

The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

Community newsletter

July 2025



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nationalgrid

National Grid Electricity Transmission owns and maintains the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

As part of The Great Grid Upgrade, we are investing in new projects, including Norwich to Tilbury, to connect more home grown, renewable energy from where it is generated to homes and businesses where it is needed.

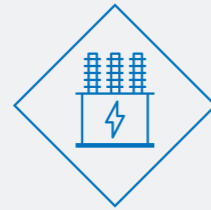
Norwich to Tilbury will transport more power across Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. It will boost energy security and support economic growth across East Anglia and beyond.

We first published our proposals for this vital new electricity line in 2022, and over the past three years we have held public consultations and worked closely with local communities to develop our plans. Listening to local people is a key part of how National Grid shapes these projects, helping to guide decisions and improve proposals. I'd like to thank everyone who has taken part in our consultations and provided feedback.

I am pleased to share our latest community newsletter to update you on how the project is progressing. I hope you find this informative. Do get in touch if you have any queries; we are always pleased to hear from you and will do our best to answer any questions.

Simon Pepper
Project Director, Norwich to Tilbury

Key Facts



Norwich to Tilbury is a proposal for a new high voltage electricity connection from an existing substation at Norwich in Norfolk to a new substation near Tilbury in Thurrock.



It is needed to strengthen the region's network and connect new sources of home-grown, British energy generated by offshore wind projects off the coast of East Anglia to homes and businesses where it is needed.



Our proposals include 159 km of pylons, 22 km of underground cables, and two new substations. We will use underground cables where the route crosses part of the Dedham Vale National Landscape.



We respect natural habitats, wildlife and the historic environment and we are committed to increasing biodiversity by at least 10%.



Norwich to Tilbury is one of 17 essential projects making up the Great Grid Upgrade, working to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and deliver energy security for the UK.

Public Consultation: Latest news

The Norwich to Tilbury project delivered 26 targeted community consultations earlier this year.



Simon Pepper, project director, said: "We are grateful to everyone who has taken part in our consultations on Norwich to Tilbury. The feedback received over the past three years has been central to the design process and has given us a better understanding of what's important to communities".

We will keep people updated over the coming months as we review feedback and work to finalise our proposals before submitting our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate later this year.

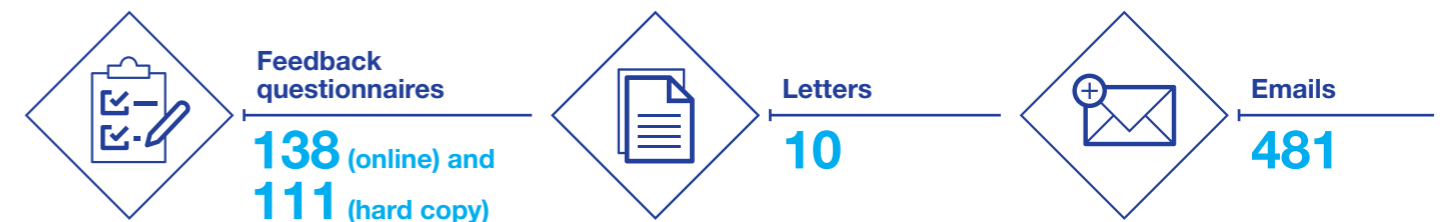
In the meantime, all our consultation material is still available on the project website, including webinar recordings.

If our application is accepted for examination, there will be a further opportunity to have your say. Anyone wishing to be involved in the examination process will be invited to register their interest with the Planning Inspectorate. Those who register their interest will be invited to submit their views on our proposals in writing and may be asked to speak at any of the public hearings that are held.

Local communities were asked to share their views on some potential changes to the project, which had been identified from feedback to earlier consultations and additional assessments.

These targeted consultations followed three previous stages of public consultation, held over three years, for this critical national infrastructure project.

Targeted consultation feedback:



Over the past three years we have:



Your questions answered

We have recently been asked for more information about construction impacts, public rights of way and community consultation.

Three commonly asked questions are answered below and there are more questions and answers on our website.

Where can I find more information on construction and traffic impacts?

If we get planning consent for Norwich to Tilbury, we will need to use a range of construction techniques to build all the different types of infrastructure for the project.



You can find more information on the expected construction activities in our 2024 Statutory Consultation Project Background Document. This is available on our project website. As part of our DCO application, we are also developing a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) which will set out the rules and standards we will adhere to when we build the project.

For construction traffic, we will develop a detailed traffic management plan showing the routes that contractors and construction traffic should follow. This will be published on our project website, and we will work closely with local authorities to develop the traffic management plan to minimise disruption to local communities.

Will footpaths and other public rights of way be closed during construction?

We will need to divert some footpaths and public rights of way to keep people safe while we are building the project. But our aim is to keep public rights of way open as much as possible.

Any temporary closures or diversions would be clearly signposted, and we will update local communities and publish information on our website. There would not be any permanent closures.

Have you finished public consultations on your proposals?

Yes, we have concluded consultation on our proposals and are now in the process of reviewing the feedback received from our recent targeted consultations.

We are continuing to engage with landowners as we finalise our plans for the project. If you are a landowner, our land agents, Fisher German, will have been in touch.

If you have a question and would like to contact our community relations team you can get in touch via:

T: 0800 915 2497 P: FREEPOST N TO T
E: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com



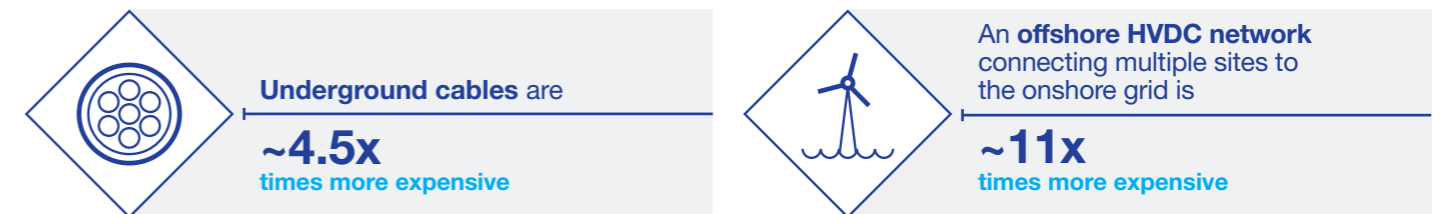
Rewiring Britain's future

Independent report concludes overhead lines cheaper than underground cables and offshore grid.

Underground cables and offshore connections are more expensive than overhead lines, a report by the IET (Institute of Engineering and Technology) has found.

The independent report by Mott MacDonald in conjunction with the IET analysed a range of electricity transmission technologies, comparing costs, environmental impacts, carbon intensity, technology readiness and delivery time.

The report found:



More information on the independent report can be found at: www.theiet.org/impact-society/sustainability-and-climate-change/iet-electricity-transmission-technologies-report

What's next

Stage	Detail
1	Reviewing all the comments we received from our targeted consultations alongside the feedback from our statutory consultation last summer.
2	Preparing our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).
3	Application submitted to the Planning Inspectorate – we will set out our responses to your consultation feedback in a Consultation Report which we will publish as part of our application. If our application is accepted for examination, there will then be the opportunity for anyone wishing to take part in the examination process to register as an interested party.
4	Examination – six months when the Examining Authority will ask questions about the proposed development. Anyone who has registered as an interested party can have their say on the application.
5	Recommendation – once the examination phase has concluded, the Planning Inspectorate has up to three months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.
6	Decision – once the Secretary of State has received a recommendation from the Planning Inspectorate they will make a decision on whether to approve the Development Consent Order.



Survey update

We are continuing to carry out environmental surveys and other assessments along the proposed route and you may see members of

our team at work. More information on where surveys are taking place can be found on our project website.

Archaeology surveys

Archaeological care is a key element of our planning for Norwich to Tilbury

Principal cultural heritage consultant Lara Bishop says early investigations on our proposed Norwich to Tilbury route have been ‘crucial’ to understanding and protecting the region’s rich heritage.

Alongside our engineering and environmental considerations is the attention we’re paying to the archeological heritage of the region. Our heritage lead, Lara Bishop, explains our commitment to understanding the archaeological potential of the landscape, ensuring all heritage assets are identified and protected before any work starts. On our proposals for Norwich to Tilbury, Lara Bishop leads a programme of desk-based research, geophysical surveys and archeological trial trenching, to help inform the project’s design.

Our early survey work has led to Roman material recently being identified near Colchester, an area

we targeted due to its known historical significance. This is a concrete example of why this early survey work is so important. Our project team works closely with archaeological advisers, as well as regularly consulting with Historic England.

The process moves from initially consulting with the National Heritage List for England, in order to gather information on designated heritage assets such as listed buildings and scheduled monuments, to using remote sensing tools to help spot hidden features in the landscape invisible to the naked eye, and then to on-the-ground fieldwork.

Alongside geophysical surveys, trial trenching is carried out by teams of archaeologists working on sites across the route at any one time, and any finds uncovered during the surveys are labelled with a precise location and context.



Once removed from site items are analysed by a team of specialist experts and all the land is fully reinstated once trial trenching work is complete. All findings are sent to post-excavation specialists, pottery analysis and flint experts, to human and animal bone specialists.

Specialists in particular periods or regions are also called on, and all this field data is reported back to the project team to reduce any potential impact. An example is our moving of some pylons in Essex due to the identification of a probable Roman villa site to avoid direct physical impact, which was only possible due to the scale of archaeological surveys we are carrying out.



Recent Roman finds

Our teams will be active over the summer as we continue our archaeological trial trenching surveys across the route.

We are carrying out these surveys to check where there is a potential for buried archaeology using the steps outlined below. This will help us to reduce and mitigate any impact from our proposals.

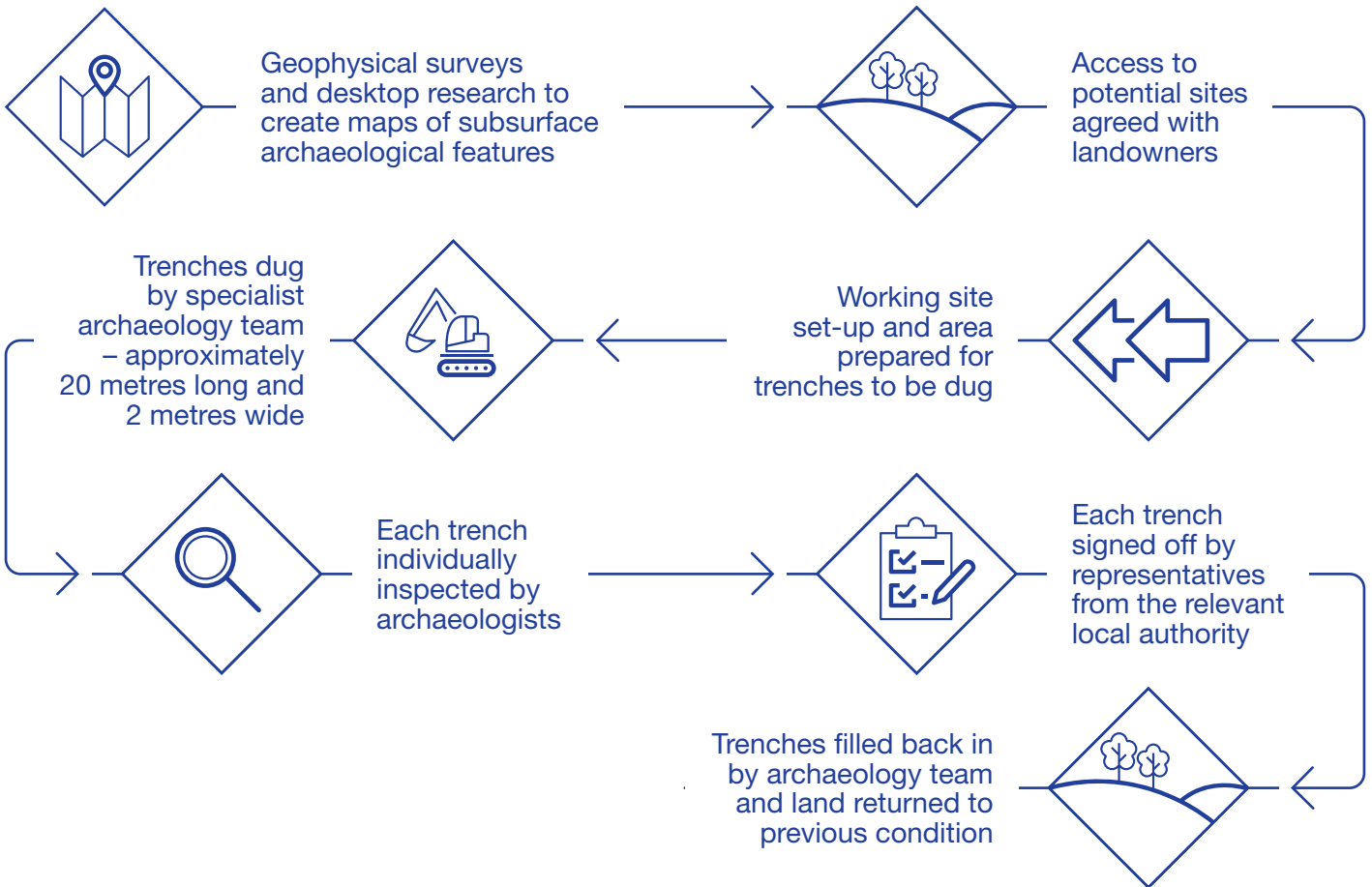
The team has been assessing a site which was identified for further investigation because of the historical significance of the area. The discovery shows exactly why early survey work is so important.

Simon Pepper, project director said: “We’re carrying out archaeological surveys along the proposed route with great care, to help us understand and protect any local heritage as we develop our plans.

“We are working closely with the archaeological adviser at Essex County Council, who is aware of the discovery, and we are also in regular consultation with Historic England, as we carry out more detailed investigations.”

An assessment of each site will be included in our Environmental Statement, which will be submitted with the DCO application, and also submitted to the local historic environment record.

How we carry out surveys:



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

