

The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)

2025 Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Report

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nationalgrid

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Abbreviations	3
1. Introduction	5
1.1 Structure of this report	5
1.2 Background	5
1.3 The Project	6
1.4 Purpose of the Consultation	6
1.5 Purpose of this report	7
2. Methodology	8
2.1 Our approach to Public Consultation	8
2.2 Stage 1 consultation	10
2.3 Website, Email and Information Line	10
2.4 Direct Mailing to the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ)	11
2.5 Consultation and promotion materials	14
2.6 Public Consultation Events	15
2.7 In-person public consultation events	15
2.8 Public Webinars	15
2.9 Information Point Locations	16
2.10 Promotional Activity – Press and Social Media	17
2.11 ‘Team call-back’ sessions	19
2.12 Ways to respond	19
2.13 Responses	19
3. Analysis of Feedback	20
3.1 Introduction	20
3.2 Feedback Form	20
3.3 Approach to Analysis	21
3.4 Responses to Closed Questions	21
3.5 Responses to Open Questions	27
3.6 Technical consultee / statutory body responses	47
4. How feedback has influenced design	59
4.1 Regard had to feedback	59

4.2	Summary of key changes	59
-----	------------------------	----

5.	Next Steps	62
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Table 2-1	Stage 1 consultation and promotion materials	14
Table 2-2	Schedule of in-person public consultation events	15
Table 2-3	Schedule of online public webinars	16
Table 2-4	Newspaper adverts schedule	17
Table 2-5	Online adverts schedule	18
Table 2-6	Traffic generated from social media campaigns	18
Table 2-7	Briefings held	18
Table 2-8	Breakdown of responses received	19
Table 3-1	Responses submitted to Question 11	26
Table 3-2	Summary of feedback received	28
Table 3-3	Summary of noted stakeholder / statutory body responses	48
Table 4-1	Key design changes from Stage 1 consultation feedback	59

Figure 2-1	EGL 5 Timeline	9
Figure 2-2	Map of the consultation zone	12
Figure 5-1	DCO Process	63

Executive Summary

National Grid Electricity Transmission (referred to as ‘NGET’ within this report) is developing proposals to enhance the electricity network between Scotland and England. As part of this, NGET is developing plans for Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5), (referred to as the ‘Project’ in this report). EGL 5 is a new primarily marine high voltage electricity link between Scotland and England, with associated onshore infrastructure.

EGL 5 would transport enough clean energy from Scotland to power up to two million homes in parts of the Midlands and the South of England. By doing so, it would play an important role in building a more secure and resilient future energy system and decarbonising the UK. EGL 5 is a key part in The Great Grid Upgrade, which will help future proof the Grid for years to come, facilitating the transition to a clean and affordable energy future.

NGET wants to ensure that members of the public and all stakeholders are engaged at each stage in the development of the proposal and that everyone who wishes to do so can provide comment at key decision-making points.

EGL 5 is in early development, and NGET intends to seek consent for the Project via an application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (Secretary of State) for a Development Consent Order (DCO). As part of the DCO sought, NGET will also seek consent for the marine elements of the Project within English waters via a deemed Marine Licence, which will form part of the DCO.

None of the elements of the Project fall into the definition of “nationally significant infrastructure project” (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. However, on 17 April 2025, NGET submitted a formal request to the Secretary of State for a direction under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 that the converter station in Lincolnshire be treated as development for which a DCO is required. A Section 35 Direction was duly granted by the Secretary of State on 14 May 2025. As an NSIP, in order to be constructed and operated, the Project requires the grant of development consent by the making of a DCO under the Planning Act 2008.

For the purposes of Section 115 of the Planning Act 2008, development consent may also be granted for associated development. At this stage of the Project, the full extent of associated development has not yet been defined but will include the onshore and offshore cables and all other works necessary to construct, maintain and operate it.

NGET is jointly developing the Scottish Onshore Scheme and Scottish Offshore Scheme with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission). SSEN Transmission is responsible for obtaining the relevant consents in Scotland and in Scottish waters.

An initial stage of non-statutory consultation (Stage 1) on the Project’s proposal was held for a period of six weeks, between 13 May and 23 June 2025. This consultation introduced the Project, explained how NGET had developed its proposal to date, and sought the views of the public and stakeholders. In particular, the consultation sought views on the proposed indicative siting and routing locations. The feedback received during the consultation has been carefully reviewed and considered. This report details the Stage 1 consultation process, provides an analysis of the feedback, and demonstrates how NGET has had regard to the feedback.

NGET is planning to hold a further stage of statutory consultation (Stage 2) for the Project in 2026. This will provide a further opportunity for the public and stakeholders to understand how the Project has evolved and considered feedback from the Stage 1 consultation, and to view and comment on the draft proposal. A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the application for development consent which will provide details of the pre-application consultation and engagement and how NGET has demonstrated regard to feedback received. The feedback from the Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultations will be considered as part of finalising the application for development consent for the Project, which NGET expects to submit in 2027.

Abbreviations

BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BPM	Best Practicable Means
CIT	Carbon Interface Tool
CPRSS	Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study Report
DCC	Design Change Control
DCO	Development Consent Order
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
EGL	Eastern Green Link
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electromagnetic Fields
ES	Environmental Statement
EEZ	English Exclusive Economic Zone
GHG	Green House Gases
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
LCS-B	Lincolnshire Connection Substation
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LWNL	Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Services

NESO	National Energy System Operator
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NM	Nautical Miles
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPS	National Policy Statement
NRA	Navigation Risk Assessment
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
OCoCP	Outline Code of Construction Practice
OCTMP	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
Ofgem	Office of gas and electricity markets
OHL	Overhead Lines
PCZ	Primary Consultation Zone
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PIA	Planning and Infrastructure Act
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PRoWMP	Public Rights of Way Management Plan
REAC	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCZ	Secondary Consultation Zone
SPA	Special Protection Area
SOR	Strategic Options Report
UKPN	UK Power Networks
WRA	Water Resource Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 Structure of this report

1.1.1 The report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter provides the Project background and information about the purpose and structure of this report.

- **Chapter 2: Methodology**

This chapter presents a summary of the Stage 1 consultation, including the various methods and communication channels used, and the approach to the analysis of feedback.

- **Chapter 3: Analysis of feedback**

This chapter presents and discusses the feedback received during the Stage 1 consultation.

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

This chapter summarises the regard had to feedback received from the Stage 1 consultation, and how relevant feedback has influenced design.

- **Chapter 5: Next Steps**

This chapter summarises the next steps in the DCO process.

1.1.2 This Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Report was prepared in line with advice set out in the Planning Inspectorate's advice page 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: Advice on the Consultation Report', published in August 2024.

1.1.3 This report is available to view online as a PDF document, which can be viewed in your web browser. To find specific issues easily, you can search for keywords, phrases, or locations by using the 'Search' function. Hard copies of this report can be provided upon request.

1.2 Background

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

1.2.2 Separate regional companies (Distribution Network Operators (DNOs)) own and operate the electricity distribution networks that comprise overhead lines and underground cables at 132,000 volts (132 kV) and below. It is the role of these local DNOs to distribute electricity to homes and businesses.

- 1.2.3 NGET is developing plans for EGL 5 and working to build a cleaner, fairer, and more affordable energy system that serves everyone, powering the future of our homes, transport, and industry. EGL 5 will support the UK's Net Zero target through the connection of new low carbon energy generation into the transmission network.
- 1.2.4 The UK Government has committed to reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050. This means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. Decarbonising the energy system is vital to achieving this Net Zero target.

1.3 The Project

- 1.3.1 NGET is developing proposals to enhance the electricity network between Scotland and England. As part of this, NGET is developing plans for EGL 5. EGL 5 is a new primarily offshore high voltage electricity link between Scotland and England, with associated onshore infrastructure.
- 1.3.2 EGL 5 would transport enough clean energy from Scotland to power up to two million homes in the Midlands and the South of England, playing an important role in building a more secure and resilient future energy system and contributing to the decarbonisation of the UK electricity system.
- 1.3.3 As for Stage 1 consultation, the key required infrastructure consists of:
- offshore high voltage direct current (HVDC) cables. In English waters, cables would be up to 415 kilometres (km) long (across English and Scottish waters the combined cable length would be up to 555 km);
 - a transition joint bay which will enable the connection of the offshore and onshore HVDC underground cables, located onshore and underground near to the proposed cable landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline;
 - underground HVDC cables running approximately up to 9 km from the proposed landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coast to a converter station in East Lindsey;
 - one converter station located either to the north-east of Bilsby or north-west of Huttoft;
 - underground high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables running approximately up to 3 km to connect the proposed converter station to the proposed Lincolnshire Connection Substation-B near Bilsby, East Lindsey that is being proposed as part of NGET's separate Grimsby to Walpole project.
- 1.3.4 This proposal forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade, that comprises major infrastructure projects that will scale up the grid and update the existing network; it is also the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.

1.4 Purpose of the Consultation

- 1.4.1 NGET undertook the Stage 1 consultation from Tuesday 13 May to Monday 23 June 2025. This was undertaken in coordination with the Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) and Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL 4) statutory consultation to reduce stakeholder fatigue, as the Project is in a similar geographic area.

- 1.4.2 This consultation aimed to introduce an early proposal and gain feedback from local communities and other stakeholders, as local knowledge plays an important part in developing the proposal. Seeking feedback as soon as there is enough detail about the Project to be shared allows communities to have an early opportunity to help influence it.
- 1.4.3 The Stage 1 consultation sought views on the proposed siting of new infrastructure, including the key onshore and offshore elements of the proposal, and what issues NGET should consider as the Project is developed. The Stage 1 consultation presented the emerging preferred corridors, which were identified as a result of initial engineering, socio-economic and environmental appraisal work. The emerging preferred corridors identify the preferred corridors for the proposed transition joint bay and underground cable route, and siting zones for the converter station.
- 1.4.4 The public was asked to consider two possible siting zones for the converter station: north-east of Bilsby (EGL 5 west) or north-west of Huttoft (EGL 5 east). Additionally, feedback was sought on two potential underground cable corridors between Anderby Creek and the proposed Lincolnshire Connection Substation-B (LCS-B substation) - Corridor 5 (north of Huttoft) and Corridor 6 (south of Huttoft) - with EGL 5's cables set to follow only one. The consultation also requested opinions on the offshore cable route, which would span up to 415 km in English waters.
- 1.4.5 NGET invited views on EGL 5 as a whole, and whether anything further should be considered beyond that already presented in the emerging design.
- 1.4.6 Consultation materials explained why additional capacity is needed on this part of the network and outlined the technical appraisal work that has been undertaken. This included information on how the two onshore potential converter sites, two potential cable routes, and the two offshore cable routes were identified. While different options were considered at this Stage 1 consultation, only one option for each element will be taken forward to Stage 2 consultation.

1.5 Purpose of this report

- 1.5.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the approach taken to deliver the Stage 1 consultation, summarise the feedback received, and demonstrate how NGET has had regard to that feedback.
- 1.5.2 This report also identifies where NGET has made changes to the Project as a result of the feedback and how the responses received have influenced those changes where relevant. It will be used to inform the preparation of a Consultation Report, which will be submitted in support of an application for development consent in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.

2. Methodology

2.1 Our approach to Public Consultation

- 2.1.1 Listening to communities provides valuable feedback and insight as the proposal is developed and generates opportunities to minimise potential impacts where possible. NGET will continue to carefully consider feedback received as EGL 5 develops.
- 2.1.2 NGET considered feedback received from Local Authorities, the English marine regulator and stakeholders for NGET's EGL 3 and EGL 4 statutory consultation in developing its plan for the Stage 1 consultation process of the Project.
- 2.1.3 The Stage 1 consultation period took place from Tuesday 13 May to Monday 23 June 2025.
- 2.1.4 NGET is aware of the UK Government's Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the changes that will apply to the DCO and statutory consultation process. However, at the time of writing this document, we have proceeded in line with the established regulations.
- 2.1.5 The Planning Act 2008 requires applicants for DCOs to undertake public consultation. For the Project, such statutory consultation is currently programmed to take place in 2026. The feedback received at the Stage 1 consultation is being considered alongside NGET's ongoing environmental assessments and technical studies to help refine the proposal for the Project that will be presented to stakeholders during the statutory consultation.
- 2.1.6 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA 2025) received Royal Assent on 18 December 2025 providing a major overhaul to the DCO consenting process, with an emphasis on accelerating the delivery of NSIPs.
- 2.1.7 One of the most significant changes is the abolition of statutory pre-application consultation for NSIPs. This removes the legal duties to consult affected parties, local authorities and prescribed consultees as well as the requirement to produce Preliminary Environmental Information Reports (PEIRs) and formal Consultation Reports.
- 2.1.8 To ensure there is effective oversight, these duties will be replaced with forthcoming government guidance on 'meaningful engagement' which is expected to be circulated in spring 2026. As a transitional safeguard, applicants are still required to notify certain public bodies of their intention to submit a DCO.
- 2.1.9 Additionally, the PIA 2025 provides additional modifications to the examination stages of the DCO with Examining Authorities now required to place greater weight on their initial assessment of principal issues, ensuring examinations focus on the most material matters from the outset.
- 2.1.10 It should be noted that the Statutory Consultation requirements continue to apply to projects that have already commenced pre-application consultation before the commencement of PIA 2025.
- 2.1.11 NGET will monitor this and any further guidance that may be revealed during the course of the application for the DCO.
- 2.1.12 An indication of the EGL 5 timelines through to operation is provided in **Figure 2-1**.

Figure 2-1 EGL 5 Timeline



- 2.1.13 The involvement of the public and other stakeholders are important components of the UK planning system. Legislation and Government guidance aims to ensure that the public, local communities, statutory bodies and other consultees, have ample opportunities to have their views considered throughout the planning process. Within the DCO process, the emphasis is on engagement prior to the submission of the DCO application, through the Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultation stages.
- 2.1.14 NGET wants to ensure that all relevant stakeholders and consultees are engaged in the development of the Project and can comment on key decision-making points. Further information on the Stage 1 consultation process is provided in **Chapter 2.2**.
- 2.1.15 More information about the requirements for the DCO planning process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website¹.
- 2.1.16 NGET aims to ensure effective, inclusive, and meaningful engagement with local communities and other consultees as reflected in its Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy². This incorporates NGET’s Schedule 9 Electricity Act 1989 Statement relating to the preservation of amenities. It makes the following commitments to consultation when undertaking electricity works:

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

- *We will seek to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may be affected by our works;*
- *We will provide opportunities for engagement from the early stages of the process, where options and alternatives are being considered and there is the greatest scope to influence the design of the works;*
- *We will endeavour to enable constructive debate to take place, creating open and two-way communication processes;*
- *We will ensure that benefits, constraints and adverse impacts of proposed works are communicated openly for meaningful stakeholder and community comment and discussion. We will be clear about any aspects of the works that cannot be altered;*

¹ <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

² <https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/566431/download>

- *We will utilise appropriate methods and effort in engaging stakeholders and communities, proportionate to the scale and impact of the works; and*
- *We will provide feedback on how views expressed have been considered and the outcomes of any engagement process or activity.'*

2.1.17 NGET's commitments also align with the 'Gunning Principles' established in case law which must be adhered to for a lawful consultation to be held. The four Gunning Principles are:

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

2.2 Stage 1 consultation

2.2.1 The information below outlines how the Stage 1 consultation was publicised, the consultation zone and the material produced.

2.3 Website, Email and Information Line

2.3.1 NGET set up a website to publish information on EGL 5 along with the Stage 1 consultation materials³. The website was accessible during the consultation period and thereafter. It also included links to additional resources in the document library, in addition to the following information:

- Public consultation pages – with details of the dates and timings of public consultation events and webinars.
- Consultation materials - further information on consultation materials is provided in **Chapter 2.5**.
- An interactive map to show more detail about the proposal. The map also included pointers to further information, images, text or signpost to a different page that expands on the subject.
- A set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- Newsletters.
- Information for landowners.
- Feedback form – that enabled consultees to submit their response to the consultation.
- Contact details.

2.3.2 During the Stage 1 consultation period, the EGL 5 website received a total of 7,620 unique page views from 3,471 individual users.

³ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-5>

2.4 Direct Mailing to the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ)

- 2.4.1 A Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) was defined in order to assist with promotion and target those residences (and addresses) in close proximity to the Project area. The PCZ included residents with property within a 1 km area of the edge of the emerging preferred corridor edges for its onshore cables and 1.5 km from its converter station siting zones, as identified in **Figure 2-2**.
- 2.4.2 Where appropriate, the PCZ was extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods. All relevant stakeholders within this area were contacted, including contacting each residential and business address directly.
- 2.4.3 Additionally, a Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) was identified which extended to 5 km from the edge of the emerging preferred corridor and siting zones. The SCZ included stakeholders who are less likely to be directly affected by the Project due to distance, but who may, for example, still be impacted by construction traffic and long-distance views.
- 2.4.4 On 13 May 2025, at the launch of the consultation, a newsletter was posted to all properties within the PCZ (a total of 3,238 addresses). The newsletter can be found on the Project website, and it included:
- An overview of EGL 5 and an explanation of what was being consulted on.
 - Details of the Project website, public consultation events, public webinars and how stakeholders could leave their feedback on the proposal.
 - Information on further consultation materials and where those could be accessed.
 - Maps showing the emerging preferred onshore cable corridors, the emerging preferred siting zones for the proposed converter station, the emerging preferred landfall area and the emerging preferred offshore cable corridors; and
 - A timeline of EGL 5.

Figure 2-2 Map of the consultation zone

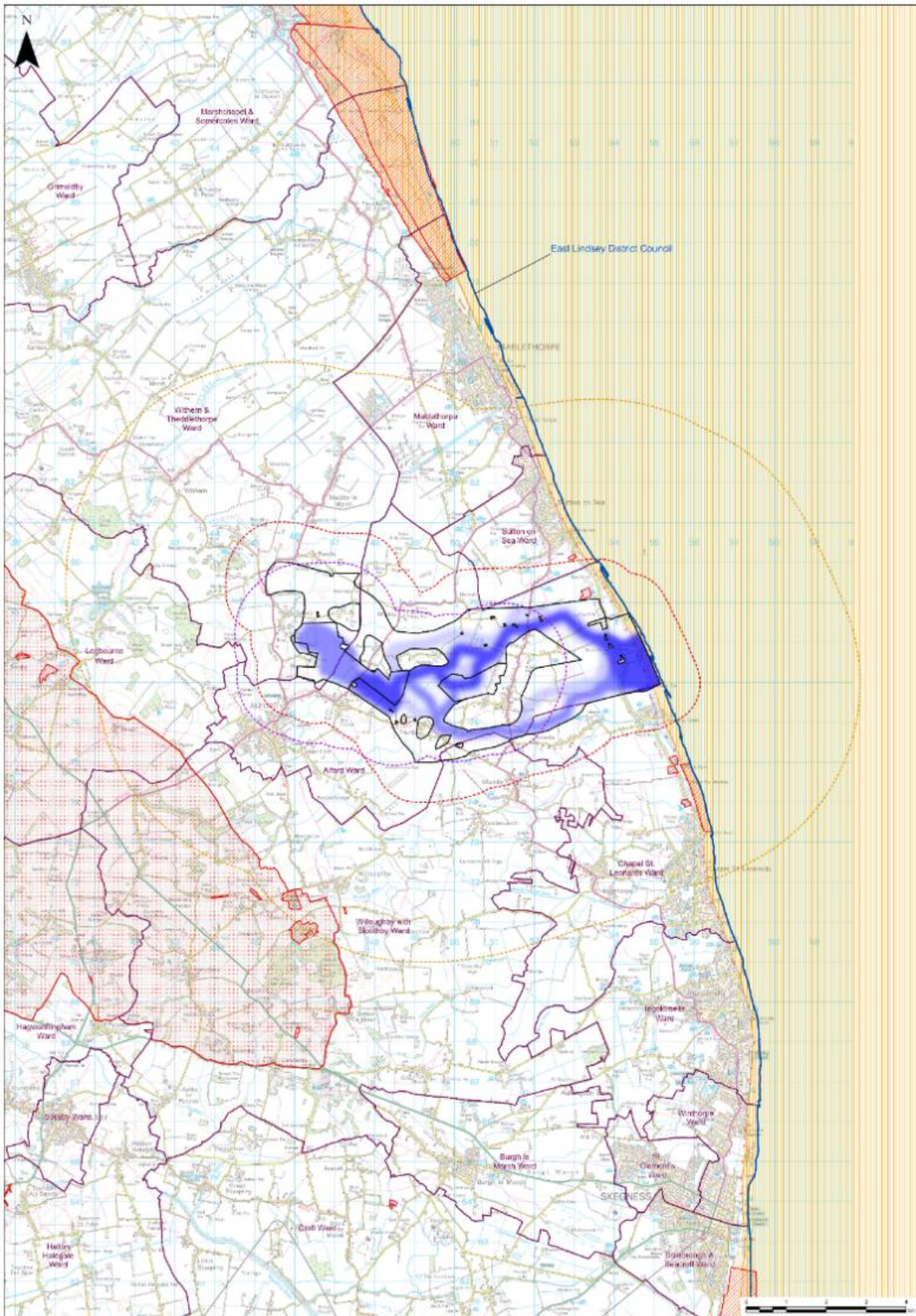
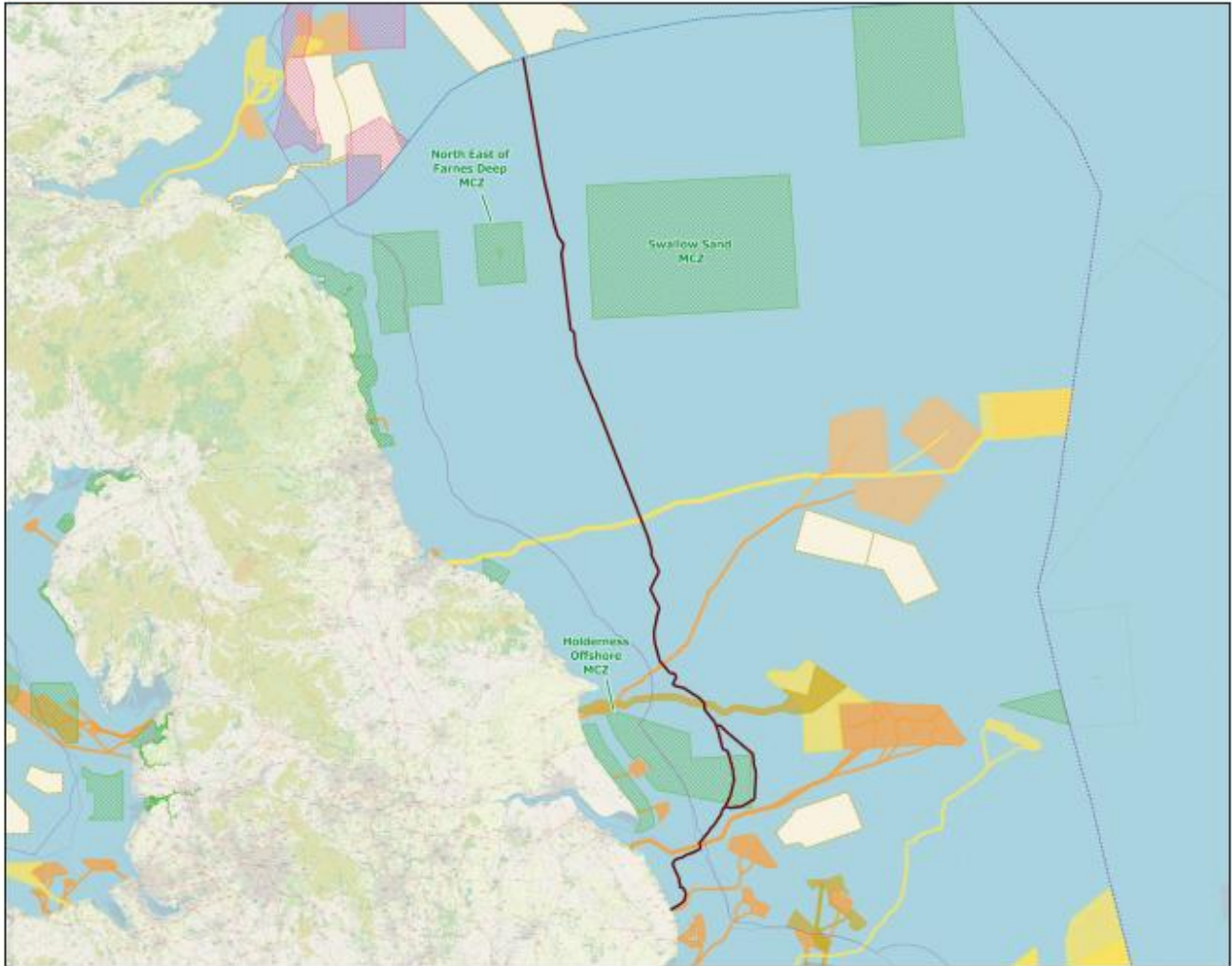


Figure 2-3 Map of the offshore boundary

Legend

- EEZ
- Scottish Adjacent Waters
- Wind Site Agreements**
- Operational
- Under construction
- 12NM Limit
- EGL 5 Proposed Cable Corridor
- Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)
- Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA)
- Pre planning
- Consented
- In planning



2.5 Consultation and promotion materials

2.5.1 A range of consultation and promotion materials were provided as part of the Stage 1 consultation which included appropriate levels of technical detail for their intended audiences. These materials are described in **Table 2-1** and can be found under the documents tab of the EGL 5 website.

Table 2-1 Stage 1 consultation and promotion materials

Material	Purpose	Location
Stage 1 consultation document	Consultation information	available on the website
Consultation event banners	Consultation information	available on the website
Stage 1 consultation feedback form	Consultation responses	available on the website and Appendix E
Newspaper / online adverts	Promoting the consultation	Appendix A
Social media adverts	Promoting the consultation	Appendix B
Mailshots / Letters	Promoting the consultation	Appendix C
Marine Notice	Consultation information	Appendix D
Consultation newsletter	Promoting the consultation	available on the website
Strategic Options Report (SOR)	Consultation information	available on the website
Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study Report (CPRSS)	Consultation information	available on the website
English marine options appraisal report	Consultation information	available on the website
Non-technical summary of the English marine options appraisal report	Consultation information	available on the website
Soils and drainage leaflet	Consultation information	available on the website
Onshore proposal maps	Consultation information	available on the website

Material	Purpose	Location
Detailed constraints map (offshore)	Consultation information	available on the website
Emerging preference map (offshore)	Consultation information	available on the website

2.6 Public Consultation Events

- 2.6.1 A programme of both in-person public consultation events and online public webinars provided stakeholders with opportunities to find out more about the proposal, to inform and provide their feedback.
- 2.6.2 The online public webinars were delivered to ensure that stakeholders received the same information as those attending the in-person events, maintaining consistency and accessibility across both formats.

2.7 In-person public consultation events

- 2.7.1 Two in-person public consultation events were held at suitable community hubs along the proposed route to provide multiple opportunities for communities to attend. The public consultation events provided attendees with the opportunity to speak to technical experts within the team and are detailed in **Table 2-2**.
- 2.7.2 In total, 217 attendees joined the NGET team at the in-person public consultation events.

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

Date and time	Venue	Attendees
22 May 2025, 2pm-7pm	Huttoft Village Hall, Sutton Rd, Alford, LN13 9RG	109
31 May 2025, 2pm-7pm	Alford Corn Exchange, 9 Market Place, Alford, LN13 9EB	108
	Total	217

2.8 Public Webinars

- 2.8.1 Public online webinars were organised so that the Project team could present information about the Project to those unable to make the in-person events and for them to be able to ask the team questions. The information provided included an overview and background to EGL 5, its context and the need for it, the proposal and how they were developed, and information about the Stage 1 consultation.
- 2.8.2 Attendees were invited to register to attend a webinar via the EGL 5 website or by calling the Project's telephone information line. They were then sent details through email of how to join the webinar via a desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

- 2.8.3 During the webinars, members of the team provided an overview of the Project and details related to the Stage 1 consultation. Following the presentation, attendees were also asked to submit their questions to NGET for the Project team to respond to during the session.
- 2.8.4 Two joint public webinars for the Project and EGL 3 and EGL 4 project, were held during the Stage 1 consultation period. Each one addressed different aspects of the projects, one focused on the offshore proposal and the other focused on the onshore proposal. For those unable to attend the live webinar sessions, a recording was made available on the Project website for playback at viewers' leisure.
- 2.8.5 During these webinars, each project was clearly distinguished to avoid confusion. Consultees were provided with detailed information, enabling them to identify key elements of each project. Additionally, separate feedback forms were collected for each project, ensuring that responses were accurately attributed and project-specific input was gathered effectively.
- 2.8.6 A total of 12 individuals attended these webinars. The attendance at each is set out below in **Table 2-3**.

Table 2-3 Schedule of online public webinars

Webinar	Date and time	Locations covered	Attendees
Public webinar 1: Offshore Proposals	Friday 23 May at 12 pm	All offshore aspects of the project up to Anderby Creek landfall	9
Public webinar 2: Onshore Proposals	Thursday 5 June 2025 at 7 pm	All onshore aspects of the project from Anderby Creek landfall	3
Total			12

2.9 Information Point Locations

- 2.9.1 In addition to information being made available via the EGL 5 website and in hard copy upon request, paper copies of consultation documents were made available at two locations within the consultation zone throughout the Stage 1 consultation. Stock levels were regularly checked and supplies replenished as needed during the consultation period. Additional support was offered to supply consultation materials in alternative languages or formats, such as large print or braille, upon request.
- 2.9.2 Consultation materials made available at the information point locations consisted of paper copies of the Stage 1 consultation document, the consultation newsletter and feedback forms. Reference only copies of the CPRSS, SOR and Marine Options Appraisal Report were also made available to view, but not to remove.
- 2.9.3 The information deposit locations were:
- Alford Library and Focal Point, 6 Market Place, Alford, LN13 9AF
 - Skegness Library, 23 Roman Bank, Skegness, PE25 2SA

2.10 Promotional Activity – Press and Social Media

- 2.10.1 NGET identified and promoted consultation within the SCZ, illustrated above in **Figure 2-2**. This zone targeted stakeholders who, due to their distance from the emerging preferred corridor and siting zone, are less likely to be directly affected. However, as these stakeholders could still be affected by wider effects, such as construction traffic or changes to long-distance views NGET was keen to encourage their involvement in the consultation process.
- 2.10.2 All members of the public, including those within the SCZ, could register to receive all consultation information and engage as they wished. NGET raised awareness of the Project and the Stage 1 consultation with stakeholders within the SCZ through the broad dissemination of information. This included:
- Placing advertisements in local newspapers, regional newspapers and online publications providing information about the Stage 1 consultation and how to get involved. See **Table 2-4** and **Table 2-5** for the schedules of adverts and **Appendix A** for copies of the adverts;
 - Providing consultation documents at information point locations around the Project area for public viewing;
 - Placing advertisements on social media to target different demographics and to include those who might not otherwise traditionally engage with consultation activities. See **Table 2-6** for information about the social media campaigns;
 - Publishing full details of the Stage 1 consultation and public consultation events on the EGL 5 website; and
 - Providing contact details for queries and how to request paper copies of the consultation materials.

Table 2-4 Newspaper adverts schedule

Publication	Date(s)
Fishing News	Thursday 22 May 2025
Lincolnshire Free Press	Tuesday 13 May and Tuesday 20 May 2025
Lincolnshire Echo	Thursday 15 May and Thursday 22 May 2025
Boston Standard	Wednesday 14 May and Wednesday 21 May 2025
Horncastle News	Wednesday 14 May and Wednesday 21 May 2025
Louth Leader	Wednesday 14 May and Wednesday 21 May 2025
Skegness Standard	Wednesday 14 May and Wednesday 21 May 2025
Sleaford Standard	Wednesday 14 May and Wednesday 21 May 2025
Market Rasen Mail	Wednesday 14 May and Wednesday 21 May 2025

2.10.3 Digital promotion of the Stage 1 consultation was conducted through digital marketing campaigns hosted by online news providers. Online adverts were placed in Lincolnshire World, InYourArea (GeoFlex), InYourArea (digital display) and Lincolnshire Online. Details of these adverts can be seen below in **Table 2-5**.

Table 2-5 Online adverts schedule

Publication	Date(s)
Lincolnshire World – 100,000 impressions	Tuesday 13 May 2025
InYourArea (GeoFlex) – 38,000 impressions	Tuesday 13 May 2025
InYourArea (digital display) – 150,000 impressions	Tuesday 13 May 2025
Lincolnshire Online - 60,000 impressions	Tuesday 13 May 2025

2.10.4 The social media campaign included three separate advertisements on Facebook. These ran from 12pm noon on Tuesday 13 May until 11:59pm on Monday 23 June 2025. The advertisements targeted postcode districts within the PCZ and SCZ. Each advertisement directed users to visit the Project website and engage with the Stage 1 consultation. The traffic generated from this campaign is set out in **Table 2-6**.

2.10.5 Copies of the social media adverts can be found in **Appendix B**.

Table 2-6 Traffic generated from social media campaigns

Platform	Campaign dates	Total impressions	Advert clicks
Facebook	Tuesday 13 May to Monday 23 June 2025	424916	4151

2.10.6 NGET undertook several engagement activities leading up to and throughout the Stage 1 consultation period.

2.10.7 All parish councils within 5 km of the emerging preferred route and siting areas were contacted by the Project team. Briefings were offered to two county councils, one parish council, and two Members of Parliament. Briefings provided an overview and background to the Project; context and need; the proposal and how it was developed; and information about the Stage 1 consultation. There were also question and answer sessions at the end of each briefing. These sessions are listed in **Table 2-7**.

Table 2-7 Briefings held

Meeting	Date and time	Method
Victoria Atkins MP	Tuesday 15 July 2025	In-person Meeting
Richard Tice MP	Friday 25 July 2025	In-person Meeting
Bilsby & Farlesthorpe Parish council	Monday 19 May 2025 at 6pm	Virtual
East Lindsey District Council	Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 7pm	Virtual
Lincolnshire County Council	Friday 6 June 2025 at 10am	Virtual

2.11 ‘Team call-back’ sessions

2.11.1 ‘Team call-back’ sessions – a phone call with a member of the Project team - were also offered to consultees. These could be requested by contacting the Project team. The team received one request for a ‘Team call-back’ session at the Alford event on 31 May 2025, but despite two follow-up calls by NGET, they were unable to reach the individual.

2.12 Ways to respond

Consultees could respond to the Stage 1 consultation via the following channels:

- Feedback form (online and paper versions were available);
- In writing via the Project email address: contactegl5@nationalgrid.com;
- In writing via post, by sending a response directly to the Project’ postal address: Freepost EGL 5;
- Or by requesting a ‘team call-back’ to share feedback on a telephone call.

2.13 Responses

2.13.1 A total of 355 responses were received during the Stage 1 consultation period from local communities, stakeholders, and other consultees. These are comprised of hard-copy and online feedback forms and free text emails as detailed below in **Table 2-8**.

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

2.13.3 Some stakeholders requested extensions, all of which were agreed. All feedback submitted from these stakeholders has been considered in this report.

2.13.4 A total of 20 responses were received from key stakeholders, including two Parish Councils, one County Council, one District Council and one Member of Parliament.

Table 2-8 Breakdown of responses received

Response Method	Number of Responses*
Feedback form (hard-copy)	15
Feedback form (online)	64
Free text response (email)	272
Free text response (email) outside consultation period	4
Total	355

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

3. Analysis of Feedback

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This chapter details the responses received to the Stage 1 consultation. It also presents the quantitative data obtained from the closed questions in the feedback form and outlines the analytical methodology undertaken to process the free text data collected in the open questions in the feedback form and the freeform responses collected via email. A summary of the feedback is also provided.

3.2 Feedback Form

3.2.1 The feedback form consisted of 11 questions in total. There were a mix of open and closed questions: five focused on aspects of the Project, one asked for any other considerations, and five collected personal and category-related information from consultees. The feedback form is provided in **Appendix E**.

3.2.2 The questionnaire consisted of:

- Q1. Do you have any comments on the proposed cable landfall at Anderby Creek?
- Q2. Do you have any comments on our emerging preferred corridors?
- Q3. Do you have any comments on the proposed EGL 5 west converter station siting zone?
- Q4. Do you have any comments on the proposed EGL 5 east converter station siting zone?
- Q5. Do you have any comments on our proposed offshore cable corridor within English waters?
- Q6. Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we develop our proposal?
- Q7. How would you describe your interest in EGL 5?
- Q.8. What is your gender?
- Q9. Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?
- Q10. How would you describe your ethnic background?
- Q11. What is your age?

3.2.3 A hard copy of the feedback form was provided upon request at the in-person events, while an online version was accessible through the EGL 5 website⁴.

⁴ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-5>

3.3 Approach to Analysis

- 3.3.1 The responses to open questions were analysed and the outcome of this analysis is set out in **Chapter 3.5**. To analyse the responses received to the open questions, a coding framework was used, based on the structure of the Stage 1 consultation response form. This enabled the grouping of responses into themes which was considered a reasonable and proportionate approach given the volume of feedback received. This approach was considered preferable to setting out each individual item of feedback in this report which would lead to duplication.
- 3.3.2 A response to an open text question could receive multiple codes to highlight different themes covered. Responses were also accepted through email, and these were recorded and analysed in the same way as the open question responses to the feedback forms.
- 3.3.3 A classification tree was created to code all responses to open questions and free text responses – these included emails, and the free text sections on the response form. Classification categories were created based on issues raised at events and briefings. In addition, new classifications were added on an ad-hoc basis as feedback was received, allowing for further breakdown of themes.
- 3.3.4 Some categories (such as ‘Environmental’) were also split so that comments could be coded as being specific to a certain area of the Project. The thematic analysis group’s common themes, statements and feedback for specific locations to enable a structured and organised report which is user-friendly. Throughout this process, the detail of comments is not lost in any way, with new code summaries added with each new piece of feedback. All responses, regardless of their origin, were analysed by the Project team and assigned with codes based upon the content of the response(s) provided.
- 3.3.5 Each response was assigned a unique reference number to create an audit trail throughout the analysis process. Quality assurance checks were undertaken to ensure that each response was accounted for and analysed, and that the coding undertaken accurately reflected the feedback within the comment.
- 3.3.6 NGET has considered every issue raised and has had regard to all feedback, although it has not been able to accede to every suggestion or request. NGET’s response to feedback at this stage is preliminary and based on the Government’s specific nationally applicable guidance to electricity infrastructure companies. NGET will backcheck decisions at each future stage as the Project proceeds and in conjunction with feedback received from future consultations.
- 3.3.7 The responses to the closed questions were analysed and the outcome of this analysis is set out in **Chapter 3.4**. The percentages on the graphs in **Chapter 3.4** have been rounded to the nearest whole percent, meaning the totals do not always add up to 100%.

3.4 Responses to Closed Questions

- 3.4.1 This section presents feedback gathered through the closed questions on the feedback form (questions 7 to 11 within the section ‘About you’) during the Stage 1 consultation period.

3.4.2 Due to the relatively small sample size of 42 completed feedback forms, presenting data as percentages can be misleading and statistically unreliable. Small sample sizes tend to have a higher margin of error and lower statistical power, which means that even minor variations can disproportionately affect percentage figures. To ensure clarity and avoid misrepresentation, the data has been presented in absolute numbers rather than percentages. This approach provides a more transparent view of the responses and avoids implying a level of precision or representativeness that the sample size cannot support.

Q7. How would you describe your interest in EGL 5?

3.4.3 Question 1 provided options for the respondent to answer this question:

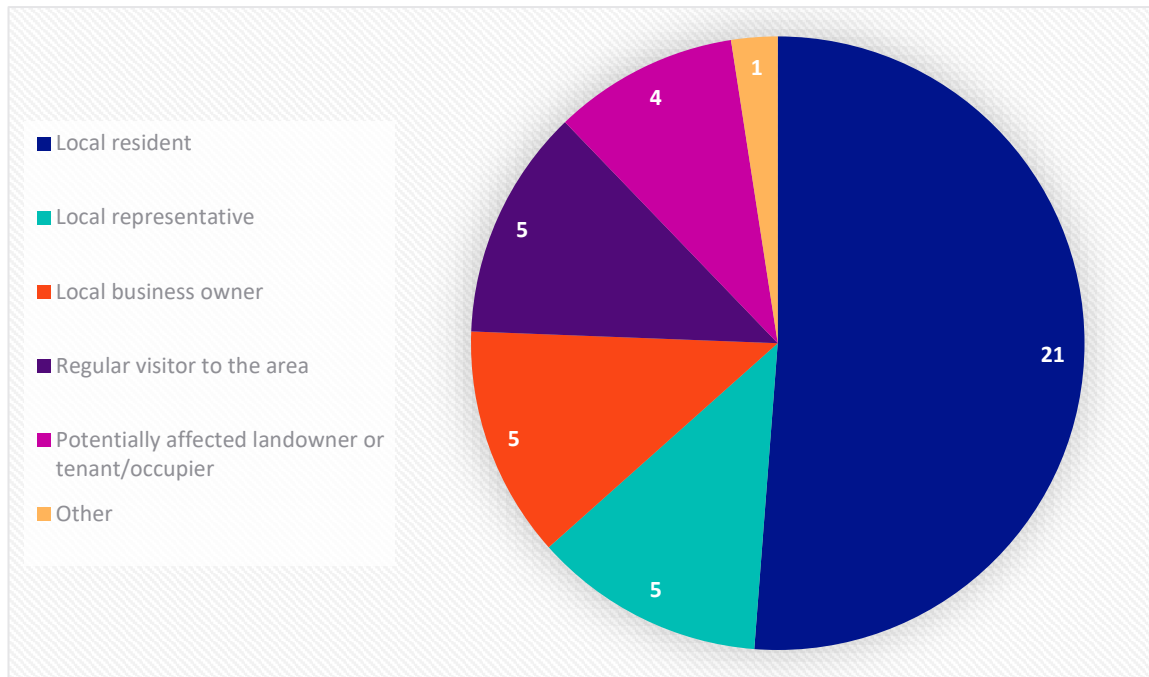
- Local resident.
- Local representative (i.e., Councillor, MP).
- Potentially affected landowner or tenant / occupier.
- Local business owner.
- Regular visitor to the area.
- Local interest group member.
- Statutory organisation.

3.4.4 A total of 41 respondents answered this question.

3.4.5 21 respondents selected 'Local resident', followed by five respondents who selected 'Local representative', five respondents who selected 'Local business owner', and a further five respondents who selected 'Regular visitor to the area'. Four respondents selected 'Potentially affected landowner or tenant / occupier' and only one respondent answered 'Other'. None of the other response options were selected.

3.4.6 The responses are presented within **Figure 3-1**.

Figure 3-1 Q7. How would you describe your interest in EGL 5?



Q8. What is your gender?

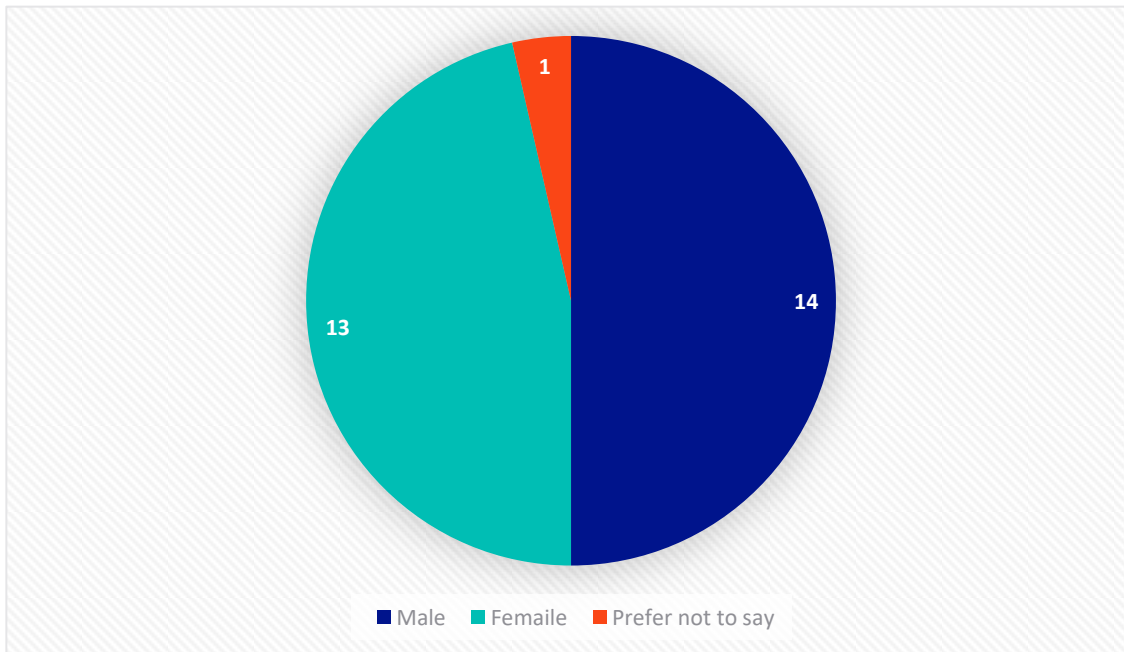
3.4.7 Question 8 provided options for the respondent to answer this question. The options were:

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

3.4.8 A total of 28 respondents answered this question, of these 14 indicated that they are male, 13 selected female and one respondent selected prefer not to say.

3.4.9 The responses are presented within **Figure 3-2**.

Figure 3-2 Q8. What is your gender?



Q9. Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?

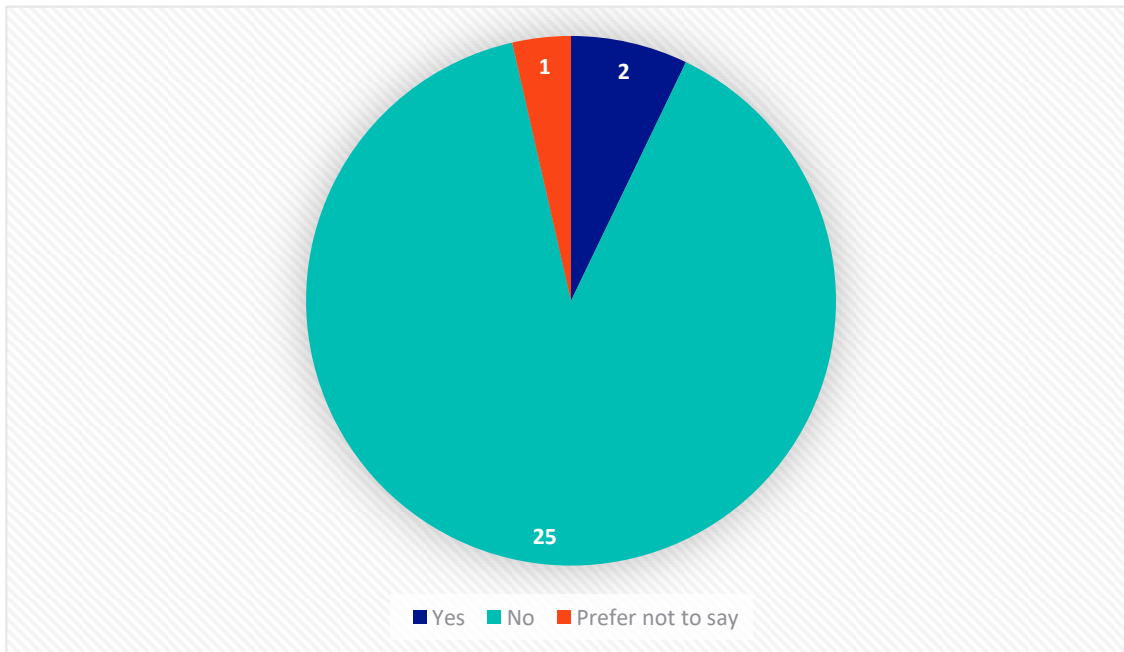
3.4.10 Question 9 provided options for the respondent to answer this question:

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

3.4.11 In total there were 28 responses submitted to this question.

3.4.12 Most respondents (25) answered 'No', while 2 selected 'Yes'. Only one respondent selected 'Prefer not to say'. The responses are presented within **Figure 3-3**.

Figure 3-3 Q9. Do you consider yourself to be a person with disability?



Question 10. How would you describe your ethnic background?

3.4.13 Question 10 provided options for the respondent to answer this question:

- White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background (please state below)
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic
- Asian / Asian British
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- Black African
- Black Caribbean
- Black British
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

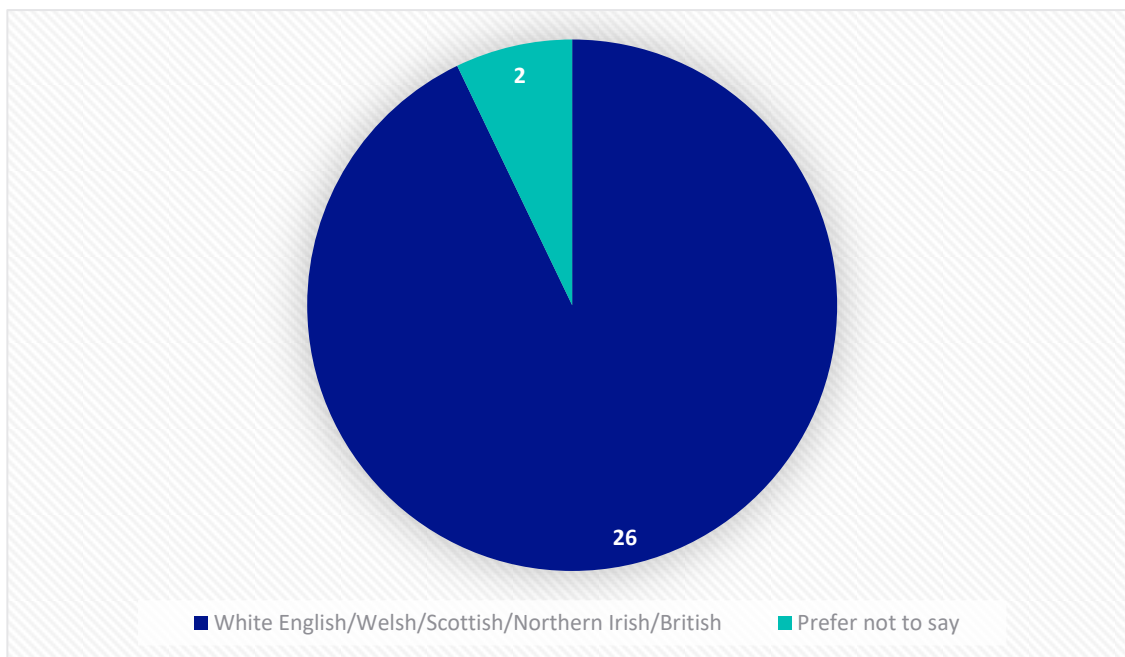
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

3.4.14 A total of 28 respondents answered this question.

3.4.15 The majority of respondents (26) identified as ‘White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British’, while a few respondents 2 chose ‘Prefer not to say’. None of the other response options were selected.

3.4.16 The responses are presented within **Figure 3-4**.

Figure 3-4 Q10. How would you describe your ethnic background?



Question 11. What is your age?

3.4.17 Question 11 provided options for the respondent to answer this question.

3.4.18 In total there were 28 responses submitted to this question, set out in **Table 3-1** below.

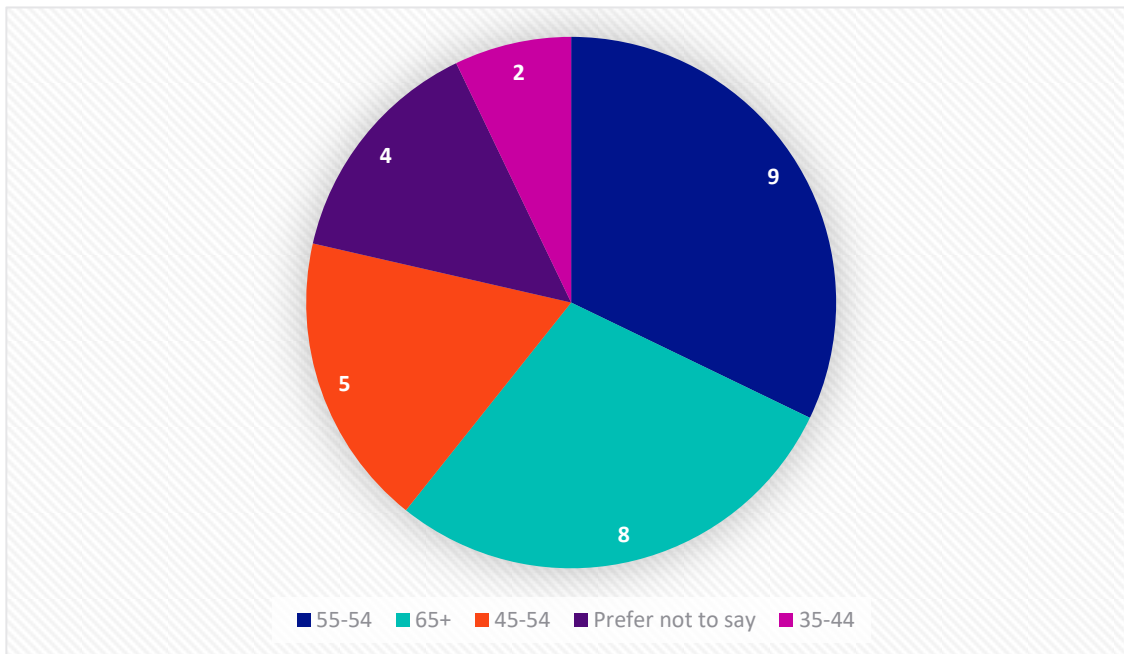
Table 3-1 Responses submitted to Question 11

Age	Number of respondents
Under 16	0
16-24	0
25-34	0
35-44	2
45-54	5

Age	Number of respondents
55-64	9
65+	8
Prefer not to say	4

3.4.19 The responses are presented within **Figure 3-5**.

Figure 3-5 Q.11 What is your age?



3.5 Responses to Open Questions

- 3.5.1 This section outlines the open questions that were asked as part of the feedback form (questions 1 to 6). For an overview of feedback received in relation to the open questions, please refer to **Table 3-2** below.
- 3.5.2 Although some feedback was received after the close of the Stage 1 consultation, NGET continues to review and consider these as and when they are received. A summary of feedback received between the Stage 1 consultation and the start of the next consultation (2026) will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 3.5.3 Open questions consisted of:
- **Q1: Do you have any comments on the proposed cable landfall at Anderby Creek?** If your feedback relates to a specific location, or any features we should look to avoid, please reference this here.
 - **Q2. Do you have any comments on our emerging preferred corridors?** If your feedback relates to a specific location, or any features we should look to avoid, please reference this here.

- **Q3. Do you have any comments on the proposed EGL 5 west converter station siting zone?** If your feedback relates to a specific location, or any features we should look to avoid, please reference this here.
- **Q4. Do you have any comments on the proposed EGL 5 east converter station siting zone?** If your feedback relates to a specific location, or any features we should look to avoid, please reference this here.
- **Q5. Do you have any comments on our proposed offshore cable corridor within English waters?** If your feedback relates to a specific location, or any features we should look to avoid, please reference this here.
- **Q6. Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we develop our proposal?** Please provide details below.

Summary of Feedback Received

3.5.4 **Table 3-2** below summarises responses from stakeholders to open questions in the feedback form, as well as written responses received via email and freepost from the Stage 1 consultation. For clarity and for the benefit of the reader, this is presented alongside the National Grid responses, which make clear how matters raised have been considered.

Table 3-2 Summary of feedback received

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
General	
Comments were received expressing support for the Project. Justifications for their support included acknowledging the need for infrastructure project of this nature to help the United Kingdom achieve its goal of Net Zero.	NGET acknowledges the comments and welcomes support for the Project.
Some consultees opposed the Project. Reasons cited included impact on individuals, communities, and the landscape of the surrounding area.	NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on individuals, local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. Proximity to residential areas was considered as a factor through the early routeing and siting work for the Project. Through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, NGET will reduce or mitigate impacts on the landscape of the surrounding area, as required. Potential effects on individuals, communities and the landscape will be preliminarily assessed at the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) stage within their respective chapters, which will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation, further feedback will then be taken into account as the Project approaches submission of its application.

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
<p>Concerns around the cumulative impact of the scheme with other projects in the surrounding area were raised by respondents. It was mentioned that there is an increasing presence of industrial infrastructure in Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects with other local projects will be assessed within the Cumulative Effects Assessment Chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Respondents suggested and queried mitigation measures. This included queries relating to mitigation of heat dissipation on the scheme.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures will be considered within the PEIR, which will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation. Thermal impacts on groundwater will be assessed as part of the EIA and will be based on a desk study and conceptual model approach, in consultation with the Environment Agency.</p>
<p>Active Travel</p>	
<p>Concerns about the potential impact of the Project on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) such as footpaths and cycle paths.</p>	<p>An Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (OPRoWMP) will be produced, for the DCO submission, to set out proposed management and mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the Project on PRoW and PRoW users.</p>
<p>Community</p>	
<p>Comments about impact on community: concerns about impact of the Project on children / families / residents / communities and general life.</p>	<p>NGET recognises people may have concerns about the potential impacts of living close to electricity infrastructure. We have sought to reduce potential effects on communities, residents - including children - through careful routeing and design. We have also sought to reduce concern or uncertainty about the proposals by making timely design decisions and engaging with people and stakeholders throughout the development of the Project. This engagement and consultation will continue as the Project progresses.</p>
	<p>NGET has a duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to have regard to the desirability of (amongst other things) preserving natural beauty, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate the associated effects of new infrastructure. Through routeing and siting we have sought to avoid, as far as practicable, locations important for education, health, leisure and tourism. We will also continue to consider appropriate control measures for construction-related traffic movements during the construction phase to minimise impacts for residents and tourism and leisure facilities. Where impacts on communities or leisure and tourism are identified, these will be presented within the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment chapter of the PEIR, which will be published at the Stage 2 consultation.</p>

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
<p>Concerns raised related to Emergency Services noting that local area has limited emergency services in the case of an emergency / disaster with the new infrastructure.</p>	<p>An Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP) and an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. These documents will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design stage in order to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase. The plan would also identify access for emergency vehicles to minimise any disruption. Any diversions or road closures due to the Project work will be communicated to the emergency services in an appropriate way. The OCoCP will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation but the OCTMP will only be published for submission with the DCO application. During operation of the Project, safety protocols will be followed and the new infrastructure will undergo routine inspection and periodic maintenance and repair to ensure the cables and converter station are working efficiently and safely. Local Emergency Services should not be compromised by the construction works or operation of the Project.</p>
<p>Comments related to the Project not bringing direct local benefits to the community, or that the Project only benefit those living elsewhere (e.g., England / the south etc) as the Project is transmitting energy elsewhere.</p>	<p>NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on individuals, local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. The Great Grid Upgrade is designed to deliver resilience within the grid across the UK and ensure that energy is available wherever it is required.</p> <p>NGET is also considering Community Benefit approaches (in line with obligations) to determine how to maximise benefits to the communities where infrastructure is being delivered. This is part of a wider engagement and funding exercise being led by NGET.</p>
<p>Concern that the Project will have a negative impact on domestic horses / equestrian activities.</p>	<p>Bridleways and equestrian users are considered as part of the assessment of Non-Motorised Users and access to PRow and other designated routes. Any specific mitigation measures or concerns raised by respondents will be considered within the Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Chapter of the PEIR, as well as stakeholder comments received, including comments from the British Horse Society. The PEIR will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Rural community chosen for ease and comments pointing that the Project has been located in rural areas to limit objections, because it</p>	<p>The need to upgrade the transmission system is established by the National Energy System Operator (NESO). Once the need for a recommended upgrade has been identified, such as on the east coast of England, NGET then identifies, investigates and evaluates the potential options for addressing this need. This is a</p>

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

is a quiet rural area or because it is the easiest option.

complex issue, and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. Key considerations for the potential location of the Project included, environmental and socio-economic constraints and other engineering-based considerations. The appraisal process for these decisions regarding routeing and siting are detailed in the Eastern Green Link 5 SOR, Marine Options Appraisal Report and CPRSS that were provided as part of the Stage 1 consultation. An updated SOR will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.

Concern about over-development of the area or comments stating that Project will contribute to cumulative impact and disruption.

Developers, such as NGET, assess likely cumulative environmental effects through established EIA requirements. NGET takes account of the best available information about other proposed developments in the area when carrying out that assessment and presents those findings in the environmental statements.

When DCO applications are submitted, everyone can comment on the detail of the proposals, including the findings of the cumulative impact assessment. The Examining Authority then scrutinises the information provided and considers representations regarding it. It is for the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State to weigh these considerations when making recommendations and decisions about individual project proposals.

Several of the proposed energy projects in the region involve buried underground cables with temporary construction impacts. These projects are vital to delivering the home-grown, secure, and affordable energy supplies needed by the region and the country, in line with government goals set out in Clean Power 2030 and the analysis of the NESO.

NGET is working closely with other developers and customers seeking to connect to the electricity transmission network to explore opportunities to reduce and minimise potential impacts between projects. The EIA produced by NGET will include a cumulative impact assessment of its proposals alongside others. NGET will also seek to work closely with key stakeholders such as local councils, who will play a significant role in how these developments progress.

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Concern about the impact of the Project on leisure activities, markets and providers.	<p>NGET therefore believes that the existing provisions relating to cumulative impact assessment are sufficient to address the concerns raised.</p> <p>Consideration will be given within Chapter 15 of the PEIR to impacts on tourist facilities and visitors, including market attractions. Appropriate mitigation measures will also be considered where relevant, in order to minimise the potential effects on visitors and vendors.</p> <p>The PEIR will present the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken for the Project, with respect to Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism effects. This will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
Construction Phase	
Respondents raised concerns over air quality during the construction phase and requested mitigation of heat dissipation on the scheme.	<p>An air quality assessment including a construction dust assessment is being undertaken as part of the EIA for the Project which will identify and assess the likely impacts on air quality during the construction phase. Appropriate mitigation measures will be identified where required to reduce the potential effects. The preliminary air quality assessment will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p> <p>A report outlining preliminary heat calculations carried out on the HVDC subsea cables will be presented at Stage 2 consultation and will be followed by geotechnical investigation to determine ground thermal resistance properties. Heat emissions from onshore cables are considered within Chapter 10 of the PEIR and will be assessed within the ES.</p>
Concerns were raised about general disruption as a result of the associated construction phase of the Project. Concerns raised included the impact construction would have on the rural surrounding area, general disruption to journeys, and the impact of construction vehicles on local infrastructure.	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) will be produced as part of the DCO application. This document will set out proposed mitigation measures during the construction phase that will help to reduce and avoid impacts on residents. A OCTMP will be produced to address construction impacts on local transport infrastructure. A draft version of the OCEMP has been produced for the PEIR and will be released at the Stage 2 consultation.
Consultees shared concerns about the impact of lighting, noting that the impact of lighting would be constant during the construction phase.	<p>NGET notes the concern and will work hard to reduce disruption as far as practicable by implementing standard measures and processes, such as an OCoCP.</p> <p>Construction works are likely to take place largely within daytime; however, winter months may require some lighting in the morning and afternoon, and there may be exceptions for certain activities, which are outlined within the PEIR. Construction lighting will be directional and</p>

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Comments received considered that local infrastructure and roads were unsuitable for construction vehicles and machinery.	<p>minimised where possible. The measures to reduce and control possible disruption would be presented within the OCTMP and the OCoCP for the Project. The OCoCP will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation and the OCTMP will be published for submission with the DCO application.</p>
Requests were made for mitigation against construction impacts including construction management that protects residents.	<p>An OCoCP and an OCTMP will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. These documents will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design stage in order to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase. Any diversions or road closures due to the Project will be communicated to the emergency services in an appropriate way. The OCoCP will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation but the OCTMP will only be published for submission with the DCO application.</p>
Consultees raised concerns about noise from construction activities. These included comments highlighting the associated noise impact on residents and animals.	<p>An OCEMP will be produced. This document will set out proposed mitigation measures during the construction phase that will help to reduce and avoid impacts on residents and will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
	<p>Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. Construction Noise and vibration will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form part of the EIA for the Project. Construction noise and vibration levels and the effect on residential properties as well as other sensitive areas, such as hospitals and schools, are carefully considered during planning, assessed according to the appropriate UK standards and mitigated where necessary within the scope of the ES.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the DCO application, an OCoCP and OCTMP will be submitted which will outline the good practice and standard control measures to reduce and mitigate potential noise and vibration impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase. Many of the control measures will be based on the results of the construction noise assessment supporting the ES Noise Chapter and will include Best Practicable Means (BPM) mitigation specific to construction activities. The PEIR will present the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken for the Project, with respect to Noise and Vibration. This will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
<p>Respondents shared concerns about the impact of traffic levels in the local area caused by construction works. This included suggestions for access roads to be constructed, concerns that current infrastructure cannot cope with an increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles, impact on congestion and the subsequent impact on tourism, especially for those towing caravans.</p>	<p>The OCoCP will also be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>NGET acknowledges the comments and welcomes support for engagement that has taken place on the Project, including the consultation materials and consultation team. NGET will continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders as we approach the submission of the application, through the Stage 2 consultation and into the examination.</p>
<p>Criticism that consultation won't make a difference (e.g., we won't be listened to). Negative comments about the consultation material and documents. Criticism that consultation was not accessible to those without IT access / internet access / IT capability.</p>	<p>Consultation is an important part of the development of the Project, and all comments and feedback are welcomed and noted. NGET is progressing with the proposals in line with the duties and all relevant policies. NGET will continue to review and consider feedback and make changes where appropriate. Consultation feedback, NGET's response and the way in which such feedback impacts the design of the Project will be reported in the Consultation Report which will accompany the DCO Application. Chapter 4 of this report details changes made as a result of the non-statutory Stage 1 consultation that was undertaken by NGET.</p> <p>NGET made best efforts to ensure that people without IT and internet access could engage with the Stage 1 consultation and will endeavour to do the same / similar for the upcoming Stage 2 consultation. These included issuing a hard copy newsletter to properties in our Primary Consultation Zone, holding two in-person consultation events with hard copy consultation material free to be taken away and consultation material placed at two public local information points, offering 'team call-back' sessions via telephone and operating a freepost address and freephone number to allow contact with the team.</p>

Summary of matters raised

Summary of NGET's response to matter raised

Comments that the consultation was not genuine as it is considered an 'tick box' exercise or that lack of options were presented.

Consultation is an important part of the development of the Project, and all comments and feedback are welcomed and noted. A feedback form was provided as part of the Stage 1 consultation to collect consultation responses. **Chapter 4** of this report details changes made as a result of consultation feedback. The SOR was presented at the Stage 1 consultation, which explained the strategic options considered and the strategic option proposed to deliver the necessary network upgrade in England. An updated SOR will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.

Suggestions that there is need for further consultation (generally) or with landowners. Suggestions that detailed information is needed about the Project location or that the consultation materials are missing relevant information.

NGET is and will continue to work with all landowners, including farmers, who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the Project develops.

NGET provided a proportional level of information at Stage 1 to allow for informed consultation. Further details are provided at Stage 2.

Additional details will continue to be developed and provided as part of the DCO application.

Suggestions to ensure that owners of caravans at Anderby Creek holiday site are informed of the plans.

As a business in the Primary Consultation Zone, the owners / operators of caravan holiday sites at Anderby Creek should have received notification of the consultation via our Project consultation newsletter. This would have allowed them to inform their clients of the consultation.

NGET notes the respondents' feedback and for our Stage 2 consultation, best efforts will be made to contact the owners of the holiday parks directly to request that they pass on information on the consultation to their clients.

Owners of caravans can also sign up for updates on our website to receive latest project news, including advance notice of public consultation.

Design Change

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

Deciding where and how to build new high voltage electricity circuits is a complex issue and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. Proximity to residential areas was considered as a factor through the early routing and siting work for the Project. NGET also implements a Design Change Control (DCC) process through which requests made to amend the Project design were considered in response to feedback made at the Stage 1 consultation. As part of this process NGET has sought to

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

avoid environmental impacts and impacts on the community where possible.

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

NGET has considered multiple locations for a potential landfall location for the Project. As part of the SOR consideration was given to strategic Project options which made landfall on either the Lincolnshire coastline (between south of Cleethorpes and north of Chapel St Leonards) or the North Norfolk coastline (between Blakeney Point and Cromer). Prior to this, an appraisal had been carried out for the EGL 3 and EGL 4 Projects in 2024 for potential Landfalls on the Lincolnshire and North Norfolk coastlines. This information was used as a starting point for EGL 5 Landfall identification and appraisal, and was reviewed, updated accordingly for the EGL 5 Need Case and assumed parameters, and updated with any new data. A further desktop preliminary landfall assessment was undertaken in 2022 to appraise 90 km of Lincolnshire coastline, in which two preferred Landfall Study Areas for Lincolnshire were identified (Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek). Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to utilise a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek.

The OCoCP will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation along with the PEIR.

Suggestion to combine infrastructure on National Grid projects.

In developing The Great Grid Upgrade, NGET considered how these upgrades can be delivered cohesively, while ensuring maximum benefit for consumers, local communities and the environment. In the region, this has included:

Sharing landfall locations: co-ordinating the onshore landfall of EGL 3, EGL 4 and the Project at Anderby Creek.

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

- Sharing cable corridor routes: co-ordinating the EGL 3 and EGL 4 onshore cable routes, reducing potential community and environmental impacts.
- Managing construction impacts: coordinating construction machinery and staff to minimise cumulative impacts of construction.
- Minimising what it is built: connecting EGL 3 and EGL 4 to the existing network near Walpole, removing the need for around 90 km of additional overhead line.

This cohesion is however constrained by the individual project needs case and the timeline each project is running to, given each project is its own standalone NSIP.

Opposition to the proposed East Converter Station with reasons given including being too close to residents, Radcliffe Donkey Sanctuary, and negative impact on the rural environment.

Deciding where and how to build new high voltage electricity circuits is a complex issue and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. Proximity to residential areas was considered as a factor through the early routing and siting work for the Project. NGET also implements a DCC process through which requests made to amend the Project design were considered in response to feedback made at the Stage 1 consultation. As part of this process, NGET has sought to avoid environmental impacts and impacts on the community where possible.

NGET, through the EIA process, will reduce or mitigate impacts through other types of measures including the sensitive design of watercourse crossings, such as (where applicable) use of trenchless crossing methods, and culverts to allow species, for example water vole, to pass through safely. In addition, an OCoCP will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. This OCoCP will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at detailed design stage to reduce and mitigate potential impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase. The OCoCP will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.

NGET has considered multiple locations for a potential landfall location for the Project. As part of the SOR, consideration was given to strategic Project options which made landfall on either the Lincolnshire coastline (between south of Cleethorpes and north of Chapel St Leonards) or the North Norfolk coastline (between Blakeney Point and Cromer). Prior to this, an appraisal had been carried out for the EGL 3 and EGL 4 Projects in 2024 for potential Landfalls on the Lincolnshire and North

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

Norfolk coastlines. This information was used as a starting point for EGL 5 Landfall identification and appraisal, and was reviewed, updated accordingly for the EGL 5 Need Case and assumed parameters, and updated with any new data. A further desktop preliminary landfall assessment was undertaken in 2022 to appraise 90 km of Lincolnshire coastline, from the Humber Estuary in the north, to the north side of the Wash in the south to inform the routeing and siting work presented in the CPRSS, presented at the Stage 1 consultation. The outcome of the EIA Scoping Report noted optionality for a landfall for the Project along the Lincolnshire coastline; Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek. Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to utilise a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek.

Following review of feedback from consultees, the eastern converter station location will no longer be considered for the Project, and the alternative western location will be taken forward as the preferred siting zone. Key reasons to discount the eastern option included being too close to residents and Radcliffe Donkey Sanctuary, and a negative impact on the rural environment.

Request for the entire route to be located offshore.

There is no fully offshore solution to connect power generated or transported offshore to the grid. The power must be brought onshore somewhere. NGET's role is to carefully consider the most feasible options and present proposals for public consultation, which go as far as possible to address impacts on local communities and the environment, while also delivering for electricity consumers.

The electricity grid, built predominantly in the 1960s, was not designed to transport renewable energy from different sources or to meet the forecast increase in demand due to decarbonisation, so it requires upgrading.

NGET continues to consult with local communities and will always endeavour to reduce impacts as much as possible, in order to deliver this infrastructure, which is vital for the country as a whole.

This Project and the other projects that form The Great Grid Upgrade, will play a significant part in the UK government's plan to boost homegrown power. These initiatives will help the UK switch to clean energy and ensure the electricity network is fit for the future, carrying more clean, secure energy from where it is generated to where it is needed.

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Preference for Overhead Lines instead of underground cables.	NGET has noted feedback from the respondent. Cables are put underground where feasible as an alternative to using pylons. Through the EIA process, measures to reduce or mitigate impacts associated with the construction of the proposed underground cables will be identified. These measures will be set out within the OCoCP and the ES that will accompany the DCO application. The OCoCP and the PEIR will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.
Respondents suggested that overhead lines should not be used and that underground cables were of preference.	NGET has noted feedback from the respondent. Cables are put underground where feasible as an alternative to using pylons. No overhead lines or pylons are part of the Project. Through the EIA process, measures to reduce or mitigate impacts associated with the construction of the proposed underground cables will be identified. These measures will be set out within the OCoCP and the ES that will accompany the DCO application. The OCoCP and the PEIR will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.
Suggestion that the Project should be routed away from residents. Consultees suggested that the Project locations of the East Converter siting zone and Corridor 6 should be routed away from residents.	Deciding where and how to build new high voltage electricity circuits is a complex issue and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the environment and the concerns these may bring. Proximity to residential areas was considered as a factor through the early routeing and siting work for the Project. NGET also implements a DCC process through which requests made to amend the Project design were considered in response to feedback made at the Stage 1 consultation. As part of this process NGET has sought to avoid environmental impacts and impacts on the community where possible. NGET has considered multiple locations for a potential landfall location for the Project. As part of the SOR consideration was given to strategic Project options which made landfall on either the Lincolnshire coastline (between south of Cleethorpes and north of Chapel St Leonards) or the North Norfolk coastline (between Blakeney Point and Cromer). Prior to this, an appraisal had been carried out for the EGL 3 and EGL 4 Projects in 2024 for potential Landfalls on the Lincolnshire and North Norfolk coastlines. This information was used as a starting point for EGL 5 Landfall identification and appraisal, and was reviewed, updated accordingly for the EGL 5 Need Case and assumed parameters, and updated with any new data. A further desktop preliminary landfall assessment was undertaken in 2022 to appraise 90 km of Lincolnshire coastline, from the Humber Estuary in the north, to the north side of the Wash in the south to inform the routeing and siting work presented in the

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

CPRSS, presented at the Stage 1 consultation. The outcome of the EIA Scoping Report noted optionality for a landfall for the Project along the Lincolnshire coastline; Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek. Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to utilise a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek.

Economic

Concern the Project will have a negative impact on the local economy / businesses in the area.

Businesses and development land were considered within the Scoping Report (Chapter 15 - Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism), and relevant receptors identified. On this basis, whilst there was potential for temporary adverse effects on businesses located within the study area identified, it is proposed that these receptors are scoped out for the following reasons: The Project Scoping Boundary has been determined based on the emerging preferred cable corridors which will minimise impacts and disruption to business receptors, where possible. Where construction vehicle routes and construction compounds are located close to businesses, access will be maintained throughout the construction period; this will be presented in the OCEMP. As such, this will reduce the potential for disruption to business operations and ensure that access for employees and customers is maintained. Additionally, amenity effects which may be experienced by employees or customers as a result of other environmental impacts (e.g., air quality, noise and vibration, landscape and visual amenity) are assessed by other topics chapters. The OCEMP will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

Concern that the Project will devalue property. Request for adequate financial compensation to those directly impacted by the Project, individuals need to be compensated.

The Project's land referencing firm, Ardent, is in contact with individual agricultural landowners potentially affected by our proposals. As the Project develops, those who may have infrastructure sited on their land would receive compensation on an individual basis.

Those whose land is not directly impacted by the physical footprint of the Project but experience a loss in value due to its proximity to the development, may be able to claim compensation. This is known as a claim for compensation under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 in England. It is advisable to consult with a legal advisor specialising in property or compensation law to assess eligibility for such claims.

NGET firmly believes that communities should be rewarded for hosting new electricity transmission infrastructure, which is essential to delivering homegrown, cleaner, and more affordable power. NGET

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
<p>Comments pointing that there is cost driving decision making. Concerned that cost is the key driving factor behind decisions. Criticism that NGET has gone with the cheapest option.</p>	<p>is committed to working with local residents and stakeholders as we develop our plans.</p> <p>Cost is one of the factors that needs to be considered in making decisions on the Project as guided by our duties under the Electricity Act 1989.</p> <p>The relevant National Policy Statement (NPS) is EN-5 which makes it clear that applicants should consider environmental issues from the earliest stage to balance the technical benefits and capital cost requirements for new developments against the consequential environmental effects in order to keep adverse effects to a reasonably practicable minimum. The process of appraising different identified options is undertaken using guidance (NGET's Approach to Consenting⁵). Its aim is to ensure that decisions regarding the scheme design (route, location, or technology option) are based on a full understanding and balance of the technical, socio-economic, environmental, and cost implications of each option. Once all identified options have been appraised, the option or options that best meet NGET's statutory duties and obligations are selected as the preferred option or options. These duties include balancing the need to be economic and efficient, which includes keeping costs down in the interests of the paying consumers to whom the costs are eventually passed, with a duty to have regard to preserving amenity (which includes the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality). The consideration of cost within the decision-making process is therefore one of our statutory duties and is not something that we could make representation to the Office of Gas and Electricity (Ofgem) to waive.</p>
<p>Local workforce related comments and concern that there will be few or no opportunities for local people to work on the Project.</p>	<p>The Project, upon receiving development consent, will be actively recruiting within the local area and would be looking to host "Meet the Buyer" events in the vicinity of the Project to connect with local industry and businesses.</p>
<p>Environmental impact</p>	
<p>The Project will result in a negative impact on the environment / countryside generally.</p>	<p>NGET acknowledges the comment. Significance of construction and operational effects / impacts will be appropriately assessed at PEIR and ES stage. The PEIR will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Consideration needs to be given to the impact of the Project on Ancient Woodland.</p>	<p>The significance of impacts for Ancient Trees and Woodland will be assessed as part of the PEIR and ES. Ancient Trees and Woodland will be identified as part of</p>

⁵ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/342336/download>

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

the arboriculture / ecological surveys and further technical design recommendations will be provided once data collection has been completed. The PEIR will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

Chapter 6 of the PEIR notes that whilst there is Ancient Woodland located within 2 km of the study area none of these areas of habitat are located within the draft Order Limits.

Through routeing and siting, NGET has sought, and will continue to reduce as far as practicable, impacts on biodiversity and in particular features of high ecological value, such as Ancient Woodland.

The process of route design takes account of existing biodiversity, the natural environment and, where practicable, seeks to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, through avoidance or mitigation.

The EIA for the Project will assess the effects on biodiversity (which includes receptors such as Ancient Woodland) and where necessary will detail avoidance and mitigation requirements.

The Project does not have sufficient information on environmental impacts or the need for more environmental assessments.

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

The PEIR will present the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken for the Project, with respect to biodiversity. This will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

Concerned that the Project will increase flood risk in the area.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Project is required to ensure that there will be no increase in flood risk to third party land as a result of the works. This will be assessed through the EIA and supporting Flood Risk Assessment which will consider flood risk from all sources. If necessary, mitigation measures will be incorporated to ensure that the development has no adverse impact to flood risk in the area. The preliminary Flood Risk Assessment will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.

Concerns about impacts on soil (including soil nutrients, biology).

NGET acknowledges the comment. Impacts to soils and contamination will be included within the Geology Chapter of the PEIR and will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Negative impact of the Project on the Green Belt.	The Proposed Scheme options are not located in any designated Green Belt.
Concern that the Project will result in a negative impact on protected species.	The Project has sought, and will continue to minimise far as practicable, impacts on protected species and habitats. A full programme of ecology surveys will be undertaken, informed by consultation with statutory bodies to ensure robust and appropriate survey design and mitigation. The results of these surveys and assessments will be provided in the ES accompanying the DCO application. A preliminary biodiversity assessment has been undertaken at the PEIR stage and will be released at the Stage 2 consultation.
Concern that the Project will result in a negative impact on land wildlife, biodiversity, and ecology (generally). Specific mention of badger setts and bats.	The Project has sought, and will continue to minimise as far as practicable, impacts on protected species and habitats. A full programme of species survey will be undertaken, informed by consultation with statutory bodies to ensure robust and appropriate survey design and mitigation. The results of these surveys and assessments will be provided in the ES accompanying the DCO application. A preliminary biodiversity assessment has been undertaken at the PEIR stage and will be released at the Stage 2 consultation.
Concerned about noise impacts due to or associated with new infrastructure.	<p>Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, and report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. Noise and vibration will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form part of the EIA for the Project. Noise levels and the effect on residential properties as well as other sensitive areas, such as hospitals and schools, are carefully considered during planning, assessed according to the appropriate UK standards, and mitigated where necessary.</p> <p>NGET sets strict technical standards for the equipment installed on its network. These will apply to the proposed new converter station. These standards include requirements to ensure the occurrence of noise is mitigated as far as practicable. Therefore, the potential for significant adverse effects from noise will be fully considered and where necessary controlled. Policies for noise are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent as set out in NPS EN-1. It is NGET's policy to ensure that all its equipment complies fully with those policies and guidelines. The application for a DCO will include assessments against these policies, including where necessary, operational noise.</p>

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Concern about the impact of light pollution in general. Concern about operational lighting on equipment related to the Project.	The PEIR will present the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken for the Project, with respect to Noise and Vibration. This will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.
Health and safety	Construction will be carried out during the daytime, except for some instances of 24-hour works during the operation of a trenchless technique such as Horizontal Directional Drilling or installation and removal of conductors, pilot wires and associated protective netting across highways or public footpaths. Additionally, the winter months may necessitate some lighting in the morning and afternoon. Construction would be undertaken progressively; therefore, these impacts would be localised and due to the temporary nature, are likely to not be significant. Preliminary assessments on the lighting impacts have been considered within the biodiversity and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) chapters of the PEIR, these will be presented with the Stage 2 consultation.
Concern about health risks (including mental health) associated with overhead or underground lines / physical health risks associated with the Project.	Health and wellbeing will be considered as a part of the ES. The Project does not contain any Overhead lines (OHL); However, we are aware that some people worry that Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) may have negative health effects. We take these concerns seriously and want to keep the public, our contractors and our employees safe. We ensure all of our existing and proposed equipment, including those on this Project, comply with independent safety guidelines set to protect us all against EMF exposure. After decades of research the weight of evidence is against there being any health risks of EMFs below the guideline limits. A preliminary assessment of the risk of EMF exposure will be presented as an appendix to Chapter 4 in the PEIR. The PEIR will be presented as part of the Stage 2 consultation. NGET will ensure that policies and procedures are in place at the design phase to ensure that all equipment will comply with public EMF exposure limits. Evidence of compliance will be summarised within the Project's ES.
Heritage	Through routeing and siting NGET has sought to and will continue to reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings and known non-designated heritage assets. If potential impacts on the historic environment are identified through

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Land Use	<p>the detailed desk-based assessments and non-intrusive surveys, we will explore a range of mitigation measures such as screening and archaeological recording to reduce potential impacts where practicable. A preliminary Cultural Heritage assessment will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Concern that the Project will take away valuable agricultural land and disrupt farming operations.</p>	<p>NGET is and will continue to work with all landowners, including farmers, who may be affected by the proposals to understand the impacts on their operations and to work with them as the Project is developed.</p> <p>The quality of agricultural land affected will be fully assessed through the completion of detailed Agricultural Land Classification surveys. The ES will report on the extent of land at each grade affected temporarily and permanently, and mitigation will be set out in relation to the implementation of good practice in soil handling and land reinstatement.</p> <p>A preliminary assessment has been undertaken as part of the Project's PEIR, this presents the preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken for the Project, with respect to Agriculture and Soils, and will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Concern that the Project will have a negative impact on agricultural livestock.</p>	<p>We will seek to work with the farming community to limit disruption where practicable. This includes providing prior warning of works which may result in the need to move livestock. Compensation claims for disturbance are considered on a case-by-case basis if negative impact on farming operations can be proven. Particular agricultural matters can also be addressed through voluntary land agreements.</p>
Landscape	<p>NGET will be undertaking a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). This will include a write-up of an assessment on both landscape character and visual amenity. Where likely significant effects are anticipated the LVIA will consider and identify areas where it may be necessary and appropriate to put forward potential mitigation as part of an iterative design and assessment process.</p> <p>A PEIR will present the preliminary findings of this assessment and will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Negative visual impacts should be reduced through mitigation methods</p>	<p>NGET notes the suggested mitigation methods and agrees there are good opportunities to implement these</p>

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
such as screening, using landscape features and planting.	mitigation measures. The preliminary LVIA will be presented at Stage 2 consultation, which will include discussion of potential mitigation measures.
Other Projects	
Comments relating to EGL 3 and EGL 4 Project and to link with EGL 5.	<p>In developing proposals for the Project, NGET considered how the upgrade can be delivered cohesively to minimise impacts on the local community and environment, this includes co-ordinating the onshore landfall location of the Project with EGL 3 and EGL 4. As these are separate projects, we will continue to consider how we can coordinate all projects in more detail where appropriate, for example in our approach to surveys, stakeholder engagement and in our environmental and construction management plans.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that EGL 5 is a separate project to EGL 3 and EGL 4. This is set out in the Project SOR. An updated SOR will be presented as part of the Stage 2 consultation.</p>
Comments relating to Grimsby to Walpole Project or Walpole Substation to link with EGL 5.	<p>In developing proposals for the Project, NGET considered how the upgrade can be delivered cohesively to minimise impacts on the local community and environment. The Project's underground cables would connect into the proposed Lincolnshire Connection Substation-B which is being proposed as part of NGET's separate Grimsby to Walpole project.</p> <p>As these are separate projects, we will continue to consider how we can coordinate all projects in more detail where appropriate, for example in our approach to surveys, stakeholder engagement and in our environmental and construction management plans.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that the Project is a separate project to Grimsby to Walpole and the Walpole Substation Expansion. Further information can be found in the Project SOR. An updated SOR will be presented as part of the Stage 2 consultation.</p>
Overhead Cables	
General opposition to OHL. Concern regarding the proposed pylons crossing the county.	The Project involves underground and subsea cables only, with no new overhead lines or pylons proposed.
Strategic	
Criticism of Net Zero goals. Comments suggesting Net Zero is pointless or that the emissions make no difference.	The Project forms part of ongoing efforts to reduce the carbon impact of the national electricity grid. The assessment of impacts focuses on the current Project. It does not comment on wider UK Government policy in reducing the UK's overall Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
Concern about the carbon footprint of the Project. Comments referring to a full and detailed study is required to consider the future needs across the whole of the country and more thought given to climate change and nature.	emissions in line with international commitments made via the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Comments that subsea cable may be susceptible to tampering / national security concern (e.g., terrorism / disruptive activities).	NGET acknowledges the comments made. There is the risk that the subsea cable could be a target for malicious attacks. However, the subsea cable is no more vulnerable to attack than other similar infrastructure installed and operating in the UK.
Tourism	
Concern about general impact of the Project on tourism, or concern about impact during construction period. Specifically affected groups like, holidaymakers or local residents working in tourism, were mentioned.	Consideration of tourist attractions and tourist accommodation will be included within the PEIR, and relevant receptors identified. Appropriate mitigation measures will also be considered where relevant, in order to minimise the potential effects on visitors to the area and those employed within the tourist industry. The preliminary Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism assessment will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

3.6 Technical consultee / statutory body responses

- 3.6.1 NGET has analysed responses from key technical consultees and statutory bodies in the same way as other responses. Given their importance, a summary of these responses is included in **Table 3-3** below. This summary lists key points and does not include all the information submitted and analysed. Feedback received through the Scoping Opinion process from technical consultees and statutory bodies will be set out and addressed within the PEIR and is not reported and considered in this Report.

Table 3-3 Summary of noted stakeholder / statutory body responses

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET’s response to matter raised
Anglian Water	
<p>Anglian Water requested a Water Resource Assessment (WRA) to be undertaken to inform the PEIR during the statutory consultation stage and the ES at submission. It also commented that the WRA should be submitted to their pre-planning team for consideration of any request for non-domestic water. Furthermore, it requested evidence of high levels of water efficiencies considered for implementation as part of the Project’s development and processes.</p>	<p>NGET confirms that a WRA will be undertaken and presented in the ES.</p>
Bilsby and Farlesthorpe Parish Council	
<p>The Parish Council objected to the Project due to expected disruption, noise, and damage to roads and countryside.</p> <p>Concerns included harm to wildlife, local businesses, and significant visual and light pollution from the proposed converter station. The proposals were seen as offering few benefits or jobs for local residents and negatively impacting property values.</p>	<p>NGET will ensure ongoing engagement with relevant authorities as the Project progresses.</p> <p>Through routeing and siting, NGET has sought to, and will continue to, reduce as far as practicable impacts on biodiversity. The process of route design takes account of existing biodiversity, the natural environment and, where practicable, seeks to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity, through avoidance or mitigation.</p> <p>Projects of this nature are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposals, report on those, and set out proposed mitigation, in an ES in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. Construction and operational noise and vibration will, in addition to other topic specific assessments, form part of the EIA for the Project as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate and the Local Planning Authorities. Construction noise and vibration levels and the effect on residential properties as well as other sensitive areas, such as hospitals and schools, are carefully considered during planning, assessed according to the appropriate UK standards, and mitigated where necessary within the scope of the ES. Consideration of potential construction noise impacts on wildlife, public open spaces and sites of special scientific interest will</p>

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

also be undertaken and reported in the appropriate chapters of the ES.

As part of the DCO application, an OCoCP and OCTMP will be submitted which will outline the good practice and standard control measures to reduce and mitigate potential noise and vibration impacts and / or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase. Many of the control measures will be based on the results of the construction noise assessment supporting the ES Noise assessment and will include BPM mitigation specific to construction activities.

Operationally, NGET sets strict technical standards for the equipment we install on our network which will apply to the proposed new converter station. These standards include requirements to ensure the occurrence of noise is mitigated as far as practicable. Therefore, the potential for significant adverse effects from noise will be fully considered and where necessary controlled. Policies for operational noise are incorporated into the decision-making process for development consent as set out in NPS EN-1. It is NGET's policy to ensure that all its equipment complies fully with those policies and guidelines. The application for a DCO will include assessments against these policies, including where necessary, operational noise. Preliminary noise assessments will be presented in the PEIR as part of the Stage 2 consultation. The OCoCP will also be presented during the Stage 2 consultation.

Canal and River Trust

The Canal and River Trust reviewed the Project location and believed the proposals do not affect their land or interests. The nearest waterway is the River Witham, about 30 km southwest of the preferred Project areas. The Trust requested further consultation in the event that the scheme is amended to affect the River Witham or other waterways.

NGET acknowledges the comments and confirms that should any amendments to the proposed scheme affect the River Witham or other waterways, further consultation with the Canal and River Trust will be actioned at the appropriate time.

East Lindsey District Council

East Lindsey District Council highlighted the importance of mitigating landscape and visual impacts from the converter station and cable corridor, especially in combination with other local projects.

Cumulative effects with other local projects - identified within the PEIR - will be assessed within the Cumulative Effects Assessment Chapter of the ES. A summary of routeing and siting work done to date was provided within the Scoping Report, with further explanation of alternatives considered to be provided within Chapter 3 of the PEIR which will be available

Summary of matters raised

Concern was raised over the permanent loss of high-quality agricultural land, asking for site selection justification and land grade confirmation. Construction management was recommended to minimise socio-economic effects on PRow, residents, and local businesses, with a recommendation that community funds benefit affected communities.

Landfall and route selection should account for flood risk, landscape, ecological, heritage, and sensitive receptors, with buffer zones and cumulative impacts carefully considered. Internal feedback noted omissions in wildlife site mapping, sensible initial heritage considerations, and the need for archaeologists to advise on underground route impacts.

Summary of NGET's response to matter raised

during the Stage 2 consultation and updated for the ES. Impacts on agricultural land will be assessed within the ES and will be supported by site survey data.

NGET is considering Community Benefit approaches (in line with obligations) to determine how to maximise benefits to the communities where infrastructure is being delivered. This is part of a wider engagement and funding exercise being led by NGET.

Through routing and siting, NGET has sought to and will continue to reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings and known non-designated heritage assets. If potential impacts on the historic environment are identified through the detailed desk-based assessments and non-intrusive surveys, we will explore a range of mitigation measures such as screening and archaeological recording to reduce potential impacts where practicable, including in relation to the underground cable and the potential for impacts on archaeological remains that are currently unknown.

PRow officers at Lincolnshire County Council will be consulted as part of the PEIR and ES process. An OPRoWMP will be produced as part of the ES process, outlining appropriate construction management / mitigation measures to be implemented to minimise impacts on PRow from the Project.

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

It was noted that fishing activity occurs off the coast of Anderby Creek and the Lincolnshire Coast. It recommended advertising cable locations on Kingfisher charts, issue a Local Notice to Mariners in advance, and maintain communication with the fishing industry through a Fisheries Liaison Officer. This was deemed important as fishing grounds may be excluded during subsea cable construction, potentially causing snagging of fishing gear and interference with vessels at Anderby Creek.

Additionally, direct engagement with local fishers was advised to assess potential impacts and determine suitable mitigations to prevent

NGET has met with the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities - Eastern, Northern and Northumberland. A Fisheries Liaison Officer has been appointed on the Project and NGET will ensure ongoing engagement with relevant marine authorities, including local fisheries.

Mitigation measures will be presented within the PEIR, which will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

disruption to fishing activities or damage to equipment.

Mitigation measures were recommended to minimise impacts on fish and shellfish populations resulting from seabed abrasion and penetration, which can cause temporary smothering of shellfish, increased siltation, and negative visual effects on bass species. Furthermore, it was suggested that the construction area should avoid known fish spawning and nursery grounds to reduce habitat disturbance associated with cable installation.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

HSE clarified that they do not respond to non-statutory consultations. Mentioned that they will provide statutory advice when approached at the EIA stage.

NGET acknowledges the comment received. As a statutory consultee, the HSE will be consulted at the Stage 2 consultation.

Huttoft Parish Council

Huttoft Parish Council objected to the Project due to the expected large-scale disruption during construction, including roadworks, excessive noise, and damage to rural roads. The proposed converter station is expected to cause significant visual, light, and noise pollution, impacting property values and quality of life for residents. Local employment opportunities from the Project were considered minimal, while the impact on property sales and values had already been observed.

The presence of St Margaret's Church, a Grade I listed building, and the village's heritage linked to John Betjeman, were raised as concerns against the proposed Project.

The Council questioned why a brownfield site was not considered and why the Project approach differed from previous ones,

Alternative sites for the Project have been considered. Chapter 3 of the PEIR presents an explanation of the potential alternatives considered for the Project to date, which will be available during the Stage 2 consultation, and this chapter will be updated for the ES; this will include details relating to cable routing and converter station locations.

Through routing and siting, NGET has sought to, and will continue to, reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on the historic environment, including the Grade I listed St Margaret's Church. If potential impacts on the church or other heritage assets are identified, NGET will explore a range of mitigation measures, such as screening, to reduce potential impacts where practicable.

Construction routes will be assigned based on the most appropriate roads. The local highway authority, Lincolnshire County Council, will be consulted as part of the PEIR and ES process. A Transport Assessment will be undertaken, and an OCTMP will be produced as part of the DCO application. The OCTMP will set out appropriate management and mitigation measures to minimise the impact of construction traffic on the local

Summary of matters raised

particularly regarding cable routing and the converter station's location.

Summary of NGET's response to matter raised

road network and will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.

NGET is aware of concerns raised by the Huttoft community from the outset of the Project, and various options have been explored for relocating converter stations elsewhere. Some of the landscape and visual impacts are unavoidable in any of the locations, and as part of the routing exercise, through the application of "avoidance", it transpired that locating the converter station in other locations would simply shift the effects to a different location. Currently, the converter station is located at a medium distance from the village, and there are good opportunities for mitigation, such as woodland planting, that would "mask" the substation in the future; however, it is recognised that during construction, there would be medium-term impacts.

Lincolnshire County Council

The Council recommended engaging with local developers and organisations to seek further opportunities for environmental improvements, particularly exceeding the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) target for NSIP developments. It commented that final locations and design for the converter station should remain open until confirmed, as it was key to safeguarding heritage assets. The Council highlighted the need for future work to detail identification, assessment, and protection of heritage features in route refinement. It requested evaluations of vibration, setting, and hydrology impacts near heritage sites with adequate mitigation of effects.

It requested that reinstatement strategies consider the area's historic character and cumulative effects from other infrastructure projects. The Council noted the importance of comprehensive baseline data and assessments (such as desk-based and non-intrusive surveys) to minimise archaeological harm and inform site-specific strategies. On PRoWs, they advised careful management during construction,

NGET will seek to engage with local developers and organisations to identify opportunities for environmental improvements.

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

As well as following the mitigation hierarchy with regard to biodiversity, NGET will also consider the land required for mitigation, compensation, and enhancement in order to deliver BNG and wider environmental benefits, to be identified as the design develops. The delivery of BNG may require off-site Biodiversity Units via habitat creation or enhancement in strategic areas, and all available options will be considered.

PRoW officers at Lincolnshire County Council will be consulted as part of the PEIR and ES process. An OPRoWMP will be produced to be submitted with the DCO application, setting out appropriate management and mitigation measures to minimise the impact of construction on PRoW and PRoW users.

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

advance notice for closures, and involvement of the network management team, emphasising that PRowWs take priority and should remain accessible.

The Council commented on potential negative socio-economic effects from temporary workers, including housing, tourism, public services, and community cohesion. It also requested clarity on waste management plans, including types, volumes, and disposal, and suggested reviewing these cumulatively. Health impacts from haulage traffic and cable installation were also highlighted, with opportunities for mitigation and enhancement through vegetation replanting and improved path connectivity.

Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (LWNL)

LWNL recommended that all Project stages actively avoided harm to the National Landscape and supported its purpose. It also advised a full appraisal of cumulative effects from related projects on the landscape and its setting. It recommended careful assessment of the converter station's proximity to the National Landscape and requested a comprehensive range of viewpoints in the PEIR and assessment of impacts on the landscape's special qualities.

It pointed the need to address construction noise, vehicle movement, and lighting impacts on tranquillity, and advised assessing impacts on local PRowWs, public access, and enjoyment of the landscape. LWNL commented that all stages of design development demonstrate efforts to conserve and enhance the national landscape.

The potential effects on LWNL have been, and will continue to be, a key consideration throughout the duration of the Project. Avoidance has been one of the principal considerations for the Project. As the Project details become more defined, prevention, reduction, and offset will become key considerations. A comprehensive range of viewpoints has been shared at the scoping stage.

NGET remains open to the inclusion of further viewpoints, although the initial screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility indicated very little intervisibility between the Converter Station and the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape.

NGET is aware of the need to assess cumulative effects and is planning to include key schemes that are scheduled, in order to inform the cumulative assessment. Night-time lighting will be assessed at the ES stage once sufficient detail becomes available.

NGET recognises the need to assess the impacts on the setting of the National Landscape and would welcome any suggestions regarding proposed enhancements.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)

The MCA recommended a Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA) using the International Maritime Agency's Formal Safety Assessment methodology, supported by nautical charts for clarity. It suggested that local marine users should be consulted, including in a Marine Hazard Identification workshop, with input from ports, harbours, wind farm developers, and fishing federations.

It advised that a Cable Burial Risk Assessment should determine target burial depths based on ground conditions and marine activity and that results must be reflected in the ES and NRA. If cable protection reduces navigable depth by more than 5%, it noted that further discussion with MCA would be needed, especially near shore and crossings.

The MCA recommended that it and relevant port / harbour authorities should be kept informed throughout the Project, and cable routes shared as WGS84 shapefiles for safe navigation.

NGET confirms that an NRA will be undertaken. The results of the assessment are included as an Appendix to the Shipping and Navigation Chapter in the PEIR and will be available to view at Stage 2 consultation.

Further engagement with marine users and stakeholders (e.g., ports, harbours, developers, fishing) will be arranged to discuss and agree potential marine hazards resulting from the development.

NGET will continue to engage with the relevant marine authorities to ensure they are kept informed throughout the Project.

Ministry of Defence (MoD)

The MoD recommended shielding subsea cables within MoD Danger Areas to protect them from military exercises. It suggested coordinating cable installation in D307 (Donna Nook) with range controllers to avoid interfering with defence activities.

It noted that while subterranean cable routes and converter stations posed no risk to low flying, cranes during construction could be a temporary hazard. The MoD recommended consulting them before any changes to project parameters and allowing time for further assessment.

NGET will ensure engagement with the MoD where matters relating to subsea cables and potential flying hazards during construction will be discussed. NGET confirms that, should any amendments be made to the Project parameters, MoD will be consulted.

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

National Air Traffic Services (NATS)

NATS reviewed the proposal and found no conflict with their safeguarding criteria, so they had no objection. It noted this only reflected NATS' position and asked to be consulted again if any changes were made.

NGET notes the comments made and confirms that, should any amendments to the proposed scheme be made, NATs will be consulted.

National Trust

The National Trust commented that there is potential for indirect effects on the environmental conditions that support its Sandilands nature reserve located immediately adjacent to the Project landfall and is critical of hydrology of the surrounding area. It is recommended that construction and other activities should be designed and managed carefully to avoid any adverse changes to the hydrological conditions.

It recommended onshore works to avoid disrupting potential restoration of coastal grazing marsh, reedbeds, and wetland habitats. The Trust suggested reviewing county ecological records for great crested newts and water voles.

The National Trust proposed reviewing information on local water flow and the Flood Risk Assessment to align drainage and water management with Sandilands project objectives. It also advised developing traffic management with local stakeholders to minimise disruption and protect visitors' experience and local tourism, and to consider impacts on the King Charles III England Coast Path.

It requested a robust cumulative impact assessment in the Environmental Statement, with any harm addressed following the mitigation hierarchy.

Through careful routeing and siting, NGET has sought and will continue to seek to reduce as far as practicable, the impacts on biodiversity. The process of route design takes account of existing biodiversity and the natural environment, and, where practicable, aims to reduce potential impacts on areas of ecological sensitivity through avoidance or mitigation.

The EIA for the Project will assess the effects, both direct and indirect, on biodiversity, and, where necessary, will detail avoidance and mitigation requirements. Part of this assessment will include ecological data received from the local environmental records centre. Preliminary biodiversity assessments will be included in the PEIR, which will be presented during the Stage 2 consultation.

Embedded mitigation, informed by desk study assessment and selected ground investigation, will reduce as far as practicable temporary groundwater lowering during construction, in order to reduce potential impacts on any hydraulically linked surface water bodies. The Flood Risk Assessment for the Project will also characterise key surface water drainage routes and mechanisms and will define and secure a range of practicable measures to reduce any potential for impacts on the hydrology of the area. The Flood Risk Assessment will accompany the ES, which will be submitted with the DCO application.

Summary of matters raised**Summary of NGET's response to matter raised**

National Farmers Union

The National Farmers Union emphasised the need for direct engagement with affected landowners regarding the converter station's location and design, due to permanent business impacts. It requested additional details regarding various aspects of the proposal's design, including cable burial depth, marker posts, and above-ground infrastructure.

Concerns were raised about the cumulative impact of multiple infrastructure projects on farms, the need for collaboration between projects, and streamlined requests for landowner information.

The Project's land referencing firm, Ardent, is in contact with individual agricultural landowners who may be affected by our proposals. As the Project develops, those who may have infrastructure located on their land will receive compensation on an individual basis. Engagement will continue throughout the development of the Project with all relevant stakeholders.

Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate wrote to confirm that the following European Economic Area States responded to advise that they wish to participate in the procedure for examining the application for the proposed development, should it proceed to the application stage and be accepted for examination:

- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Norway

It also advised that Denmark did not wish to participate in the procedure for examining the application for the proposed development, should it proceed to the application stage and be accepted for examination.

NGET notes the comments made.

Royal Mail Group Limited

The Project was not considered to have a significant impact on Royal Mail's operations. However, it mentioned potential cumulative impacts arising from EGL 3 and EGL 4 and other NSIPs in the vicinity of

An OCoCP and an OCTMP will be prepared and submitted with the DCO application. The OCoCP will be presented during the Stage 2 consultation. These documents will provide commitments to reduce construction impacts, together with a framework for detailed management plans to be prepared at the

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
<p>the Project that may have a greater impact on operations. It is recommended that the Construction Traffic Management Plan includes the mitigations measures advised by Royal Mail in their response.</p>	<p>detailed design stage, in order to reduce and mitigate potential impacts or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase.</p> <p>The mitigation measures recommended by Royal Mail are noted and will be considered for inclusion in the OCTMP.</p>
<p>Royal Yachting Association</p>	
<p>The Royal Yachting Association responded, confirming that they had reviewed the information and had no comments to make.</p>	<p>NGET acknowledges the response received from the Royal Yachting Association.</p>
<p>The Coal Authority</p>	
<p>The Coal Authority clarified their role as a statutory consultee, required to review projects in coal mining areas to protect the public and environment. For the Lincolnshire landfall, their records indicated the Project is in a Development Low Risk Area, with no known coal mining features at surface or shallow depth that could affect surface stability. It advised to report any unexpected coal mining features or hazards encountered during development, with contact information and emergency procedures provided.</p>	<p>NGET acknowledges receipt and confirmation that for the Lincolnshire landfall, the records indicate the Project is in a Development Low Risk Area. Should any unexpected coal mining features or hazards be encountered during development, these will be reported to The Coal Authority.</p>
<p>UK Health Security Agency</p>	
<p>No comments were provided at this stage by the UK Health Security Agency. However, it suggested the consideration of an advice document produced by Public Health England 'Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime' when preparing the ES.</p>	<p>NGET notes the suggestion regarding the advice document produced by Public Health England, entitled 'Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime'. NGET can confirm that this has been considered when preparing the ES.</p>
<p>Victoria Atkins Member of Parliament</p>	
<p>Concerns were expressed on behalf of one of their constituents, regarding the location of the proposed converter station adjacent to the</p>	<p>NGET is aware of the location of the Huttoft Donkey Sanctuary and has factored this into the development of the Project. Further information on how this was</p>

Summary of matters raised	Summary of NGET's response to matter raised
<p>donkey sanctuary in Huttoft, noting that its construction could potentially result in distress and disturbance for the rescued donkeys.</p>	<p>considered will be presented at the Stage 2 consultation.</p>
<p>Well Parish Council</p>	
<p>Well Parish Council commented that the Government's commitment to Net Zero has led to a rapid expansion of renewables, often located far from where energy is needed, resulting in inefficiency, increased costs, and supply risks. It also highlighted that renewable projects require growing government subsidies to remain viable, while domestic gas production faces restrictions, pushing the UK to rely on expensive imported energy. The Council pointed out that proposed onshore and offshore grid upgrades, substations, and interconnectors would bring little local benefit or jobs. It considered the Project would facilitate an expansion of largely uneconomic, taxpayer-subsidised renewables. It suggested alternatives, including connecting generation directly to areas of demand or using an integrated offshore grid, and called for regulatory reform to protect consumers from rising costs and export-driven price increases.</p>	<p>An assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions is presented in Chapter 26 of the PEIR and will be presented during the Stage 2 consultation. The chapter provides a preliminary assessment of the potential impacts that may arise (in terms of greenhouse gas emissions) across the lifetime of the Project's existence (Construction, Operation and Decommissioning). As with any form of planning application, there is no requirement to consider the wider rationale or challenges / benefits of UK Government national Net Zero policies. An assessment of construction employment generation will be included within Chapter 15 of the ES.</p>

4. How feedback has influenced design

4.1 Regard had to feedback

- 4.1.1 Following the closure of the Stage 1 consultation, a number of design changes have been incorporated into the proposal. Proposed design changes have been carefully considered in the context of environmental constraints and opportunities, engineering feasibility and cost, and planning policy considerations.
- 4.1.2 The process of considering potential design changes is comprised of an initial filter for benefit and feasibility, an assessment incorporating inputs from relevant technical experts, and further stages of additional study if required. The outcome of the consideration of potential design changes was either that a change was included in the Project design, or that the change was not made following balanced and informed consideration.
- 4.1.3 Accordingly, the key changes identified in response to the Stage 1 consultation are summarised in **Table 4-1**. This table demonstrates how regard has been had to each of the design change suggestions made and summarises the rationale behind the decision making. **Table 4-1** below identifies where NGET has made changes to the Project as a result of the ongoing feedback or stakeholder engagement received since the Stage 1 consultation and how the responses received have influenced those changes.
- 4.1.4 In addition, NGET has made changes to the Project in response to ongoing technical and environmental studies and survey results. The details of how these influenced the design are reported within the documents submitted for statutory consultation including the PEIR (see **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3: Reasonable Alternatives Considered**) and the **Design Development Report**.

4.2 Summary of key changes

- 4.2.1 Respondents made several requests regarding the implementation of the Project, some of which it has been feasible for NGET to adopt and take into consideration in the development of the Project. NGET will continue to consider this feedback as the Project progresses and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures as detailed design and construction methods are developed.

Table 4-1 Key design changes from Stage 1 consultation feedback

Change requested	How was this change considered and addressed
Request for confirmation of the landfall location in Scotland	<p>At the Stage 1 consultation, we proposed that the EGL 5 subsea offshore cables would run from a location in Scotland, which was to be confirmed.</p> <p>Confirmation has been received from Scottish and Southern Electricity Transmission that EGL 5 is currently proposed to make landfall at Scotstown Beach South, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.</p>
Suggestion for amendments to be made to the offshore cables	<p>At the Stage 1 consultation, we proposed approximately 415 km of subsea HVDC cables in English waters.</p>

Change requested	How was this change considered and addressed
Preference for the north of Huttoft cable route	<p>NGET has explored options for the cables, and as a result have made changes to the proposed subsea cable route in English waters. NGET are now proposing up to 423 km of subsea high voltage direct current cables in English waters. This alternative route was chosen to limit possible interaction with nearby windfarm projects and Marine Conservation Zones.</p> <p>At the Stage 1 consultation, we presented two potential routes for the underground cables from Anderby Creek to the propose LCS-B substation.</p> <p>Based on further studies completed by NGET and a review of feedback received during the Stage 1 consultation, NGET has confirmed the north of Huttoft cable route.</p>
Opposition to the EGL 5 east converter station siting zone	<p>At the Stage 1 consultation, NGET presented two potential siting zones – the EGL 5 west converter station and the EGL 5 east converter station.</p> <p>Comments were received to the Stage 1 consultation stating opposition to the east converter station. This included concerns that the eastern site was too close to residential areas and Radcliffe Donkey Sanctuary, and concern for negative impacts on the rural environment. Considering these comments and further review of technical, environmental and socio-economic factors, NGET has discounted the east converter station siting zone and have taken the west converter station siting zone forward. Chapter 3 of the PEIR details the alternatives that were considered for the project and outlines why options have been discounted.</p> <p>At Stage 1 consultation, approximately 3 km of HVAC were proposed to connect the proposed converter station to the proposed substation connection. In taking forward the west converter station siting zone, up to 1 km of new underground HVAC cable would be required to run between the converter station and the proposed substation, which is being considered as part of the NGET Grimsby to Walpole Project.</p>
Clarity on the land required for construction activities.	<p>At Stage 1 consultation, no land options were presented for construction activities. This was due to multiple route and siting options being consulted on as part of the Stage 1 consultation.</p> <p>Based on feedback received during Stage 1 consultation, NGET has taken forward two proposed options for temporary haul roads, required to facilitate construction activities.</p>
Suggestion that the Project should be routed away from specific	<p>Deciding where and how to build new high voltage electricity circuits is a complex issue and NGET is mindful of the potential effects this infrastructure may have on local communities and the</p>

Change requested	How was this change considered and addressed
<p>locations including moving the Project further east, avoiding Radcliffe Donkey Sanctuary, making landfall further south and suggestions for the Project to utilise the former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal.</p>	<p>environment and the concerns these may bring. Proximity to residential areas was considered as a factor through the early routeing and siting work for the Project. NGET also implements a DCC process through which requests made to amend the Project design were considered in response to feedback made at the Stage 1 consultation. As part of this process NGET has sought to avoid environmental impacts and impacts on the community where possible.</p> <p>NGET has considered multiple locations for a potential landfall location for the Project. As part of the SOR consideration was given to strategic Project options which made landfall on either the Lincolnshire coastline (between south of Cleethorpes and north of Chapel St Leonards) or the North Norfolk coastline (between Blakeney Point and Cromer).</p> <p>A further desktop preliminary landfall assessment was undertaken in 2022 to appraise 90 km of Lincolnshire coastline, from the Humber Estuary in the north, to the north side of the Wash in the south to inform the routeing and siting work presented in the CPRSS, presented at the non-statutory consultation in 2024.</p> <p>The outcome of the EIA Scoping Report noted optionality for a landfall for the Project along the Lincolnshire coastline; Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek. Following a review of further information, including consideration of feedback from consultees, NGET has decided not to utilise a landfall at Theddlethorpe and will be progressing a proposed landfall at Anderby Creek. This was driven by Anderby Creek having fewer potential impacts on ecological sites and reduced technical complexity. Chapter 3 of the PEIR provides detail on the appraisal of the two options and further reasoning as to why Anderby Creek was taken forward.</p>
<p>Suggestion that the Project should be routed away from heritage buildings, listed buildings or historical site.</p>	<p>Through routeing and siting NGET has sought to and will continue to reduce as far as practicable potential impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings and known non-designated heritage assets. If potential impacts on the historic environment are identified through the detailed desk-based assessments and non-intrusive surveys, we will explore a range of mitigation measures such as screening and archaeological recording to reduce potential impacts where practicable. A preliminary Cultural Heritage assessment will be presented at Stage 2 consultation.</p>

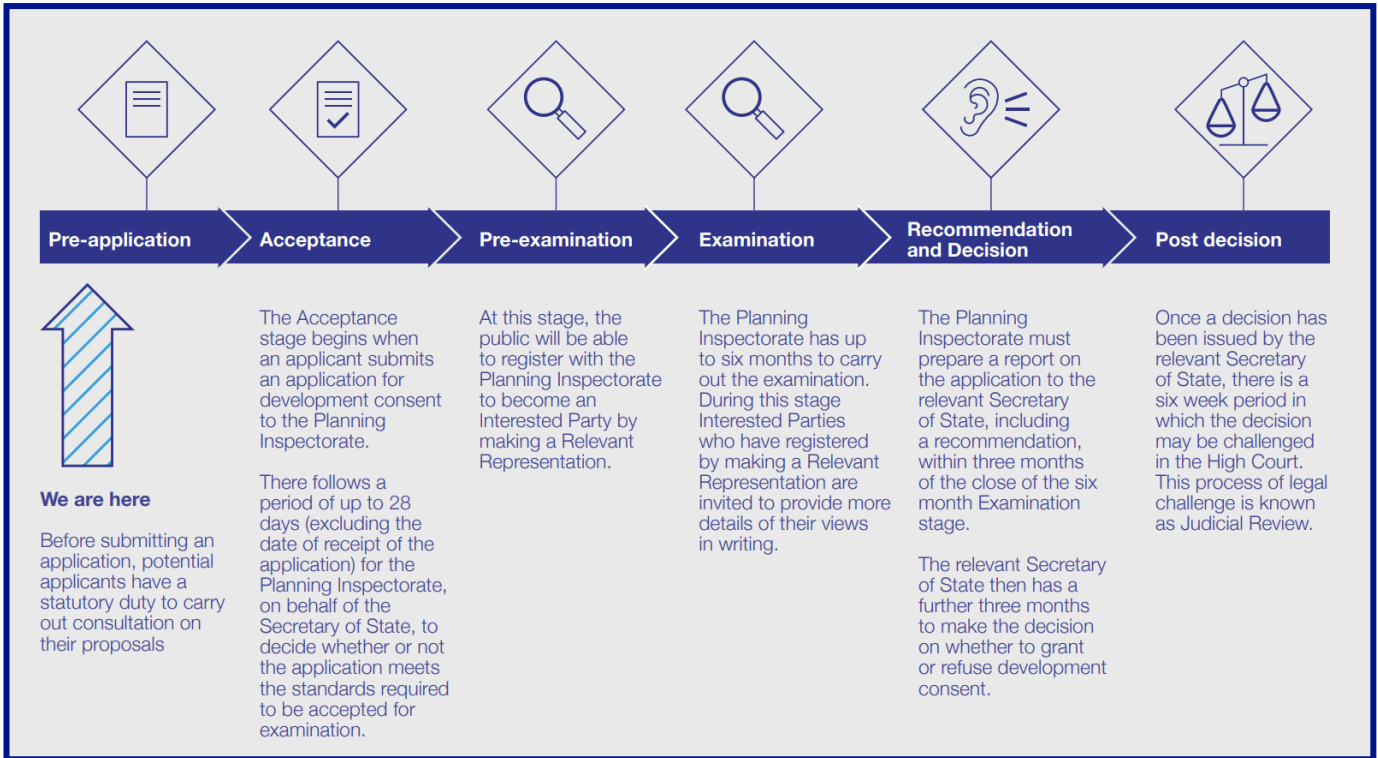
5. Next Steps

- 5.1.1 The information presented at the Stage 1 consultation is published on the EGL 5 website and is available in the online document library.⁶
- 5.1.2 This report presents the feedback received from the Stage 1 consultation and demonstrates how this has informed and shaped the proposal to be presented at a statutory consultation.
- 5.1.3 As the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) deemed the Project to be of national significance, it requires a DCO under the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Act 2008 requires applicants to undertake statutory consultation with local authorities, statutory consultees, persons with an interest in land affected, and the local community to gain feedback on the proposed Project.
- 5.1.4 The DCO process is outlined below in **Figure 5-1**. After the application has been submitted, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for examination. Once the application is accepted, the pre-examination period starts. Whilst this does not have a statutory timescale, it typically takes three – seven months. At the beginning of this period, stakeholders can register as ‘Interested Parties’ and make further representations (called ‘Relevant Representations’) on the application to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 5.1.5 The SoS appoints an inspector or panel of inspectors (called the ‘examining authority’) who will set out the timeline for the examination, and the matters to be examined. The examination itself takes up to six months. It is followed by a three-month period for the examining authority to make a recommendation on whether to grant development consent, and a further three months for the SoS to decide the application. For more information, visit the Planning Inspectorate’s website⁷.
- 5.1.6 The feedback from the Stage 1 consultation and the Stage 2 consultation will be used to inform the designs that will be put forward in the application for development consent. NGET expects to submit the application in 2027.
- 5.1.7 A Consultation Report will either be prepared and submitted with the DCO application, or this report will be updated to include details of the statutory consultation and show how feedback has been taken into account and how it was used to inform the development of the design of the Project. Ahead of all rounds of consultation, NGET has and will continue to engage with the public, including landowners and persons with an interest in land which interacts with the Project.
- 5.1.8 The Project team is carrying out formal EIA work and undertaking surveys along the route. The preliminary findings of the formal assessments, as far as they are available, are presented in the PEIR at the Stage 2 consultation. Data and feedback will be used to inform the ongoing development of the Project to ensure that it is designed to avoid (where possible) or reduce environmental effects.

⁶ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-5/document-library#4257225834-2111026147>

⁷ <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/project-search>

Figure 5-1 DCO Process



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