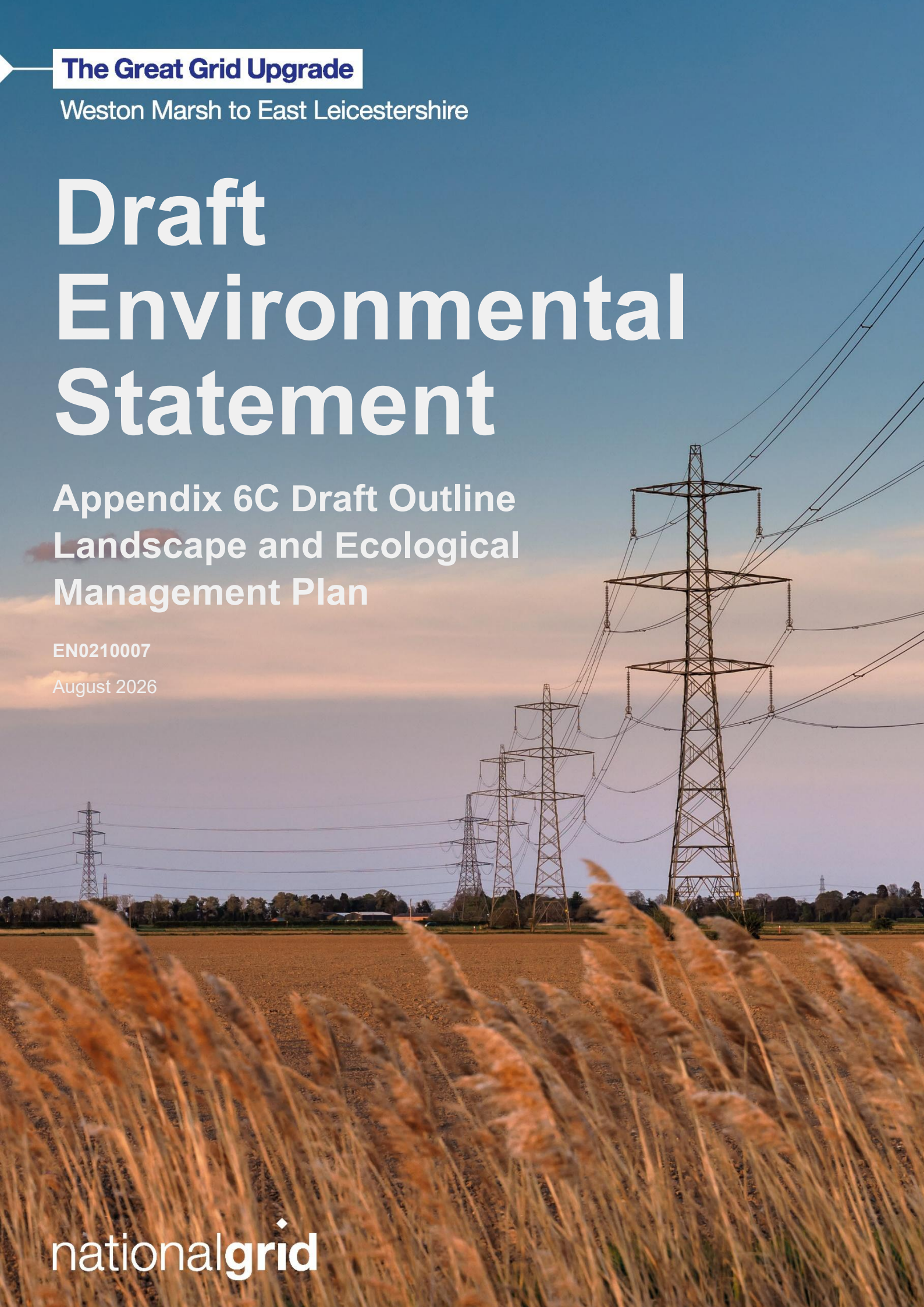




The Great Grid Upgrade

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 6C Draft Outline
Landscape and Ecological
Management Plan

EN0210007

August 2026

nationalgrid

Contents

6C.	Draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	6C-1
6C.1	Introduction	6C-1
	Overview	6C-1
	Purpose of the Draft Outline LEMP	6C-1
	Environmental Gain	6C-2
	Structure of the Draft Outline LEMP	6C-2
6C.2	Landscape and Ecology Baseline	6C-3
6C.3	Construction Mitigation	6C-3
	Approach to Mitigation	6C-3
	Impact Avoidance	6C-4
	Impact Mitigation	6C-4
	Tree Works	6C-5
6C.4	Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement	6C-6
	Arable and Grassland Field Margins	6C-6
	Hedgerows and Trees	6C-7
	Ditches	6C-7
6C.5	Long-Term Landscape and Ecological Proposals	6C-7
	Landscape and Ecological Strategy	6C-7
	Landscape and Ecological Proposals	6C-8
6C.6	Maintenance and Management	6C-8
6C.7	Monitoring	6C-9
Table 6C.1 Structure of draft Outline LEMP		6C-2
References		6C-10

6C. Draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

6C. Draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

6C.1 Introduction

Overview

- 6C.1.1 This draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) provides an initial overview of the framework for delivering the landscape and ecological measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate and (if required) compensate for potential impacts arising from the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire Project (the Project).
- 6C.1.2 The draft Outline LEMP should be read in conjunction with the following chapters of the non-statutory Draft Environmental Statement (DES) (referred to in this document as “DES” and non-statutory DES”), which provide the Project context and details of the identified landscape, visual and ecological features and impacts:
- **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context;**
 - **Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered;**
 - **Chapter 4 Description of the Project;**
 - **Chapter 6 Landscape;**
 - **Chapter 7 Visual; and**
 - **Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity.**
- 6C.1.3 There are also interrelationships with other disciplines. Therefore, this draft Outline LEMP should also be read in conjunction with the following chapters:
- **Chapter 10 Water Environment;**
 - **Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology; and**
 - **Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils.**

Purpose of the Draft Outline LEMP

- 6C.1.4 The draft Outline LEMP has been prepared to provide an overview of anticipated landscape, visual and ecological mitigation measures and the approach to their establishment and future management. It provides an initial indication of the mitigation, reinstatement, and management practices anticipated to be adopted throughout the construction and operation phases of the Project. This includes reinstating vegetation, landscape features and habitats following construction, and establishing and managing identified additional mitigation measures.
- 6C.1.5 The measures set out in this draft Outline LEMP and in the draft Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (**Appendix 4A Draft Outline CoCP**) would ensure that

legislation and good practice guidance are followed in order to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for anticipated negative landscape, visual or ecological impacts, where possible.

6C.1.6 The overarching objectives of this draft Outline LEMP are to:

- **guide integration of the Project into its landscape setting and avoid or minimise adverse landscape, visual and ecological effects, where practicable;**
- **promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical, natural and historic environment within the draft Order Limits and setting;**
- **diversify the ecological value of existing habitats, for example through restoration and enhancement of riparian ditches and creation of diverse habitats; and**
- **guide the design and management of landscape and biodiversity components that respond to and enhance the character of the landscape, local distinctiveness and sense of place.**

6C.1.7 The draft Outline LEMP is a live document that will continue to be updated and refined through the design, assessment and consenting process. Reinstatement and mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including through Technical Working Groups. A more detailed Outline LEMP will be submitted with the application for development consent.

Environmental Gain

6C.1.8 National Grid's approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for the Project is set out in Section 1.7 of **Chapter 1 Introduction**. This confirms the commitment to achieving at least 10% gain in environmental value (including biodiversity) on all construction projects by 2031. BNG considerations will help to inform development of landscape planting proposals that will be set out in more detail in the Outline LEMP included within the Environmental Statement (ES).

Structure of the Draft Outline LEMP

6C.1.9 The structure of the draft Outline LEMP is set out in **Table 6C.1**.

Table 6C.1 Structure of draft Outline LEMP

Chapter	Content
Chapter 6C.1: Introduction	This chapter sets out the purpose of the draft Outline LEMP and how it is structured.
Chapter 6C.2: Landscape and Ecology Baseline	This section directs the reader to the baseline sections of relevant DES chapters which will help to inform mitigation proposals.
Chapter 6C.3: Construction Mitigation	This chapter provides an indication of the anticipated requirements for pre-construction ecological monitoring, ecological mitigation and associated licensing.

Chapter	Content
Chapter 6C.4: Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement	This chapter sets out the anticipated reinstatement of areas temporarily occupied or influenced by construction.
Chapter 6C.5: Long-Term Landscape and Ecological Proposals	This chapter provides an overview of the initial landscape and ecological design strategy and highlights anticipated planting and seeding types.
Chapter 6C.6: Maintenance and Management	This chapter gives an overview of the anticipated content of the Outline LEMP in the ES relating to maintenance and management of the ecological and landscape interventions.
Chapter 6C.7: Monitoring	This chapter gives an overview of the anticipated content of the Outline LEMP in the ES relating to monitoring requirements pre- and post-construction.

6C.2 Landscape and Ecology Baseline

- 6C.2.1 Initial descriptions of the baseline landscape character, including relevant landscape designations and national, regional and local landscape character units are provided in **Appendix 6B Preliminary Landscape Baseline and Assessment** and summarised in **Chapter 6 Landscape**.
- 6C.2.2 An overview of visual receptors and the nature of baseline views are set out in **Chapter 7 Visual**, with more detailed baseline descriptions of each of the assessment viewpoints provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.
- 6C.2.3 **Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity** provides details of sites and features of ecological importance within the defined Study Areas, including statutory designated sites of international and national importance, other statutory designated sites of conservation importance, non-statutory designated sites, areas of ancient woodland and Habitats of Principle Importance.

6C.3 Construction Mitigation

Approach to Mitigation

- 6C.3.1 The design of the Project has been informed by the mitigation hierarchy, initially seeking to avoid or reduce impacts and effects through the process of siting and routeing and application of design and standard mitigation measures. Where avoidance is not possible, the next steps of minimisation, rehabilitation/restoration and ultimately offsetting, have been followed (where relevant and appropriate).
- 6C.3.2 Mitigation measures typically fall into one of three categories: design measures; standard measures; and additional mitigation measures. All three categories of mitigation measures will be secured by an appropriate mechanism, including 'requirements' which are provisions in the development consent order (DCO) that will make the mitigation mandatory, so that there will be a legal requirement to implement them.

Impact Avoidance

- 6C.3.3 Avoidance of features of landscape and ecological value has been a primary consideration throughout the development of the Project to date, including the design and selection of alternatives, and will continue to inform subsequent design stages.
- 6C.3.4 **Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered** sets out the principal alternatives that were considered in relation to the Project.
- 6C.3.5 The Project has been designed to avoid the temporary or permanent loss of notable habitats, where practicable, and is anticipated to be constructed largely within arable habitats.
- 6C.3.6 Details of key features and/or impacts avoided through design of the Project will be set out within the Outline LEMP in the ES.

Impact Mitigation

- 6C.3.7 It is anticipated that the measures outlined below would be implemented, as relevant and appropriate, prior to and during the construction phase of the Project, with the aim of minimising the impact of works on landscape and biodiversity features and to achieve legislative compliance.
- 6C.3.8 Standard environmental good practice and mitigation would be implemented to ensure construction and operation of the Project complies with legislation relating to protected species. It would also ensure the Project does not compromise the local conservation status of ecological receptors present within or in the vicinity of the draft Order Limits.
- 6C.3.9 A range of standard measures for the Project will be adopted throughout the duration of the construction phase. A draft Outline CoCP is provided in **Appendix 4A Draft Outline CoCP**. Measures relevant to the control and management of impacts that could affect landscape, visual and/or ecology aspects are listed below, with full descriptions of each measure provided in **Appendix 4A Draft Outline CoCP**:
- **GG03: a Final CoCP (based on the provisions in the draft Outline CoCP) will be produced prior to the commencement of construction;**
 - **GG04: appointment of Environmental Managers and Environmental Clerks of Works (EnvCoWs) to monitor implementation of requirements and ensure good practice is employed;**
 - **GG05: environmental training of construction workers;**
 - **GG07: Environmental Control Plans to be prepared prior to construction;**
 - **GG09: reinstatement of land used temporarily, hedgerows, fences and walls;**
 - **GG10: retention and protection of sensitive features such as ancient woodland and protected habitats;**
 - **GG12: location of activities that may cause nuisance, away from sensitive features such as residential properties and ecological sites where practicable;**
 - **GG13: design of construction sites relative to residential properties and landscape features;**

- **GG16: storage of hazardous materials away from sensitive receptors;**
- **GG20 and AS01: on earthworks, soil storage and protection;**
- **GG22 and LV04: on design and position of construction lighting;**
- **GG26: fencing of working areas;**
- **LV01: retention and replacement of vegetation;**
- **LV02: tree protection measures;**
- **LV03: aftercare and establishment period;**
- **LV05: pre-construction soil surveys;**
- **B01: requiring pre-construction species surveys and compliance with relevant protected species licences;**
- **B02: protection of breeding birds and seasonal requirements;**
- **B03: reducing risk of animal entrapment in works;**
- **B04: control of the spread of invasive weeds;**
- **B05: staged vegetation clearance and protection of reptiles;**
- **B06: provision of alternative bat roost structures (bat boxes);**
- **B07: provision of alternative barn owl breeding sites (barn owl boxes);**
- **B08: requirements when crossing or removing hedgerows; and**
- **B09: habitat or species translocation (if required).**

Tree Works

- 6C.3.10 The Project has been designed to minimise the removal of mature trees across the draft Order Limits where practicable. Some removal and pruning of mature trees is anticipated to be required to facilitate vehicle access, construction of towers and installation of wires.
- 6C.3.11 Where works in close proximity to retained trees cannot be practicably avoided, these works would be undertaken in accordance with an Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan, to be provided at ES stage. All works would be undertaken in accordance with good practice, which is defined in:
- **British Standard (BS) 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations (Ref 6C.1);**
 - **Street Works UK Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees (Ref 6C.2); and**
 - **BS 3998:2010 Tree works – Recommendations (Ref 6C.3).**
- 6C.3.12 All necessary protective fencing would be installed prior to the commencement of any construction works. This is anticipated to be set out in an Arboricultural Method Statement, CEMP and final Tree Protection Plan to be prepared pre-construction, pursuant to the DCO.

- 6C.3.13 Where part of a group of trees is to be removed the final extent of tree loss would be determined on-site by an arboriculturist who would assess the stability and suitability of retained trees.

6C.4 Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement

- 6C.4.1 The following provides an indication of the anticipated approach to reinstatement of different types of planting and grassland areas potentially affected by construction of the Project. These measures will be reviewed and updated within the Outline LEMP to be included in the ES as more detailed survey information becomes available and in response to feedback received through stakeholder engagement and Stage 2 Consultation.

Arable and Grassland Field Margins

- 6C.4.2 Soils would be removed in sequence. Topsoil and subsoil would be stockpiled separately and would be restored in reverse sequence of removal (subsoil first, topsoil last) to retain the original soil profile, in accordance with the **Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan**. It is anticipated that arable fields could then be returned to agricultural use.
- 6C.4.3 Arable field margins across the Project draft Order Limits can support a range of annual arable plants. The nature of these plants is that they persist in the seedbank and re-grow each year from seed. Therefore, preservation of the seedbank and suitable management (i.e. not cutting the margins until they have had an opportunity to set seed, and avoiding herbicide, fertilizer or lime use on, or spray drift into, the field margins) are key to the preservation of the populations. The nature of windblown seed spread means that the plants would not necessarily occur in the same locations every year. They could establish in any areas of suitable field margin.
- 6C.4.4 To preserve these features, soil from grassland field margins would be kept separately from that in the arable areas, and the top 15 cm of topsoil (in which the majority of seed would be found) from the arable field margins would be kept separately from the remaining topsoil so it can be replaced last. This would enable the seed bank topsoil to be restored following works, after which the seeds would germinate in the normal manner in the autumn following restoration, under the same favourable farm management that created the suitable conditions. Since existing farm practices created these conditions, the Project would not take on any management responsibility for these margins, which would be returned to the control of the relevant landowners and secured by agreement. Soil handling and reinstatement will be undertaken in accordance with **Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan**, which sets out relevant constraints and good practice measures.
- 6C.4.5 Grassland field margins would be returned to a grassland condition. The bare ground would be harrowed to raise a tilth of c.5–10 cm and grass and wildflower seed mix then either broadcast or slot-seeded into the soil. The ground would then be rolled to maximise contact between seeds and soil. It is anticipated that seeding would be undertaken within the next available sowing season (March to May or August to October) after construction of each section is completed and temporary haul roads, compounds and laydown areas are removed.

Hedgerows and Trees

- 6C.4.6 Wherever feasible and desirable, and particularly for highly valued or sensitive hedgerows, mature material would be removed from hedgerows in as large a section as possible and retained as close to the area of removal as possible. These would be watered until such time as they are reinstated. However, even if hedgerow material dies during this process, it can still be of value ecologically in helping to quickly re-establish a natural structure in the gap for purposes of (in particular) bat commuting along the hedgerow.
- 6C.4.7 Once works are complete, temporary hedgerow gaps would be planted with whips in the first available planting season post-construction, with the addition of light standards or feathered trees, where appropriate to the surrounding character and outside National Grid's statutory clearance extent (20 m from the centreline of the overhead line). The species mix would comprise native species typically found in adjacent hedgerows.
- 6C.4.8 Where trees are required to be removed to facilitate construction and are outside the statutory clearance extent from the overhead line and security wayleaves around the substations, they would be replaced with feathered or light standard trees of the same or similar native species to reflect the surrounding landscape character.

Ditches

- 6C.4.9 Temporary habitat losses from ditches would be reinstated in the winter following completion of construction in that area. Gaps in ditch margins would be reinstated with native species found within similar margins in the surrounding area. Further details of anticipated species will be provided within the Outline LEMP within the ES.

6C.5 Long-Term Landscape and Ecological Proposals

Landscape and Ecological Strategy

- 6C.5.1 Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. Initial survey and preliminary assessment have informed the iterative design process, guided by emerging design principles which will continue to be developed to address the opportunities and constraints presented by the Project (refer to **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**). These principles have been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment guidance and fieldwork analysis.
- 6C.5.2 The overall objective of the landscape design is to integrate the Project into its landscape setting and to avoid or minimise adverse landscape and visual effects, where practicable. Accordingly, the landscape design will aim to achieve the following:
- to integrate the Project into the existing landscape pattern where practicable by utilising and following existing features, including vegetation;
 - to replace habitat lost as a result of construction of the Project and enhance habitats through the creation of woodland, hedgerow, grassland and riparian habitats, where appropriate;

- to protect existing vegetation wherever possible, including areas of ancient woodland, through the application of appropriate offsets, mitigation and protection measures;
- to strengthen the existing landscape framework, extending and enhancing the woodland, hedgerows and trees along field boundaries to provide structural screening to the WMEL-A and WMEL-B substations;
- to provide an integrated drainage solution with attenuation ponds planted with marginal wetland species set within a wider context of native scrub planting to improve the biodiversity value across the WMEL-A and WMEL-B substation sites;
- to integrate the permanent access routes within the landscape with hedgerow and occasional tree planting;
- to consider opportunities for early construction phase planting to provide early establishment of woodland planting; and
- monitoring and maintenance of new planting and seeding to ensure successful establishment.

Landscape and Ecological Proposals

6C.5.3 Landscape and ecological proposals are in the early stage of development and will be set out in more detail in the Outline LEMP in the ES, and are anticipated to include the following native planting and seeding types:

- woodland and individual trees;
- native hedgerows;
- scrub planting;
- species rich and other types of grassland seeding;
- wetland habitat creation; and
- other species-specific measures, if appropriate.

6C.6 Maintenance and Management

6C.6.1 Proposed maintenance and management will be tailored to the specific requirements of the landscape and ecological proposals and therefore will be set out in the Outline LEMP in the ES.

6C.6.2 Details will be provided to describe how existing and proposed habitats will be protected or implemented during construction, maintained during the first five years following implementation, and managed in the long term for the lifetime of the Project.

6C.6.3 It is anticipated that implementation and monitoring works would be supervised by the EnvCoW.

6C.7 Monitoring

- 6C.7.1 Monitoring and reporting will be required in order to ensure locations of protected species are kept up to date, to determine that the functions of mitigation measures are being achieved and to determine whether any remedial management action may be required. Therefore, it is anticipated that all habitat created as part of the Project will be monitored post-construction to ensure it continues to provide its necessary function and that any required remedial measures are implemented.
- 6C.7.2 Details of monitoring requirements, including identification of a non-compliance procedure and/or change process, will be set out in the Outline LEMP included in the ES.

References

- Ref 6C.1 British Standards Institution (2012). *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.
- Ref 6C.2 Street Works UK (2026). *Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees*. [Online]. Available at <https://streetworks.org.uk/resources/publications/>. Accessed 06 July 2026.
- Ref 6C.3 British Standards Institution (2010). *BS 3998:2010 Tree works – Recommendations*.

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com