

The Great Grid Upgrade

Chesterfield to Willington

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1: Chapter 5 Approach to Preliminary Environmental
Information Report

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nationalgrid

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5. Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information Report

5.1 Introduction

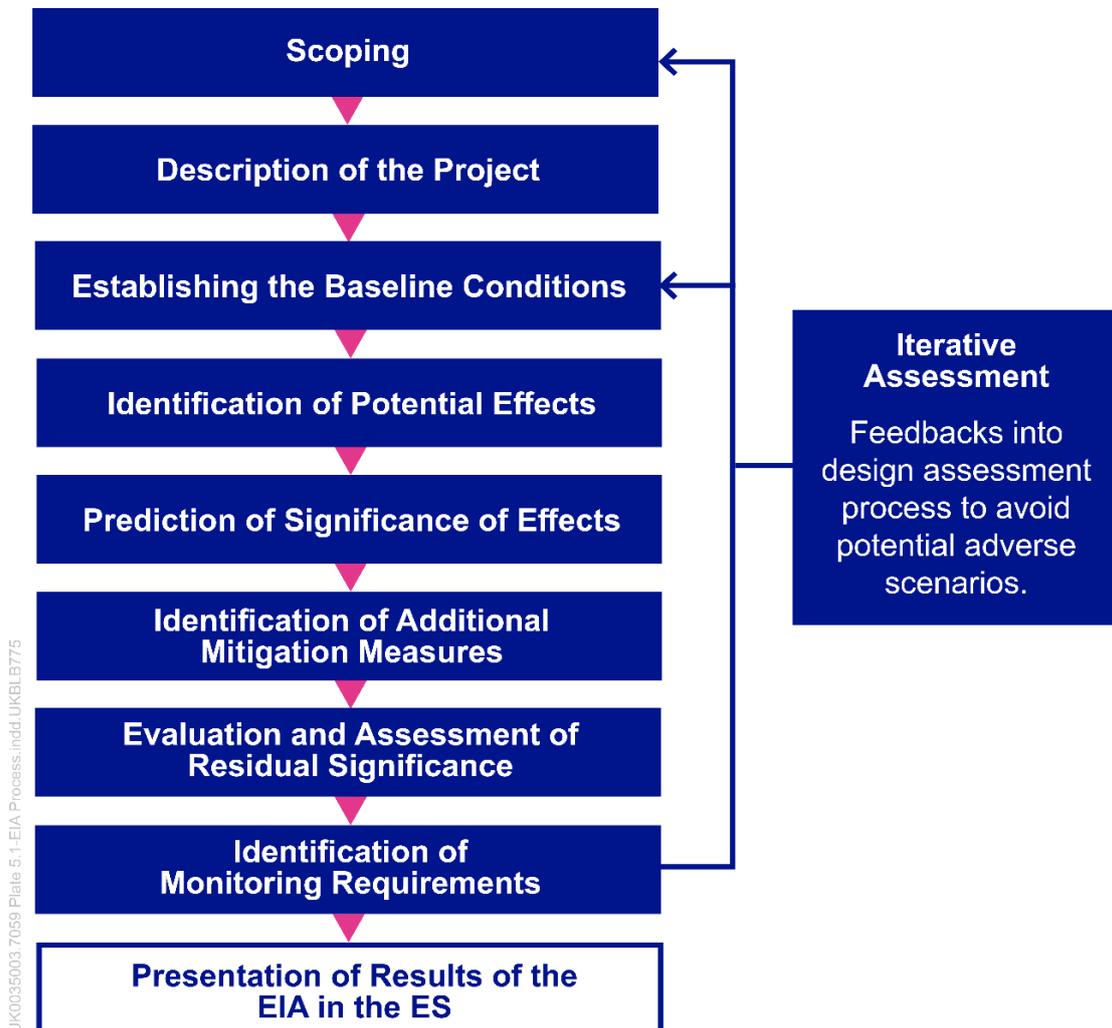
- 5.1.1 This chapter outlines the approach and general methodology which has been used to undertake the preliminary assessments presented in the topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) of this Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The approach and general methodology have been informed by the Scoping Report (Ref 5.1) and the Scoping Opinion (Ref 5.2).
- 5.1.2 All information presented within this PEIR is preliminary and based on the description of the Chesterfield to Willington Project (the 'Project') and assumptions presented in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. This PEIR provides the information gathered to date and the preliminary assessment work undertaken for each environmental topic to inform the Stage 2 (statutory) consultation. The preliminary assessments have applied a precautionary principle, where a realistic worst-case scenario has been assessed where limited information is available (in terms of the Project detail).
- 5.1.3 Each topic chapter outlines the topic-specific methodology, baseline conditions, mitigation measures and a preliminary assessment of effects (including a prediction of likely significant effects). Each topic chapter sets out the level of work undertaken to reach the predictions of likely significant effects. Each topic chapter also outlines any further work that will be undertaken and presented in the Environmental Statement (ES) to validate conclusions.
- 5.1.4 The preliminary assessments presented within this PEIR generally follow a receptor-based approach to assessment, unless stated within individual topic chapters. Consideration was given to Regulation 5(2) and Schedule 4 paragraph 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) (Ref 5.3), and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven (Ref 5.4) when deciding on which receptors to include within the PEIR.

5.2 The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

- 5.2.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of compiling, evaluating and presenting information about the likely significant environmental effects, both adverse and beneficial, of a given project. Environmental assessments are undertaken to help produce an environmentally sympathetic project, and to provide decision makers and statutory bodies with the environmental information they require during the determination of an application for consent. The early detection of likely significant adverse environmental effects enables appropriate mitigation (i.e. measures to avoid, reduce or offset likely significant adverse effects) to be identified and incorporated into the design of a project, or commitments to be made (for example implementing environmentally sensitive construction methods and working practices). The approach to mitigation is iterative and involves close working between National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid), the EIA team, the Project designers and Delivery Partners.

5.2.2 **Image 5.1** illustrates the main stages in the EIA process, and the iterative nature of assessment and project design.

Image 5.1: EIA process



5.2.3 When applied to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the EIA process is reported in the following documents prepared by the Project team:

- **Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report:** The Scoping Report outlines the Project's potential likely significant effects based on available information. The Scoping Report defines the necessary assessments to confirm the nature of the likely significant effects, and details the data collected, proposed methodologies, and planned EIA approaches.
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report:** (this is the current stage of the Project): A PEIR sets out the information that *'is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development'* (Ref 5.4). The PEIR is intended to give consultees an understanding of the potential likely significant effects (beneficial or adverse) associated with the Project. This will allow the consultees to prepare well-informed responses during statutory consultation. All conclusions and assessments presented in the PEIR are preliminary and based on the current Project design, as described within this PEIR. Further assessments and the full outcome of the EIA will be reported within the ES submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

- **Environmental Statement:** The ES reports the findings of the EIA, outlining the likely significant effects of a project and proposed mitigation measures. It is submitted with the DCO application and informs the decision-making process.

5.3 Overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Process

- 5.3.1 A Scoping Report was prepared and submitted by National Grid to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2024 (Ref 5.1). The Planning Inspectorate provided a Scoping Opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero in December 2024 (Ref 5.2).
- 5.3.2 The Scoping Report presented a Scoping Boundary which defined the area within which the infrastructure, at the time, would be located. The Scoping Boundary included the temporary and permanent construction and operational working areas and was based on the Emerging Preferred Corridor as identified within the Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) (Ref 5.5).
- 5.3.3 The Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion reflect the information available at the time they were prepared. The results of further baseline investigations may require modifications to be made to the scope of the EIA. In addition, the scope of the EIA may be modified to reflect changes to the design of the Project arising from further topic or environmental assessments.
- 5.3.4 Since the submission of the Scoping Report, there has been additional information gained from engineering and environmental studies undertaken. In addition, consideration has been given to the feedback received from the Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation as set out in the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report (Ref 5.6).
- 5.3.5 A backcheck and review exercise has been undertaken to identify whether there have been any changes since the Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation that may have a material effect on the conclusions of the CPRSS. The backcheck and review included an appraisal of the corridor options, and considered whether an alternative corridor would result in a different outcome to the CPRSS. This has resulted in the identification of an alternative corridor between Astwith and Alfreton to the corridor presented within the Scoping Report. Further information relating to the backcheck and review is presented within **Chapter 4 of the Design Development Report** (Ref 5.7).
- 5.3.6 A review of the alternative corridor was undertaken by environmental topics, and it was determined that the approach and scope of the EIA remain applicable and valid to the alternative corridor. The alternative corridor (referred to as the proposed route alignment) has been utilised for the preliminary assessments undertaken within this PEIR. Further information relating to the alternative corridor is presented in **Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered**.
- 5.3.7 The Scoping Opinion included comments from prescribed consultation bodies, relevant statutory undertakers, local authorities, and non-prescribed consultation bodies.
- 5.3.8 Responses from National Grid to the Scoping Opinion comments, detailing how they have either been addressed within this PEIR or will be addressed within the ES, are provided in each topic chapter (**Chapters 6 to 17**). A summary of the Scoping Opinion in relation to the EIA approach and methodology and how these requirements are addressed by National Grid is provided in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Scoping Opinion responses to the EIA methodology and assessment scope

ID*	Summary of Planning Inspectorate's/Consultation Bodies' Comments	National Grid Response
Planning Inspectorate		
2.2.1	Temporal Scope – Impacts assessed within the construction phase should not underplay the potential duration and significance of effect. <i>'The ES should clearly differentiate between habitat and agricultural land to be lost temporarily (i.e. to be reinstated) and that to be permanently lost'</i> .	The approach to temporal impacts is outlined within this chapter. Where effects are identified which extend into a different phase, the effects are described under the phase within which the impact arises and the duration of the effect outlined.
2.2.2	Forecasting Methods or Evidence – Sensitivity criteria used within the scoping report is inconsistent through the report. The ES should use consistent terminology.	Approach to magnitude, sensitivity and significance is set out within this chapter, which is used throughout this PEIR and will be used in the ES. However, where there is a requirement to deviate due to topic-specific guidance, this is outlined with a justification within the relevant topic chapter.
2.2.3	Significance of Effects – Where two levels of significance are possible, the ES should clearly detail how the final level of significance has been determined and set out the justification for not adopting the worst-case level of significance from the options available. Where professional judgement is used to determine whether an identified effect is significant or not significant, the ES should make reference to clear reasons and evidence and any relevant guidance.	The approach to assessing significance in a scenario where two levels of significance are possible is outlined within this chapter. This PEIR takes, and the ES will take, a precautionary approach and uses professional judgement to assign a reasonable worse case level of significance.
2.2.4	Cumulative Effects – Temporal Scope – <i>'The ES should clearly define the circumstances under which operational effects would be scoped in to or out of the cumulative effects assessment'</i> .	The methodology for the cumulative effects assessment, including the approach to the temporal scope, is presented in Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects .

ID*	Summary of Planning Inspectorate's/Consultation Bodies' Comments	National Grid Response
2.2.5	<p>Impacts on Aerodromes – <i>‘The Scoping Report does not address impacts on aerodromes’ and ‘the ES should assess any likely significant effects on these aerodromes or provide evidence of agreement with relevant consultation bodies that significant effects are not likely’.</i> In addition, <i>‘the scoping area occupies the military Low Flying Area 8 in which military low flying training activities are conducted. The implications to military low flying training activities should be assessed within the ES, where significant effects are likely’.</i></p>	<p>A specialist aviation consultant has been engaged by National Grid to support in ongoing discussion and analysis relating to the operational safety of aerodromes in the vicinity of the Project. Further engagement will be undertaken with airfield owners including East Midlands Airport, Ministry of Defence and individual operators as the Project progresses and impacts reported on at the ES stage, as appropriate.</p>
2.2.6	<p>Impacts on Third Party Assets – Comments from Canal and River Trust should be referred to. <i>‘The ES should provide justification / evidence that the structure of the Trent And Mersey Canal would not be impacted or include an assessment where significant effects are likely’.</i></p>	<p>Consideration of impacts to the structure of the Trent and Mersey Canal is included within Chapter 9 Hydrology and Land Drainage. In addition, consideration of the impacts to the users and setting of the canal is included within Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual and Chapter 8 Historic Environment.</p> <p>During Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation, the Canal and River Trust raised comments relating to potential impacts on two former canals (Cromford Canal and the Derby and Sandiacre Canal) which are subject to restoration projects. These projects will be considered where deemed necessary. Further engagement will be undertaken with the Canal and River Trust as the Project progresses.</p>
2.2.7	<p>Land Access – The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged the high level of survey effort required. Should areas not be accessible for surveys, the ES should identify limitations and detail any assumptions made in assessments.</p>	<p>Limitations and any assumptions during the assessment are outlined within individual topic ES chapters (Chapters 6 to 16). These PEIR chapters identify where further survey effort will be undertaken to inform the ES.</p>
2.2.8	<p>Transboundary – <i>‘Any likely transboundary effects should be assessed within the ES’ and ‘the Inspectorate will undertake a transboundary screening, on behalf of the Secretary of State, under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. The Secretary</i></p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate undertook a transboundary screening exercise on the behalf of the SoS on 25 February 2025 and concluded that the Project <i>‘is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment in an EEA [European</i></p>

ID*	Summary of Planning Inspectorate's/Consultation Bodies' Comments	National Grid Response
	<i>of State's duty under Regulation 32 continues throughout the application process.'</i>	Economic Area] <i>State'</i> (Ref 5.8). Based on this, transboundary effects have not been considered further.
3.0.1	Decommissioning – <i>'The Inspectorate agrees that decommissioning can be scoped out of the ES on the basis that the ES would include a high-level description of likely methods for decommissioning and summarise potential effects from decommissioning for each environmental aspect within an appendix to the description of the Project chapter of the ES.'</i>	A description of the likely methods of decommissioning is included within Chapter 4 Description of the Project . A summary of potential environmental effects arising from decommissioning will be provided within an appendix to the ES.
3.0.2	Major Accidents and Disasters – The Planning Inspectorate advised: <i>'With regards to flood defence failure, the Applicant is advised to discuss the approach further with the Environment Agency, and if the measures including the proposed buffers are not agreed to be adequate to avoid the potential for effects on flood defences then this matter should be scoped into the ES'</i> .	Consideration of impacts arising from flood defence failure has been included within Appendix 9A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . Engagement has also been initiated with the Environment Agency on this matter. The advice received is being used to inform this assessment, the outcomes of which will be reported within the ES.
3.0.3	Climate Change Resilience – The Planning Inspectorate agreed that potential impacts of current and future climate change are not likely to result in significant effects and that these matters could be scoped out of the ES. However, the Planning Inspectorate indicated that the description of the Project should describe any standards/measures and processes which would be relied upon to exclude likely significant effects and explain how they would be secured and implemented.	Embedded mitigation measures associated with the Project which address potential effects relating to climate change resilience are outlined in Chapter 4 Description of the Project . Additionally, standards, measures and processes identified would be secured through design and the DCO requirements and via measures outlined within the Outline Code of Construction Practice.
3.0.4	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) – The Planning Inspectorate agreed that this element could be scoped out of the ES, subject to a GHG emissions quantification report being submitted as part of the DCO application that demonstrates no significant effect would occur and the incorporation of embedded, good practice and additional mitigation measures.	A quantification of GHG emissions as a result of the Project will be completed and submitted as part of the DCO application. In the unlikely event that likely significant effects are identified within the report, these will be included within the ES. Design embedded and good practice mitigation measures have been outlined within Chapter 4 Description of the Project and Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of

ID*	Summary of Planning Inspectorate's/Consultation Bodies' Comments	National Grid Response
		<p>Construction Practice, respectively. Mitigation measures will continue to be developed as the Project progresses.</p>
3.0.5	<p>Materials and Waste – The Planning Inspectorate agreed that a standalone materials and waste chapter is not required on the basis that a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) would be produced prior to construction and individual chapters would assess impacts from waste, where relevant, e.g. transport effects.</p>	<p>An SWMP will be produced by the Principal Contractor prior to the commencement of the construction phase. The Project description in the ES will include information regarding materials required for the Project. The approach to this is presented in Chapter 4 Description of the Project. In addition, consideration of waste (including waste vehicle movements) is presented in Chapter 10 Geology and Hydrogeology, Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport and Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice.</p>
3.0.6	<p>Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) – Inconsistencies within commitments in the Initial Outline CoCP. The Planning Inspectorate stated that <i>'the Applicant should ensure that all measures stated to be included within management documents are included where stated in the final application versions of the ES and Outline CoCP'</i>.</p>	<p>A Draft Outline CoCP is provided as Appendix 4A which includes all measures proposed as part of this PEIR. The Outline CoCP has been updated to reflect the mitigation outlined in Chapters 6 to 17. The Draft Outline CoCP will also be updated as part of the ES.</p>
<p>Ault Hucknall Parish Council</p>		
N/A	<p><i>'The Parish Council can see no indication of an Equality Impact Assessment having been carried out. It appears that the route may concentrate on the more deprived areas where there may be lesser resistance to the proposals, creating a greater impact on the more vulnerable communities.'</i></p>	<p>An assessment of vulnerable populations is included within the Health and Well-being assessment presented within Chapter 16 Health and Well-being. The assessment will consider the potential health effects of the Project on affected population groups and will detail how this informs the sensitivity of receptors.</p>

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Bolsover District Council		
N/A	<i>'Electromagnetic fields – It is noted that the generation of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) associated with the Project are scoped out of the Environmental Statement. Is this reflected in a separate assessment, which forms part of the DCO application submission?'</i>	The Project will be designed in accordance with National Grid's design standards and would be compliant with guidelines and policies relating to EMF stated within the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (NPS EN-5) (Ref 5.9). The design standards and guidelines are included as design embedded mitigation measures, which are further detailed within Chapter 4 Description of the Project . In addition, an EMF report will be prepared as part of the DCO application, however separate from the EIA process.
Canal and River Trust		
N/A	<i>'We are particularly keen to understand where any crossings of the canal may be proposed as any such crossing of our property will require our prior consent, and our preference is always for underground crossings rather than overhead crossings. [...] We ask that the ES takes account of this and that the Trust is included in discussions relating to any proposed crossing of the canal as soon as possible'</i> . The ES should take account of the Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal and River Trust.	Ongoing engagement with the Canal and River Trust is being undertaken with regards to the crossing point of the canal, and engagement will continue as the Project progresses. In addition, consideration of the impacts to the canal is included within Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual, Chapter 8 Historic Environment and Chapter 9 Hydrology and Land Drainage . The requirements of the Code of Practice for Works Affecting the Canal and River Trust will be included within the development of the design of the Project, and also within relevant ES chapters.
Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council		
N/A	<i>'It has been proven that time spent in the countryside to enjoy nature has a positive effect on people's mental and physical health. Having industrial structures such as these and the large buzzing/crackling wires they carry which is particularly noticeable on damp days will have a detrimental effect on the natural landscape and consequently on the health of our residents. Whilst there is little research currently available on the effects of</i>	The Project will be designed in accordance with National Grid's design standards and would be compliant with guidelines and policies relating to EMF stated within NPS EN-5. The design standards and guidelines are included as design embedded mitigation measures, which are further detailed within Chapter 4 Description of the Project . In addition, an EMF report will

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	<p><i>large EMF radiation on health it would be wrong to dismiss this aspect on the grounds that there is no evidence on its effects on personal health. It is disingenuous to say it has no effect simply because there is no evidence, reminiscent of the days round the introduction of smoking. Due consideration should be given to this aspect and the proximity of the wires and structures to homes and businesses'.</i></p>	<p>be prepared as part of the DCO application, however separate from the EIA process.</p> <p>An assessment of the effects on public mental health resulting from concerns relating to EMF is detailed within Chapter 16 Health and Well-being.</p> <p>An assessment of operational noise, including a consideration of the potential impacts associated with the infrastructure, is presented within Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration. This will be further reviewed and assessed at the ES stage.</p>
Ministry of Defence (MOD)		
N/A	<p><i>'The scoping area, however, occupies the military Low Flying Area (LFA) 8 in which military low flying training activities are conducted. The proposed overhead line infrastructure may have implications to military low flying training activities which take place in LFA 8 and therefore the MOD require that this is scoped in. The MOD will need to be consulted again via the above multiuser email address in order to complete the appropriate safeguarding assessments as this development progresses'.</i></p>	<p>A specialist aviation consultant has been engaged by National Grid to support in ongoing discussion and analysis relating to flying activities in the vicinity of the Project. Further engagement will be undertaken with the MOD as the Project progresses and impacts on flying activities will be reported at ES stage.</p>
North East Derbyshire District Council		
N/A	<p><i>'Table 5.5 – reference to 'communities' – the impact on the character and amenity of settlements adjacent to the preferred route should be considered in all chapters with the exception of Agriculture and Soils i.e. in more categories than is indicated within this table'.</i></p>	<p>Table 5.5 of the Scoping Report relates to intra-project (also known as combined) effects, where a single receptor is impacted by more than one effect associated with the Project. A comprehensive assessment of intra-project effects will be presented as part of the ES.</p>
N/A	<p><i>'The impact on 'communities' also needs to be covered in the ES in specific enough terms that will allow the impact on particular locations within settlements to be understood'.</i></p>	<p>Chapter 15 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism of this PEIR covers Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism impacts on communities.</p>

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Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council		
N/A	<p>The council requested that ‘a <i>full and complete environmental impact assessment of both of the options identified as preferable in environmental and socio-economic terms in the Strategic Option Report (March 2024) including EDN-2 (Chesterfield to Willington) but critically also option EDN-1 (New Chesterfield Substation to Ratcliffe-on-Soar)</i>’.</p>	<p>The Strategic Options Report (Ref 5.10) which supported the Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation presents a number of options along with an appraisal of technical, cost, environmental and socio-economic considerations. An update of this report forms part of the Stage 2 (statutory) consultation materials and concludes no change to the initial strategic option.</p> <p>Based on these considerations, the Project represents the most advantageous option and will undergo a full and complete EIA. The full results of the EIA will be presented in the ES. It would not be proportionate or practical to undertake a full EIA on additional options which have previously been deemed as less advantageous (such as EDN-1).</p>
South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC)		
N/A	<p>SDDC requested that the ES consider the implications on the delivery of a strategic housing led site included in the Draft Local Plan. ‘<i>At present the scoping boundary includes areas of the strategic allocation (STRAT1: Infinity Garden Village Mixed Use Allocation). This site proposes a mixed-use allocation and seeks to allocate land for 2000 dwellings and 70ha of employment land in addition to carrying forward and allocation for 1950 homes in the currently adopted Local Plan, within the South Derbyshire administrative boundary. It would serve to contribute not only to South Derbyshire District Council’s housing and employment land supply but also to the unmet need of Derby City Council. SDDC request that the scope of the Environmental Statement is extended to include the draft Local Plan and have particular regard to the impact on allocation STRAT1, considering the likely impacts arising to this development</i>’.</p>	<p>Local plan allocations and planning applications are being monitored as the Project progresses. Consideration of local plans will be included within a Policy Compliance Document which will be submitted as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>Comments surrounding the Infinity Garden Village Mixed Use Allocation from the Stage 1 (non-statutory) consultation have been taken into account during the development of the Project, and the allocation itself is not located within the draft Order Limits.</p> <p>In addition, an assessment of impacts on the Project arising from committed developments is presented within Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects.</p>

ID*	Summary of Planning Inspectorate's/Consultation Bodies' Comments	National Grid Response
Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council		
N/A	<i>'The operational impacts of EMF must remain in scope while the scale, extent and positioning of infrastructure remains unpublished, and particularly while the published preferred corridor appears to involve distances to some residences of less than 250m'.</i>	The Project will be designed in accordance with National Grid's design standards and would be compliant with guidelines and policies relating to EMF stated within NPS EN-5. The design standards and guidelines are included as design embedded mitigation measures, which are further detailed within Chapter 4 Description of the Project . In addition, an EMF report will be prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application.
UK Health Security Agency		
N/A	<i>'It is noted that an EMF report will be prepared as part of the Project, explaining how it will be designed to comply with existing National Grid standards, and the guidelines and policies detailed in NPS[1]EN-5, including adherence to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines for EMFs and associated precautionary policy. Please ensure [that the] DECC Codes of Practice are addressed in the report'.</i>	The Project will be designed in accordance with National Grid's design standards and would be compliant with guidelines and policies relating to EMF stated within NPS EN-5. The design standards and guidelines are included as design embedded mitigation measures, which are further detailed within Chapter 4 Description of the Project . In addition, an EMF report will be prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application.
Denby Parish Council		
N/A	<p>As part of a late Scoping consultation response (Ref 5.12) <i>'Denby Parish Council would ask for the following to be taken into account:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments. These being but not limited to St Mary's Church, War Memorial, The John Flamsteed Memorial Park, The Drury Lowe Millennium Green and Rykniel Street Roman Road.</i> • <i>Health risks both psychological and metal due to EMF and operational noise and possible proximity to local schools.</i> • <i>The long-term short-term impact to the local environment.</i> 	<p>Conservation areas, listed buildings and scheduled monuments have been considered during the development of the design of the Project. Chapter 8 Historic Environment provides further consideration of these features.</p> <p>Regarding EMF, the Project will be designed in accordance with National Grid's design standards and would be compliant with guidelines and policies relating to EMF stated within NPS EN-5. The design standards and guidelines are included as design embedded mitigation measures, which are further detailed within Chapter 4 Description of the Project. In addition, an EMF report will be prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application. An assessment of the effects on public</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The ground stability due to the area's history of mining through the centuries which has used numerous methods and the flooding which occurs.</i> <i>The Visual impact both night and day due to the height of the pylons requiring to be illuminated in accordance with the Air Navigation Order.'</i> 	<p>mental health resulting from concerns relating to EMF is detailed within Chapter 16 Health and Well-being.</p> <p>The long and short term impacts to the environment have been assessed within individual topic chapters in the PEIR (Chapters 6 to 17). The criteria for defining the duration of effects are presented within this chapter.</p> <p>With respect to ground stability, the Project will be designed with due consideration for site-specific ground conditions, ground instability and geohazard risks. This is discussed where relevant in Chapter 10 Geology and Hydrogeology, and good practice mitigation measures presented in Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice.</p> <p>A landscape and visual impact assessment for the Project is presented in Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual.</p>
Network Rail		
N/A	<p>In the late consultation response (Ref 5.13) <i>'In reference to the protection of the railway, the Environmental Statement (ES) should consider any impact of the scheme upon the railway infrastructure and operational railway safety. In particular, if deemed relevant for operational railway safety, the ES should include a Glint and Glare Study assessing the impact of the scheme upon train drivers (including, distraction from glare and potential for conflict with railway signals). The ES should also include a Transport Assessment to identify any HGV traffic/haulage routes associated with the construction and operation of the developer's site that may utilise railway assets, such as bridges and level crossings, during the construction and operation phases of the development.'</i></p>	<p>The effects on the existing rail network during construction and operation were scoped out of further assessment within Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport. The Planning Inspectorate agreed that <i>'subject to discussions with Network Rail, any necessary line blockages or possessions are not likely to result in significant effects and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.'</i> Engagement with Network Rail will be undertaken as the Project progresses to inform the design work.</p> <p>Appendix 12D Transport Statement: Construction Traffic Estimation presents a transport statement for the Project. This will be refined and updated at the ES stage, following ongoing consultation with National Highways.</p>

* ID number as defined in the Scoping Opinion

5.4 Overview of the PEIR

- 5.4.1 This section outlines the methodology used to assess potential effects on the natural, human and built environment which result from the Project.
- 5.4.2 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, the assessments will identify and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects arising from the proposed construction and operational phases of the Project.
- 5.4.3 The primary objective of the EIA is to identify likely 'significant' effects which must be reported in the ES. Significant effects are identified by predicting impacts and then evaluating their severity against agreed significance criteria.
- 5.4.4 The assessment of an impact and the significance of resulting effects is undertaken by considering the relationship between two factors:
- the magnitude of an impact (the change taking place to the environment compared to the baseline); and
 - the value of the affected baseline resource or receptor and its sensitivity to the impact.
- 5.4.5 This section provides an overview of the approach taken in this PEIR. Each topic chapter (**Chapters 6 to 17**) outlines the approach of the assessment for each environmental aspect and outlines any adjustments to the approach to the methodologies specific to that given topic.

Structure of the Topic Chapters

- 5.4.6 Each of the topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 16**) is structured in general as follows:
- Overview;
 - Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance Context;
 - Scoping Opinion and Consultation;
 - Assessment Methodology;
 - Baseline Conditions;
 - Design Embedded and Good Practice Mitigation Measures;
 - Preliminary Assessment of Effects;
 - Potential Additional Mitigation Measures;
 - Monitoring;
 - Residual Effects; and
 - Summary.
- 5.4.7 **Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects** is structured differently as it takes account of the advice provided in the Planning Inspectorate's advice page entitled NSIP: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Ref 5.11) to utilise an assessment matrix (as presented in Annex 1 of the advice) as a means of summarising the potential adverse or beneficial cumulative effects of the Project with 'other development' demonstrating that a systematic approach to Cumulative Effects Assessment has been adopted using professional judgement.

Defining the Study Area

- 5.4.8 The spatial scope, defined as the 'Study Area', for each topic is the area over which effects are predicted to occur as a consequence of the Project. The Study Area depends on the nature of the potential effects and the location of receptors that could be impacted. It takes account of:
- the physical area of the Project;
 - the nature of the baseline environment; and
 - the manner and extent to which environmental effects may occur.
- 5.4.9 Study Areas are defined in each of the topic chapters within this PEIR (**Chapters 6 to 17**) and vary between topics. Study Areas may vary within topic chapters between construction and operational phases, as well as between identified receptors. The Study Areas may be altered within the ES in response to comments from consultees or further assessment work.

Establishing the Baseline Conditions

- 5.4.10 This PEIR predicts the impacts to the current and future baseline resulting from the Project. The baseline conditions are the reference level of the environmental conditions without implementation of the Project, against which the potential effects of the Project are assessed.
- 5.4.11 Baseline conditions have been, and will continue to be, established via:
- site visits and surveys;
 - desk based studies; and
 - topic specific assessments (including modelling).
- 5.4.12 The current baseline conditions against which the environmental effects of the Project will be assessed are outlined in the topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) of this PEIR.
- 5.4.13 The baseline year is 2025, when the majority of baseline surveys have taken place. For certain topics the baseline environment is expected to change between the baseline year and the start of the construction of the Project (expected to be 2029), and for these topics this change has been predicted to enable robust identification of the effects of the Project against a 'construction year' baseline.

Establishing the Future Baseline Conditions

- 5.4.14 The future baseline is the theoretical situation that would exist in the future in the absence of the Project. A future baseline is predicted from the current baseline using professional judgement and where available modelling tools (e.g. predictable changes such as climate change, changes that can be predicted based on reasonable assumptions and modelling calculations, information about other committed developments and so forth).
- 5.4.15 The future baseline conditions against which the environmental effects of the Project will be assessed are outlined in the topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) of this PEIR.

Temporal Scope

- 5.4.16 Subject to gaining development consent, construction would be expected to start in 2029 and would be operational by 2031.
- 5.4.17 This PEIR predicts the impacts during the construction and operational phases of the Project. The general approach is summarised below and any variations from this are identified and discussed in the topic chapters:
- **Baseline year:** the baseline year is the reference level of the environmental conditions without the implementation of the Project, and against which potential effects associated with the Project are assessed. The baseline year is 2025, which is when the majority of the baseline surveys have taken place.
 - **Construction Phase:** these are effects that are likely to occur during the construction phase of the Project. This includes effects resulting from the activities associated with installation of the overhead line, rationalisation and diversion of existing distribution network infrastructure, construction and commissioning of the proposed new Chesterfield Substation, and works to facilitate the connection of the overhead line into the substations at Chesterfield and Willington. It also includes effects associated with the temporary works such as construction access, haul roads, construction compound areas and work activities.
 - **Operational Phase:** these are effects that would potentially occur as a result of the presence, operation and maintenance of the Project.
- 5.4.18 An effect can occur in one phase and last longer than the phase in which it occurs (e.g. an impact during the construction phase may lead to an effect that extends into the operational phase). Where effects are identified which extend into a different phase, the effects are described under the phase within which the impact arises, and the duration of the effect discussed.

Approach to decommissioning

- 5.4.19 There are no specific plans to decommission the Project. It is expected that the transmission of electricity would continue as long as there is a business case for doing so, therefore it is anticipated that decommissioning activities would occur decades in the future. The Planning Inspectorate agreed to scope out decommissioning in the ES, as outlined in **Table 5.1**.
- 5.4.20 Paragraph 2.1.4 of NPS EN-5 (Ref 5.9) states that '*Generally, nationally significant electricity networks are likely to have an ongoing function, but will be subject to maintenance, reinforcement works and for assets to be replaced when they come to the end of their lifespan*'.
- 5.4.21 The design life of the Project is at least 80 years, but with regular maintenance is likely to extend further. At the time that decommissioning would take place, the regulatory framework, good industry practices and the future baseline could have altered.
- 5.4.22 At the point where the Project requires decommissioning, National Grid would consider and implement an appropriate decommissioning strategy taking account of good industry practice, its obligations to landowners under the relevant agreements and all relevant statutory requirements. The environmental effects associated with decommissioning are likely to be similar to those associated with construction, subject to any changes to the baseline environment in the intervening period.

- 5.4.23 As per the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion, it is not practicable to assess the probable future effects from decommissioning at the present time; however, a high-level description of the anticipated decommissioning methods is included in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. The ES will include a high-level summary of potential effects from decommissioning for each environmental topic within an appendix to the Description of the Project chapter within the ES.

Preliminary Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

- 5.4.24 The prediction of potential likely significant effects has been undertaken to understand the impact of the Project on each environmental receptor. A range of potential impacts have been considered within the preliminary assessment using quantitative, semi-quantitative and qualitative method of prediction as appropriate.

Approach to mitigation and monitoring

Mitigation

- 5.4.25 A number of measures would be adopted in the Project to avoid and reduce the effect of the Project on the environment. These fall into one of three categories: design embedded mitigation measures, good practice measures, and additional mitigation measures.
- 5.4.26 Design embedded mitigation measures are those that are intrinsic to the design. These may include, for example, working within the existing topography to reduce pylon intrusion, and reducing habitat loss by minimising land take. They can also include the avoidance of designated sites through sensitive routeing, siting and design. Design embedded mitigation measures are described within **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**.
- 5.4.27 Good practice measures comprise management activities, control measures and techniques that would be implemented during construction of the Project to minimise impacts as far as practicable. They include adherence to good site practices and achieving legal compliance. These measures may include, for example, applying construction site dust suppression techniques within working areas, which the Main Works Contractor would be required to implement. Proposed good practice measures to address construction-related impacts are described in each of the topic chapters and are detailed in **Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice**. As the Project evolves these would be refined and expanded as appropriate and would be supplemented by other control and management documents, such as the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).
- 5.4.28 In addition to the DCO, licences/permits through separate regimes may also be required. For example, ecological licences and assents granted by Natural England and various permits relating to water and waste granted by the Environment Agency. On the presumption that the regulatory authorities would not permit the works unless the potential impacts have been appropriately managed, it is assumed that these licensable activities are considered as measures adopted as part of the Project.
- 5.4.29 Additional mitigation measures comprise measures over and above any embedded and good practice measures, for which the EIA has identified a requirement to further reduce significant environmental effects, such as landscape planting.

5.4.30 As consent for the Project will be sought through a DCO, all three categories of mitigation will be the subject of a DCO requirement to ensure their delivery and make their implementation a legal requirement. Within this PEIR, the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects has been undertaken considering the application of design embedded mitigation measures, good practice measures and additional mitigation measures (where known). Residual effects have been defined following the implementation of mitigation measures (design embedded mitigation measures, good practice measures and additional mitigation measures).

Monitoring

5.4.31 Schedule 4, paragraph 7 of the EIA Regulations is clear that, where appropriate, the ES should include a description of any proposed monitoring arrangements where significant adverse effects have been identified. The monitoring of significant effects will be detailed within the ES topic chapters to include clear and proportionate objectives for monitoring, the parameters to be monitored, the methodology for the monitoring, a timescale for implementation, identification of the party who would be responsible for the monitoring, and an outline of the remedial actions to be undertaken should results be adverse. Monitoring requirements that have been identified so far have been reported in this PEIR (**Chapters 6 to 17**) as required.

Identification of potential effects

5.4.32 There is no statutory definition of what constitutes a 'significant' effect within the EIA Regulations. The method for assessing the significance of an effect varies between topics, but in principle is based on the environmental sensitivity (or value/importance) of a receptor and the magnitude of change from baseline conditions, as described below.

5.4.33 The likely significant effects (beneficial and adverse) of the Project have been predicted and evaluated using appropriate evaluative techniques, many of which follow topic-specific best practice guidelines. Potential effects have been reported first, usually in summary, as an indication of what effects could theoretically occur in the absence of additional mitigation. Subsequently, residual effects have been reported taking into account the implementation of suitable mitigation measures (i.e. design embedded mitigation, good practice measures and additional mitigation).

5.4.34 Residual effects are those that are predicted to remain after all the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented. The significance of the residual effects is determined by reference to criteria for each topic. Specific significance criteria for each technical discipline gives due regard to the following:

- scale of the impact;
- impact duration, and whether effects are temporary, revisable, or permanent;
- effect nature (whether direct or indirect, reversible or irreversible, beneficial or adverse);
- whether the effect occurs in isolation, is cumulative, or will interact with other effects;
- performance against any relevant environmental quality standards;
- sensitivity of the receptor; and
- compatibility with environmental policies.

5.4.35 Each topic chapter of this PEIR includes a description of the proposed approach to determining the significance of effects, including how professional judgement may be applied. The topic chapters have used the terminology for magnitude, sensitivity and significance described in the following sections unless there is a need to deviate due to topic-specific guidance. Where there is a requirement to deviate, justification has been provided within the relevant topic chapter.

Magnitude of impact

5.4.36 The magnitude of impact is the scale of the change caused to the baseline conditions considering both the degree of change from the baseline conditions and the duration and/or reversibility of the effect.

5.4.37 General criteria for defining the magnitude of an impact, or change, are set out in **Table 5.2**. Key factors that influence this include:

- Scale of change – the scale of change refers to the degree of change to or from the baseline environment caused by the impact being described.
- Spatial extent – the extent of an impact is the full area over which the impact occurs.
- Duration and frequency – the duration is a measure of how long the impact is expected to last. Frequency refers to how often the impact would occur; it may be continuous or periodic.

Table 5.2: Impact magnitude criteria

Magnitude	General Criteria
Large	Adverse: Loss/alteration of resource and/or quality and integrity of resource; severe damage to key characteristics, features, or elements. Beneficial: Large scale or major improvement of resource quality; extensive restoration; major improvement of attribute quality.
Medium	Adverse: Loss/alteration of resource, but not adversely affecting the integrity; partial loss of/damage to key characteristics, features or elements. Beneficial: Benefit to, or addition of key characteristics, features or elements; improvements of attribute quality.
Small	Adverse: Some measurable alteration in attributes, quality or vulnerability; minor loss of, or alteration to, one (maybe more) key characteristics, features or elements. Beneficial: Minor benefit to, or in addition of, one (maybe more) key characteristics, features or elements; some beneficial impact on attribute or a reduced risk or negative impact occurring.
Negligible	Adverse: Very minor loss or detrimental alteration to one or more characteristics, features or elements. Beneficial: Very minor benefit to or positive addition of one or more characteristics, features or elements.

Sensitivity and value of the receptor

5.4.38 The sensitivity of a receptor or resource is characterised by its vulnerability to change and its ability to recover. The value of a receptor or feature reflects its overall importance, and the value placed on it by society; this may be reflected by its level of statutory or policy protection or else a value may be attributed through consultation and the application of professional judgement. Criteria for defining the sensitivity and/or value of a receptor are set out in **Table 5.3**. Characterisation of the receptor is achieved by balancing out these considerations to determine the receptor's sensitivity:

- Vulnerability – the vulnerability of the receptor relates to its capacity to accommodate change, i.e. the tolerance/intolerance of the receptor to change.
- Recoverability – the ability of the receptor to return to the baseline state.
- Importance – the importance of the receptor is a measure of the value assigned to that receptor based on biodiversity and ecosystem services, social value and economic value. Importance of the receptor is also defined within a geographical context, whether it is important internationally, nationally or locally.

Table 5.3: Sensitivity criteria

Sensitivity	General Criteria
Very High	Very high importance and rarity, value at an international level and limited potential for recovery or substitution.
High	High importance and rarity, value at a national level and limited potential for recovery or substitution.
Medium	Medium importance and rarity, value at a regional level and limited potential for recovery or substitution.
Low	Low or medium importance and rarity, value at a local level and limited potential for recovery or substitution.
Negligible	Very low importance and rarity, valued at a local level, easy to replace.

Evaluating the significance of effects

5.4.39 Having established the magnitude of impact and sensitivity of the receptor, the significance of an effect can be assessed. The matrix shown within **Table 5.4** has been used as the basis for assigning significance of an effect within this PEIR. As an illustration, a high sensitivity receptor subject to a large magnitude of impact would experience a major significance of effect, and a low sensitivity receptor subject to a small magnitude of impact would experience a minor or negligible significance of effect.

Table 5.4: Significance matrix

		Sensitivity of Receptor				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Magnitude of Impact	Large	Major	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor/Negligible
	Medium	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Small	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor/Negligible	Negligible
	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Neutral
	No Change	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

- 5.4.40 Each of the specialist disciplines applies professional judgement when assigning magnitude and sensitivity criteria for each topic area, and for some topics these may be defined in industry guidelines.
- 5.4.41 The influence of impact duration on the overall significance of effect has also been considered as part of the determination of magnitude and sensitivity.
- 5.4.42 Following the classification of an effect using the methodology, this PEIR outlines a preliminary conclusion, where practicable, as to whether that effect is significant or not significant. Major and moderate effects are typically considered to be significant, whilst minor and negligible effects are considered to be not significant. However, professional judgement is applied in reaching conclusions as to the significance of effects. Where two levels of significance are possible, professional judgement with supporting evidence and relevant guidance (where available) is used to determine the level of significance. Generic definitions for the classification of effects are shown in **Table 5.5**.

Table 5.5: Generic significance description

Significance	General Criteria	Significant Effect
Major	<p>A large and detrimental change to a valuable/sensitive receptor; likely exceeding an accepted threshold.</p> <p>A large and beneficial change, resulting in an improvement to the baseline or a major contribution being made to national targets.</p> <p>These effects may represent key factors in the decision-making process of the DCO application. Potentially associated with sites and features of international and national importance or likely to be important considerations at a regional or district scale. Major effects may relate to resources or features that are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced, or relocated.</p>	Yes

Significance	General Criteria	Significant Effect
Moderate	<p>A medium scale change that, although not beyond an accepted threshold, is still considered to be generally unacceptable, unless balanced out by other significant positive benefits of a project. These effects, if adverse, are likely to be important at a regional or local scale and on their own could have a material influence on the decision-making process of the DCO application.</p> <p>A beneficial moderate effect is a medium scale change that is significant in that the baseline conditions are improved to the extent that guideline targets (e.g. UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets) are contributed to.</p>	Yes (typically)
Minor	<p>A small change that, whilst adverse, does not exceed accepted thresholds.</p> <p>A small beneficial change, but not one that is likely to be a key factor in the overall balance of issues. These effects may be raised as local issues and may be of relevance in the detailed design of a project but are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process of the DCO application.</p>	No
Negligible	<p>A very small change that is so small and unimportant that it is considered acceptable to disregard.</p> <p>Effects which are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error, these effects are unlikely to influence the decision-making process of the DCO application, irrespective of other effects.</p>	No

Defining the duration of effect

5.4.43 The environmental assessment uses defined temporal scales to characterise the duration of potential effects. For the purposes of assessment, the following definitions are applied unless otherwise defined in the specific topic chapter:

- **Short term:** This is assumed to be up to 2032, which covers construction and reinstatement plus one-year post construction.
- **Medium term:** This is assumed to be 2033 to 2047, which is based on between 2–15 years post construction.
- **Long term:** This is assumed to be 2048 onwards and is used to describe effects with a duration that extends longer than 15 years post construction.

Defining Residual Significance in the PEIR

5.4.44 The preliminary assessment presented in each of the topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**) states whether effects are likely to be beneficial or adverse, together with predicting if effects are likely to be significant or not significant. Where possible, disciplines have assigned preliminary sensitivities and magnitude criteria to identified receptors.

- 5.4.45 Where the preliminary assessment has identified likely significant adverse effects, additional mitigation measures to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset these likely significant adverse effects on the environment are described. Where required, residual significance is defined following the consideration of additional mitigation measures.
- 5.4.46 At this stage the design, surveys and assessment work have progressed to differing degrees for different technical assessments, and therefore mitigation measures have not all been fully defined or designed. The progress to date and further work required moving forward is outlined in each technical topic chapter.
- 5.4.47 For each technical topic a preliminary assessment has been undertaken with the information to date and any limitations and assumptions outlined in the chapter.

5.5 Parameters Approach and Design Envelope

- 5.5.1 The parameters approach presents the maximum envelope within which the Project may be undertaken. This ensures the assessment of environmental effects associated with the Project is the realistic worst-case, and that the actual development to be carried out within the defined parameters would be no worse than the effects reported in this PEIR, or the subsequent ES. The detailed design and construction methodology for the Project would be developed within these parameters without the need for further assessment. Further details of the approach to the design envelope and the parameters used are presented in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**.
- 5.5.2 The preliminary assessments reporting in this PEIR have been undertaken using a parameters approach which uses maximum parameters within which the Project may be constructed and operated. The maximum parameters include defined Limits of Deviation within which each component of the Project would be located and are defined in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. The assessments within the topic chapters have undertaken the assessments based on the worst-case scenario within the maximum parameters (which include the Limits of Deviations).

5.6 Assumptions and Limitations

- 5.6.1 At the time of preparing this PEIR, the Project design is continuing to be developed. Therefore:
- This PEIR provides the information gathered to date and the preliminary assessment work undertaken for each environmental topic. The preliminary assessments presented have applied a precautionary principle, where a realistic worst-case scenario has been assessed in lieu of detailed Project information.
 - At the PEIR stage, surveys and assessment work have progressed to various degrees for different technical assessments within topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 17**), and mitigation measures have not all been fully defined or designed.
 - The proposed new Chesterfield Substation has been included within the preliminary assessments undertaken to inform this PEIR.
 - The land requirements of the Project are yet to be wholly finalised.
 - The approach and design of areas of mitigation and biodiversity net gain are yet to be defined and finalised. It has been assumed at this time that any areas required for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will not be included within the draft Order Limits.

- The removal, undergrounding and diversion of existing third party services (for example Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) low voltage power lines, or telecommunication lines) is required for the Project, discussed in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. These works would most likely be undertaken by the asset owners prior to construction of the relevant section of the Project; however, the DCO application would include powers for National Grid to undertake this work subject to agreement with the asset owner. Additionally, discussions are ongoing with the DNO and the industry regulator, Ofgem. The full extent of potential works is still being assessed and therefore they have been included in their entirety within the draft Order Limits on a 'fallback basis' to assess a reasonable 'worst case' scenario to mitigate against the risk of delay to the delivery of the Project.

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