

The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

Change Request Application Consultation Strategy

January 2026



nationalgrid

1. Introduction

National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders to give people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight on our proposals.

Our approach to engagement in support of Norwich to Tilbury is guided by the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and subsequent government guidance.

Our first non-statutory consultation was held in 2022 and followed by a second non-statutory consultation in 2023. We then held a statutory consultation in 2024 when we consulted on our refined proposals. This was followed by a series of targeted non-statutory community consultations between January and March 2025 on some changes along the route. We then held a targeted statutory community consultation between March and April 2025 on a new substation in Thurrock.

Further details of how we carried out these consultations and the proposals we presented at each stage can be found in the Consultation Report we submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, available on their website: nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN020027-000159-5.1%20Consultation%20Report.pdf

We submitted our application for a development consent order to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2025. Our application was accepted for examination on 26 September 2025. Since then, we have continued carrying out surveys and engaging with stakeholders. As a result, we are now proposing some very small changes to the Current Proposed Project Design submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Making small adjustments after an application has been accepted for examination is not unusual for a project of this nature and scale and has been done on other projects.

In order to amend our proposals we need to submit a change request to the Planning Inspectorate in line with guidance (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination)¹.

"In certain circumstances an applicant may decide they need to make a change to an application after it has been accepted for examination, for example, in response to the publication of new or emerging government policy or following on-going negotiations between the applicant and other interested parties."

"The applicant should carry out appropriate consultation about the proposed change. This step may be carried out earlier, before the change notification, to potentially save time and inform the applicant's approach to the change application. However, the Examining Authority may consider that further consultation is required.

"The applicant should consult all those persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) to (d) of the Planning Act 2008 who would be affected by the proposed change, giving a minimum of 28 days from receipt of the information about the proposed change for responses.

"If a targeted approach to the identification of those affected by the proposed change is adopted then detailed justification should be provided about why the applicant considers it is not necessary to consult all the prescribed persons. For example, the proposed change would not affect the functions of statutory undertakers. If applicable, the applicant should identify any newly prescribed persons that have been consulted in relation to the proposed change but were not consulted in relation to the original application."

We have notified the Planning Inspectorate of our intention to submit a change application in spring 2026 and will consult in line with advice from the Examining Authority. The Planning Inspectorate has confirmed that consultation may proceed, without prejudice to its final decision on the change requests.

This Change Application Consultation Strategy sets out how and why we will undertake further targeted consultation so far as is relevant, practicable and proportionate in accordance with the principles and methods which are set out in the SoCC and the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and relevant guidance.

All consultation carried out will be considered fully; the project team will look at all feedback and have regard to any relevant responses received.

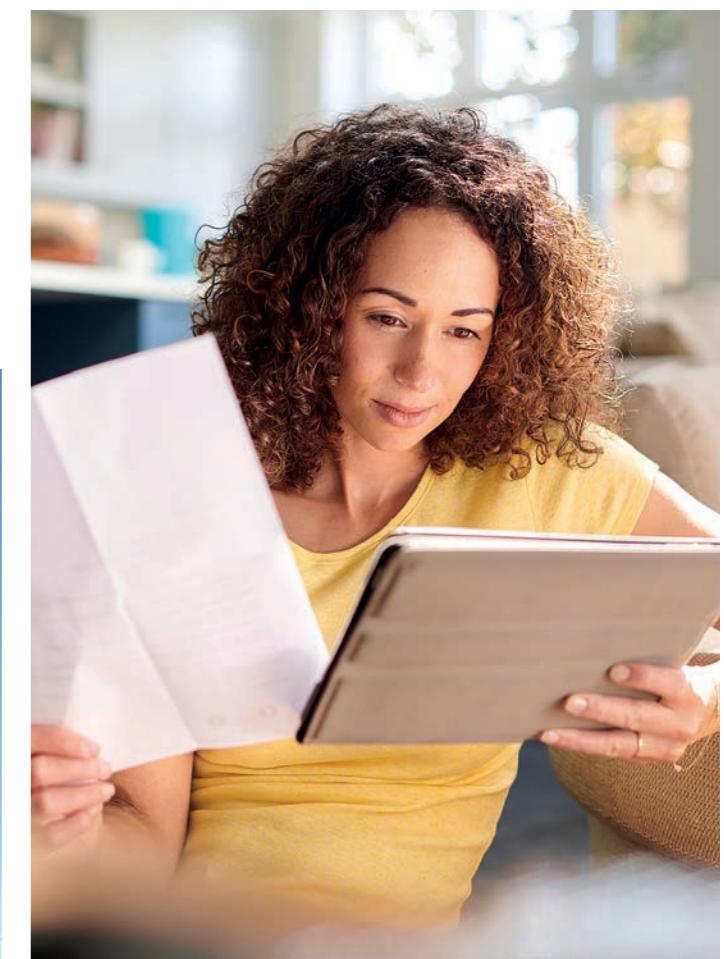
¹gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-changes-to-an-application-after-it-has-been-accepted-for-examination

2. Targeted consultation locations

We are consulting local residents in two locations where we are considering changes to the Current Proposed Project Design submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2025 as part of our application for a development consent order. A list of the locations can be found on our project website.

We have developed a bespoke consultation zone for each change application location to include nearby properties which are likely to be affected. These have been created following the principle that each consultation zone should be appropriate and proportionate in relation to the type and potential impact of the change.

The consultation zones will be published on the project website as an appendix to this strategy.



3. Timing of consultation

We plan to hold simultaneous, targeted consultations on the proposed changes in the two locations affected. The consultations will be open for 30 days, in line with guidance, and we will write to residents and stakeholders to notify them of detailed timings, along with information on the locations where we are consulting on proposed changes. Dates and locations will also be published on the project website.

4. Targeted consultation activities

We are committed to ensuring our targeted consultations are inclusive and will reach those who otherwise may not engage with us or do not have access to the most traditional and conventional methods of consultation.

As the proposed changes are very small and would not fundamentally change the Project as a whole, we will carry out targeted consultations with prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and parish

Community consultation

We will send a letter to each property that falls within the relevant consultation zone setting out information on the targeted consultation and inviting the recipient to provide feedback.

Residents will also receive a consultation leaflet that explains what we are now proposing in their area and why, a map showing the proposed change in their area (as well as what was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2025), how people can take part and provide feedback, an Environmental Implications of Change document, and a feedback questionnaire and a Freepost envelope.

We will seek to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders and the public more broadly, including by:

- notifying the local parish council / community forum, and offering a briefing via Teams
- publishing full details of the targeted consultations on the project website
- notifying our contact database via our regular project update e-mail newsletter
- providing contact information for the community relations team widely within materials posted within the consultation zones, to local authorities and parish councils
- running an advert in local media titles on/following consultation launch

councils, persons with an interest in land affected by the proposed change and nearby properties which are likely to be affected.

- notifying hard to reach groups as identified within the SoCC
- publishing statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers .

We will also highlight the targeted consultations in an edition of our Community Newsletter, which will be posted to approximately 82,000 properties along the route of the project.



Parish council / community forum consultation

We will notify parish clerks and community forum secretaries where any proposed changes fall within their boundary and set out the proposed changes within their local area. The parish councils and community forums will be invited to provide feedback on changes within their area.

The parish councillors and members of the community forum will also be offered digital briefings.

Landowner consultation

Where any new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act (such as landowners) are identified, we will also engage separately under those provisions of the Act and related guidance.

Stakeholder briefings and meetings

We will offer briefings, either online or in-person, to provide information about the targeted consultation and respond to any questions for stakeholders including:

- Members of Parliament where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their constituencies.
- Elected representatives where the location of proposed changes falls into all or part of their ward.

Public webinars

We will hold a public webinar per application for residents living near to the proposed change along the route of the project. People will be able to sign up via the website.

Each webinar presentation will be recorded and made available on the project website for playback by those who cannot attend the webinar sessions. The sessions will also include time for questions and answers.

Public information events

We will hold a public event per application for the local community to find out information about the proposals and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The event will be held at a suitable, publicly accessible venue that is within or near the PCZ. Details of where and when the public information event will be held will be published on the project website and in materials sent to local residents.

Should any events (in person or webinars) need to be altered or cancelled for any reason, the most appropriate mitigation would be identified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the relevant Local Planning Authority.

Consultation materials

We will make all consultation documents available on the project website, including:

- a consultation leaflet for each location, including maps and potential environmental implications
- an Environmental Implications of Change document
- a downloadable feedback questionnaire
- an online feedback questionnaire
- contact details.

Project website

Our project website is where all information relating to these targeted consultations and all previous consultations is located. The website will be updated to include all relevant information for the targeted consultation.

Maps and visuals

Maps showing the proposed changes we are consulting on will be made available in the document library. We are not updating the interactive project map at this time, but it will remain available and include an explanation of what the map is showing and where the latest proposals can be viewed.

Table 1: Information included on project website.

| Function | Description |
|--|---|
| Project website document library with access to the information | <p>The library is our 'go to' deposit location for all project information. All information relating to the targeted consultations will be uploaded here. This includes the consultation leaflets being sent out to properties in the consultation zones.</p> <p>People will also be able to continue to access information related to all previous consultations and interim updates and milestones via this library.</p> |
| Consultation pages to display all relevant information and material being presented for consultation | <p>The location of each proposed change we are consulting on will be laid out on the consultation pages so people can find the information for the proposed change they are interested in.</p> <p>Information will be laid out in a simple, visual and interactive format, with pointers and instructions throughout to aid easy navigation. This includes a link to the online feedback questionnaire.</p> <p>We will also provide links and registration instructions for the public webinars we are holding.</p> |
| Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document | <p>For each location we are consulting on, we will develop and publish an Environmental Implications of Change (EIC) document. This will be summary of the potential implications of the proposed change in each location and how that may or may not differ to those affects laid out with the Environmental Statement (ES).</p> |
| FAQs | This will help visitors find answers to frequently asked questions. |
| Project update section | This section enables members of the public to stay updated on the project and provides an easily accessible place for all recent updates to be hosted. |
| Project contact details | This includes telephone, email and freepost details for the public to get in contact and request further details or ask questions. |
| Feedback questionnaire | The online questionnaire will enable members of the public to provide their feedback easily for each location and submit to the project team. The document can also be downloaded from the website and returned by email or printed and sent back via Freepost. Paper copies will also be posted on request. |
| GDPR (Legal statement) | All personal data will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area or used for purposes other than those outlined. The website will be made accessible for all users through the provision of audio guides, videos, other visual material and the ability to request translation. |

5. Accessibility

If people need consultation materials presented in different formats, we will consider this on request.

6. Providing feedback

We want to make providing feedback as easy as possible for all our stakeholders and communities. Paper copies of the feedback questionnaire, along with a Freepost envelope, will be mailed to addresses that fall within our consultation zones and available on request. Website visitors will be able to provide their feedback via our online feedback questionnaire or by downloading it to return by email or Freepost (address listed below).

Each location has been given a **reference name**, and we will ask people to quote this when providing feedback. This will enable us to consider their feedback in relation to the specific location of the proposed change(s). Reference names will be identified in the consultation leaflets sent to addresses in the consultation zones and in relevant sections on the project website.

Our contact and feedback channels are the same as they were at previous stages of consultation:

-  Email – contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
-  Freepost – **FREEPOST N TO T**
-  Online feedback questionnaire
nationalgrid.com/n-t
-  People will also be able to call our hotline on **0800 915 2497** if they have any questions

We will review feedback received on the two changes as we refine our proposals. We will submit our change applications to the Planning Inspectorate later this year. The feedback on each proposed change will be responded to in a Consultation Report and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate with our two Proposed Change Applications. Any refinements to the proposed change as a result of the targeted consultation will also be reported in the consultation reports.

7. Further consultation

We may need to carry out further targeted consultation either with communities or landowners following feedback. Where this is the case, we will carry out consultation where relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this strategy.



Appendices

Community Consultation Zone Maps by Change Application

- 10 Little Bromley: Change to the EACN access
- 11 Bulphan: Change to Third Party Access and Works

Little Bromley: Change to the EACN access



Bulphan: Change to Third Party Access and Works





Contact us

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

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

