bolsover	Bolsover Library Church Street, Bolsover S44 6HB	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:30am-5pm Wednesday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
Bolsover	Old Bolsover Town Hall Cotton Street, Bolsover S44 6HA	Monday - Friday: 9am-1pm Saturday - Sunday: closed
Amber Valley	Ripley Library Grosvenor Road, Ripley DE5 3JE	Monday - Wednesday, Friday: 9am-5pm Thursday: 9am-6pm Saturday: 9am-3pm Sunday: closed
Amber Valley	Alfreton Library Severn Square, Alfreton DE55 7BQ	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am-5pm Wednesday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
Amber Valley	Belper Library Derwent Street, Belper DE56 1UQ	Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am-5pm Tuesday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
Amber Valley	Heanor Library Ilkeston Road, Heanor DE75 7DX	Monday - Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am-5pm Thursday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
Amber Valley	Ripley Town Hall Market Place, Ripley DE5 3BT	Monday: 9:30am-6pm Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am-5pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
Erewash	Ilkeston Library Market Place, Ilkeston DE7 5RN	Monday, Wednesday - Friday: 9:30am-5pm Tuesday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed

District	Local information point	Opening times
Erewash	Borrowash Library Victoria Avenue, Borrowash DE72 3HE	Monday, Friday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm Tuesday: 9:30am-1pm Wednesday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-12:30pm Thursday and Sunday: closed
Erewash	Long Eaton Library Tamworth Road, Long Eaton NG10 1JG	Monday - Thursday: 9:30am-5pm Friday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
Erewash	Ilkeston Town Hall Wharncliffe Road, Ilkeston DE7 5RP	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10am-12pm Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday: closed
Erewash	Long Eaton Town Hall Derby Road, Long Eaton NG10 1HU	Monday - Wednesday and Friday: 10am-12pm Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: closed
City of Derby	Alvaston Library 1252-1254 London Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 8QP	Monday: 1pm-5pm Tuesday, Friday: 9:30am-5pm Thursday: 9:30am-7pm Saturday: 9:30am-1pm Wednesday and Sunday: closed
City of Derby	Riverside Library Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS	Monday - Friday: 9am-5pm Saturday: 9am-1pm Sunday: closed
City of Derby	Chellaston Library Barley Croft, Chellaston, Derby DE73 6TU	Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-4:30pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday - Sunday: closed
South Derbyshire	Melbourne Library Melbourne Assembly Rooms, High Street, Melbourne DE73 8GF	Monday and Friday: 2pm-5pm Wednesday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm Saturday: 9:30am-1pm Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday: closed
South Derbyshire	Swadlincote Library Civic Way, Swadlincote DE11 0AD	Monday - Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am-5pm Thursday: 9:30am-6pm Saturday: 9:30am-2pm Sunday: closed
South Derbyshire	Etwall Library Eggington Road, Etwall DE65 6NB	Monday and Thursday: 2pm-5pm Wednesday: 9:30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm Saturday: 9:30am-1pm Tuesday, Friday and Sunday: closed

3.11 Contact methods

3.11.1 Table 3.5 sets out the contact channels that will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further consultation or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents.

Table 3.5 Contact methods

Method	Contact details	Hours of operation
Online	nationalgrid.com/chesterfieldtowillington	24/7
Email	chesterfield-willington@nationalgrid.com	9am-5:30pm weekdays (Emails can be sent at any time)
Freephone	0800 073 1047	9am-5:30pm weekdays (Answerphone function outside these hours)
Post	FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS (JBP)	24/7

3.11.2 The Project team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires consultation that is not readily to hand, they will endeavour to respond within ten working days.

4. Responses to the consultation

4.1 Methods of responding

- 4.1.1 During the consultation period, feedback can be submitted in the following ways:
- Online via the Project website nationalgrid.com/chesterfieldtowillington
 - By post at Freepost **FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS (JBP)** no stamp or further address required
 - By email chesterfield-willington@nationalgrid.com
- 4.1.2 Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not, as standard, be formally recorded as part of the consultation.
- 4.1.3 Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis, where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.
- 4.1.4 Feedback (except via post) must be submitted by 23:59 on the closing date of the consultation.
- 4.1.5 Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted up until a week after the consultation has closed.
- 4.1.6 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) and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 4.1.5 More details on how NGET will use the information collected about respondents can be found in the consultation feedback questionnaire and on the Project website during the consultation period.

4.2 Presenting the results

- 4.2.1 Following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where practicable, refined in light of feedback.
- 4.2.2 The proposed application will be finalised, having regard to the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with section 49 of the Planning Act.
- 4.2.3 A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for development consent, as required by section 37(3)(c) of the Planning 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 development consent.
- 4.2.4 Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.

- 4.2.5 Upon receipt of an application for development consent, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the Stage 2 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.
- 4.2.6 The Consultation Report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available on request and may be subject to a printing charge outlined in section 3.4.3.

4.3 Further consultation

- 4.3.1 If, following the Stage 2 consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation on either the whole or part of the Project, 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.

4.4 Other developers and project's consultations

- 4.4.1 The Project Team is aware that other organisations may be developing proposals in the area, this also includes a number of other project proposals by National Grid as part of The Great Grid Upgrade. These are listed below.

Table 4.1 Other proposed projects which may be undertaking engagement locally

Project name	Type	Connection location
Chesterfield to High Marnham	Substations and transmission line uprating	Chesterfield Substation
Willington East substation extension	Substation extension	Willington East Substation

Projects list correct at the time of print and publication.

4.4.2 National Grid will work to understand other developer's projects local to the Project to ensure that the scope and context of this 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; and
- endeavouring to signpost people with specific questions about other projects, to the relevant project team(s) to ask questions and/or provide feedback.

4.5 Other National Grid projects

4.5.1 National Grid is currently developing proposals for other electricity transmission network reinforcements in the region, including Chesterfield to High Marnham and Willington East substation extension.

4.5.2 National Grid is mindful of the 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 projects to support local understanding of the interactions between these projects;
- 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 consultation events are equipped with an oversight and understanding of other forthcoming local National Grid projects; and
- ensuring that any responses submitted as part of the Project's Stage 2 consultation that are intended for, or are clearly relevant to another National Grid consultation on another project, 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.

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