



**Clyde
Shanks**

Chapter 17

Material Assets

17. Material Assets

Introduction

- 17.1 Chapter 17 'Material Assets' of the original ES (March 2014) provided an assessment of a broad range of features of the physical and non-physical sectors of the environment said to have material value including utility infrastructure (i.e. electricity, gas and water).
- 17.2 This Chapter identified a requirement for a new connection from the existing electricity grid to the proposed site. A proposed route and connection point was identified at that time to comprise of the laying of 33kV underground cabling within the public highway from the site to the existing substation at Glengormley.
- 17.3 As this work will be undertaken by NIE and/or its appointed contractor, mitigation measures cannot be confirmed however it is anticipated that NIE and/or its appointed contractor will employ standard construction methodologies in relation to trench excavation in an urban environment. To manage potential disturbance to traffic movement during the excavation and cable laying works, traffic management measures are also likely to be required.
- 17.4 In advance of the PAC hearing held in October 2016, further environmental information in relation to grid connection formed part of the applicant's Statement of Case. As a result of discussions with NIE, an alternative connection route was identified that required further consideration.
- 17.5 The alternative route comprised the laying of 33kV underground cabling within the public highway from the site to a new 33kV switchboard at Mallusk. A site walkover was undertaken and it was confirmed that no ecological impact would arise as a consequence of either grid connection route being implemented. No additional mitigation measures were considered necessary in relation to the alternative route.
- 17.6 A third potential grid connection option was identified in the ES addendum submitted to the Department in March 2019 and in Figure 13.3 of the March 2019 addendum.

Consideration of Ecology

- 17.7 An updated site walkover of each of the three potential grid connection routes was undertaken by Ecology Solutions as part of preparation of this April 2025 addendum.
- 17.8 No change in baseline was identified from that previously assessed and the grid routes remain ecologically insignificant as previously reported.
- 17.9 Any impacts would be only temporary in nature and restored post construction, with the possible exception of access panel to the cable where it crosses the road. It is considered that this habitat loss would be, again, insignificant.

Summary

17.10 Three potential grid connection route options have previously been identified in the March 2014, August 2016 and March 2019 addendums.

17.11 As is articulated in Ecology Chapter 9, each of the grid connection routes have been the subject of further site review as part of this April 2025 ES addendum. Updated walkovers reaffirm previous conclusions that related habitat loss associated with construction of grid connection would be insignificant.

Figure 17.1 2019 Grid Connection Route (Figure 13.3 of March 2019 addendum)

