

Hinkley Point C Connection Project

Stage 6 of the authorised development

Requirement 9 Provision of Embedded Landscape Mitigation and Landscaping Scheme for Sandford Substation – ‘Non-Advanced’ Planting

Document 6 9 1 D

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document comprises the provision of embedded landscape mitigation ('the Landscape Scheme') for Stage 6 of the authorised development¹ as part of the Hinkley Point C Connection Project ('the Project'). The Landscaping Scheme is required by Schedule 3, Requirement 9 of The National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016 (as amended) ('the DCO').
- 1.1.2 The relevant part of Schedule 3 Requirement 9 (Provision of embedded landscape mitigation and landscaping schemes) of the DCO is as follows:
- “(1) The landscaping works (Environmental Statement Document 5.7) (“landscaping scheme”) for –*
- (c) Sandford Substation (Environmental Statement Document 5.7.3.14A, Figures 7.35.1 to 7.35.6);*
- must be submitted to the relevant planning authority.*
- (2) a landscaping scheme mentioned in paragraph (1) must be carried out in accordance with the relevant plans and documents listed above and the specification set out at Environment Statement Document 5.7.2 Appendix 7K (NBS Landscape Specification), with a fifteen-year maintenance period, and as approved by the relevant planning authority, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant planning authority.”*
- 1.1.3 This document has been submitted for approval to North Somerset Council (NSC) as the relevant planning authority for Stage 6 of the authorised development and for the discharge of Schedule 3 Requirement 9(1)(c) of the DCO.
- 1.1.4 The original Requirement 9 pre-application submission for the 'non-advanced planting' (Doc 6 9 1 A) was submitted to NSC on 20th April 2020. The full submission (Doc 6 9 1 B) was made to NSC on 3rd June 2020.
- 1.1.5 On 21st July 2020, National Grid submitted an updated version of the document (Doc 6 9 1 C) to clarify details of trees proposed as part of the landscape scheme.
- 1.1.6 This document sets out the updates to the most recently approved 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 1 C) for Sandford Substation. The document provides the detailed design of the landscape mitigation (Planting Phase Areas A to I) and phasing for delivery of the Landscape Scheme (Planting Phase Areas A to I) for Sandford Substation as illustrated in Environmental Statement Document 5.7.3.14A, Figures 7.35.1 to 7.35.6 (as provided for context in **Appendix A**).
- 1.1.7 This document seeks to confirm the exact location of the planting for Stage 6, following detailed design work in relation to the site layout, completion of the survey work in September 2019 and October 2019, consideration of the site constraints and having further detail about the existing utilities. During the process of finalising the detailed design work, a calculation error made in the previous submission Doc 6 9 1 C has been identified and rectified. This

¹ Stage 6 of the authorised development is defined by the Written scheme setting out all the stages of the authorised development, pursuant to Requirement 4 (1) of the DCO.

calculation error was in the main body of the Rev C report but the accompanying plans were correct. This has resulted in a minor change of the total planting numbers recorded in this Doc 6 1 D report. Further detail about these changes can be found in Table 4. The updates included in this document aim to refine and act as a means of implementation for the proposed landscape scheme now that utility locations within the Stage 6 boundary are confirmed.

- 1.1.8 A separate document was prepared and approved pursuant to Requirement 9(1)(c) on 25th March 2020 by NSC (application ref: 20/P/0254/DCM) for updates to the 'advanced' embedded landscape mitigation planting within Planting Phase Areas A to E. This approved scheme is provided for context in **Appendix B** of this document.

1.2 Overview of the Project

- 1.2.1 National Grid gained development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for the Project on 19th January 2016. The DCO provides powers to National Grid for the authorised development, and powers to Western Power Distribution (WPD) for the WPD works. The new Sandford 400/132kV Substation is commonly referred to as an air insulated substation and this design requires electrical equipment to be mounted above ground on insulated structures. The Grid Supply Point (GSP) will comprise two separate substation compounds with an adjoining fence (one substation compound for the new Sandford 400kV Substation and one substation compound for the new Sandford 132kV Substation)
- 1.2.2 The Project falls within the administrative boundaries of North Somerset Council.
- 1.2.3 Stage 6 commenced in Q1 2020 and will be completed in Q1 2024.
- 1.2.4 Siemens has been appointed by National Grid as the main works contractor for Stage 6 of the Project.

Preparatory/Temporary Works

- 1.2.5 Construction compounds: A construction compound has been established adjacent to the site of the new Sandford 400/132kV Substation, including site offices, welfare, materials storage, waste management and an area for parking for authorised vehicles. The construction compound will be removed as part of completion of the Stage 6 works.
- 1.2.6 Bellmouth / access: There will be a permanent access bellmouth created on Nye Road which will serve as the ongoing access for National Grid staff once the construction works are complete. The construction access for Stage 6 has been established as part of Stage 2.1.
- 1.2.7 Haul roads: In advance of mobilisation for Stage 6, the contractor for Stage 2.1 constructed a temporary haul road between the A368 Towerhead Road and Sandford. This haul road serves as the only route for construction access to the site of the new Sandford 400/132kV Substation.
- 1.2.8 The bellmouth and haul road detailed above will ultimately become permanent for occasional access in the event that abnormal loads such as transformers must be removed or delivered to the substation.

Main Works

- 1.2.9 Works for Stage 6 will involve the removal of existing chicken sheds and foundations before the main earthworks activity can commence. Diversion of the existing rhyme will follow, then stripping of topsoil to the extent required in the detailed design. Sequential activities will involve site levelling, cut and battered slopes and cut off drains to create a platform that is suitable for constructing the new Sandford 400/132kV Substation.
- 1.2.10 The main works will commence with the construction of the 400/132kV GSP. The contractor shall carry out civil, structural and building works required for both substation compounds (permanent substation compounds, not construction compounds) for the Sandford 400/132kV Substation.
- 1.2.11 Each substation compound will include the installation of a control building, relay rooms and amenity facilities. The earth store and workshop shall comprise prefabricated units support on in-situ foundations.
- 1.2.12 Electrical and mechanical installations will comprise the erection of above ground structures upon which the high voltage switchgear and equipment is installed.
- 1.2.13 The Sandford 400kV Substation will be owned and operated by National Grid and comprise of an air insulated open terminal substation complete with all associated infrastructure, protection, control, telecommunications, ancillary equipment.
- 1.2.14 The Sandford 132kV Substation will be owned and operated by Western Power Distribution and comprise of an air insulated open terminal substation complete with all associated infrastructure, protection, control, telecommunications, ancillary equipment.
- 1.2.15 As well as the construction access detailed above, a permanent access road including junction and visibility splays will be constructed on Nye Road and will serve as the access road to the Sandford 400/132kV Substation during operation.
- 1.2.16 Associated works in the vicinity of the Sandford 400/132kV Substation will require a new section of the Strawberry Line cycle path and car park to be built between Nye Road and the existing cycle path beyond. A stock proof fence will also be provided around the perimeter of the substation compounds to segregate it from the cycle path and railway embankment.

1.3 Consultation

- 1.3.1 Prior to the formal submission of a previous version of this document for the discharge of Requirement 9, a pre-application consultation was completed with a draft version of the document (Doc 6 9 1 A) provided to NSC on 20th April 2020 for comment.
- 1.3.2 All comments received on the pre-application document, including how they have been taken into consideration in the version of the document accompanying the full submission (Doc 6 9 1 B) made on 3rd June 2020 are set out in Table 1.
- 1.3.3 In July 2020, National Grid submitted an updated version of the document (Doc 6 9 1 C) to clarify details of trees proposed as part of the landscape scheme. The updated document and accompanying plans include for 'Extra Heavy Standard Trees' as part of the landscape scheme. Further detail about this are included in **Appendix C**.

Table 1 Pre-Application Consultation Comments on Doc 6 9 1 A and Responses

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
Specific comment	Tree Officer (NSC)	1. 3.5 Planting Phase Area D – I can't work out which trees they intend to remove. Can a plan be forwarded or included in the document please. We won't want the Redwood(s) removed;	Trees/Tree Groups to be removed and retained shown in the HPCC - 6 11 B - REQ 6 11 - REQ 12 - Tree and Hedgerow Protection Strategy 24 01 2020 and D7408.001-005 Sandford Substation, Arboricultural Method Statement V2.
Specific comment	Tree Officer (NSC)	2. We'll need updated Tree Protection Plans for the retained trees;	Refer to response above.
Specific comment	Tree Officer (NSC)	3. I object to the size of the Willows to be planted. It's not sustainable to plant trees which require maintenance for so long;	The Salix Alba(Pollarded) 20-25cm girth reflected the original DCO Planting Schedule shown on Drawing: Figure 7.35.2 Sandford Substation Detailed Planting Plan Overall Plan Rev B. The proposed tree size has now been reduced to 10-12cm girth. Refer to updated plan outlined within Annex C
Specific comment	Tree Officer (NSC)	4. I also object to the use of heavy standards for the same reason as above. Planting 10-12's is sufficient. Please note that objections to using large nursery stock were raised early in the planning process.	The proposed use of Extra Heavy Standards (EHS) reflected the original DCO Planting Schedule shown on Drawing: Figure 7.35.2 Sandford Substation Detailed Planting Plan Overall Plan Rev B. The proposed tree size has now been reduced to 10-12cm girth. Refer to updated plan outlined within Annex C.

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
Specific comment	Landscape Officer (NSC)	<p>Phasing</p> <p>Updated phasing of the planting is set out at 2.3.1. (the advance planting (part) indicated was completed this April). I have no objection to the indicated phasing.</p> <p>Detailed Design</p> <p>The detailed design has been modified to take account of a number of scheme changes at 3.1.5 and revised proposals for the non-advance landscape scheme are included at Appendix C.</p>	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.
Specific comment	Landscape Officer (NSC)	<p>Following a comparison of the DCO approved and the updated landscape scheme quantities for all planting areas (table 3), the document goes on to explain the rationale for the planting of each area (A to I):</p> <p>Table 7: Landscape Scheme Extracts for Planting Phase Area C</p> <p>The DCO scheme and masterplan illustrate an area of existing orchard to be retained and enhanced, but it no longer appears on the updated plan. Please clarify as there is no mention of this in the text.</p>	<p>The original DCO scheme and masterplan had shown an existing orchard in a formal grid layout. Further to a vegetation survey along the proposed Strawberry Line undertaken in September 2019 this orchard is in fact a copse of Hornbeam which does not reflect the formal grid layout shown on the original DCO scheme. The vegetation survey undertaken in September 2019 picks up the edge of the existing Hornbeam copse only where this interfaces with Planting Area C.</p> <p>Please refer to paragraph 3.4.4, Figure 9 and Figure 10.</p>
Specific	Landscape	Table 12: Landscape Scheme Extracts for	The original DCO scheme Drawing: Figure 7.35.4 Sandford Substation Detailed Planting Plan Area 2 Rev B showed the retention of existing

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
comment	Officer (NSC)	<p>Planting Phase Area H</p> <p>The cable swathe easement entering from the southwest, has two further replacement hedges illustrated across it on the DCO scheme, nothing on the updated scheme. I assume these are dealt with under the hedgerow replacements, although one of them appears to be on the boundary of area H (previous 2015 detailed plans showed its retention). Please clarify what is intended here.</p> <p>I have no comments on other areas, as the detail is clear and acceptable.</p>	<p>hedgerow to the Stage 2 400Kv cable swathe entering from the southwest. This existing hedgerow is to be removed and replaced in-situ as part of the Stage 2 Requirement 10 replacement planting proposals.</p> <p>The hedgerow to the boundary of Area H is to be a new native hedgerow planted along the eastern boundary of the realigned ryhne.</p>
Specific comment	Ecologist (NSC)	No comments were received at the time of writing this report.	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	General Comments - notwithstanding the comments of the Tree Officer the use of EHS trees is supported. The DCO and accompanying legal agreement require the applicant to utilise EHS trees and it was on this basis that the landscape mitigation in the ES was considered. Whilst EHS trees may require a greater level of maintenance there is a desire to achieve the greatest level of mitigation early so larger specimen trees are	In line with the Tree Officer's comments above, a reduced size of tree has been proposed. The proposed tree size has now been reduced to 10-12cm girth as shown on the updated plans contained within Appendix C.

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
		required.	
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area A – The planting proposed in Area A reflects that set out in the DCO documentation. The tree planting is of the quantum ‘guaranteed’ through the ES and in addition, structural woodland planting and new hedgerow is proposed to bolster the planting along the embankment and ensure it provides a robust landscape screen. This process of gapping up and supplementing the maturing planting on the embankment is acceptable. The proposal retains and reinforces existing planting in a manner consistent with the local landscape character which will act as a buffer to the substation and filter views. The proposal is assessed to be in line with the DASSI.	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area B – In Area B the applicant proposes to plant marginally fewer trees than set out in the DCO approved landscaping scheme, but a greater level of native structural planting. The applicant’s justification for this is the greater presence of badgers in the area and to better complement the existing planting (noted to have matured since the DCO ES survey). This justification is acceptable and aligns with the aspirations of the DASSI and the justification provided by the applicant in	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
		regard to the advance planting. Again, the nature and quantum of mitigation planting is assessed to be acceptable and meet the expectations of the ES in seeking to mitigate the visual impact of the authorised development.	
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area C – In Area C, the advanced planting was greatly reduced due to the extent of earthworks associated with the reinstatement of the Strawberry Line. No objection was raised to this on the basis that all the previously approved planting would be delivered at some point. The submission suggests that the previously approved level of planting is now exceeded, both in terms of new trees and retained trees, including a group of hornbeams. The retention of these maturing trees is welcomed. What isn't shown on the plans submitted, as noted by the tree officer, is whether the existing orchard adjacent to area C is to be retained. It is assumed that the orchard is retained as those trees are not identified elsewhere as being removed, but this should be clarified in the formal submission, noting that the orchards are a key feature of the landscape character of the area. The proposed level and nature of planting looks to be acceptable in Area C in line with the DASSI, but the retention of the orchard should be clarified.	Refer to response to Landscape Officer comment above

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	<p>Area D – Similarly to Area C, the applicant was unable to provide much of the previously approved advanced planting in Area D given the earthworks required in the immediate vicinity of the planting area. The proposed non advanced planting is proposed to complement the existing tree planting along Nye Road/Drove Way this will reinforce this tree belt, filter views of the substation and be in keeping with the local landscape character in line with the original aspirations of the landscaping and DASSI. It is noted that some of the proposed planting has had to be revised to take account of the proximity of the underground cabling. This has meant woodland planting being substituted with shrub planting in some areas to retain the necessary easement. This is compensated to some degree by additional woodland planting adjacent to Nye Road/Drove Way. The technical reasons for the change in design and planting is understood and the alternative proposed is assessed to be acceptable. the views of the substation will continue to be filtered and the existing planting enhanced. This is in general accord with the ES documentation and DASSI.</p>	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.
Specific	Case Officer	<p>Area E – The changes proposed to the DCO approved landscape scheme within Area E</p>	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
comment	(NSC)	are very limited. Simply the retention of two trees and omission of two. The main planting proposed is orchard planting reflecting the local character of that around Sandford. The species of tree proposed is that agreed on the earlier Requirement submission. The planting in this area is acceptable.	
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area F – The changes proposed to the approved landscaping in this area primarily relate to the revised layout of the authorised development, these being the relocation of the public car park and introduction of the two pond system for wildlife and drainage. As such the landscaping concentrates on a roadside hedgerow (set behind the visibility line) to screen and filter views from the road. Tree planting is concentrated to the north of the area beyond the ponds. This amendment is assessed to be acceptable and will continue to fulfil the primary aims of the mitigation planting as set out in the DASSI.	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area G – Similarly to Area F, the changes relate to the car park and pond alterations made. The planting includes roadside hedgerow and tree planting to screen the public car park and authorised development	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
		beyond from Drove Way. Again, this level and distribution of planting is assessed to mitigate the visual impact of the authorised development in a manner which is in general accord with the character of the area and DASSI.	
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area H – The changes here reflect the location of the 10m wide cable swathe easement into the substation. The result appears to be a limited loss in tree planting from that previously proposed. This is accepted as it is understood that tree planting cannot be provided within the underground easement. However, the submission does not clearly indicate the intention for the existing hedgerows (2 No.) which pass over the easement. These were to be reinstated previously but appear to be missing on the current proposal. This, as requested by the tree officer, should be clarified in the formal submission. It is understood they were to be replanted to maintain the landscape character of the area.	Refer to response to Landscape Officer comment above
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Area I – this proposed planting area reflects that agreed at the DCO stage and includes tree planting along the field margin and a continuation of the orchard planting in Area E.	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.

Type of comment	Consultee	Comment	Response
		This is acceptable.	
Specific comment	Case Officer (NSC)	Landscape phasing – no objection is raised to the proposed phasing of the landscaping set out within Table 14 of the submission. The phasing logically follows the completion of works across the Stage 6 working area and the subsequent removal and reinstatement works. This minimises the potential for planting to be damaged through planting too early.	Comments noted, no response considered necessary.

1.4 Document Update (October 2021)

1.4.1 The reasons why an update to the Stage 6 Landscaping Scheme document is required are:

- Updates to the programme of planting implementation within areas that are still occupied by the Mains Work Contractor. The updates are required due to the ongoing Main Contractor's Activity meaning the land is not available for planting.
- Oak tree biosecurity. Following restrictions of movement of Quercus species due to biosecurity measures put in place to reduce the spread of Oak Processionary Moth in the UK, it is proposed to reduce 16-18cm girth oak trees to 1.75-2m feathered form to ensure the species is still present within the final landscape scheme. Presence of oaks is an important feature in the local landscape character and the approach of reducing the size of oaks is proposed rather than omitting them from the scheme entirely and substituting them with other species which are less characteristic to the locality.
- Trees are re-located within and between Planting Phase Areas B, C, D, E G, F and H due to service easements or further site constraints. Trees have been re-located to ensure the quantum of trees within the scheme remains equal to the last approved landscape scheme presented in document Doc 6 9 C. There has been no tree location changes to Planting Phase Area A and I. Within Planting Phase Area A the badger sett locations have been updated as per the most recent Badger surveys. Please see section 3 for further details.
- To rectify a total tree number calculation error in the previously approved Doc 6 9 C. 696nr trees was correctly shown on the plans submitted in support of the Doc 6 9 C submission, but the total was incorrectly reported in the main body of the report (Table 4). This error has now been rectified and the total tree planting proposed across the scheme comes to 696nr trees. There has been no change to the total number of tree planting proposed across the scheme from the Doc 6 9 C to Doc 6 9 D.
- To quantify a minor reduction of tree hedgerow planting in Planting Phase Area H of approximately 10 lin m of hedge due to retention of existing farm track for access and required minimum clearance for planting from existing rhyme as per Drainage Board maintenance requirements.

1.4.2 A summary of the updates to this document is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of updates to the Landscaping Scheme (Doc 6 9 D)

Updates to document	Reason for update
Section 1.4 added, 1.4 Document Update (October 2021)	To record the updates to the October submission 6 9 1 D, this document, and clearly outline the rationale.
Paragraph 3.1.5 updated to set out a summary of updates within the detailed design of the Landscape Scheme	To include further bullet points to the changes to the landscape scheme. This includes the proposed changes in oak tree size justification and the proposed relocation of trees to ensure clearance of utilities easements.
Table 4 Updated setting out the proposed planting quantities for all planting areas	To set out comparison of DCO Approved and updated Embedded Mitigation Landscape Scheme quantities for all planting areas.
Paragraph 3.1.9 added	To set out the reasoning for updating tree locations in relation to existing utility locations.
Section 3.2 Updated – Planting Phase Area A: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.2.5 added to set out the updates within Planting Phase Area A 2. Table 5 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.2.5 added to provide details of the latest site constraints and badger sett locations within Planting Phase Area A. There has been no changes to planting locations. 2. Table 5 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.
Section 3.3 Updated – Planting Phase Area B: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.3.7 added to provide narrative of updates within Planting Phase Area B 2. Table 7 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme and confirm that Planting Phase Area B has received 5nr trees from neighbouring Planting Phase Area C due to positions of utilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.3.7 added to provide details of the updates to the scheme within Planting Phase Area B for relocated trees due to service easements. 2. Table 7 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.
Section 3.4 Updated – Planting Phase Area C: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.4.5 added to set out the updates within Phase Area C 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.4.5 added to provide details of the scheme change within Planting Phase Area C for relocated trees due to service easements. 2. Table 8 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme and confirm the updated location of proposed trees within Planting Phase Area C due to utilities.

Updates to document	Reason for update
2. Table 8 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme and confirm that tree planting has been reposition between planting areas due to utility easements.	
Section 3.5 Updated – Planting Phase Area D: 1. Paragraph 3.5.9 added to set out the updates within Planting Phase Area D 2. Table 9 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme	1. Paragraph 3.5.9 added to provide details of the scheme change within Planting Phase Area D for relocated trees due to service easements. 2. Table 9 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.
Section 3.6 Updated – Planting Phase Area E: 1. Paragraph 3.6.6 added as a narrative of updates within Planting Phase Area E 2. Table 10 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme	1. Paragraph 3.6.6 added to provide details of the scheme change within Planting Phase Area E for relocated trees due to existing constraints – pond found on site. 2. Table 10 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.
Section 3.7 Updated – Planting Phase Area F: 1. Paragraph 3.7.7 added as a narrative of updates within Planting Phase Area F 2. Table 11 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme	1. Paragraph 3.7.7 added to provide details of the scheme change within Planting Phase Area F for relocated trees due to service easements. 2. Table 11 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.
Section 3.8 Updated – Planting Phase Area G: 1. Paragraph 3.8.6 added as a narrative of updates within Planting Phase Area G 2. Table 12 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme	1. Paragraph 3.8.6 added to provide details of the scheme change within Planting Phase Area G for relocated trees due to service easements. 2. Table 12 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.
Section 3.9 Updated – Planting Phase Area H: 1. Paragraph 3.9.4 added set out the updates within Planting Phase Area H 2. Table 13 updated to show revised illustration of the scheme	1. Paragraph 3.9.4 added to provide details of the scheme change within Planting Phase Area H for relocated trees due to service easements and a minor reduction of hedge planting due to retention of existing access track and drainage board minimum clearance requirement for planting. 2. Table 13 updated to confirm tree numbers & include revised illustration of scheme.

Updates to document	Reason for update
Section 3.10 Updated – Planting Phase Area I: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.10.3 added to confirm that there has been no changes to planting within Planting Phase Area I 2. Table 14 updated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 3.10.3 added to confirm that there has been no planting changes to Planting Phase Area I. 2. Table 14 updated to confirm tree numbers & include illustration of scheme
Section 4 Updated to provide information on revised implementation dates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 4.2.3 & 4.2.4 Added setting out reason for updating the implementation dates. 2. Table 15 revised setting out updates to the implementation dates 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraph 4.2.3 & 4.2.4 added to provide rationale around revised implementation dates. 2. Table 15 updated to provide revised implementation dates.
Appendix C Updated	Appendix C updated to show revised landscape scheme. HPCC - 6 9 1 D - REQ 9 - Appendix C Part 1: Sandford Embedded Detailed Planting Areas A-I Rev E - Sheets 1 to 4 HPCC - 6 9 1 D - REQ 9 - Appendix C Part 2: Sandford Embedded Detailed Planting Areas A-I Rev E - Sheets 5 to 7

2 REQUIREMENT CONTEXT

2.1 References to this document within existing DCO documents

- 2.1.1 Measures to be included within this document are contained within existing DCO documents, which have been certified by Article 44 of the DCO.
- 2.1.2 Environmental Statement Document 5.7.3.14A, Figures 7.35.1 to 7.35.6 illustrate the landscaping scheme for the Sandford Substation as set out in **Appendix A**.

2.2 Design Approach to Site Specific Infrastructure

- 2.2.1 Schedule 3 Requirement 38 of the DCO requires that the landscape mitigation and landscaping schemes pursuant to Requirement 9 must accord with the Design Approach to Site Specific Infrastructure (DASSI) (Doc 8.32).

2.3 Phased Planting

- 2.3.1 Environmental Statement Figure 7.35.6 'Landscape Mitigation Phasing' sets out the proposed phasing of planting works at Sandford Substation. The phasing of planting at Sandford Substation was superseded by the updated phasing proposals included in the approved Requirement 9, Provision of Advanced Embedded Landscape Mitigation document (Doc 6 9 C). Table 2 below is an extract from the previously approved Doc 6 9 C.

TABLE 3: PHASING OF STAGE 6 LANDSCAPE SCHEME (DOC 6 9 C) SANDFORD

Phasing ID	Description	Advance Planting	Advance Planting Timescales	Remaining Planting Works Timescales	Updated Notes
A	Gap tree planting along the Strawberry Line	No	n/a	Nov 2021- March 2022*	All planting works to be undertaken within the available planting season following completion of reinstated Strawberry Line cycle path works in June 2021. All seeding works required as part of the final landscape scheme or reinstatement will be carried out prior to Nov 2021 following completion of the above works.
B	Gap tree planting along the Strawberry Line	Yes (part)	April 2020**		
C	Native structure planting and tree planting between retained orchard and substation	Yes (part)	April 2020**		
D	Native structure planting and native hedgerow between existing trees along Drove Way and proposed 132kV undergrounding	No	n/a		

E	Orchard tree planting, wind break tree planting and gap planting of retained boundary hedgerows.	Yes (part)	April 2020**	Nov 2021-March 2022*	To be completed following removal of temporary Haul road.
F	Detention basin and wetland pond (construction only).	No	n/a	May – Nov 2020	Current envisaged planting timescales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native tree/shrubs = Dec 2020-March 2021 • Seeding Works = Spring 2021 Marginal aquatic planting = May-June 2021
G	Native structure planting and tree planting around proposed car park.	No	n/a	Nov 2021-March 2022*	
H	Ditch creation (outside any temporary culverted areas).	No	n/a	May - June 2020	Diversion of Rhyne is part of the initial site activities
	Ditch planting.	No	n/a	Sep / Oct 2020	In line with original phasing table, all planting with the exception of those areas affected by temporary haul roads and works associated with the 400KV underground cables crossing the ditch will be carried out in the first available planting season following creation of the ditch
I	Orchard tree planting, wind break tree planting and gap planting of retained boundary.	No	n/a	Nov 2021-March 2022*	To be completed following removal of temporary Haul roads.
Remaining Landscape Works (outside of Phasing Areas A-I): Nov 2021-March 2022*					

* - March 2022 is a date beyond the DCO approved Phasing plan table date of Dec 2021. This date is indicated on the basis that it remains within the same planting season which will run from November 2021-March 2022.

** - Whilst this planting was programmed to take place in February – March 2020, due to Covid-19 this will now be undertaken in April 2020.

3 SUBSTATION LANDSCAPING SCHEME

3.1 Scheme Design

- 3.1.1 The Landscape Scheme for Sandford Substation certified by Article 44 of the DCO is provided in **Appendix A** (Environmental Statement Document 5.7.3.14A, Figures 7.35.1 to 7.35.6).
- 3.1.2 The advance embedded landscape mitigation planting of the Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Areas A to E, as approved pursuant to Requirement 9(1)(c), is provided in **Appendix B**. This planting was delivered in April 2020.
- 3.1.3 This section of the document sets out the proposed 'non-advanced' planting for the Sandford Substation Landscape Scheme, providing updates to the detailed design of landscape mitigation for Planting Phase Area A to Planting Phase Area I.
- 3.1.4 The primary reasons for the scheme updates to the detailed design result from:
- Further detailed surveys establishing the exact location and presence of existing vegetation across the site;
 - Presence of established and mature vegetation on site that should be retained;
 - Scheme design updates to meet onsite constraints (physical & environmental);
 - Scheme design changes to meet detailed design and coordination from the delivery team; and
 - Scheme design changes to meet regulatory compliance.
- 3.1.5 Specifically, this includes the following updates to the detailed design of the Landscape Scheme:
- Detailed design work for the proposed Strawberry Line alignment;
 - Wildlife Pond and Strawberry Line car park swapping locations in Planting Phase Area F and Planting Phase Area G;
 - Addition of a separate attenuation basin adjacent to the wildlife pond as part of the approved Stage 6 Drainage Management Plan (Doc 6 6B);
 - Update to the alignment of incoming 400kv below ground cables coming into Sandford Substation to the west; and
 - Update to the alignment of the proposed AT route 132kV underground cable with 10m wide easement on either side to the north and east.
 - Relocation of trees elsewhere on site where utilities easements need to be free of obstruction.
 - Reduction of tree size to all 16-18cm girth oak trees to 1.75 – 2m feathered form. There are currently restrictions on the movement of Quercus (oak) species due to biosecurity measures put in place to reduce the spread of Oak Processionary Moth within the UK. The resulting impact is the limited availability of oak trees of 'standard' form and above, from Nurseries across the UK; younger home-grown

planting stock is, however, more readily available from the nurseries. As oak trees form an important part of the character of the landscape it is proposed to plant the oak trees as 175-200cm high feathered trees throughout rather than substituting for another species. The Landscape Character assessment produced by Wardell Armstrong for North Somerset Council² raises the presence of oaks is an important feature in the local landscape character and is recognised both in national landscape character level:

“142: Somerset Levels and Moors National Character Area: a very distinctive area of open low-lying floodplain underlain by peat and consisting of predominantly grazing marsh with an intricate network of ditches and rhynes along which grow pollarded oaks of some age.”

...and in local landscape character level:

Site falls with “J2: River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland Landscape Character Area of the North Somerset Council Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance. The local area is identified with “Full hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees. Riverside trees of willow and oak and modest bridges. Presence of small farm orchards with concentration of larger cider orchards around Sandford... The hedges are thick and well maintained with a large number of mature hedgerow trees including willow pollards in the valley floor and oaks.”

Therefore, in this instance the approach of reducing the size of oak trees is preferred over losing them from the scheme altogether and substituting it with other species which can be less characteristic to the locality. The feathered oaks will still provide acceptable levels of screening of the Sandford site over time.

- There was a calculation error in the total number of trees listed in Table 4 within the previously approved scheme (Doc 6 9 C). This has now been corrected and the total tree planting proposed across the scheme comes to 696nr trees. There has been no update to the total number of tree planting proposed across the scheme.
- A small reduction of hedgerow planting of 10 lin m is due to the retention of an existing farm track for access and required minimum clearance from existing rhyne as per Drainage Board maintenance requirements.

3.1.6 The updated ‘non-advanced’ Landscape Scheme for Sandford Substation is provided in the drawings contained within **Appendix C**.

3.1.7 Table 4 confirms that the detailed design undertaken for the Landscape Scheme would result in a similar quantum of planting to which was proposed in the DCO (Environmental Statement Document 5.7.3.14A, Figures 7.35.1 to 7.35.6). This planting would remain ‘guaranteed’.

² NSC Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance September 2018 <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Landscape%20character%20assessment%20September%202018.pdf>

Table 4: Comparison of DCO Approved and Updated Embedded Mitigation Landscape Scheme Quantities for all planting areas

Planting Type	DCO Scheme Approved January 2016	Previously Approved Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) Approved July 2020	Proposed Scheme (Doc 6 9 D) to be submitted September 2021
Total Tree Planting	619 trees	702 trees	696 trees* ³
Orchard Tree Planting	226 trees	216 trees	216 trees
Native Woodland Structure Planting * ¹	5,577m ²	8,093 m ²	8,093 m ²
Native hedgerow Planting * ¹	976m	1,290m	1280m* ⁴
Marginal Pond & Aquatic Planting* ²	523m (rhyne) 1032m ² (pond)	523m (rhyne) 600m ² (pond)	523m (rhyne) 600m ² (pond)
Meadow/Grassland	22,511m ²	71,005m ²	71,005m ²

*¹ planting quantities for the updated scheme include slight variations to planting mixes to accommodate planting restrictions within cable easements.

*² planting quantities based on length of rhyne and pond area

*³ refer to section 1.4.1 and 3.1.5 for justification for difference of total number of trees

*⁴ refer to section 3.1.5 and section 3.9.4 for justification on hedge reduction

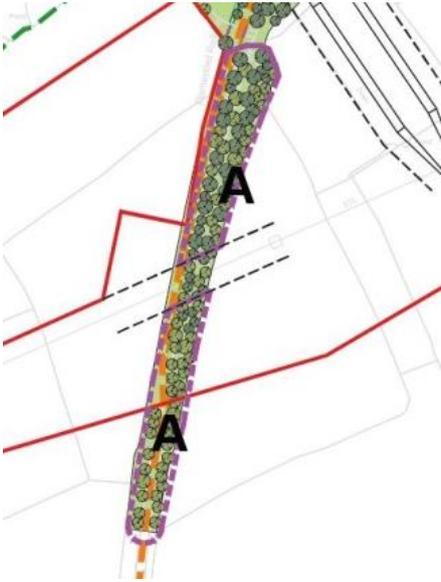
3.1.8 The remainder of this section of the document describes the rationale for the detailed design 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Areas A to Planting Phase Area I.

3.1.9 Tree planting updates detailed in this document refine the proposed design and provide further information about the practical landscape implementation on site in consideration of the confirmed existing utility locations.

3.2 Planting Phase Area A

3.2.1 The extract in Table 5 from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates the DCO approved planting phase landscape scheme for Planting Phase Area A and is described in the document as “Gap tree planting along the Strawberry Line”. The updated detailed design for the Landscape Scheme would reflect the principles of the DCO Landscape Scheme, by providing a similar quantum of native tree planting and by providing woodland structure planting and hedgerow planting.

Table 5: Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area A

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
	
<p>Native Tree Planting : 63 trees Existing Retained Trees</p>	<p>Native Tree Planting : 64 trees Native Woodland Structure Planting: 939m² Native Hedgerow Planting: 68 lin.m Retained Native trees/shrubs,dense native thicket/scrub.</p>
<p>Proposed Landscape Scheme following updates to tree location following easement and utilities requirement (Doc 6 9 D) September 2021 as per Appendix C Part 2: Sheet 6 and Sheet 7 - Area A</p>	

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
	<p>Native Tree Planting : 64 trees</p> <p>Native Woodland Structure Planting: 939m²</p> <p>Native Hedgerow Planting: 68 lin.m</p> <p>Retained Native trees/shrubs,dense native thicket/scrub.</p> <p>Updated location of badger setts following the latest revision of Hazard Plan. No planting location has been updated.</p>

- 3.2.2 The approved 'advance' Landscape Scheme for Stage 6 (Planting Phase Areas A to Planting Phase Area E) document (Doc 6 9 C) provided a thorough assessment, rationale and approach (with supporting photographs) of the landscape treatment that would be adopted to meet the principles of "*gap tree planting*" whilst retaining the existing established and mature native thicket/scrub planting.
- 3.2.3 The proposed detailed design for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme incorporates a mix of native structural woodland planting and native tree planting to the sides and top of embankment where visible gaps are present. In addition, a native infill hedge line to the east of the proposed Strawberry Line is proposed to replace the removed hedgerow and tie back into the existing field hedge network.
- 3.2.4 Figure 1 – Figure 5 identify the locations where infill structure planting and individual trees would be planted along Planting Phase Area A.

Figure 1: North of Planting Phase Area A on embankment looking south



Figure 2: North of Planting Phase Area A on embankment looking north

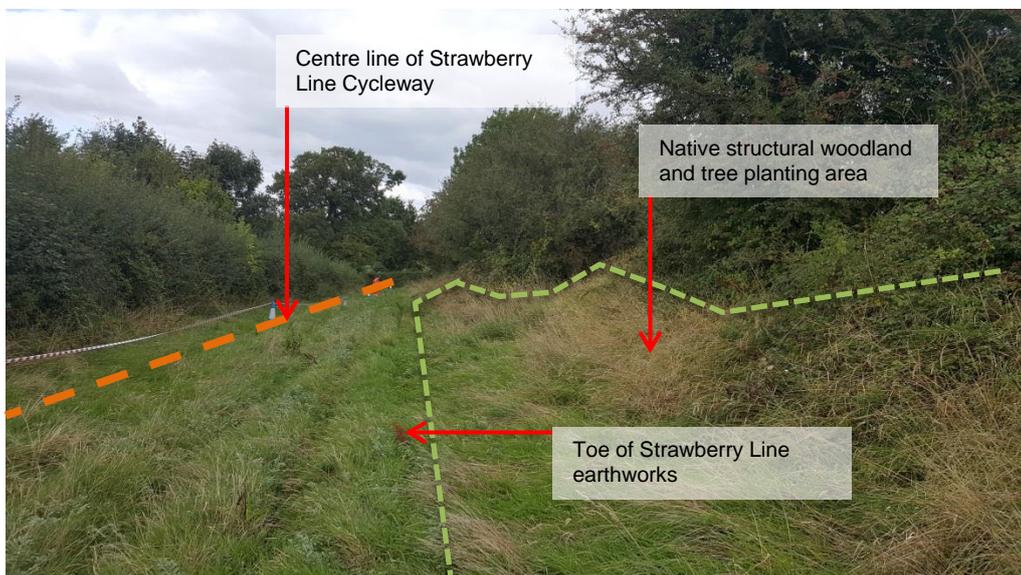


Figure 3: South of Planting Phase Area A looking north

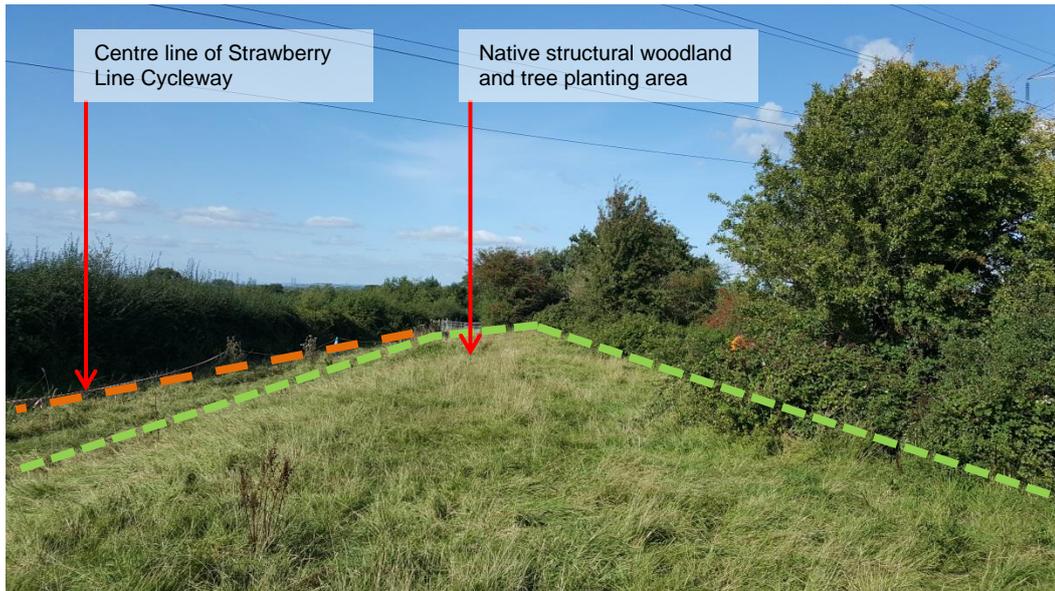


Figure 4: South of Planting Phase Area A looking north

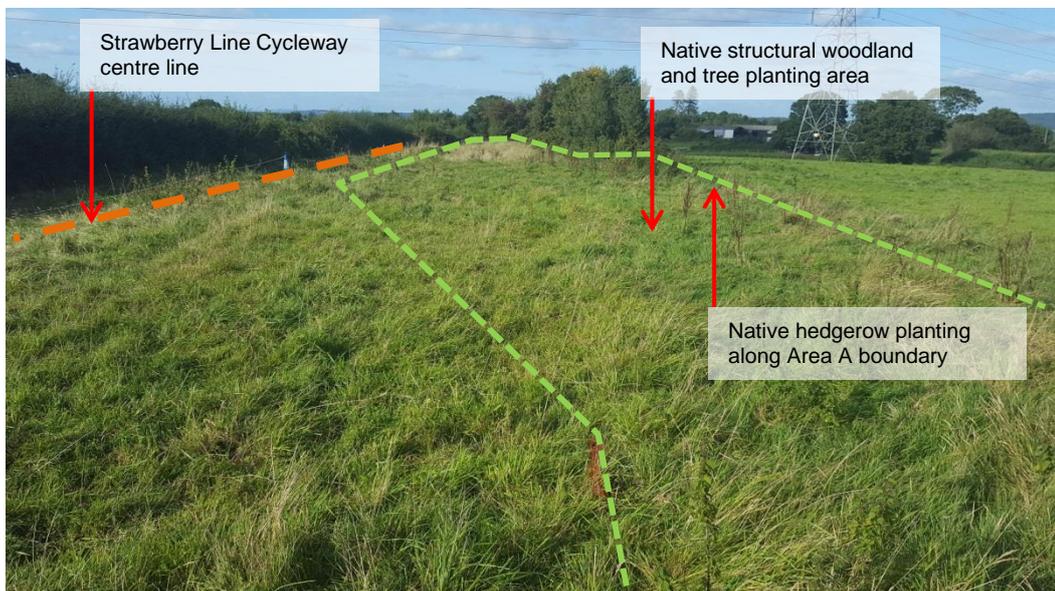
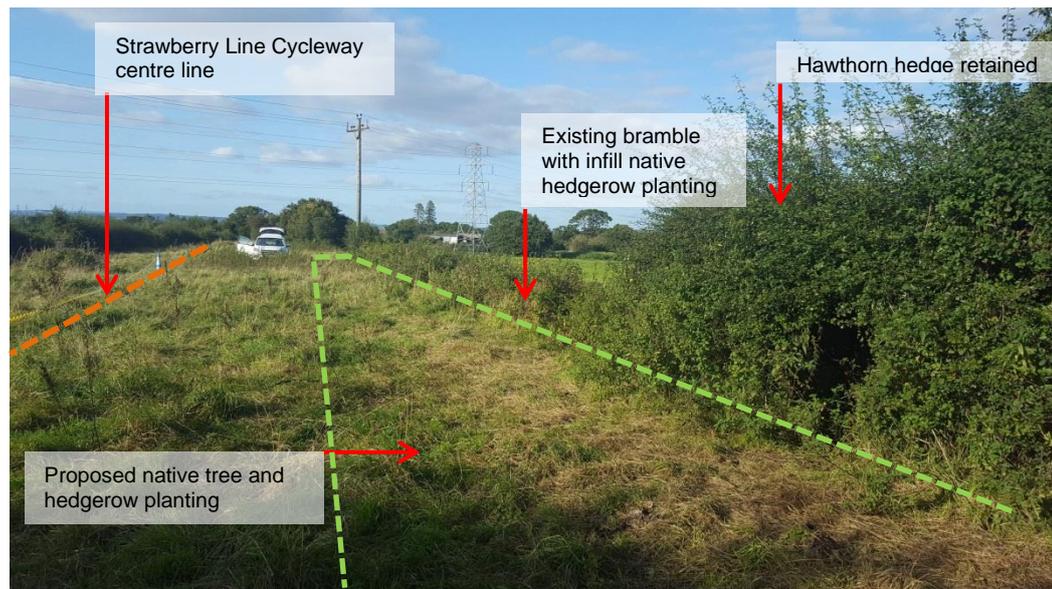


Figure 5: South of Planting Phase Area A looking north

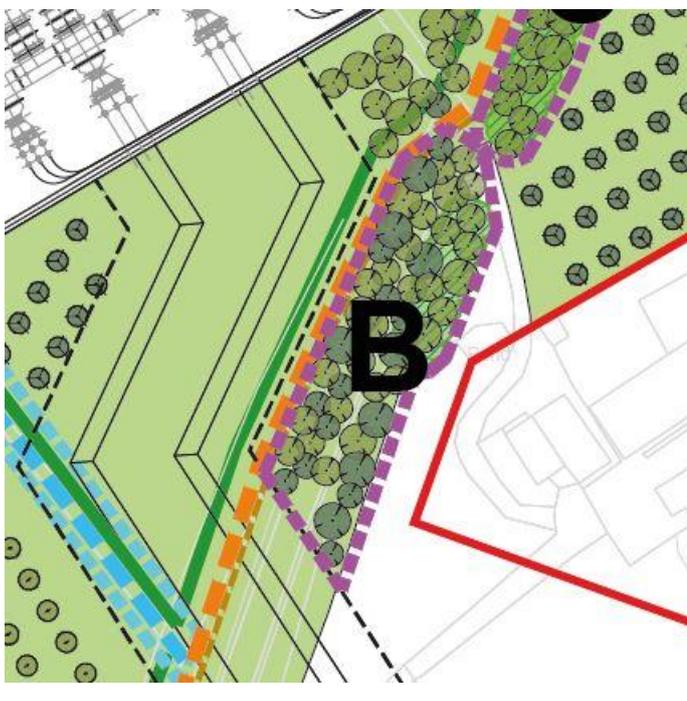


- 3.2.5 Following the latest site constraints information provided by the Main Works Contractor the location of badger setts has been updated together with updated location of existing utilities, however, there has been no planting updates required.

3.3 Planting Phase Area B

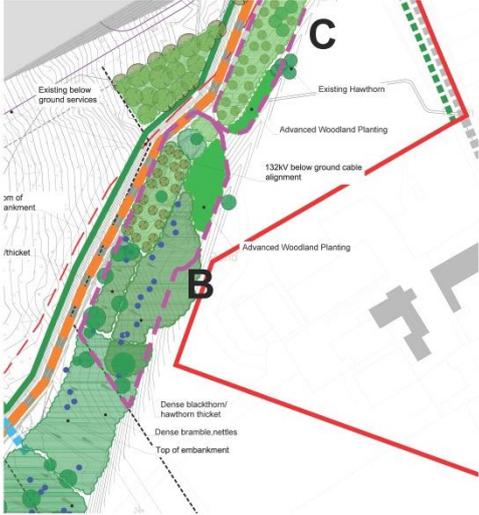
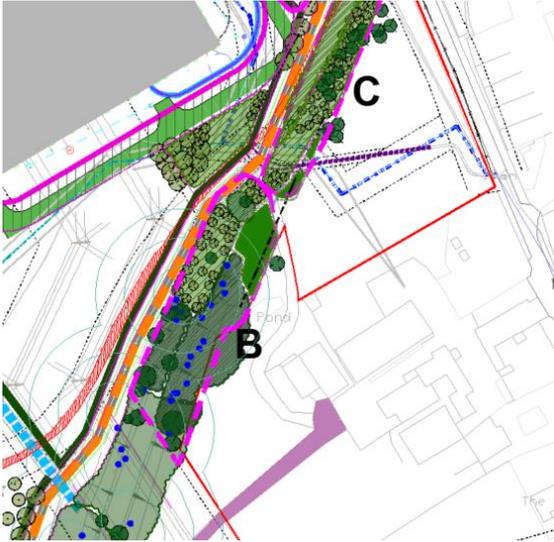
- 3.3.1 Environmental Statement Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates and describes the planting scheme for Planting Phase Area B as “*Gap tree planting along the Strawberry Line*”. The extract of this plan in relation to Planting Phase Area B is provided in Table 6.

Table 6: Extract from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing for Planting Phase Area B

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Scheme includes:
	<p>Native Tree Planting: 29 trees</p> <p>Native Structure Planting: 420m2</p>

- 3.3.2 In undertaking a detailed survey of the existing vegetation in September 2019, it was found that the southern section of Planting Phase Area B consists of dense existing native vegetation and trees whilst the northern section is more open with long grass prominent throughout with pockets of dense planting thickets or specimen trees.
- 3.3.3 In addition, badger surveys undertaken for Stage 6 have confirmed the extent of badger activity and visible entrances to setts in Planting Phase Area B that are greater than previously surveyed. The lower two thirds of Planting Phase Area B include active badger entrances, as shown in the plans provided in Appendix B.
- 3.3.4 Following the approach established by the recently approved 'advanced' Landscape Scheme the extent of "*gap tree planting*" proposed as part of this updated landscape mitigation planting scheme within Planting Phase Area B is defined by the extent of mature and dense planting along the existing strawberry line that can and should be retained as part of scheme.
- 3.3.5 An extract of the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area B is shown in Table 7 below. This planting will be delivered following completion of main works to construct the new section of the Strawberry Line.

Table 7: Proposed ‘non-advanced’ Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area B

Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020	Scheme Includes
	<p>Native Tree Planting : 21 Trees Native Structure Planting : 753m2 (includes 276m2 of advance planting)</p>
Proposed Landscape Scheme following updates to tree location following easement and utilities requirement (Doc 6 9 D) September 2021 as per Appendix C Part 2: Sheet 5 and Sheet 6 - Area B	
	<p>Native Tree Planting : 26 Trees 5 nr Trees have been moved from Planting Phase Area C to the south to Planting Phase Area B due to underground electric cable and water main easements Native Structure Planting: 753m2. (includes 276m2 of advance planting)</p>

3.3.6 The photographs provided in Figure 6 to Figure 8 were taken in September 2019 and provide a visual perspective of the existing site and the alignment of the Strawberry Line.

Figure 6: View looking toward north of Planting Phase Area B

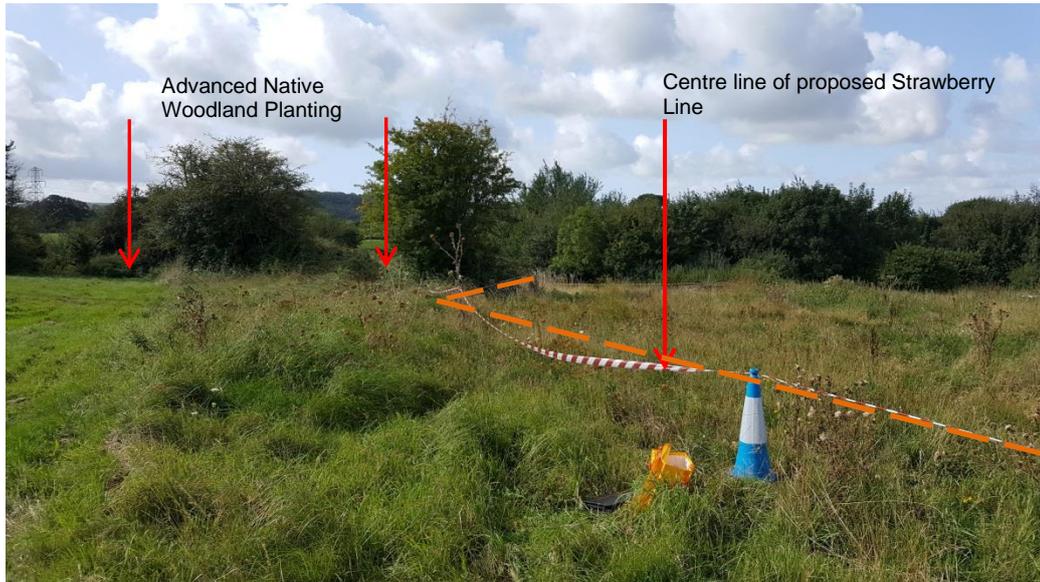


Figure 7: View looking toward north of Planting Phase Area B

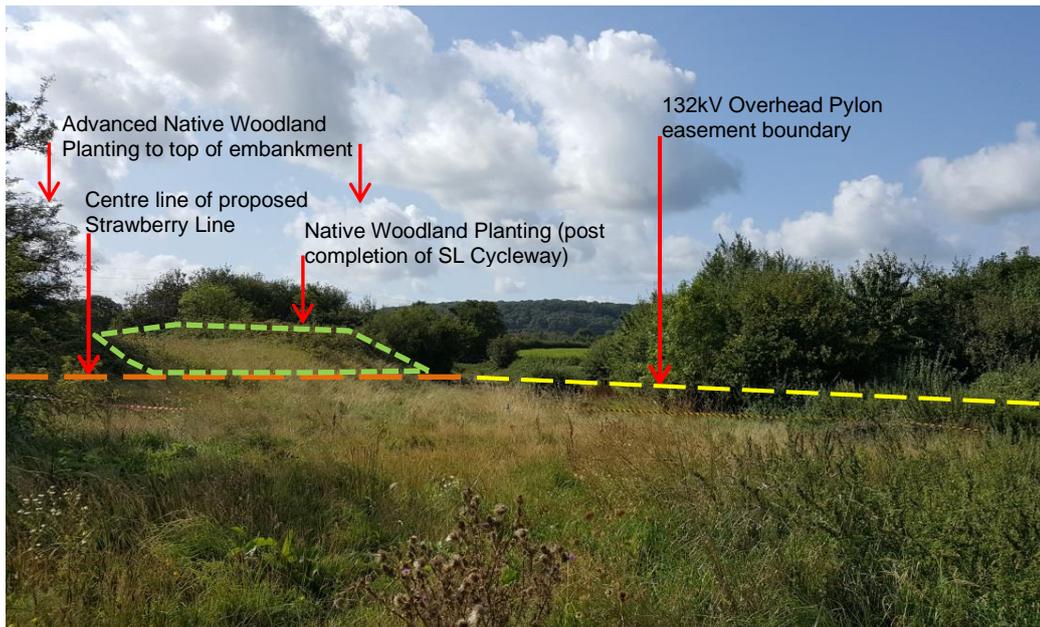


Figure 8: View looking north to the south of Planting Phase Area B



3.3.7 Underground electric cable route runs along Strawberry Line within Planting Phase Area B and a water main crosses Planting Phase Area C. Approximately 5 nr trees have been moved south from Planting Phase Area C to the neighbouring Planting Phase Area B due to restrictions of tree planting within water main and underground electric cable easements.

3.4 Planting Phase Area C

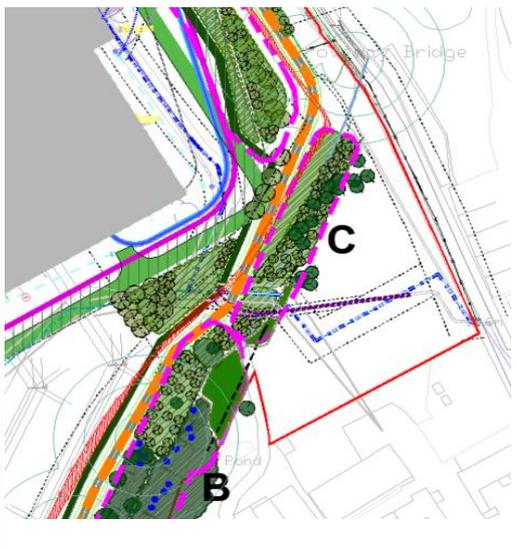
3.4.1 The detailed design for the 'non-advance' Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area C continues to reflect the design principles set out in the planting scheme certified under the DCO by providing: Native Tree Planting; and Native Structure Woodland Planting.

3.4.2 The detailed design for Planting Phase Area C has been informed by:

- The retention of the existing boundary (Hornbeam copse) to the east of Planting Phase Area C;
- Localised grading of earthworks to the north east of area to suit detailed design requirements of the Strawberry Line to meet regulatory standards; and
- Consideration and adaption of the planting mix locally to the existing retained underground service run as indicated on the scheme proposals.

Table 8: Landscape Scheme Extracts for Planting Phase Area C

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
	
<p><i>Planting Area: 1150m²</i> Native Tree Planting: 18 trees Native Structure Planting: 1150 m² Existing Retained Trees: None</p>	<p><i>Planting Area: 1150m².</i> Native Tree Planting: 33 trees Native Structure Planting: 1150 m² (includes 100m² of native shrub planting due to existing below ground cable) Existing Retained Trees: 11 trees</p>

Proposed Landscape Scheme following updates to tree location due to easement and utilities requirement (Doc 6 9 D) September 2021 as per Appendix C Part 1: Sheet 4 - Area D	
	<p><i>Planting Area: 1150m².</i></p> <p>Native Tree Planting: 32 trees</p> <p>Native Structure Planting: 1150 m² (includes 518m² of native shrub planting due to multiple below ground cables)</p> <p>Existing Retained Trees: 11 trees</p>

- 3.4.3 It is considered that the retention of the hornbeam trees to the eastern edge of Planting Phase Area C makes a positive contribution to this area and would reflect the existing formal hornbeam tree planting copse located to the east of Area C.
- 3.4.4 The photographs provided in Figure 9 to Figure 11 were taken in September 2019 and provide a visual perspective of the existing site, the alignment of the Strawberry Line and the toe of earthworks embankment in relation to Planting Phase Area C.

Figure 9: View looking east within Planting Phase Area C

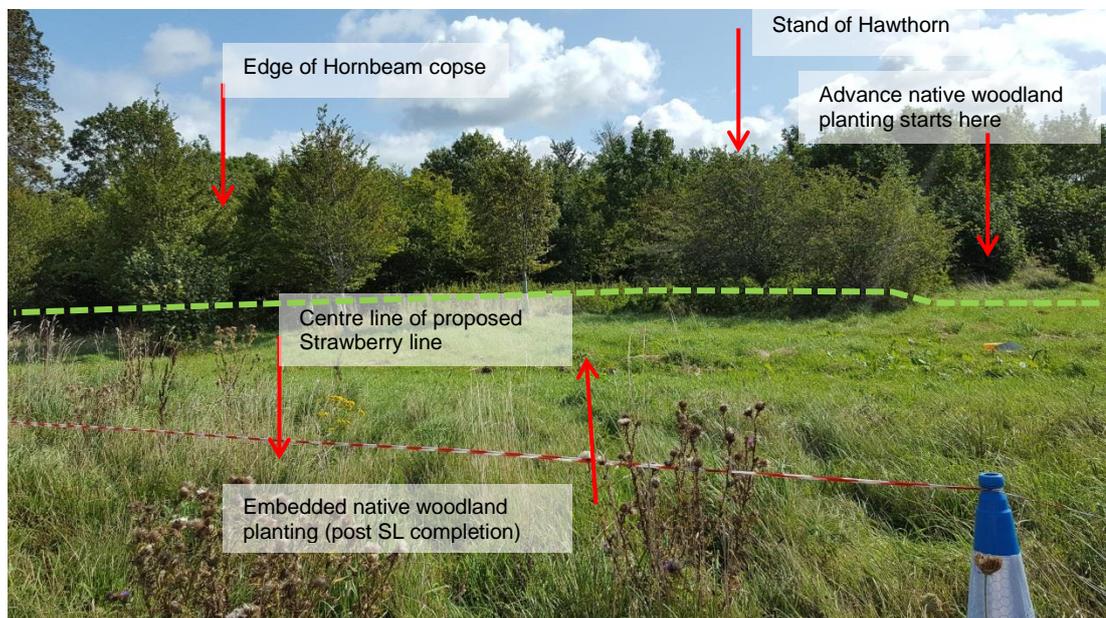


Figure 10: View looking south west within Planting Phase Area C

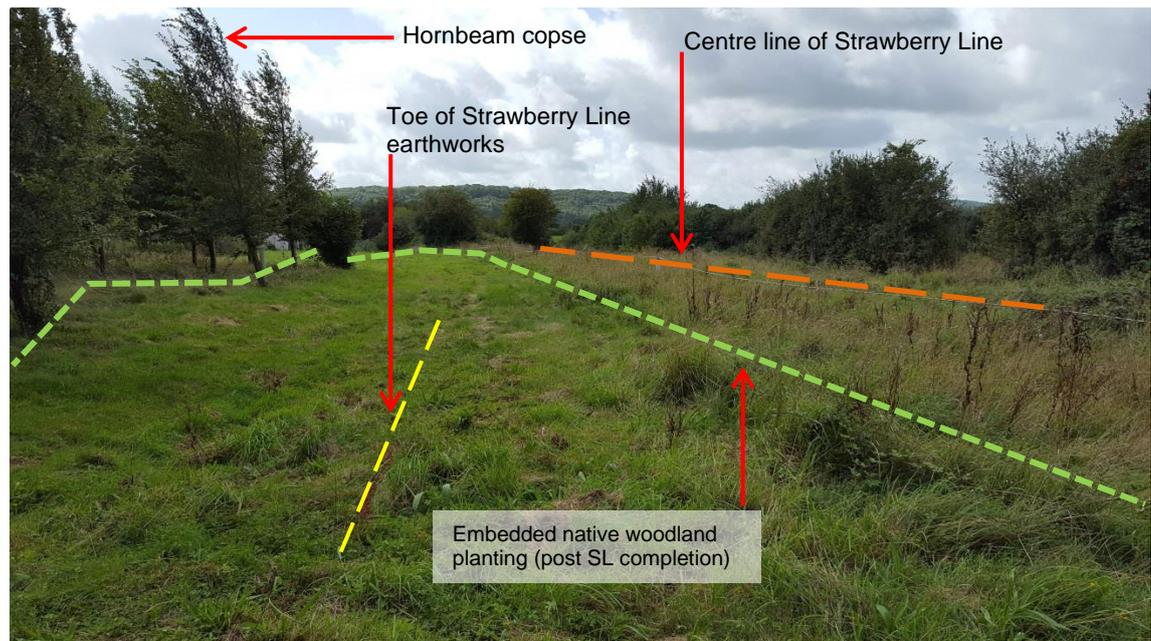
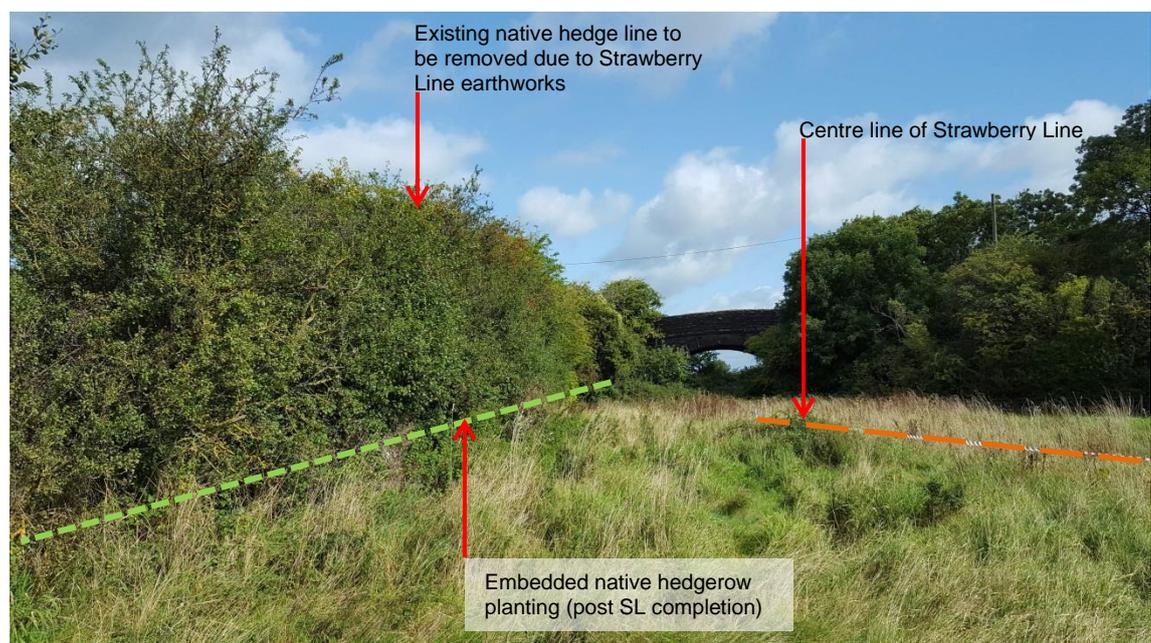


Figure 11: View looking north in Planting Phase Area C towards Nye Road Bridge



- 3.4.5 Approximately 15nr trees have been relocated 2-3m further to the southeast outside existing underground cable easement. 5 nr trees have been moved south from Planting Phase Area C to adjoining Planting Phase Area B due to newly installed underground water main. Native structure planting is comprised of both woodland planting mix and of native shrub mix due to the restriction of tree and woodland planting over underground cables and water main easements. 4 nr trees previously located within Planting Phase Area H to the northwest of Planting Phase Area C boundary have been relocated approximately 10-12 m to the east

and now fall within Planting Phase Area C. This relocation was necessary due to newly installed underground water main.

3.5 Planting Phase Area D

3.5.1 The extract in Table 9 from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates the landscape scheme approved with the DCO for Planting Phase Area D. The DCO approved scheme comprises of *'Native structure planting to augment the existing mature trees along Drove Way embankment, forming a buffer and partial screen to the substation'*.

3.5.2 Table 9 shows the proposed detailed design of the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area D. The detailed design continues to reflect the principles of the approved planting scheme by providing structure planting to form a buffer to Drove Way.

3.5.3 The detailed design of the Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area D has been informed by:

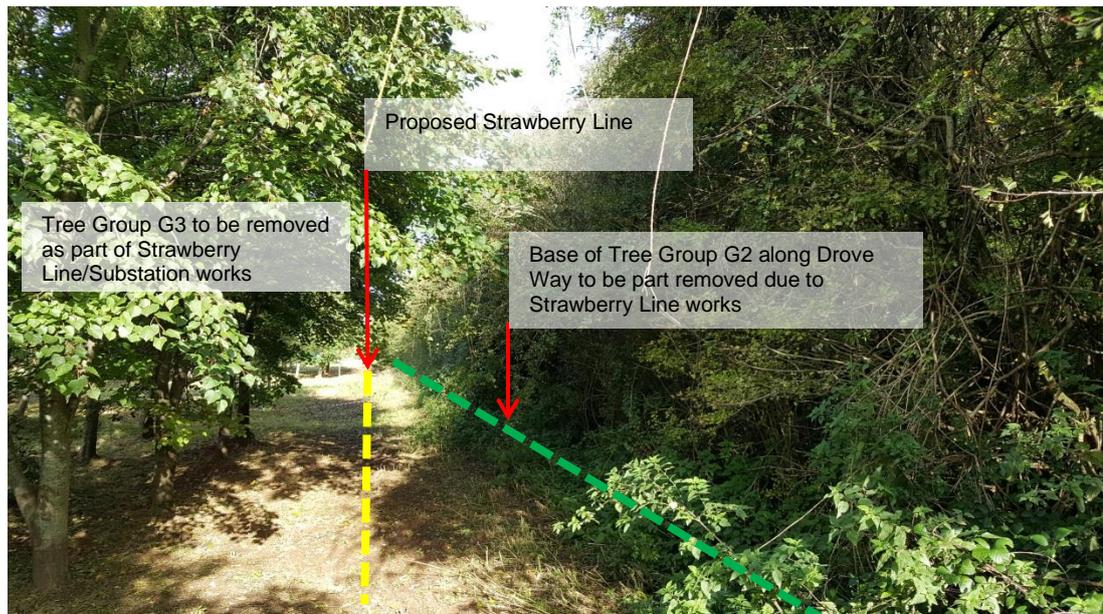
- The alignment of the new section of the Strawberry Line and associated earth works;
- The alignment of the below ground 132kV cable route;
- Survey work confirming existing below ground service runs; and
- The removal of existing trees previously indicated for retention.

- 3.5.4 The principles of the planting scheme certified by the DCO for Planting Phase Area D, namely '*Native structure planting to augment the existing mature trees along Drove Way embankment, forming a buffer and partial screen to the substation*' would be maintained within the detailed design of the 'non-advance' Landscape Scheme. The 'non-advance' Landscape Scheme also proposes further native woodland planting to the east of the proposed Strawberry Line adjacent to retained Tree Group G2.
- 3.5.5 The most significant and unavoidable update in the detailed design of Planting Phase Area D, results from the alignment of below ground 132kV cable and 10m wide easement running to the east of Sandford Substation. A section of the below ground 132kV cable now runs further east encroaching upon Planting Phase Area D. The detailed design for the 'non-advance' Landscape Scheme mixes within the 132kV cable easement has therefore been adapted to meet the restrictions placed on planting within these easements and comprise of non-tree species. In areas immediately adjacent to Sandford Substation within Planting Phase Area D, some shrub planting is therefore proposed instead of woodland structure planting.
- 3.5.6 Additional woodland structure planting is proposed along the boundary between Drove Way / Nye Road and Planting Phase Area D to reinforce the visual screen between the highway and Sandford Substation, as shown in **Appendix C**.
- 3.5.7 As confirmed in the approved Stage 6 THPS (Doc 6 6I), several existing trees to the south of Planting Phase Area D which were originally identified for retention have required removal. It is considered that both the planting of new native trees where existing trees were due to be retained and the additional native structure planting which incorporates tree species to the rear of G2 would help mitigate the impact of these additional trees being removed.
- 3.5.8 The photographs provided in Figure 12 and Figure 13 were taken in October 2019 and provide a visual perspective of the existing site and the alignment of the Strawberry Line in relation to Planting Phase Area D.

Figure 12: View looking east towards Drove Way from Sandford Substation



Figure 13: View looking north along the boundary to the base of Tree Group G2 to be partially removed to allow for the construction of the proposed Strawberry Line



- 3.5.9 Within Planting Phase Area D approximately 15nr trees have been relocated further east outside of the underground electric cable easement running parallel to the Strawberry Line and Nye Lane/Drove Way. Additionally, 5 nr trees have been repositioned 1-2m west to be located outside of electric cable trench easements. Proposed Native structural planting species have been changed due to restrictions relating to underground easement. Revised species mix has been chosen based on recommendations from utility providers.

3.6 Planting Phase Area E

- 3.6.1 The extract in Table 10 from ES Figure 7.35.6 illustrates the planting scheme certified by the DCO for Planting Phase Area E.
- 3.6.2 The detailed design for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme would reflect the approved planting scheme at Planting Phase Area E in that:
- Orchard tree planting with spacing's at 10m between rows and 8m between trees as per Natural England guidance; and
 - Native tree gap planting to retained boundary hedgerows to the north and south east corners.

Table 10: Landscape Scheme Extracts for Planting Phase Area E

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
<p><i>Planting Includes:</i> Orchard Tree Planting: 65 trees Native Tree Planting: 6 trees</p>	<p><i>Planting Includes:</i> Orchard Tree Planting: 63 trees (29 trees planted as advanced planting) Native Tree Planting :7 trees (3 trees planted as advanced planting)</p>
<p>Proposed Landscape Scheme following updates to tree location due to easement and utilities requirement (Doc 6 9 D) September 2021 as per Appendix C Part 1: Sheet 1 - Area E</p>	

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
	<p><i>Planting Includes:</i></p> <p>Orchard Tree Planting: 63 trees (29 trees planted as advanced planting)*</p> <p>Native Tree Planting :7 trees (3 trees planted as advanced planting) *</p>

* All approved advance planting works set out in Appendix B have been completed as per paragraph 4.1 and therefore will not be included in the total count for the Plant schedule but they have been included in this Table for reference.

- 3.6.3 The proposed detailed design for the ‘non-advanced’ Landscape Scheme at Planting Phase Area E reflects the DCO approved scheme, other than the omission of 2no. orchard trees, due to the retention of 2no. existing trees including T8 where the two orchard trees were proposed to be planted. This is considered to be acceptable given the preference to retain mature specimen trees and the character of the existing landscape.
- 3.6.4 The apple tree planting varieties approved as part of the advance planting scheme in Planting Phase Area E (Doc 6 9 C) are also proposed for the further planting proposed in the ‘non-advanced’ Landscape Scheme.
- 3.6.5 The photograph provided in Figure 14 was taken in October 2019 and provides a visual perspective of the existing site and the retained vegetation in relation to Planting Phase Area E.

Figure 14: View looking west towards Planting Phase Area E from Sandford Substation site



3.6.6 Minor updates to tree location have been carried out due to site constraints found on site, such as existing shallow pond. Approximately 5 trees have been relocated 1-2 m within the vicinity of Planting Phase Area E due to clashes following the installation of advance orchard planting.

3.7 Planting Phase Area F

3.7.1 The extract in Table 11 from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates the approved planting phase landscape scheme for Planting Phase Area F.

3.7.2 The detailed design for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme (as shown in Table 11 and in **Appendix C**) includes the updated position of the attenuation pond and in turn the re-location of the car park to the south of the access road into the site. The repositioning of these features was regularised under the approved Stage 6 Drainage Management Plan (Doc 6 B). The detailed design of the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme in Planting Phase Area F is therefore influenced by:

- The introduction of an attenuation pond & wildlife pond in Planting Phase Area F; and
- The relocation of the carpark from Planting Phase Area F to Planting Phase Area G.

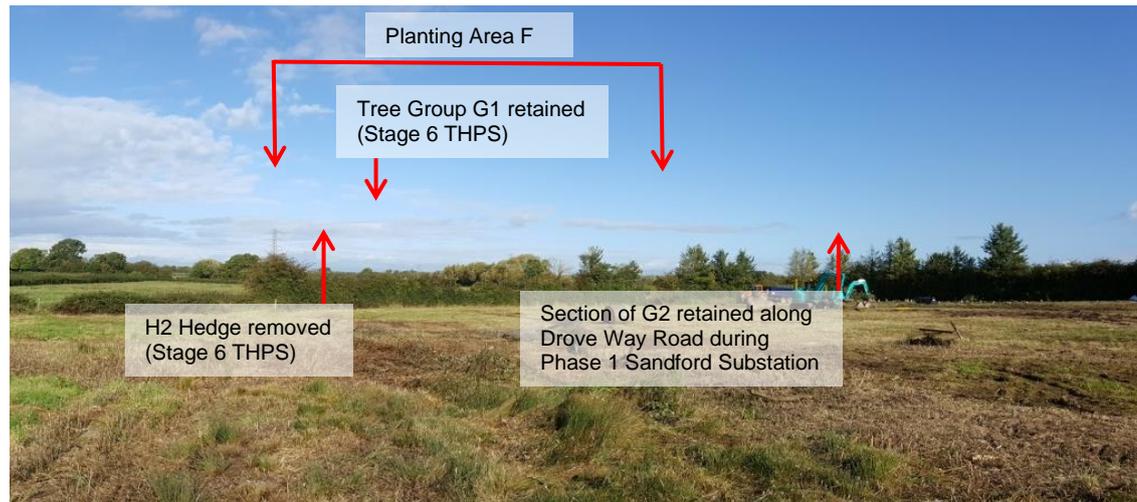
Table 11: Landscape Scheme Extracts for Planting Phase Area F

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
<p>Native Tree Planting: 32 trees Native Structural Woodland: 1799m²</p>	<p>Native Tree Planting: 40 trees Native Structural Woodland: 1145m² Native Hedgerow Planting: 172 lin.m Marginal pond aquatic planting 600m² (pond Area)</p>

Proposed Landscape Scheme following updates to tree location due to easement and utilities requirement (Doc 6 9 D) September 2021 as per Appendix C Part 1: Sheet 3 - Area F	
 <p>The image is a technical landscape scheme plan for Area F. It shows a site layout with various colored zones: a blue pond area, a green woodland area, and a purple hedgerow area. A road labeled 'Drove Way' runs along the top and right sides. A separate attenuation basin is shown as a blue area adjacent to the pond. The plan includes numerous small tree symbols and lines representing planting offsets and boundaries. Labels 'F' and 'G' are placed on the plan to identify specific areas.</p>	<p>Native Tree Planting: 43 trees</p> <p>Native Structural Woodland: 1145m²</p> <p>Native Hedgerow Planting: 172 lin.m</p> <p>Marginal pond aquatic planting 600m² (pond Area)</p>

- 3.7.3 The area of native woodland in the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme for Planting Phase Area F has reduced by 654m² due to the area required for both the wetland pond and separate attenuation basin and required planting offsets from existing below ground services running along the boundary of Drove Way.
- 3.7.4 The introduction of a native hedge line along the boundary of Drove Way (outside the required visibility splays to the new road access into Sandford Substation from Drove Road) is proposed to retain the character of the road frontage and to screen views into the site from drivers using Drove Road.
- 3.7.5 The surface area of the proposed wetland pond in which marginal aquatic planting is to be planted, has reduced from 1,032m² to 600m² due to the addition of the separate attenuation basin.
- 3.7.6 The photograph provided in Figure 15 was taken in October 2019 and provides a visual perspective of the existing site and the existing vegetation to be retained in relation to Planting Phase Area F.

Figure 15: View looking west towards Planting Phase Area F from Sandford Substation site



- 3.7.7 Approximately 6nr trees have been moved 1-2 m further west outside of underground electric cable easement within the vicinity of Planting Phase Area F. 3nr trees have been moved from Planting Phase Area H, south west of Planting Phase Area C, to Planting Phase Area F due to underground water main. It has not been possible to retain the 3nr trees within their current location due to limited space available outside utility easements and site constraints. 3nr trees have been repositioned within proposed hedge along the proposed bell mouth due to surface water drain easement. 3 nr trees have been repositioned outside the minimum maintenance access required for rhyne clearance requested by the Somerset Internal Drainage Board.

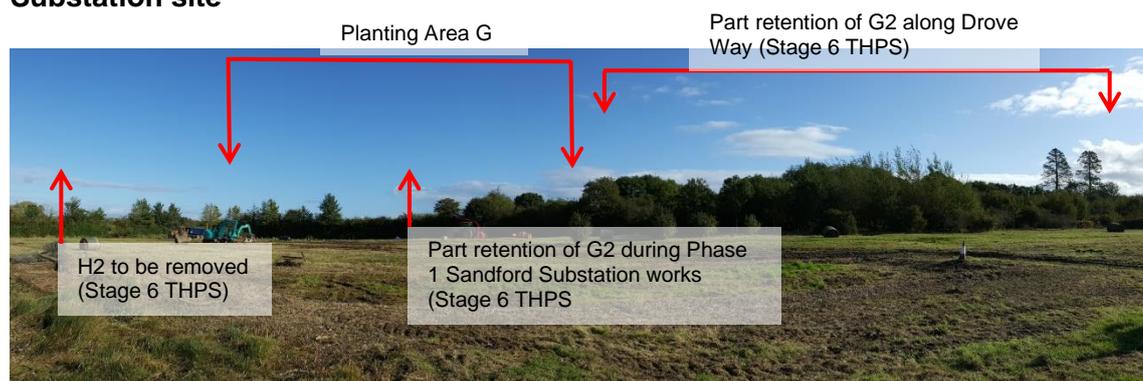
3.8 Planting Phase Area G

- 3.8.1 The extract in Table 12 from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates the approved landscape scheme for Planting Phase Area F.
- 3.8.2 The detailed design for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme (as shown in Table 12 and in **Appendix C**) includes the updated position of the attenuation pond and in turn the re-location of the car park to the south of the access road into the site. The repositioning of these features was regularised under the approved Stage 6 Drainage Management Plan (Doc 6 B). The detailed design of the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme in Planting Phase Area G is therefore influenced by:
- The removal of the attenuation pond & wildlife pond from Planting Phase Area G, due to its relocation to Planting Phase Area F; and
 - The relocation of the carpark from Planting Phase Area F to Planting Phase Area G.

woodland planting to the east of the car park has been offset from Drove Way due to the location of existing below ground electric cables along Drove Way

- 3.8.4 As with Planting Phase Area F, the introduction of a native hedge line along the boundary of Drove Way Road (outside the required visibility splays to the new road access into Sandford Substation from Drove Way) would ensure the character of the road frontage is maintained and help screen views into the site from drivers using Drove Way.
- 3.8.5 The photograph provided in Figure 16 was taken in October 2019 and provides a visual perspective of the existing site and the retention of existing vegetation in relation to Planting Phase Area G.

Figure 16: View looking east towards Planting Phase Area G from Sandford Substation site



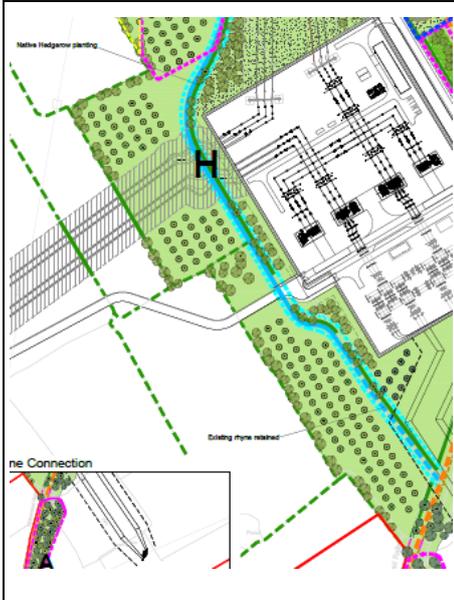
- 3.8.6 Only minor tree relocation has been required within Planting Phase Area G due to the underground electric cable running along the Strawberry Line and continuing north, parallel to Drove Way and Nye Lane. Approximately 10 nr trees have been relocated 1-3 m west in order to be positioned outside existing underground electric cable easement.

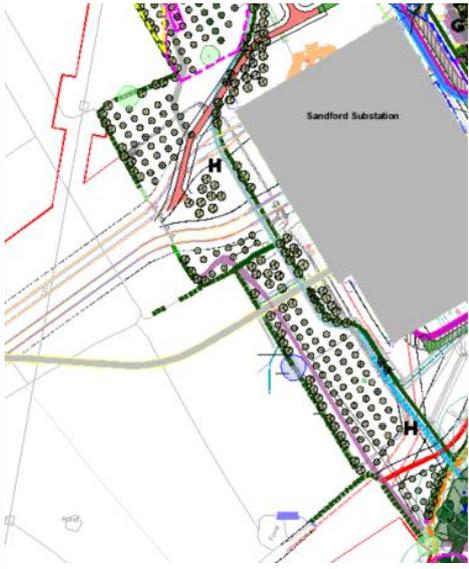
3.9 Planting Phase Area H

- 3.9.1 The extract in Table 13 from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates the DCO approved planting phase landscape scheme for Planting Phase Area H. The detailed design of the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme at Planting Phase Area H reflects the DCO approved scheme, aside from points of detailed design influenced as follows:

- The updated below ground 400kV cable alignment coming into Sandford Substation to the west and; and
- The retention of existing trees T5 and T7 (as per the approved Stage 6 THPS – Doc 6 I).

Table 13: Landscape Scheme Extracts for Planting Phase Area H

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
	
<p>Orchard Tree Planting: 121 trees Pollarded Willows: 8 trees Native Tree Planting: 185 trees Native hedgerow Planting: 830 lin.m 523 lin.m of diverted rhyne with aquatic planting in pockets along length</p>	<p>Orchard Tree Planting: 113 trees Pollarded Willows: 8 trees Native Tree Planting: 181 trees Native hedgerow Planting: 830 lin.m 523 lin.m of diverted rhyne with aquatic planting in pockets along length</p>
<p>Proposed Landscape Scheme following updates to tree location due to easement and utilities requirement (Doc 6 9 D) September 2021 as per Appendix C Part 1: Sheet 2 - Area H and Appendix C Part 2: Sheet 5 - Area H</p>	

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020
	<p>Orchard Tree Planting: 109 trees</p> <p>Pollarded Willows: 8 trees</p> <p>Native Tree Planting: 176 trees</p> <p>Native hedgerow Planting: 758 lin.m</p> <p>523 lin.m of diverted rhyne with aquatic planting in pockets along length</p>

3.9.2 The updated alignment of the below ground 400kV cables coming into Sandford Substation to the west and the enlarged and required 10m wide cable swathe easement has resulted in the removal of 2no. proposed native trees along part of H6 and 8no. proposed orchard trees located to the south of the below ground 400kV cable swathe easement.

3.9.3 The photographs provided in Figure 17 to Figure 20 were taken in October 2019 and provide a visual perspective of the existing site, the alignment of the Strawberry Line, the existing rhyne diversion and existing vegetation to be retained in relation to Planting Phase Area H.

Figure 17: View looking east towards Sandford Substation from Planting Phase Area H

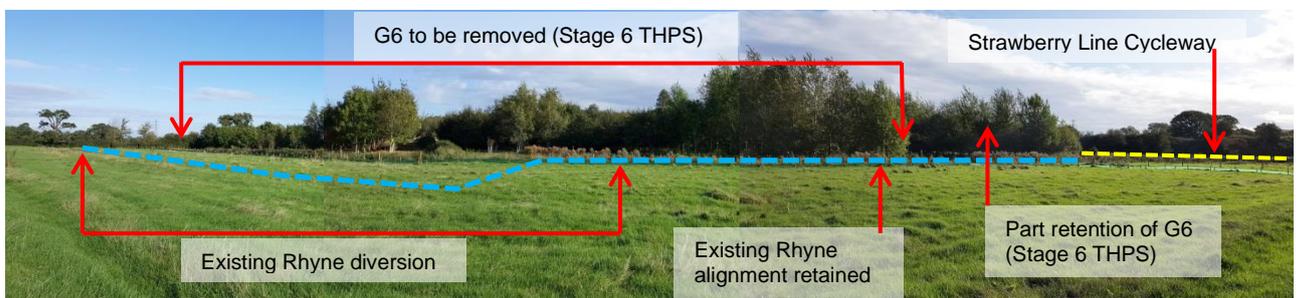


Figure 18: View looking east towards Strawberry Line from Planting Phase Area H



na

Figure 19: View looking west towards T5 and H8 to be retained from Planting Phase Area H

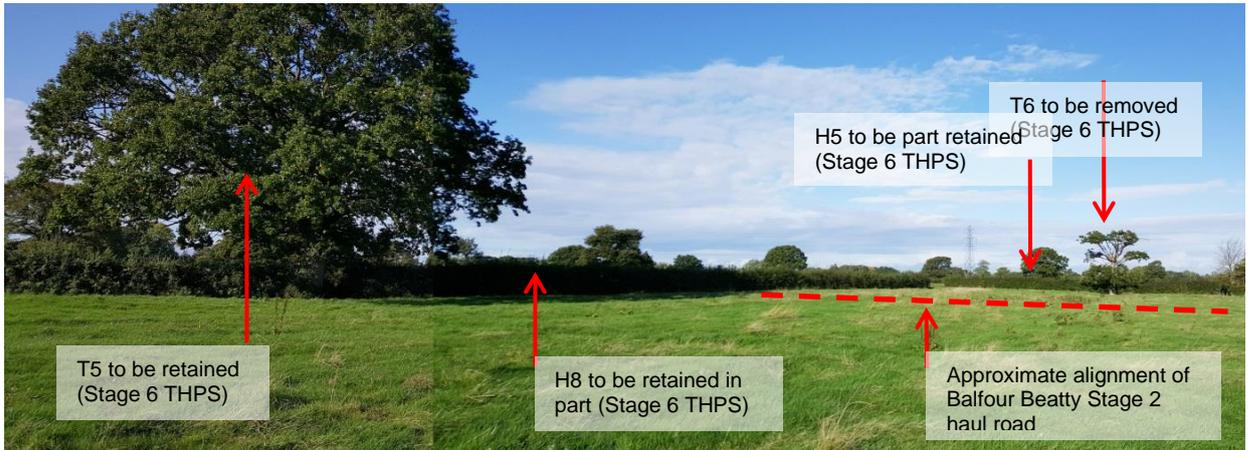
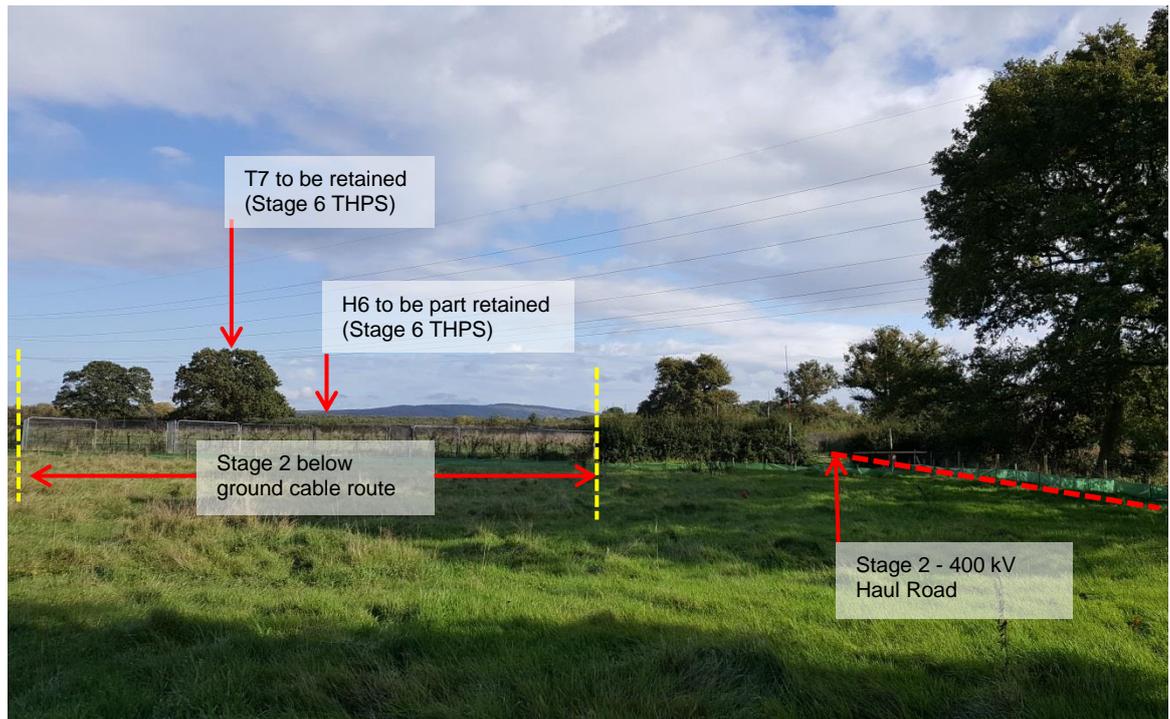


Figure 20: View looking north towards north of Planting Phase Area H from Stage 2 cable route

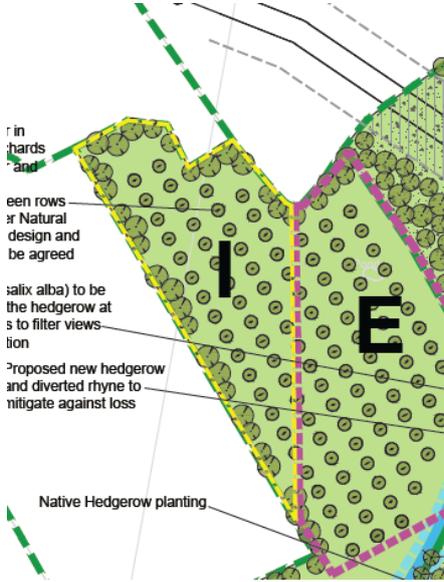


- 3.9.4 The total planting numbers have been kept the same within Planting Phase Area H, however the location of approximately 49 nr trees have been updated due to existing constraints and newly installed utilities. Approximately 22 trees have been relocated across the orchard area within Planting Phase Area H and along the rediverted rhyne due to the proposed underground cables easement and existing underground fibre optic cables routes. Approximately 27 nr trees have been relocated 2-4m east following confirmation that the existing farmer's track is to be retained as a permanent farm access route. Approximately 10 lin m of hedge, omitted due to the retention of an existing farm track for access and also allowing for the required easement from the existing rhyne as per Drainage Board maintenance requirements.

3.10 Planting Phase Area I

- 3.10.1 The extract in Table 14 from ES Figure 7.35.6 Landscape Mitigation Phasing illustrates the approved landscape scheme for Planting Phase Area I. The detailed design for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme within Planting Area I, would reflect the DCO approved planting scheme and also include the retention of existing tree T2608 in the north east of Planting Phase Area I (as per the approved Stage 6 THPS – Doc 6 I).
- 3.10.2 .The detailed design for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme includes native trees to the field boundaries and orchard tree planting within the existing grassed field, as extracts show in Table 14

Table 14: Landscape Scheme Extracts for Planting Phase Area I

DCO Approved Landscape Scheme January 2016	Previously Approved Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) July 2020 as per Appendix C Part 1: Sheet 1 - Area I
	
<p>Native tree Planting: 30 trees Orchard tree Planting: 40 trees</p>	<p>Native tree Planting: 29 trees Orchard tree Planting: 40 trees</p>

3.10.3 There has been no planting changes to Planting Phase Area I since the previously submitted Landscape Scheme (Doc 6 9 C) Approved in July 2020.

3.11 Summary

3.11.1 This document confirms the detailed design for the ‘non-advanced’ Landscape Scheme at Sandford Substation. The detailed design achieves a similar quantum of landscaping that was included in plans certified under Article 44 of the DCO. The landscape scheme remains in general accordance with objectives and principles set out within section 6.7.41- 6.7.53 of the Environmental Statement Chapter 6.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Advance Planting Phase Areas A-E

4.1.1 All approved advance planting works set out in **Appendix B** have been completed. These works took place in April 2020, following a temporary pause to construction activity in light of Covid-19.

4.2 'Non-Advanced' Planting Phase Areas A-I

4.2.1 Table 15 (Section 2.3) provides the phasing plan for delivery of the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme.

4.2.2 The phasing for the 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme has been approved by NSC in March 2020, as part of an application made pursuant to Requirement 9(1)(c) of the DCO.

4.2.3 Ongoing Mains Work Contractor activity across the site has resulted in some Planting Phase Areas not being available for planting which has driven the need to update the phasing for delivery of 'non-advanced' Landscape Scheme. Planting Phase Areas C, D, G, H, I are the areas still occupied by the Mains Work Contractor and therefore are not available for planting. Table 15 below sets out the revised phasing arrangements for delivery of the Stage 6 Landscape Scheme as per of the revised document submission (Doc 6 9 D) as discussed in paragraph 1.4.1.

Table 15: Revised Phasing plan for delivery of the Landscape Scheme for Sandford Substation

Phasing ID	Description	Advance Planting	Advance Planting Timescales	Remaining Planting Works Timescales	Updated Notes
A	Gap tree planting along the Strawberry Line	No	n/a	Nov 2021-March 2022	All planting works to be undertaken within the available planting season following completion of reinstated Strawberry Line cycle path works in June 2021. All seeding works required as part of the final landscape scheme or reinstatement will be carried out prior to Nov 2021 following completion of the above works.
B	Gap tree planting along the Strawberry Line	Yes (part)	April 2020**	Nov 2021-March 2022	
C	Native structure planting and tree planting between retained orchard and substation	Yes (part)	April 2020**	to be completed by 31st March 2025***	
D	Native structure planting and native hedgerow between existing trees along Drove Way and	No	n/a	to be completed by 31st March 2025***	

	proposed 132kV undergrounding				
E	Orchard tree planting, wind break tree planting and gap planting of retained boundary hedgerows.	Yes (part)	April 2020**	to be completed by 31st March 2025***	To be completed following removal of temporary Haul road.
F	Detention basin and wetland pond (construction only).	No	n/a	Nov 2021-March 2022*	Current envisaged planting timescales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native tree/shrubs = Dec 2021-March 2022 • Seeding Works = Spring 2021 Marginal aquatic planting = Nov 2021-March 2022*
G	Native structure planting and tree planting around proposed car park.	No	n/a	to be completed by 31st March 2025***	
H	Ditch creation (outside any temporary culverted areas).	No	n/a	May - June 2020	Diversion of Rhyne is part of the initial site activities
	Seeding works to ditch.	No	n/a	Nov 2020-March 2021	Seeding works to rhyne is part of the initial site activities.
	Ditch planting.	No	n/a	Nov 2021-March 2022*	In line with original phasing table, all planting with the exception of those areas affected by temporary haul roads and works associated with the 400KV underground cables crossing the ditch will be carried out in the first available planting season following creation of the ditch. Areas affected by temporary works are to be planted in the next available season following completion of works.
I	Orchard tree planting, wind break tree planting and gap planting	No	n/a	to be completed by 31st March 2025***	To be completed following removal of temporary Haul roads.

of retained boundary.				
Remaining Landscape Works (outside of Phasing Areas A-I): to be completed by 31st March 2025*				

- * - March 2022 is a date beyond the DCO approved Phasing plan table date of Dec 2021. This date is indicated on the basis that it remains within the same planting season which will run from November 2021-March 2022
- ** - Whilst this planting was programmed to take place in February – March 2020, due to Covid-19 this was undertaken in April 2020.
- ***- March 2025 is a date beyond the DCO approved Phasing plan table date of Dec 2021.

APPENDIX A

**SANDFORD SUBSTATION LANDSCAPE SCHEME & PHASING PLANS
(ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT DOCUMENT 5.7.3.14A, FIGURES 7.35.1 TO 7.35.6)**

APPENDIX B

SANDFORD SUBSTATION UPDATED ADVANCE PLANTING SCHEME (AREA'S A-E)

APPENDIX C

**SANDFORD SUBSTATION UPDATED EMBEDDED MITIGATION PLANTING SCHEME
(AREA'S A-I)**