Public

June 2026

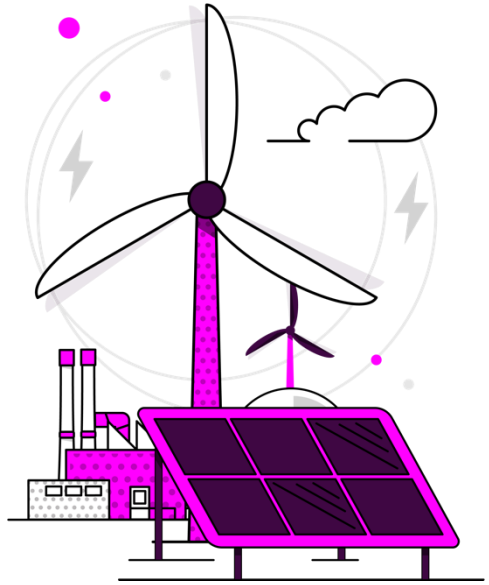
# Electricity Transmission Design Principles

## Response to feedback from consultation

NESO
National Energy System Operator

# Contents





# 1. Introduction

# Introduction

## 1.1 Background

In 2023 the Electricity Networks Commissioner made recommendations1 on how to accelerate the deployment of strategic electricity transmission infrastructure in Great Britain. The UK government adopted these recommendations which now form the basis of the Transmission Acceleration Action Plan (TAAP)2. The TAAP sets out 43 recommendations, which collectively seek to reduce the build time of electricity transmission network infrastructure projects from 14 to 7 years. Recommendation "RD1" of the TAAP sets out that Electricity Transmission Design Principles ("the Principles", or "the ETDP") be created to provide greater clarity on the type of asset to be used in different environments.

Starting in June 2024, The National Energy System Operator (NESO), formed, and closely collaborated with, a Working Group comprising the three Transmission Owners (TOs), the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), the Welsh and Scottish Governments and the Planning Inspectorate, to scope and develop these Principles in detail.

## 1.2 The Consultation

In October 2025, we consulted with the public on draft Principles to gather stakeholder views, enabling participants to inform the development of the final version intended to guide transmission infrastructure design across Great Britain.

We invited feedback on the following key questions:

1. Do you agree the Principles are written in a clear and accessible manner?
2. Given the context of the mission statement, are there any guidelines for transmission design that you think are missing?
3. Which Principles do you support and which do you disagree with, and why?
4. Do the Principles promote transparency in decision-making about new transmission projects?
5. Are the Principles realistic and actionable for designers and users of the Principles?

[1] Accelerating electricity transmission network deployment: Electricity Networks Commissioner's recommendations

[2] Transmission Acceleration Action Plan: Government response to the Electricity Networks Commissioner's report on accelerating electricity transmission network build

6. Do you have any further comments on the Electricity Transmission Design Principles?

We promoted the Principles and associated consultation on our website and through webinars including two that were open to all interested parties. A copy of the Electricity Transmission Design Principles document that was consulted on is available here.[3] A recording of the ETDP webinar is available here[4].

**25**

**The ETDP consultation generated responses from more than 25 organisations across Great Britain and, together, they have provided a range of valuable feedback and insight about the content and clarity of the draft.**

Participants in the consultation included

- local and national government departments
- electricity transmission owners
- statutory nature and conservation bodies
- campaign groups
- environmental non-governmental organisations
- industry trade associations
- individual members of the public
- other energy industry stakeholders.

Since the consultation closed on 26 October 2025, we have reviewed all the comments received and have continued engagement with the Working Group and other organisations that respondents indicated may have useful feedback.

This document sets out a summary of respondents' feedback, detailing the main areas of support as well as areas for further consideration. Please be aware we will not be responding to individual comments made on this document but have grouped responses into themes. Where we have not made a change to the Principles in response to specific feedback could be for a number of reasons. These include where points raised fall outside the scope of the Principles, where feedback conflicts with other opinions and where designers need some flexibility to respond to project-specific circumstances.

For the purposes of this document, references to 'developers' primarily relate to the TOs, who are responsible for the development of new transmission infrastructure, unless otherwise stated.

[3] Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) Consultation

[4] Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) Webinar

# 2. Summary of feedback

# Summary of feedback

**Overall, feedback on the draft version of the Electricity Transmission Design Principles is constructive and highlights support for the intent of the Principles. Respondents welcome the ambition to provide clear guidance for transmission design and raise important points on areas requiring greater clarity and detail.**

A key theme is the need for clearer articulation of scope, internal consistency, and practical application of the Principles. Respondents also emphasise the importance of early and meaningful engagement with communities and stakeholders, alongside transparent governance and robust option appraisal processes. Feedback covers a wide range of topics, including environmental and biodiversity impacts, technology choices, economic regulation, deliverability, and offshore coordination.

Insights from this consultation have informed refinements to the Principles, enhancing practical application, accessibility, and alignment with best practices.

We grouped the responses by theme to reflect the comments received and to bring together related points raised across multiple questions. Below, in Section 3, we go into more detail into the eight key themes from the consultation feedback. The themes are presented in a sequence that is broadly representative of the level of the respondents' interest.

1. Technology Presumptions and Design Choices
2. Clarity and Internal Consistency
3. Governance and Transparency
4. Community Engagement
5. Environmental and Biodiversity Impacts
6. Economic Regulation and Deliverability
7. Scope and Timing of Application
8. Offshore Coordination and Interfaces

For each theme, we provide a summary of the feedback received and an "Our Response" section, showing how the Principles have been refined following consultation.

**We would like to thank everyone who participated in the consultation.**

# 3. Feedback themes

# Feedback themes

## 3.1 Technology presumptions and design choices

The presumption in favour of overhead lines over underground cable attracted many comments. Some respondents state that overhead lines represent an outdated approach, citing concerns over visual impact and public opposition. Several highlight that other countries make greater use of undergrounding while others note that the cost differential between overhead and undergrounding is narrowing.

Tower design: respondents question the presumption for steel lattice towers, noting that while cost-effective, this approach can lock communities into what they believe is the most visually intrusive option. There is strong support for maintaining flexibility and encouraging innovation, with examples cited of alternative tower designs such as T-pylons. There are concerns that strict adherence to proven tower designs could stifle innovation and prevent adoption of less intrusive or more resilient technologies.

Substation design: respondents note that the Principle on the decision between air insulated switchgear (AIS) and gas insulated switchgear (GIS) lacked clarity on how site-specific factors should influence decision-making. There is also a call for a more consistent approach to make it easier for the public to understand why a certain decision is made

**Our response**

We acknowledge the feedback on the presumption in favour of overhead lines and steel lattice towers for England and Wales, and the comments on how NPF4 for Scotland differs from this. However, for all the reasons set out in the rationale of T2, and with deference to devolved planning policy that differs from EN-5, the starting presumption for overhead lines remains. Please refer to the supporting materials published alongside the Principles, including (an 'Electricity Networks Explainer') companion document, for a more detailed explanation of the impact of each transmission technology.

Steel lattice towers continue to be the most well-proven and cost-effective option for high-voltage overhead lines. This starting presumption has clearly not stifled innovation in the past. On the contrary, we recognise and support efforts to consider alternatives, such as T-pylons, where there is a sound justification for doing so.

On substation technologies, we note the feedback on clarity around the choice between air insulated switchgear (AIS) and gas insulated switchgear (GIS). While the ETDP does not prescribe a single approach, it encourages decisions to be based on site-specific considerations, including cost, ground footprint, environmental impact, futureproofing and cost. We have made significant modifications to the text for this Principle to improve its readability.

## 3.2 Clarity and internal consistency

Respondents raise concerns about ambiguity and inconsistency within the draft Principles. For example, language used, such as "wherever feasible," "where practicable," and "where appropriate", is open to interpretation and could lead to inconsistent interpretation across projects.

Several respondents highlight that the Principles should provide a transparent framework for balancing competing objectives, rather than leaving decisions to subjective judgement. Requests have been made for example scenarios to illustrate how trade-offs between technical, environmental, and community considerations should be managed in practice.

Feedback also emphasises the need for clarity on terms such as "embedding sustainability" and "innovative technology,". Concerns have been raised about the lack of guidance on priority order when Principles conflict, and whether presumptions, such as those relating to overhead lines, could be overturned. Further feedback on design presumptions is discussed in *Section 3.1*. Respondents stress that without clearer articulation of these points, the Principles risk being perceived as less actionable, potentially undermining confidence in their application.

**Our response**

We acknowledge the importance of clarity and internal consistency in the drafting of these Principles. In response, we have refined language where appropriate to reduce ambiguity and ensure alignment with the Government's statutory and policy requirements. We have not introduced prescriptive language or explicit hierarchies into the Principles as we consider that this would be impractical for the ETDP as a set of non-project-specific Principles.

Whilst the Principles include a number of starting presumptions, to introduce prescriptive language or explicit hierarchies beyond these risks would rendering their application impractical as non-project specific guidance. Nevertheless, we believe the revised Principles provide clear intent for transmission designers whilst allowing them to select and justify the best solution for each specific project.

We also recognise the value of example scenarios in supporting consistency in interpretation. Please refer to the supporting materials published alongside the Principles, including example scenarios to help illustrate how trade-offs should be managed.

## 3.3 Governance and transparency

Consultation respondents repeatedly return to the importance of transparency and strong governance in how the Principles would be applied. A common concern is that, while the Principles are clear in intent, it is not always obvious how they would be used in practice. In particular, respondents want greater clarity around decision-making processes and how trade-offs between competing objectives would be identified, assessed, and justified. Many suggest that publishing decision logs, example scenarios, or comparisons of strategic options would help make these decisions more visible and easier to understand (see also *Section 3.2*).

Some respondents express concern that, without a transparent framework for balancing priorities, economic efficiency could come to outweigh environmental and social considerations. Others note the risk that the Principles could be applied differently across Great Britain (as discussed further in *Section 3.6*), leading to inconsistency and perceived inequity unless clear governance arrangements are in place.

Alongside this, several respondents point to the need for clearer criteria and definitions to support consistent interpretation across different projects and regions. The lack of agreed metrics or decision frameworks is seen to be making it harder for stakeholders to engage meaningfully or to scrutinise how the Principles are being applied. Statutory bodies and campaign groups also stress the importance of aligning the Principles more explicitly with existing legal duties, including the mitigation hierarchy (see *Section 3.5*), and argue that public reporting on how trade-offs are managed would strengthen accountability.

There is also a strong view that transparency needs to extend beyond developers and the Regulator. Several respondents feel that the Principles would only build trust if they were supported by explanations that are accessible to communities and other non-technical audiences. Earlier engagement on key design choices, and clearer communication about how decisions are reached (as referenced in *Section 3.4*), are seen as particularly important in this regard.

Finally, respondents have asked for clearer articulation of the roles and responsibilities of NESO and other parties within the governance of transmission planning. This includes how and when departures from the Principles would be justified and recorded, and how the Principles would be supported across the countries of Great Britain, including where policy and planning regimes are devolved.

**Our response**

We recognise that transparency and effective governance are central to the successful implementation of the ETDP. Therefore, we have clarified the importance of our wider strategic plans, including the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) and Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), in providing the justification for new transmission developments to which these Principles apply. The Overarching Principles (OP) and the Strategic Planning Principles of the ETDP will apply directly to the development of the CSNP.

It is not the role of the Principles to prescribe how designers should confirm whether they've had regard to the Principles. We publish and implement these Principles to strengthen transmission design transparency by presenting starting assumptions, with the expectation that transmission planners and designers will justify significant deviations from the assumptions in the same ways as they do currently for guidance such as the Holford[5] and Horlock[6] Rules.

However, since, under the Planning Act, the guidance within these Principles must be had regard to as stated in EN-5, we recognise the importance of clearly articulated guidance that can be understood and scrutinised.

Accordingly, we have added to our introduction of the Principles an explanation of how they should be used in practice including, at a high level, how trade-offs are considered and how departures from default assumptions can be justified.

We also recognise that transparency needs to work for a wide range of stakeholders, not only transmission developers and regulatory authorities, but also for affected communities, planning authorities and their decision-makers. Some respondents have called for example scenarios and explanatory material, so that it is accessible and meaningful for communities and other non-technical audiences. Please refer to the supporting materials published alongside the Principles, including example scenarios and an 'Electricity Networks Explainer' companion document. As the ETDP is applied, we will continue to consider how information on transmission design decision making is presented and will reflect these learnings in future issues of the Principles.

We will also continue to review our governance arrangements for the Principles as they are implemented, and we welcome engagement with stakeholders to improve consistency, accountability, and confidence in how the Principles are applied across the nations and regions for specific projects.

[5] The Holford Rules, Lord Holford, 1959

[6] The Horlock Rules, National Grid Company plc

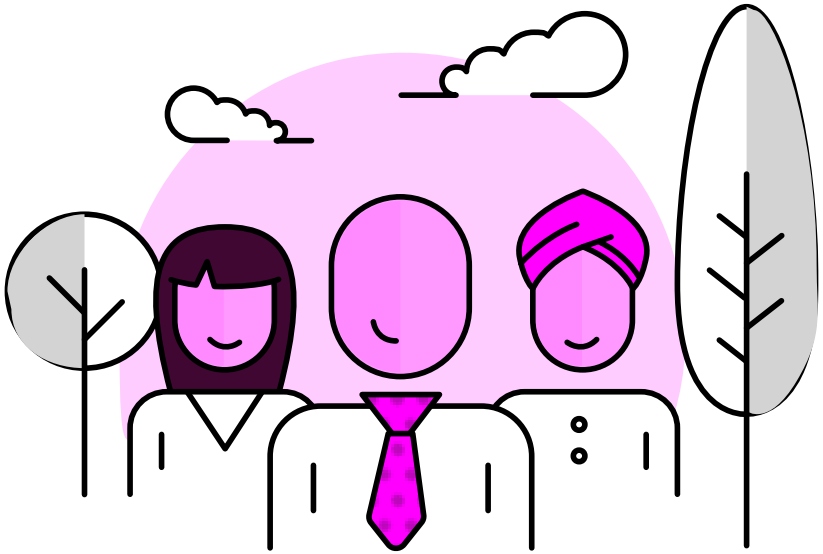
## 3.4 Community engagement

Respondents emphasise the importance of early, clear and more inclusive engagement with communities.

Several ask for transparent signposting of when stakeholders can influence decisions, distinguishing between elements set by strategic planning processes, such as the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), and those open to input during the project development phase. Some respondents also note that communities often feel that transmission design decisions are determined prior to consultation.

The consultation feedback also stresses the importance of accessible language. Many respondents find the Principles too technical and suggest simplifying terminology, expanding the glossary, and using graphics to help non-specialists understand certain concepts, such as the expression 'cable sealing ends' (see also *Section 3.2*).

One respondent refences the recently published 'Principles for navigating the social aspects of grid transformation' from the Government Office for Science[7] and another mentions the idea of establishing a community rights framework (e.g. based around early consultation, benefit funds and independent mediation) to build confidence in the Principles application.



[7] Principles for navigating the social aspects of grid transformation - GOV.UK

**Our response**

We acknowledge that respondents are asking for clearer signposting of when stakeholders can influence decisions, and we recognise the strong link between good design and meaningful community engagement. However, the types of design details that communities can influence are project specific and frequently depend on community concerns. For this reason, we do not believe it is appropriate to produce in the ETDP a prescriptive list of what communities can and cannot influence. Designers should consider the stages where communities can best influence decisions and seek engagement with communities at those times, ensuring community views are understood and considered in decision making. The best way for communities to shape future project outcomes is to engage early in the public consultation process, where feedback can be considered before key decisions are finalised.

We recognise the importance of transparency in how design decisions are reached. To support this, we have added a new introductory section on Design Choices and Balance, which provides additional context on how the Principles fit within the wider transmission development process. This aims to help readers who are less familiar with the sector understand how they can meaningfully engage in the design process. The ETDP along with the supporting materials published alongside the Principles, including an 'Electricity Networks Explainer' companion document, provides readers with an understanding of the considerations and rationale for transmission technologies. This enables the public and wider stakeholders to engage with developers around decisions made in line with the Principles during initial and statutory consultations.

We understand the importance of making the Principles accessible to a wide range of audiences and appreciate the feedback on the use of technical language. The additional context provided in the Design Choices and Balance section is intended to support those less familiar with the sector by helping to explain how choices are made. And, more broadly, we have continued, and will continue in future versions, to move the 'Rationale' sections of each Principle towards non-technical descriptions of these technical issues.

While some feedback on community engagement goes beyond the scope of the ETDP, we recognise its importance and assure readers that related work is underway, such as DESNZ's initiative on Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure.

## 3.5 Environmental and biodiversity impacts

Respondents emphasise the need for clearer guidance on how environmental and biodiversity considerations are embedded within the Principles. Several responses highlight the importance of aligning the Principles with statutory obligations under the Environment Act 2021, the Climate Change Act 2008, and relevant planning regulations across England, Scotland, and Wales.

Respondents

- call for explicit reference to the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate) so that there is a clear expectation that impacts should be avoided or reduced where possible, before mitigation or compensation is considered.
- note that biodiversity requirements should be clearly integrated into the Principles, including emphasising early and meaningful engagement with statutory nature conservation bodies and local communities to ensure that environmental considerations are addressed proactively rather than retrospectively.
- request that cumulative impacts be included, recognising that transmission projects often interact and sometime attract other infrastructure (e.g. solar farms, and battery storage facilities) once they are built.
- ask for clearer articulation of how trade-offs between environmental, technical, and economic factors will be managed, with some recommending reference to established frameworks such as the Treasury Green Book to support transparent decision-making.

**Our response**

We recognise the importance stakeholders place on clarity and transparency. We have strengthened references to statutory obligations, including the Environment Act 2021 and the Climate Change Act 2008, and clarified the role of biodiversity net gain and the mitigation hierarchy - environmental impacts should be avoided or reduced where possible before mitigation or compensation is considered.

We have also strengthened references to understanding the impacts of transmission projects on biodiversity and emphasised the importance of early engagement with statutory nature conservation bodies and local communities.

In developing the Principles, we recognise the importance of considering cumulative impacts, particularly where transmission projects may interact with other forms of infrastructure over time. We have not added more prescriptive requirements at this stage, as cumulative impact assessment methodologies vary significantly by project type and location, and developers require flexibility to apply the most appropriate approach within existing planning and environmental assessment processes.

Balancing economic, environmental, and social considerations is inherently complex and will always depend on the circumstances of individual projects. To support this, our new section on Design Choices and balance sets out good practice approaches to option appraisal, including the use of established methodologies such as those in HM Treasury's Green Book, and places emphasis on transparent and well documented decision making.

## 3.6 Economic, regulation and deliverability

Consultation respondents raise a broad range of issues relating to regulation and deliverability, drawing attention to how the Principles align with the RIIO-T3 framework and support anticipatory investment. Several respondents focus on the practicalities of cost allocation, including how upgrade and futureproofing costs associated with, for example, equipment or strategic land acquisition, would be recovered and over what timescales developers might be expected to contribute. There is concern that uncertainty in regulatory backing for charging arrangements and cost recovery mechanisms would represent a commercial risk that would discourage investment, slow the delivery of transmission infrastructure and degrade consumer value for money.

The need for consistency across Transmission Owners (TOs) has been raised. Respondents assert that differences in standards, policies, and approaches between TOs lead to inefficiencies, delays, and uneven outcomes. There are calls for stronger coordination, particularly around shared infrastructure, interface management, and engagement with other developers.

Practical delivery considerations have also been mentioned. Two respondents draw attention to supply chain capacity, whilst several respondents underline the value of continued engagement between NESO, Ofgem, and other industry participants to ensure that the regulatory framework remains aligned with the objectives of the Government's Transmission Acceleration Action Plan (TAAP) and continues to support efficient and timely delivery.

Some respondents also raise concerns about contestability and the challenge of integrating new entrants into the transmission development process without undermining delivery timescales.

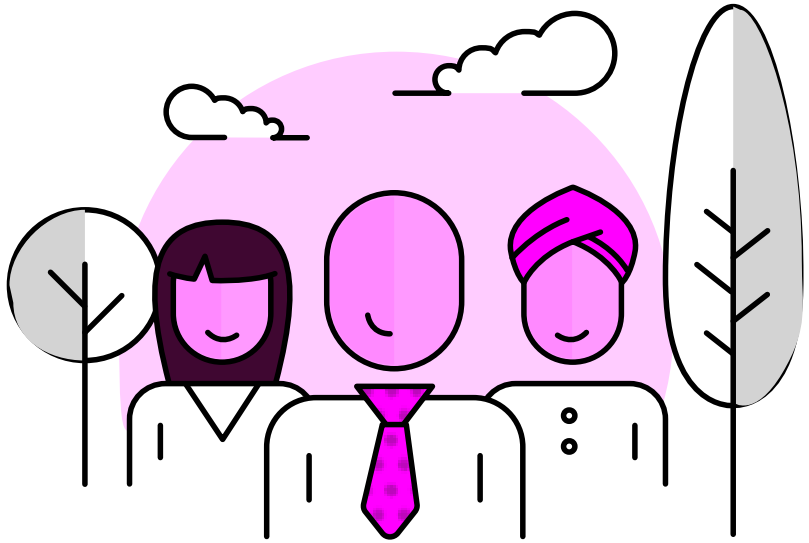
**Our response**

Regulatory alignment is fundamental to accelerated transmission delivery. Whilst these Principles have received regulatory scrutiny and broad support from Ofgem, they cannot of themselves influence regulatory policy; we continue to work closely with Ofgem and other relevant bodies to align policy and commercial practicalities.

We recognise the importance stakeholders place on achieving greater coordination and consistency across Transmission Owners. The Principles have been drafted to promote coordination and consistency across regions whilst allowing for national policy differences. The flexibility built into the Principles is intended to allow for practical implementation across different regional contexts provided any deviations from the default assumptions have been justified, as detailed further in *Section 3.3*.

We will continue to work with Ofgem to align the ETDP with developing regulatory arrangements, including in areas such as anticipatory investment, cost recovery mechanisms and shared infrastructure coordination.

For contestability and new entrants, we recognise stakeholder concerns about the clarity of roles and the operational challenges of integrating a wider range of developers without compromising delivery. The Principles are designed to be compatible with evolving market arrangements.



## 3.7 Scope and timing of application

Generally, respondents emphasise the importance of being clear about who the ETDP document is for, how it is intended to be used, how it fits with other policy developments, when the Principles will apply and which projects will be in scope.

Respondents are concerned about the impact that the ETDP could have on in-flight projects, or smaller scale works such as upgrades or reconductoring. Several have noted their uncertainty around what is meant by "newly identified projects," which the consultation stated the ETDP would apply to.

Some respondents highlight differences in how transmission infrastructure is defined across jurisdictions, such as the treatment of 132 kV assets, and note that this could affect how the Principles are interpreted in practice. Some respondents have suggested that the Principles should extend beyond transmission to include distribution projects, arguing that this would better reflect a whole system approach.

On the timing of ETDP's application, some respondents feel that applying the ETDP immediately following its publication may be too soon, particularly if it precedes the outcomes of related initiatives such as the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) and the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP). Others focus on ensuring that the Principles are not applied retrospectively to projects that are already well advanced and suggested a more phased or flexible approach that reflects differences in project maturity.

**Our response**

We recognise that clarity on scope and timing is important if the ETDP is to be applied consistently and proportionately. We have

- expanded the section on projects and technology in scope, providing additional context on the forward-looking nature of the Principles, how they sit alongside a broader set of measure and the engineering complexity of projects
- clarified key definitions within the Principles and supporting materials, including how strategic planning and project development stages should be understood
- set out more clearly how the Principles apply at different stages of project maturity.

We clarify that the ETDP will not be applied retrospectively to projects that have completed the strategic planning stage prior to publication.

We have clarified in the Foreword of the ETDP how existing policy and guidance, including the SSEP, CSNP, National Policy Statements, and the Holford and Horlock Rules have contributed to the ETDP and how the ETDP aligns with and, in some cases, clarifies their provisions.

We recognise the potential for confusion in scope of application, since transmission voltages in Scotland include 132kV which, in England and Wales is reserved for distribution. Regarding the application of the ETDP beyond England, the Principles endeavour to serve all the countries and regions of

We recognise the potential for confusion in scope of application, since transmission voltages in Scotland include 132kV which, in England and Wales is reserved for distribution. Regarding the application of the ETDP beyond England, the Principles endeavour to serve all the countries and regions of Great Britain whilst acknowledging that some aspects of planning law are devolved and differ across the national boundaries. A few respondents argued for the scope of the ETDP to be extended to include distribution projects. However, since the purpose, strategic planning processes, technologies (mostly), impacts, licencing, and ownership of distribution networks all differ to those of transmission, we consider that, for clarity, these Principles should remain solely focused on transmission design.

## 3.8 Offshore coordination and interfaces

Consultation respondents are divided about offshore coordination and how different parts of the system interact in practice. Some are supportive of the idea of sharing offshore cable corridors and coordinating landfall locations, particularly where this could reduce environmental impacts, limit the number of landfalls, or make better use of existing infrastructure. At the same time, respondents are clear that delivering coordinated solutions is rarely straightforward and often brings regulatory, legal, and practical complications. While shared corridors or surveys may make sense at a strategic level, industry respondents explain that sharing primary or auxiliary infrastructure is frequently difficult once projects move into detailed design, given constraints around consents, land rights, construction sequencing, and asset ownership. For many, this raises questions about how far coordination can realistically be achieved through high level Principles alone.

On the other hand, some respondents question whether the language used in the Principles goes far enough to encourage coordination in practice. References to coordination being something that "should be considered" are seen by some as too discretionary, particularly where cost recovery, access rights, or the ongoing management of shared assets are unclear. One respondent recommends engaging with Ofgem's Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) function, to help provide greater clarity on issues such as competition law, anticipatory investment, and differences in cost recovery arrangements (see also *Section 3.6*).

Environmental organisations and statutory consultees place particular emphasis on early engagement with affected stakeholders. They stress that cumulative impacts at landfall sites and along offshore routes need to be considered from the outset, especially in sensitive or protected areas. Applying the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy, with a clear focus on avoiding and minimising impacts where possible, is seen as critical not only for environmental protection but also for reducing consenting risk and longer-term costs (see also *Section 3.5*). Some respondents also ask for clearer expectations around

options appraisal and decision recording, particularly where coordinated solutions are explored but not taken forward (see also Section 3.3).

A number of respondents note that offshore transmission is an area that continues to evolve. They emphasise the importance of keeping the Principles under review as technologies, regulatory frameworks, and delivery models change, and of maintaining alignment with wider strategic planning processes such as the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) and the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP).

**Our response**

We welcome the support expressed for offshore coordination where it can deliver clear benefits, and we recognise the challenges raised by respondents around regulation, delivery, and the practicalities of implementation. Many of these challenges stem from differences in project timing, ownership structures, and cost recovery arrangements, so the Principles have been clarified to explain that shared offshore corridors and coordinated landfalls should be considered as part of option appraisal, but that this will not be appropriate in every case. This approach reflects the need to weigh the potential benefits of coordination against project specific constraints, regulatory requirements, and the realities of delivering infrastructure within defined consent and ownership frameworks

We recognise the points raised about the role of Ofgem in addressing issues such as competition law, anticipatory investment, cost recovery, and access rights. We have discussed these issues with them during the development of the Principles and will continue to engage with them and other industry stakeholders as these areas develop.

We have also strengthened references to early engagement with stakeholders, including statutory bodies and nature conservation agencies, alongside clearer guidance on considering cumulative impacts at landfall sites. The Principles reinforce the application of the mitigation hierarchy and emphasise the need for high quality option appraisal, decision making, and the reasoning behind why particular solutions are taken forward.

We will review the Principles at regular intervals and where appropriate, to ensure they remain effective. We remain committed to promoting good practice in offshore coordination and to supporting strategic alignment through ongoing engagement with the industry.

# 4. Next steps

# Next steps

We have published the Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) alongside this Consultation Feedback Response document. The changes made to the Principles reflect the views shared during the consultation, with changes primarily focused on addressing the key feedback themes set out in Section 3.

The Principles will undergo an initial review within the first year of implementation to understand the impact the Principles have had in practice, assess their effectiveness and identify any necessary refinements. We will monitor how the ETDP influences new transmission projects by gathering evidence on its practical application, and this evidence will inform future updates to the Principles.

The Principles are referenced in the National Policy Statement EN-5[8] ("Electricity Networks National Policy Statement"), which states that developers should have regard to the ETDP for nationally significant infrastructure in England and Wales. Though recognising that some planning law is devolved to Wales and Scotland, EN-5, and therefore the ETDP, may become increasingly relevant as cross-border transmission links are developed to meet net zero targets.

Subsequent reviews and revisions of the Principles will ensure alignment with updates to the relevant national planning policy frameworks, and that the Principles remain current and fit for purpose. Any reviews will be undertaken whilst liaising with a similar set of stakeholders as were involved in the development of the Principles.

[8] National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)

# 5. Legal notice

# Legal notice

For the purposes of this document, the terms “NESO”, “we”, “our”, “us” etc. are used to refer to National Energy System Operator Limited (company number 11014226).

This document has been prepared in good faith by NESO (the National Energy System Operator Limited, company number 11014226) pursuant to its statutory duties. It represents the output from the working group it convened pursuant to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero’s Transmission Acceleration Action Plan. NESO’s role in respect of the Electricity Design Transmission Principles includes convening and leading the working group and co-developing and consulting on the Principles. NESO’s role in respect of the Principles is not policymaking, endorsing into planning law (into the NPS or otherwise), and/or decision-making in respect of consenting specific projects.

The content of this document is not intended to constitute legal, financial, or other professional advice and nothing within this document alters or supersedes applicable policy and law. Readers and/or any party interpreting, considering and/or applying the Principles should not act, refrain from acting, and/or place any reliance upon the contents of this document, should make independent enquiries as to the legal and practical implications of applying the Principles in any specific context, and should seek their own independent professional advice tailored to their specific circumstances and applicable policy and law.

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