



The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

Community newsletter

January 2026

nationalgrid

Norwich to Tilbury project update

Welcome to the latest update on Norwich to Tilbury, a proposal for a new 400 kV electricity transmission connection from Norwich to Tilbury with associated infrastructure in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

With electricity demand expected to double in the next few years, Norwich to Tilbury will strengthen the electricity network across East Anglia. It will help to deliver secure, cleaner and more affordable, energy to where it is needed most, including in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.

Norwich to Tilbury is part of The Great Grid Upgrade, National Grid's nationwide programme to deliver secure, low carbon electricity to homes and businesses, reduce bills, and meet growing demand.

The project will provide millions of pounds in community benefit funding for areas hosting the new infrastructure. We will also work closely with wildlife experts to ensure lasting benefits for the environment, nature and biodiversity.

What's happening now?

We reached an important milestone in September 2025 when our Development Consent Order (DCO) application was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate (PINs).

The examination will start in February when an independent panel will review our application in detail, including public and stakeholder feedback.

If you would like to see the plans we submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, you can view all the documents on the Planning Inspectorate's website.



Want to know more?

Visit the Norwich to Tilbury website to sign up for our project updates:
nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

You can also register for updates by calling our community relations team on:
0800 915 2497

Targeted consultations

We have identified two locations where some very small changes are needed to the proposals we submitted last year. Before we confirm the changes, we have sent information to local residents to ask for their feedback.

Making adjustments like this after an application has been accepted for examination is a normal part of the DCO process.

Both changes are very small and have been put forward to improve our proposals in these two areas. We do not believe they introduce any significant new impacts.

At Little Bromley, we are proposing a small change to the permanent access and construction access routes for the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation where they cross an agricultural field. The change would reduce impact on farming activities.

At Bulphan, we are proposing a small change to our plans where the route of the overhead line crosses a metallic pipeline, west of Langdon Hills Golf Club. This would allow mitigation works on the existing pipeline.

We are not proposing to change the route or location of pylons in these areas.

How do I find out more?

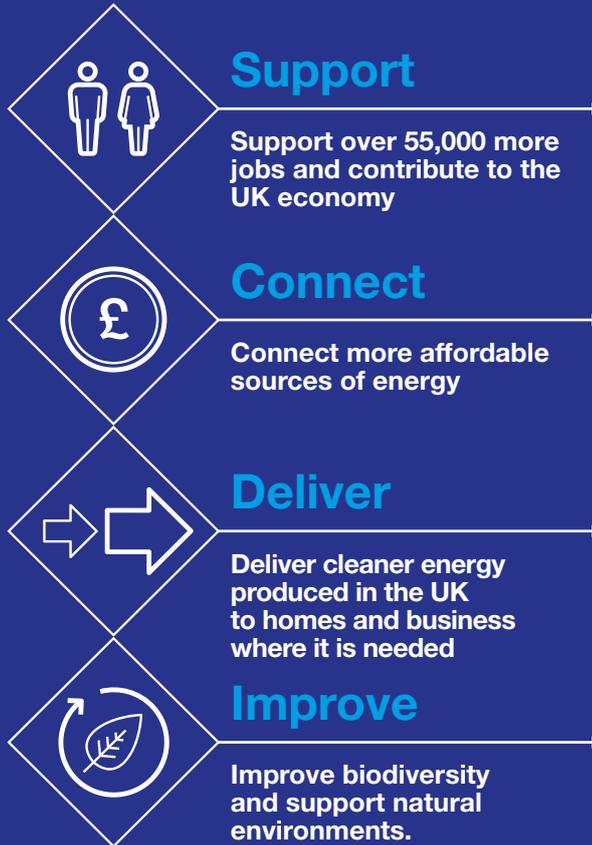
We have written to nearby properties and local community representatives about the proposed changes. Please visit our project website for more information, along with details on how you can have your say.

If you would like to receive updates straight to your inbox, you can sign up on our website.

The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury is part of The Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations.

The Great Grid Upgrade will:



Looking ahead - 2026 will be a busy year

The Examining Authority will start to examine our application in the coming weeks. We are also holding two very local, targeted consultations on small changes which have been requested by landowners, and we will ask you how we should prioritise investment in **community benefits**.

If you want to be kept up to date on what happens next, please sign up to receive our project updates.

To sign up, scan the QR code on the back cover or visit: nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury

You can also register by calling our community relations team on 0800 915 2497

Community benefits

Bringing lasting benefits

We believe that hosting energy infrastructure should benefit local communities. In line with Government guidance on community funds for new transmission projects, we expect to invest more than £30 million to support communities near our Norwich to Tilbury proposals.

This funding is part of a new community benefit programme designed to deliver lasting improvements that reflect what matters most to you.

This spring, we will launch a consultation to ask for your ideas on how this funding should be used. Your feedback will help shape our investment priorities, which could include skills and training, enhancing green spaces, supporting physical and mental health, and improving community facilities.



Surveying the local area

You may see our teams out and about in the fields and highways near to the project as we continue to carry out important environmental surveys and assessments along the proposed route.

They help us to understand the local environment as we prepare detailed plans in readiness to build the project, if consented. Surveys will continue throughout the examination period to make sure the information we hold is accurate and up to date.

We will continue to publish information on where and what we are surveying on our website.

Your questions answered

We are regularly asked for more information about why we need to build a new electricity connection in East Anglia and why we are proposing to build pylons.

We have answered a few commonly asked questions below. You can find more questions and answers on our website.

Why do you need to build Norwich to Tilbury?

East Anglia's electricity network has served us well for decades, but much of it was built in the 1960s. Today, things are changing fast and with electricity demand set to double we need a major upgrade to keep pace.

Even after recent work to reinforce and upgrade the existing network, it simply isn't enough to handle future demand. Over the next few years, East Anglia will see a surge in new energy generation projects, particularly large offshore wind farms, solar parks, and other renewable developments. To connect these projects and make sure the power gets to homes and businesses, we need stronger links in the network.

The Norwich to Tilbury upgrade will help keep energy secure and more affordable and support local jobs and businesses.

Why can't the new line go offshore?

Offshore wind is a big part of the UK's affordable energy future, but there's no way to keep everything offshore. At some point, the power has to come on shore.

When planning this project, we looked carefully at all the options, including an offshore alternative. To match the capacity of the proposed overhead

line, we would need to build three subsea cables plus additional infrastructure on land. That would add significant costs for consumers and wouldn't meet the requirements placed on us.

Offshore cables also come with environmental impacts both at sea and on land.

After weighing up all these factors, the most practical and responsible solution is an on shore connection.

This approach keeps energy affordable, protects the environment as much as possible, and ensures we can deliver the reliable network the region needs.

Why not put the whole line underground?

We understand that underground cables can seem like an appealing option, but they aren't practical for the entire route. Government guidance in the UK is clear that new electricity connections should normally use overhead lines, and there are good reasons for this.

Underground cables are far more expensive, and those extra costs would ultimately be passed on through everyone's energy bills. They are also much more complex to install and can cause significant environmental disruption.

That said, we are using underground cables in Dedham Vale to minimise visual impacts. We are working on detailed construction plans to ensure we protect the landscape while we work on their installation.

Contact us

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

0800 915 2497
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