

Community newsletter

April 2024

Have your say on proposals for Norwich to Tilbury

New clean energy sources – particularly offshore wind – will soon be connecting into the East Anglian electricity network.

Ensuring this energy can reach homes, businesses and public services means we need to improve the infrastructure, which transports electricity from where it is generated to where it is needed.

National Grid needs to upgrade the high voltage power network in England to connect these new sources of offshore energy to the energy network. Norwich to Tilbury would add much-needed capacity, upgrading the electricity transmission network in East Anglia.

We are now consulting on these proposals, which include a new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line, improvement work at existing substations (in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex) and a new substation on the Tendring Peninsula in Essex.

Our plans are part of the biggest overhaul of our energy network in a generation, the Great Grid Upgrade, which will see significant investment and improvement in our energy infrastructure as we

transition towards net zero and more sources of low carbon power are developed.

The Great Grid Upgrade will connect clean energy that's produced right here in the UK, increasing the self-sufficiency of our energy supplies.

After more than two years of development and listening to public feedback following two non-statutory public consultations in 2022 and 2023, we're now holding a statutory consultation.

Statutory consultation will run from Wednesday 10 April to Tuesday 18 June.

This consultation is an opportunity to see how the design of the Project has progressed and how previous feedback has been considered as we have developed our plans. It is your opportunity to have your say on our updated proposals.

The deadline for providing feedback is 11.59pm on Tuesday 18 June.

What is Norwich to Tilbury?

Norwich to Tilbury is a proposal for the development of new high voltage electricity infrastructure in East Anglia, including new overhead lines and underground cables, substation improvements and a new substation.

We need to develop the Project because the existing transmission network in East Anglia doesn't have sufficient capacity to manage the expected increase in offshore wind needing to connect in the coming years and beyond.

By developing the Project, we would be able to connect new sources of low carbon energy to homes and businesses across Britain and help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. In doing so, it would play a key role in addressing the climate emergency and help achieve the UK's targets for net zero.

What are you consulting on?

Our latest proposals for Norwich to Tilbury include the preferred route for a new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity connection, the siting of pylons, environmental impacts and mitigation, and a new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation on the Tendring Peninsula in Essex.

We're also looking for views and comments on our proposals for construction, including temporary access roads and tracks, compounds and temporary areas to store materials, vehicles and staff welfare facilities.

You can find more detail on our website (nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury).

During this consultation we are seeking views on our latest proposals for the Project, which include:

- the preferred draft alignment for a new 400 kV electricity transmission connection of around 184 km running from Norwich Main Substation to Tilbury Substation via Bramford Substation including approximately 159 km of new overhead line and approximately 25 km of underground cabling
- six new Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds (where high-voltage underground cables join onto an overhead line) and associated permanent accesses
- a new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) 400 kV substation, with a new permanent access on the Tendring Peninsula
- an alternative design at Waveney Valley, substituting approximately 2 km of pylons with underground cabling
- substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation
- temporary works including access roads, tracks and compounds associated with the project's construction.

We are also consulting on the preliminary findings from our environmental studies and assessments as well as proposed mitigation.

Waveney Valley

In response to feedback from our previous consultation, we are consulting on proposals for an alternative design (in addition to proposals for an overhead line) at Waveney Valley.

This alternative would include the installation of approximately 2 km of underground cabling (and the substitution of 2 km of overhead lines from our proposals) and two CSE compounds (to join the high-voltage underground cables onto the overhead line) with associated access roads.

This would increase the number of CSE compounds from six to eight. While underground cabling would reduce landscape and visual, recreational amenity and heritage effects in the area, it would have an impact on ecology, archaeology and peat soils, and come at an additional cost.

We welcome feedback on both alternatives at this consultation.

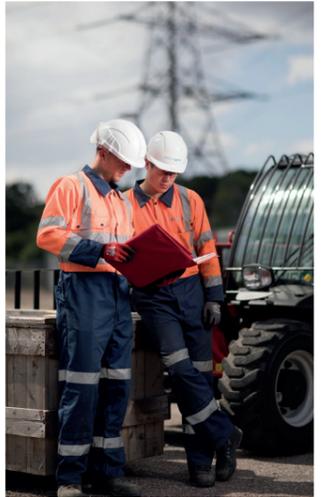


Temporary construction requirements

Building the project would involve a range of temporary construction activities.

These would include preparing land and creating temporary haul roads to access work areas as well as providing temporary areas to store materials, vehicles and staff welfare facilities.

The Project order limits, otherwise known as the redline boundary, is the geographic extent of the Project. It is shown on the map which accompanies this newsletter and includes the areas proposed for construction. We welcome views and comments as part of the consultation.



What is statutory consultation?



The amount of overhead line in our current proposals means we expect Norwich to Tilbury to be classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. This means we need to apply for a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it.

The Examining Authority will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will decide whether to grant consent for a DCO.

To find out more about the DCO process¹, please see the PINS website.

All feedback we receive as part of this latest consultation will be carefully considered as we finalise our proposals before submitting our DCO application.

This is our third public consultation on our proposals for Norwich to Tilbury. It is called a statutory consultation because it is being carried out in line with the formal requirements of the Planning Act 2008. It follows two previous non-statutory public consultations on our draft proposals which were held in 2022 and 2023.

¹ National Infrastructure Planning – the process, Planning Inspectorate infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/



Consultation is an important part of the DCO process as it enables everyone to comment on the proposals.

Feedback, along with technical assessments and environmental surveys, helps to inform the development of the Project before we submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

If our DCO application is accepted, PINS will appoint what is called an 'Examining Authority' to independently review and examine our application, including encouraging the submission of views from communities and other interested parties.

Why can't you build it offshore?

There is no fully offshore solution to connect offshore wind to the Grid and we have to bring the power onshore somewhere.

Our job is to carefully consider the most feasible options and present proposals for public consultation. In doing this, we must consider impacts on local communities and the environment and deliver value for electricity consumers.

We have assessed an equivalent offshore option and to deliver the same capacity as the overhead line, we would need to build three subsea cables and associated onshore infrastructure. This would mean significant extra cost to consumers, and that would not meet the requirement placed on us.

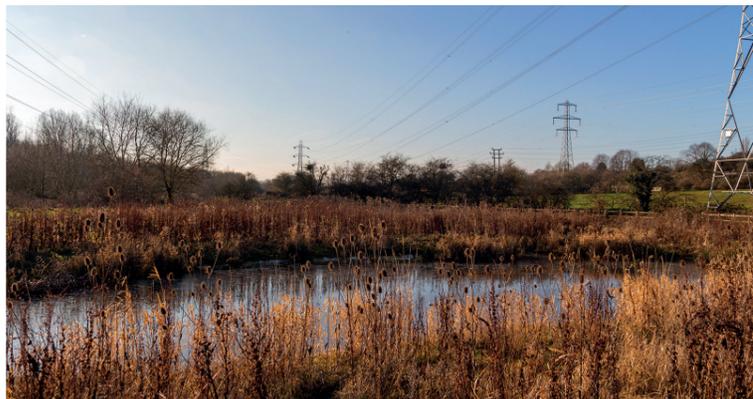
In addition to cost, there is a range of environmental considerations and other onshore and offshore impacts which would need to be taken into account when assessing this option. Taking all these considerations into account we have concluded that an onshore connection is the most appropriate solution.

Have you considered environmental impacts?

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the EIA Regulations.

As part of the consultation, we are seeking views on the potential environmental effects of the proposals and whether consultees have suggestions for reducing these effects (for example, through mitigation measures). This information is detailed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). An Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations and will accompany the application for a DCO.

We will also be required to ensure a 10 per cent biodiversity net gain (known as BNG). This means our work needs to result in more, or better quality, natural environment than before development. This opens up real opportunities to use development to enhance our wild spaces and provide new habitats.



Consultation materials



We encourage you to provide feedback having read our Project Background Document which outlines our proposals and early environmental studies.

More detailed information is available in our 2024 Design Development Report. The PEIR and a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR, as well as maps of our 2024 proposals, are available to view and download on our Project website along with an interactive map.

We have also published the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report which sets out our responses to the feedback received during our last public consultation. All our consultation documents will be available to read at the public information events, listed on page 6.

Have your say



The statutory consultation runs from **Wednesday 10 April 2024 (12 noon) to Tuesday 18 June 2024 (11.59pm)**. You can take part in the consultation by:



Attending a public information event

come to one of our information events to view our proposals, speak to members of the Project team and read all the consultation materials, including our Project Background Document which outlines our proposals.



Attending a webinar

join one of our digital information events by signing up on our Project website.



Visiting our website

nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury where you will find all maps, technical documents, the PEIR, consultation materials and our online feedback questionnaire.

Please get in touch if you would like a paper copy of the feedback questionnaire, Project Background Document, or the non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR. These documents are also available to view at the inspection points listed in this newsletter.

Paper copies of the other consultation documents are also available on request.



Completing a feedback questionnaire

complete and return a feedback questionnaire to us. You can do this online through our Project website, in-person at a public information event, or by sending your feedback questionnaire or a letter to us by using our freepost address – **FREEPOST N TO T**. You can also submit your feedback via email to the Project email address – contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com.

The deadline for feedback is **11.59pm on Tuesday 18 June 2024**.

A reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and postage costs.

We have published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which sets out how we are carrying out this consultation. The SoCC was developed in consultation with relevant local authorities and is available on the Project website.

Public information events



We have selected event venues that are close to the proposed route. Larger event venues are highlighted with * where there will be more space to view displays and digital materials.

Date and time	Venue
Wednesday 24 April 2024 12-5pm	Towngate Theatre, St Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex SS14 1DL
Thursday 25 April 2024 2-7pm	The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood CM15 9NN *
Saturday 27 April 2024 11am-4pm	Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford CM3 1QP *
Tuesday 30 April 2024 12-5pm	Gislingham Village Hall, Mill Street, Gislingham IP23 8JT
Wednesday 1 May 2024 11am-4pm	Copdock Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock IP8 3JN
Friday 3 May 2024 1-6pm	Needham Market Community Centre, School St, Needham Market, Ipswich IP6 8BB
Saturday 4 May 2024 11am-4pm	Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Bromley Road, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2JE
Wednesday 8 May 2-7pm	The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays RM16 2JU *
Thursday 9 May 2024 1-6pm	Thorpe Hall, Ashwell Thorpe and Fundenhall Community Centre, Muskett Road, Ashwellthorpe NR16 1FD
Friday 10 May 2024 1-6pm	Tibenham Community Hall, Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1PX
Tuesday 14 May 2024 11am-4pm	Witham Public Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham CM8 2DY
Wednesday 15 May 2024 1-6pm	Diss Town Football Club, Diss IP22 4QP
Thursday 16 May 2024 2-7pm	Langham Community Centre, School Road, Langham, Colchester CO4 5PA
Friday 17 May 2024 1-6pm	Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7JA

Webinars



Date and time	Topic
Wednesday 17 April 6-7pm	Project Overview One †
Wednesday 29 May 6-7pm	Section A and B – South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk
Thursday 30 May 6-7pm	Section C and D – Babergh, Tendring and Colchester
Wednesday 5 June 6-7pm	Section E and F – Braintree and Chelmsford
Thursday 6 June 6-7pm	Section G and H – Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock
Wednesday 12 June 6-7pm	Project Overview Two

† A British Sign Language interpreter will be available

Inspection points



Information about Norwich to Tilbury is available to view and collect from the following locations from **Wednesday 10 April 2024**.

Location	Address
Long Stratton Library	The Street, Long Stratton NR15 2XJ
Norwich Library	Unit 3, The Forum, Millenium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW
Tuckswold Library	Robin Hood Road, Eaton NR4 6BX
Diss Library	Church Street, Diss IP22 4DD
Stowmarket Library	Milton Road, Stowmarket IP14 1EX
Capel St Mary Library	Village Hall, The Street, Capel St Mary IP9 2EF
Coggeshall Library	The Friends Meeting House, Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH
Chelmsford Library	Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH
Colchester Library	Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB
Tilbury Library	Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD
Greenstead Library	Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE
Stanway Library	10 Villa Road, Stanway CO3 0RH
Prettygate Library	Prettygate Road, Colchester CO3 4EQ
Wivenhoe Library	104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB

Inspection point opening hours can be subject to change. Please check with the relevant venue for the most up to date opening hours. Unstaffed hours require a library card for entry.

Contacted for the first time?

At this consultation we are presenting some new information.

This includes where – as a result of previous consultation feedback and environmental studies – we’ve made changes to the proposed routing and siting of pylons, construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction.

This means you may be hearing about Norwich to Tilbury for the first time. To find out how the Project may affect you, you can look at the map included with this newsletter or visit our online interactive map at: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury or come to one of our events.



Landowners

If you feel your land may be affected by the proposals, please contact the Norwich to Tilbury Lands Team at Fisher German by emailing Norwich-Tilbury@fishergerman.co.uk or by calling us on Freephone **0808 175 3314**.

Alternatively, you can write to Norwich to Tilbury Lands Team at: **Fisher German, The Atrium, Risby Business Park, Newmarket Road, Risby, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6RD**

Useful links



The Great Grid Upgrade: nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade



Ofgem: ofgem.gov.uk



Norwich to Tilbury website: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury



Green Energy Network: nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/what-if

Contact us

If you would like to contact the community relations team, please get in touch via:

0800 915 2497
FREEPOST N TO T
contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

