

The Great Grid Upgrade

Chesterfield to Willington

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1: Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects

March 2026

nationalgrid

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17. Cumulative Effects

17.1 Overview

- 17.1.1 When assessing the environmental impacts of a project, it is important to examine how various effects may interact and combine. In particular, how the effects of the Chesterfield to Willington Project (the 'Project') could accumulate and affect the same receptors and how the effects of the Project could combine with the effects of other reasonably foreseeable developments proposed to affect receptors common to both.
- 17.1.1 There are two types of effects considered in this chapter: 'cumulative' and 'combined' effects, as defined in the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) (formerly known as Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) Special Report – The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (Ref 17.1).
- **Cumulative effects** (also known as inter-project effects): residual effects resulting from the Project combining and interacting with the same aspect¹-related residual effects generated by the other developments² to impact a common receptor; and
 - **Combined effects** (also known as intra-project effects): the interaction and combination of different residual environmental effects resulting from the Project affecting the same receptors. The individual residual effects may not be significant in their own right but could combine to create effects that are significant.
- 17.1.2 This chapter presents a preliminary consideration of potential cumulative effects and combined effects. Combined effects will be assessed for each topic within the Environmental Statement (ES), where appropriate, as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) is a preliminary assessment and the level of significance for individual effects within topic assessments are not yet defined.
- 17.1.3 Both cumulative and combined effects assessments will be presented within the ES.
- 17.1.4 This chapter is supported by the following figures in **Volume 2** and appendices in **Volume 3**:
- **Figure 17.1 Committed Development Long List;**
 - **Figure 17.2 Committed Development Short List;** and
 - **Appendix 17.A Long List and Short List of Committed Developments³.**

¹ The Planning Inspectorate refers to 'aspects' as meaning the relevant descriptions of the environment identified in accordance with the EIA Regulations (Ref 17.2).

² Including the assessment of cumulative effects factoring in those associated with the new Chesterfield Substation if the substation is ultimately not part of the Project.

³ "Committed Developments" are existing, approved, or planned projects (either Development Consent Orders (DCOs), planning applications or identified in development plans or other relevant plans and programmes), that are considered as part of the cumulative effects assessment (CEA) to determine the combined environmental impacts of multiple activities within the Zone of Influence (Zoi).

17.2 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance Context

- 17.2.1 This section sets out the legislation and planning policy that is relevant to the preliminary cumulative effects assessment (CEA). **Chapter 2 Legislative, Regulatory and Planning Policy Context** describes the overall regulatory and planning policy context for the Project. Key legislation, policy and planning guidance relevant to the assessment of cumulative effects associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project is presented below.

Legislation

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- 17.2.2 Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref 17.2) (the 'EIA Regulations') states that an ES is to include a description of the likely significant effects of development on the environment, which should cover, amongst others, cumulative effects.
- 17.2.3 Paragraph 5(e) of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations describes cumulative effects as *'The cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources'*.
- 17.2.4 Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations state that an ES should include the following:
- 'A description of the factors likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, population, human health, biodiversity (fauna, flora), land (land take), soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including the architectural and archaeological aspects) and landscape'*.
- 'A description of the likely significant effects should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.'*
- 17.2.5 In addition, Regulation 5(2)(e) of the EIA Regulations requires that the EIA considers the interaction of environmental effects associated with the Project. The combined effects assessment considers likely significant effects from multiple impacts and activities from the construction and operation of the Project on the same receptor, or group of receptors.
- 17.2.6 The requirements of the EIA Regulations to identify these types of effects are being met through the delivery and reporting of a CEA for the Project.

National Policy Statements

- 17.2.7 **Chapter 2 Legislative, Regulatory and Planning Policy Context** sets out the overarching policies relevant to the Project, including the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 17.3). This is supported by the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 17.4).
- 17.2.8 **Table 17.1** sets out the requirements of both National Policy Statements relevant to cumulative effects and how these have been considered within this chapter.

Table 17.1: National Policy Statements relevant to cumulative effects

Policy Reference	Policy Context	How It Will Be Considered?
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)		
Paragraph 4.1.5	<i>‘In considering any proposed development, in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Secretary of State should take into account: Its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy.’</i>	The PEIR includes a preliminary consideration of cumulative effects, which identifies Committed Developments within the defined Study Area that, when considered with the Project, may result in likely significant cumulative effects. An initial review of planning applications and consents on relevant planning authority websites and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) on the Planning Inspectorate’s Programme of Projects was undertaken, capturing all relevant Committed Developments. The criteria defined within section 17.5 have been applied, in order to determine a Short List of Committed Developments.
Paragraph 4.2.25	<i>‘The cumulative impacts of multiple developments with residual impacts should also be considered.’</i>	The ES will describe and evaluate how the Committed Developments presented in the Short List could result in likely significant cumulative effects when considered with the Project.
Paragraph 4.3.3	<i>‘The EIA Regulations require an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects.’</i>	The ES will describe and evaluate how the Committed Developments presented in the Short List could result in likely significant cumulative effects when considered with the Project.
Paragraph 4.3.19	<i>‘The Secretary of State should consider how the accumulation of, and interrelationship between, effects might affect the environment, economy, or community as a whole, even though they may be acceptable when considered on an individual basis with mitigation measures in place.’</i>	The inter-relationship of effects on the environment will be considered in the ES.

Policy Reference	Policy Context	How It Will Be Considered?
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)		
Paragraph 2.9.10	<i>'Cumulative adverse landscape, seascape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and/or other new sources of generation.'</i>	<p>This PEIR includes a preliminary consideration of cumulative effects, which identifies Committed Developments within the defined Study Area that, when considered with the Project, may result in likely cumulative effects.</p> <p>An initial review of planning applications and consents on relevant planning authority websites and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) on the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects was undertaken, capturing all relevant Committed Developments. The criteria defined within section 17.5 have been applied, in order to determine a Short List of Committed Developments.</p>

Guidance

Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope

17.2.9 The principle of combined effects is noted by the Planning Inspectorate in Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Ref 17.5).

17.2.10 Paragraph 4.14 of Advice Note Nine requires that the EIA considers:

'The potential cumulative impacts with other developments will also need to be carefully identified such that the likely significant effects can be shown to have been identified and assessed against the baseline position (which would include built and operational development). In assessing cumulative impacts, other development should be identified through consultation with the local planning authorities and other relevant authorities. Applicants should have regard to the staged approach to cumulative effects assessment set out in Planning Inspectorate's [Advice on] Cumulative Effects Assessment.'

Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment

17.2.11 The staged approach referred to in Advice Note Nine (Ref 17.5) is further detailed in the Planning Inspectorate's Guidance titled "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on CEA" (Ref 17.6), which refers to the four steps outlined below. This approach has been incorporated into the CEA methodology for the PEIR and ES:

- *'establishing the long list (stage 1)*
- *establishing the short list (stage 2)*
- *information gathering (stage 3)*
- *assessment (stage 4)'*

Other National Policy

17.2.12 Other relevant national policy considered in the scope of effects on cumulative effects includes the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 17.7) and accompanying National Planning Practice Guidance (Ref 17.8).

17.3 Scoping Opinion and Consultation

Scoping Opinion and Stakeholder Engagement

17.3.1 A Scoping Report (Ref 17.9) was prepared and submitted by National Grid to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2024. The Planning Inspectorate provided a Scoping Opinion (Ref 17.10) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero in December 2024. Responses from the Planning Inspectorate in relation to cumulative effects and how these requirements will be addressed by the applicant are set out in **Table 17.2**.

Table 17.2: Summary of the Planning Inspectorate’s Scoping Opinion comments in relation to cumulative effects

Scoping Opinion ID	Planning Inspectorate’s Comments	Response
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> ’.	Operational effects have been scoped into the CEA. When developing the short list of Committed Developments for consideration in the ES, a justification will be included when a development is scoped out due to temporal scope.

17.3.2 **Table 17.3** provides a summary of the consultation feedback from specific stakeholders provided as part of the Scoping Opinion to inform the assessment on cumulative effects to date. Further engagement will be undertaken with the local planning authorities as part of the ES assessment to help develop and refine the short list of Committed Developments that will be assessed.

Table 17.3: Summary of stakeholder Scoping Opinion responses in relation to cumulative effects

Consultee	Summary of Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes	Response
Natural England	<i>‘The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.’</i>	To inform the PEIR, a search was completed of planning applications submitted to the councils listed in section 17.5 and NSIPs submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. These applications were assessed against defined criteria during the production of the Long List and Short List of Committed Developments, to determine whether there are likely to be significant cumulative effects.

17.4 Assessment Methodology for Combined Effects

17.4.1 **Chapter 5 Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information Report** sets out the overarching approach which has been used in developing the PEIR. This section describes the technical methods used to determine the baseline conditions, receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change. This section also identifies further assessment that will be undertaken and reported in the ES.

17.4.2 Combined effects occur where a single receptor is affected by more than one source of effect or aspect of the Project. An example of a combined effect would be where a local community is affected by dust, noise, and traffic disruption during the construction of the Project, with the result being a greater level of effect than each individual effect alone.

- 17.4.3 The inter-relationship between residual effects of the Project will be assessed and careful consideration will be given to explain the environmental impacts of the Project as a whole and establish a robust worst-case scenario(s).
- 17.4.4 Where the applicant requires flexibility in the design parameters, a worst-case scenario would be assessed for the ES, the applicable parameters will be explained and clearly set out in order to:
- Ensure that interactions between individual assessments – for example where both noise and air quality impacts may combine to affect a single receptor – are considered relevant to the worst-case scenario(s) identified, and that careful consideration is given to how these are assessed.
 - Ensure that the assessment of the worst-case scenario(s) identifies impacts which may not be significant on their own but could become significant when considered together.
- 17.4.5 There is no standard approach to the assessment of combined effects, although it should be carried out with reference to guidance and to professional judgement.
- 17.4.6 Some receptors are potentially subject to multiple sources of effect (which are therefore assessed within multiple topic areas) and, as such, combined effects are more likely to occur. Receptors considered in multiple chapters are likely to include local residents, communities, and businesses.
- 17.4.7 The assessment of combined effects uses a three-stage approach. These stages are outlined below:
- **Stage 1:** A pre-screening exercise to determine whether a receptor is exposed to more than one type of residual effect. Those receptors identified as experiencing more than one type of residual effect will be taken through to the second stage. These are referred to as common receptors.
 - **Stage 2:** A screening exercise to identify the significance each type of residual effect has on each receptor. Those common receptors exposed to two or more types of effect, with a significance of effect greater than negligible, will be taken forward to the third stage.
 - **Stage 3:** The main combined assessment, which will consider if the combination of effects is likely to lead to overall effects of greater significance.
- 17.4.8 As the PEIR is presenting a preliminary assessment (and the level of significance for identified residual effects within topic assessments is not defined), it is not possible to progress the assessment past Stage 1. An assessment of combined effects will instead be presented in the ES for each topic where appropriate.
- 17.4.9 An initial pre-screening assessment is presented below in **Table 17.4**, showing how the receptor groups are likely to interact between chapters. This will be revisited as part of the ES to ensure all receptors considered within the ES are taken through this pre-screening process.

Table 17.4: Likely interactions between receptor groups and topic chapters

Receptor	Topic Chapter										
	Landscape and Visual	Ecology and Biodiversity	Historic Environment	Hydrology and Land Drainage	Geology and Hydrogeology	Agriculture and Soils	Traffic and Transport	Air Quality	Noise and Vibration	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	Health and Wellbeing
Landscape character and designations	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Residential receptors	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial receptors							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ecological receptors	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Notable habitats (terrestrial and aquatic)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Designated heritage assets	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	
Non-designated heritage assets	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	
Water resources (existing abstractions and discharges)		✓		✓	✓						
Watercourses and water bodies		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Flood risk receptors				✓		✓					

Receptor	Topic Chapter										
	Landscape and Visual	Ecology and Biodiversity	Historic Environment	Hydrology and Land Drainage	Geology and Hydrogeology	Agriculture and Soils	Traffic and Transport	Air Quality	Noise and Vibration	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	Health and Wellbeing
Best and Most Versatile agricultural land						✓				✓	
Agricultural holdings	✓			✓		✓				✓	
Soil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Public Rights of Way	✓						✓			✓	✓
Cycle routes	✓						✓			✓	✓
Roads							✓				
Communities	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geology			✓		✓	✓					
Mineral reserves					✓						
Groundwater		✓		✓	✓						✓
Human health	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

17.5 Assessment Methodology for Cumulative Effects

- 17.5.1 **Chapter 5 Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information Report** sets out the overarching approach which has been used in developing the PEIR. This section describes the technical methods used to determine the baseline conditions, receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change.
- 17.5.2 Cumulative effects occur where a receptor is impacted by two or more Committed Developments at the same time, potentially amplifying the overall effect. Individually the effects from the Project may not be significant, but when considered together with those from Committed Developments they could create a significant cumulative effect.
- 17.5.3 Committed Developments are existing, approved, or planned projects (either Development Consent Orders (DCOs), planning applications or identified in development plans or other relevant plans and programmes), that are considered as part of the CEA to determine the combined environmental impacts of multiple activities within the Zone of Influence (Zol).
- 17.5.4 Cumulative effects have the potential to occur when a Committed Development is situated within a certain distance from the Project. However, the nature of an impact pathway from the Project and the distance at which a cumulative effect with another Committed Development could occur, depends on the nature of the impact identified (e.g. air quality effects as a result of the Project could occur at a greater distance than noise and vibration effects).
- 17.5.5 The Planning Inspectorate's Advice on CEA (Ref 17.6) provides a methodology for assessing cumulative effects. It provides guidance about the type and scale of Committed Developments that should be considered in the assessment of cumulative effects with the Project. It acknowledges that the availability of information necessary to conduct the CEA will depend on the current status of the Committed Development (for example, whether the Committed Development has been consented or not). Any assumptions or limitations in relation to the ability to collect information on the Committed Developments therefore will be stated within the ES. A level of certainty, reflecting the availability of detail and information necessary for the assessment, will be assigned to each development and recorded.
- 17.5.6 The approach outlined in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice on CEA (Ref 17.6) is split into four stages, as outlined below:
- **Stage 1: Establishing the Long List** - there are two main tasks in this stage. The first is to establish what the Zol is for each topic, which is derived from the Study Area considered within the topic's assessment. The second is to then identify a 'Long List' of Committed Developments, by reviewing planning applications⁴, development plans, and other available and relevant sources.
 - **Stage 2: Establishing the Short List** - identification of the Short List, using criteria to include or exclude developments from the Long List.

⁴ Using both local authorities' planning portals and the Planning Inspectorate website (Ref 17.11).

- **Stage 3: Information Gathering** - information is gathered about the shortlisted developments, including design, location, programme, construction, operation, and decommissioning information, and reported environmental effects arising from the Committed Development on shared sensitive receptors.
- **Stage 4: Assessment** - CEA is undertaken in relation to the shortlisted developments. The focus is on Tier 1 and 2 developments, with Tier 3 included if scoped in through application of professional judgement (these three tiers are described in **Table 17.6**).

Stage 1: Establishing the Long List

- 17.5.7 The first step of Stage 1 is to identify a Zol within which the Long List of Committed Developments can be identified. The Zol is the geographical area within which a development is likely to affect environmental receptors. As such, the Zol will vary for different receptors.
- 17.5.8 The Zol used for the Project for this preliminary assessment is based on a distance extending from the draft Order Limits. During the EIA scoping exercise, an overall cumulative assessment Zol of 7.5 km was proposed and 30 km was applied for NSIPs. This Zol has been reviewed and carried forward for application within the PEIR. The Study Areas applied in the technical chapters are set out in **Table 17.5**. The rationale for these Study Areas is explained in the relevant technical topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 16**).

Table 17.5: Study Areas for environmental topics

Environmental topic	Study Areas (measured from the draft Order Limits unless otherwise stated)
Landscape and Visual	7.5 km
Ecology and Biodiversity	20 km 30 km for Special Areas of Conservation where bats are the qualifying interest
Historic Environment	2 km
Agriculture and Soils	1 km (soils) and local authority boundaries*
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	1 km (recreation and tourism) and local authority boundaries*
Health and Wellbeing	0.2 km (electric and magnetic fields) and local authority boundaries*
Hydrology and Land Drainage, Geology and Hydrogeology, Traffic and Transport, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration	≤ 0.5 km

* The Study Area comprises local authority boundaries that the preferred corridor passes through for assessment of inter-project effects on Best and Most Versatile land (Agriculture and Soils); Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism; and Health and Wellbeing.

- 17.5.9 An initial screening exercise has been undertaken to identify a list of Committed Developments currently within the consenting process within the maximum Zol for the Project. An initial review of planning applications and consents on relevant planning authority websites and NSIPs on the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects (Ref 17.11) was conducted in October 2025. A provisional Long List of Committed Developments is provided in **Appendix 17.A Long List and Short List of Committed Developments**. Planning applications and the Committed Developments outlined within **Appendix 17.A** will be subject to ongoing reviews prior to the submission of the ES to reflect any ongoing development.
- 17.5.10 The review consisted of the following local planning authorities' websites and the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects webpage:
- Amber Valley Borough Council;
 - Ashfield District Council;
 - Bolsover District Council;
 - Broxtowe Borough Council;
 - Chesterfield Borough Council;
 - Derby City Council;
 - Derbyshire County Council;
 - East Staffordshire Borough Council;
 - Erewash Borough Council;
 - Mansfield District Council;
 - North East Derbyshire District Council;
 - North West Leicestershire District Council;
 - Nottinghamshire County Council;
 - Rushcliffe Borough Council; and
 - South Derbyshire District Council.
- 17.5.11 Only applications and consents that fall within defined criteria (within which it is considered that there is the potential for significant effects) were identified. The following criteria were applied to establish which Committed Developments should be added to the Long List:
- a) Any EIA project;
 - b) The provision of dwellinghouses where:
 - i. The number of dwellinghouses to be provided is 10 or more; or
 - ii. The development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph b) i);
 - c) The provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more;
 - d) Development carried out on a site having an area of 1 ha or more;

- e) Developments involving the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits;
 - f) Projects relating to waste development;
 - g) Developments subject to the above criteria that have planning permission, planning permission subject to conditions or those that are pending; and
 - h) NSIPs which have submitted Scoping Report or PEIRs at pre-application stage, or applications that have been accepted and/or approved.
- 17.5.12 The Long List will remain subject to change during the preparation of the ES, reflecting the submission, approval, rejection, or withdrawal of applications. New developments will be added as they appear on planning portals, with a final cut-off date set six months prior to the submission of the Project's DCO application to allow for completion of the assessment.
- 17.5.13 DCO and planning permissions typically expire after a period of three to five years (unless an application for extension is permitted). Applications submitted outside this temporal scope have been excluded.
- 17.5.14 The inclusion of allocations within the Local Plan exceeds the requirements of the EIA Regulations (Ref 17.2) to consider '*existing and approved developments*'. However, such allocations have been included, consistent with Tier 3 of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice on CEA (Ref 17.6) (see below).
- 17.5.15 An explanation for excluding development from further consideration will be clearly recorded and presented in the ES.

Development tiers

- 17.5.16 Each Committed Development within the Long List has been assigned a tier based upon the stage of the Committed Development and the level of information available. This approach is published within the Planning Inspectorate's Advice on CEA (Ref 17.6) and recorded in **Table 17.6**. This list will be reviewed for the ES to ensure it remains up to date.

Table 17.6: Committed Developments – degree of certainty

Tier	Development
Tier 1	Under construction.
	Permitted applications under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 17.12), Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Ref 17.13) or other relevant planning regimes but not yet implemented.
	Submitted applications under the Planning Act 2008, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or other relevant planning regimes but not yet determined.
	All refusals subject to appeal procedures not yet determined.
Tier 2	Projects on the Planning Inspectorate's Programme of Projects where a scoping report has been submitted.
	Committed Developments where an EIA Scoping Request has been submitted but a planning application has not yet been submitted.

Tier	Development
Tier 3	Projects on the Planning Inspectorate’s Programme of Projects where a scoping report has not been submitted.
	Identified in the relevant Development Plan and emerging Development Plans, with appropriate weight given as they near adoption, recognising that there will be limited information available on the relevant proposals.
	Identified in other plans and programmes, as appropriate, which set the framework for future development consents or approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.

Stage 2: Establishing the Short List

- 17.5.17 Following Stage 1, the Committed Developments included on the Long List have been sifted against the temporal scope, scale, and nature criteria, to identify whether they would be likely to result in potential for a significant cumulative effect with the Project. Professional judgement has also been used during the establishment of Short List criteria to determine whether developments should be scoped in or out of the assessment. This includes developments that are below the threshold criteria but with characteristics that are likely to give rise to a significant effect or could give rise to cumulative effects by virtue of their proximity to the Project. Similar consideration has been given to developments which meet the lower range of the threshold criteria and are on the outer limits of the Zol.
- 17.5.18 The following inclusion/exclusion criteria has been used for the preliminary assessment:
- Temporal Scope:** Committed Developments with overlapping construction phases (currently expected to be 2029 to 2031), operational effects and decommissioning programmes have been scoped into the assessment. DCO and planning applications submitted up to five years prior to the planned commencement year of construction (2029) have been included in the assessment.
 - Scale and nature of development:** Committed Developments identified as ‘EIA development’ under Schedules 1 and 2 of the Town and County Planning (EIA) Regulations and projects on the Planning Inspectorate’s Programme of Projects or other relevant planning regimes have been considered further. Committed Developments not identified as EIA development have been scoped out of the assessment, except where professional judgement identified specific scenarios where there is a high likelihood of significant environmental effects arising in combination with the Project (e.g. proximity to the Project).
 - Sensitivity of the receiving environment:** Where there are potential source-pathway-receptor linkages between the Project and Committed Development, cumulative effects have been considered further. Committed Developments with no clear source-pathway-receptor linkage have been scoped out of the assessment.
 - Consultation:** Requests from relevant stakeholders for the inclusion of specific developments and/or plans within the CEA.

Substation sites

- 17.5.19 The Project would connect into the existing Willington Substation located to the south west of Derby and a proposed new substation at Chesterfield.

Existing Willington Substation

- 17.5.20 Separate from the Project, National Grid (Customer and Network Development) is developing plans for an extension to the existing Willington Substation to facilitate new customer connections. It is currently anticipated that these extension works would be delivered via permitted development rights and are expected to be completed by 2029. Depending on status at the time, this potential development will be considered as part of the Project's CEA or baseline within the ES.

Chesterfield Substation

- 17.5.21 It is currently anticipated that the new Chesterfield Substation will be consented and delivered as part of a separate National Grid project (Chesterfield to High Marnham project), distinct from this Project. However, it is possible that it will be decided to also include the new Chesterfield Substation works as part of the DCO application for this Project. This would be to provide an alternative consenting mechanism to remove reliance on that separate planning application/consent, therefore mitigating the risk of delays to this Project's delivery.
- 17.5.22 In view of this potential inclusion, the new Chesterfield Substation and its potential environmental effects were considered in the EIA Scoping Report (Ref 17.9) which was submitted to the SoS in October 2024. This is included within the PEIR and other relevant documents (where applicable) as part of this statutory (Stage 2) consultation. If it is ultimately determined necessary for the works to be included as part of the Project, they will be considered as part of the ES.
- 17.5.23 If the Chesterfield Substation is ultimately not part of the Project, it will be considered within the CEA in the ES if appropriate.

Stage 3: Information Gathering

- 17.5.24 This preliminary assessment includes both Stages 1 and 2. Stages 3 and 4 will be undertaken as part of the EIA and reported in the ES. These sections provide the methodology which will be used for these stages.
- 17.5.25 Further information on the shortlisted developments will be gathered to inform the final CEA, where this is available. This will include:
- proposed design and locational information;
 - programme/construction and operational timescales; and
 - results of any environmental assessments completed for the Committed Developments.
- 17.5.26 Data will be gathered from a variety of sources including the websites of the relevant local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate's website, and potentially through direct liaison with stakeholders including local authorities, statutory bodies and relevant applicants/developers.
- 17.5.27 The CEA is an iterative process and therefore, based on the information gathered, it is possible that Committed Developments could be removed from the Short List during Stage 3. A Committed Development could be removed if the information gathering indicates that there will not be a temporal overlap or if it is unlikely to result in cumulative effects when considered alongside the effects arising from the Project.

Stage 4: Assessment

- 17.5.28 The CEA will describe and evaluate how the likely residual effects arising from the Project could combine with likely significant residual effects generated by Committed Developments presented in the Short List. The results of the assessment will be documented and presented in an accessible format similar to Matrix 2 provided in Annex 2 of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice on CEA (Ref 17.6) and tabulated within the ES.
- 17.5.29 The likely effects identified in this preliminary assessment could change as new information is gathered and further assessment is undertaken, potentially changing the receptors and effects that are carried through to the assessment. The CEA assumes that mitigation identified within the ES chapters and/or within the EIAs of Committed Developments is included before undertaking the assessment.
- 17.5.30 The assessment of the potentially relevant Committed Developments is based on the best available information at the time of authoring. The level of information available for the application varies in detail, from Tier 1 (most certain) to Tier 3 (least certain). As a result, for some Committed Developments the centre point has been used to the measure distance from the Project. However, for most of the Committed Developments it has been possible to measure from the planning application boundary to the Project's draft Order Limits.

17.6 Future Baseline

- 17.6.1 The construction and/or operation of Committed Developments in the surrounding area has the potential to result in changes to the baseline environment.
- 17.6.2 During the production of the ES, a review of the available information (including construction and operational dates) for the Long List developments with the ability to interact with the Project will be undertaken. Where another Committed Development is due to be operational by the time the Project commences construction, it will be considered as part of the future baseline in the topic chapters in the ES. This approach excludes Traffic and Transport, which scopes out operational traffic and therefore does not need to account for the development plan allocations and future projects within its modelling.

17.7 Preliminary Assessment

- 17.7.1 For the purposes of the PEIR, a Stage 1 preliminary Long List has been developed comprising Committed Developments; records of NSIPs, planning applications, relevant development plan allocations, and other known developments within the identified Zol. The Long List has a cut-off date of 31 October 2025 to allow assessment to be undertaken as part of the PEIR process. Any NSIPs added to the Planning Inspectorate portal or planning applications validated after the 31 October 2025 have not been included in the Long List. The Long List will be updated to support the CEA that will be reported in the ES. The Long List is presented in **Table 17A.1 of Appendix 17.A Long List and Short List of Committed Developments** and the longlisted developments are illustrated on **Figure 17.1 Committed Development Long List**.

- 17.7.2 Following the application of the Short List criteria during Stage 2, a preliminary Short List was created that identified Committed Developments that could lead to potential cumulative effects with the Project. The shortlist of Committed Developments is presented in **Table 17A.2 of Appendix 17.A Long List and Short List of Committed Developments** and the shortlisted developments are illustrated on **Figure 17.2 Committed Development Short List**. Developments listed there will be taken forward to Stages 3 and 4 of the assessment, which will be completed and presented in the ES. This list will be revisited for the ES, with a review of information that has been submitted since the submission of the PEIR, in addition to a review of other publicly available resources.
- 17.7.3 For each development that has been taken forward to the Short List, commentary has been provided as to whether there is a spatial and/or temporal overlap. A high-level search of the application information was undertaken to inform this review for the PEIR. Developments with insufficient information available to determine a spatial or temporal overlap were scoped in at this stage.
- 17.7.4 Where a spatial and temporal overlap has been identified for a particular topic, commentary is provided as to the nature of the development that is likely to result in a cumulative effect. For the ES, additional information on the relevant shared receptors or pathways that could result in a cumulative effect will be provided. Where a spatial and temporal overlap has not been identified with a topic, and thus there is no potential for a cumulative effect, the Committed Development will not be considered any further.
- 17.7.5 The Long List and Short List comprise the preliminary CEA for the PEIR and identify planning applications to be taken forward to Stage 3 of the CEA. The CEA process will be reviewed, updated and progressed as part of the ongoing EIA and reported in the ES which will be submitted alongside the application for development consent.

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