

AENC-WSP-CNS-REP-0016

# Norwich to Tilbury

## Volume 5: Reports and statements

Document: 5.1 Consultation Report - Appendix E: Statement of  
Community Consultation (SoCC) and supporting evidence

Final Issue A

August 2025

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(g)

**nationalgrid**

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## **Appendix E1**

Letter to Local Authorities Regarding  
the Informal Consultation on the  
Proposed SoCC

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 December 2023 15:23

**Subject:** Norwich to Tilbury newsletter and draft SoCC

Hi all,

I hope you're well.

A few documents for your review/reference following last week's workshop, the slides from which are attached.

Community Update

The attached community update is being delivered to all properties within the 2023 primary consultation zone from Monday next week (4 December). It provides an update on the project, our latest news and provides our responses to the main issues that arose at consultation in the summer. We'll make the newsletter available on our website on Monday for those that sit outside the primary consultation zone and will also be sharing a copy with MPs, elected members and parish councils along the proposed route, along with the below covering email.

***National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury community newsletter, December 2023.***

*Please find attached a copy of our December 2023 community newsletter. It is being issued to local residents and businesses that sit within the consultation zone for the Norwich to Tilbury project, as well as elected representatives, key stakeholders and people who have registered for updates. It will also be published on our project website.*

*The newsletter provides an overview of the key issues raised by the public and stakeholders at the non-statutory consultation held in the summer, and our response to them. We also provide information on the next steps for the project and an update on some of our current activity, including the surveys you may see taking place along the route.*

*I hope you find this of interest. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:*

- by email at: [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)
- by freephone at: 0800 151 0992

*For more information on the project, visit our website [nationalgrid.com/Norwich-to-tilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/Norwich-to-tilbury).*

Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)



Attached is the draft SoCC, which we provided an overview of at the workshop last week. We'll consult formally on the SoCC in early 2024, but wanted to share an early version for your views and comments. We'll then consider these and – where needed – will make amends before issuing the SoCC for formal consultation.

If you have any comments to make, please do so by Friday 5 January.

As ever, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to discuss further.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Consents Officer  
Electricity Transmission  
**nationalgrid**

[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)

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For the registered information on the UK operating companies within the National Grid group please use the attached link: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/corporate-registrations>

# **Appendix E2**

## **Informal Draft SoCC**

**Norwich to Tilbury**

**Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

**[Design to be added]**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the document

1.1.1. This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“NGET”) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Reinforcement Project (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”). The Project proposes to provide a new link on the transmission system by upgrading and reinforcing the electricity transmission system in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex specifically).

1.1.2. The Project will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “SoS”) at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, via a Development Consent Order (“DCO”). This document has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Act”) and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

1.1.3. In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local planning authorities:

- **Norfolk County Council**
- **Suffolk County Council**
- **Essex County Council**
- **Thurrock Council**
- **South Norfolk District Council**
- **Mid Suffolk District Council**
- **Babergh District Council**
- **Tendering District Council**
- **Colchester City Council**
- **Braintree District Council**
- **Chelmsford District Council**
- **Brentwood District Council**
- **Basildon District Council**

## 1.2. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

1.2.1. The Project will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 14(1)(b) of the Act because it comprises new overhead electricity transmission connections of more than 2 km, with an operating voltage of above 132 kV. National Grid intends to submit an application for a DCO under Section 37 of the Act to the Planning Inspectorate.

1.2.2. The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. The Planning Inspectorate will provide a recommendation to the SoS, who will ultimately decide whether to grant development consent for our Project.

1.2.3. Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and prescribed stakeholders.

1.2.4. Early involvement of communities, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information about the potential effects of the Project, where feedback from stakeholders can help shape the Project's development.

1.2.5. Early involvement also ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application for development consent is submitted.

### **1.3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

1.3.1. The proposed Project is an 'EIA Development'. On 7 November 2022, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy<sup>1</sup>, to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Project.

1.3.2. Within this Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the proposed Project to meet the criteria outlined in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations to be considered as 'EIA Development'.

1.3.3. A scoping opinion for the proposed Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 14 December 2022.

### **1.4. About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET)**

1.4.1. National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light, and power we bring to our customer's homes and businesses; in the way that we support our

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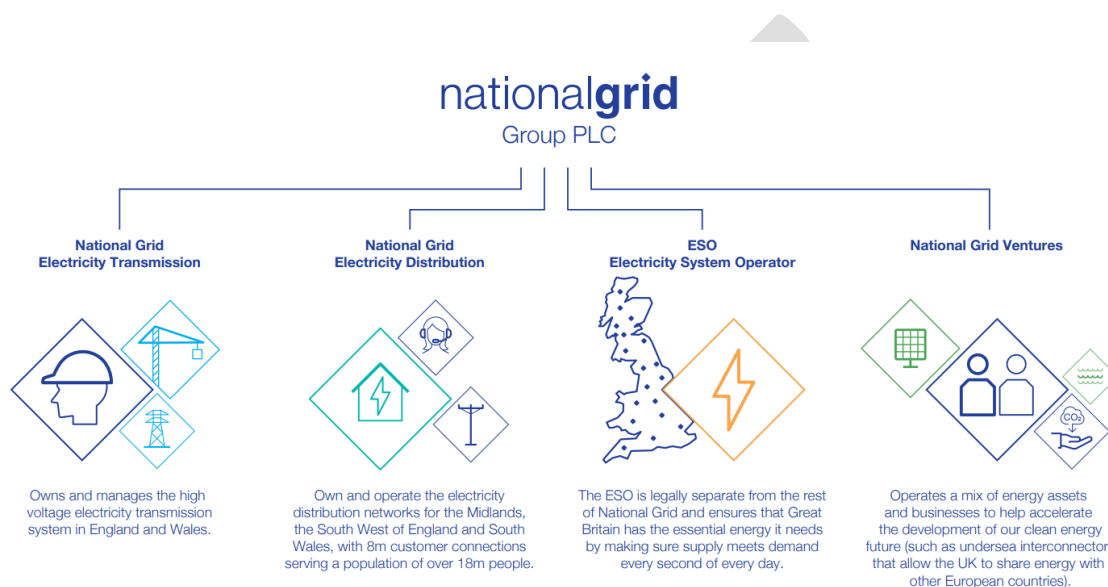
<sup>1</sup> Predecessor to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, which was formed on 7 February 2023.



communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair, and affordable energy future.

1.4.2. Within the National Grid Group there are four separate legal entities, each with their own roles and responsibilities. The structure of the National Grid group of companies is available in Figure 1.1.

**Figure 1.1: Structure of National Grid group of companies.**



1.4.3. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) referred to as National Grid hereafter, holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. NGET owns, builds, and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country. It is NGET that is developing the proposals for the Norwich to Tilbury Reinforcement Project.

1.4.4. National Grid Electricity Distribution owns and operates the distribution networks for the Midlands, the south west of England and south Wales.

1.4.5. National Grid ESO is the Electricity System Operator (ESO) which operates the transmission network in Great Britain, including the networks in Scotland owned by Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks. National Grid ESO manage the network, ensuring the right amount of energy is provided where it is needed. In April 2019,

National Grid ESO became a legally separate business within the National Grid PLC family and is regulated independently by Ofgem.

1.4.6. National Grid Ventures is the unregulated commercial arm of National Grid PLC, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.

1.4.7. National Grid has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act. This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

1.4.8. National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to preserve amenity, as outlined below.

*Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and*

*Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.*

1.4.9. How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy.

## **2. The Project**

### **2.1. Project introduction**

2.1.1. Norwich to Tilbury is a proposal by National Grid to provide a new link on the transmission system by upgrading and reinforcing the electricity transmission system in East Anglia.

2.1.2. The Project would include the construction of new infrastructure to reinforce the system to increase the capacity of the transmission network in this area. Work proposed includes approximately 183 km of new overhead lines and underground cabling between the Norwich

Main and Bramford substations in the northern part of the route, and from Bramford to Tilbury substations in the southern part of the route, as well as a new 400 kV substation.

2.1.3. All of this work forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade – National Grid’s programme to deliver over five times the amount of electricity transmission infrastructure in the next seven years than has been built in the last 30 years.

## **2.2. Project Background and Need**

2.2.1. The increase in renewable energy generation, in line with the Government’s Net Zero legislative agenda,<sup>2</sup> is driving the need to expand the capacity of National Grid’s transmission system.

2.2.2. Great Britain already has 8.5 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy in operation, and another 1.9 GW under construction. The Government’s Energy White Paper (EWP) (December 2020) outlines a plan to increase energy from offshore wind to 40 GW by 2030 (with this Government target being increased in April 2022 to 50 GW) and this Project would support in achieving this target.

2.2.3. New connections for new offshore wind and nuclear power generation projects and for interconnectors into East Anglia are expected to continue in addition to the current contracted position. These new connections are being constructed or are expected to connect into substations at Necton, Norwich Main, Bramford, Friston and Sizewell. Additionally, connection agreements are in place with two offshore wind farm projects and one interconnector based on their connections into a new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation. National Grid has a duty to facilitate new connections and maintain a safe National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) and has considered the capability of the existing network to support such connections. This assessment considered various published Future Energy Scenarios (FES) (a range of scenarios which seek to address the uncertainty that exists over such an extended planning horizon) to consider network capability relative to the expected connection requirements.

2.2.4. Much of East Anglia’s 400 kV electricity transmission network was built in the 1960s. It was built to supply regional demand, centred around Norwich and Ipswich. With the growth in new energy generation from offshore wind, nuclear power and interconnection with other countries, there will be more electricity connected in East Anglia than the network can currently accommodate.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future-accessible-html-version>

2.2.5. As a result, and to meet its duties, National Grid needs to reinforce the electricity network to allow power to be imported to, and exported from, East Anglia and to provide additional capability to allow power flows into and out of the south east area to connect with areas of demand and interconnectors to Europe.

2.2.6. The Project could also connect new offshore wind farms off the Essex coast to the electricity transmission network and a European interconnector. Two offshore wind farms, the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, and the Tarchon Energy interconnector (from Germany) are currently in development. If consented, they are expected to be operational by the end of the decade.

### **3. Consultation and engagement to date**

3.1.1. National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.

3.1.2. National Grid's approach to engagement in support of the Project has been to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation guided by the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

3.1.3. The first non-statutory consultation was held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022. This was followed by a second non-statutory consultation held between Tuesday 27 June 2023 and Monday 21 August 2023. These are now being followed by statutory consultation as set out in Section 5.

3.1.4. At the first non-statutory consultation, the Project presented a broad swathe within which new infrastructure (pylons and underground cables) could be located as well as a proposed new substation site on the Tendering Peninsula. Following the conclusion of this consultation, we analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work developed the project design ahead of the second non-statutory consultation.

3.1.5. At the second non-statutory consultation, the Project presented a preferred draft indicative alignment showing potential pylon positions, underground cables, cable sealing end compounds and connection substations. The feedback received at this consultation was combined with our ongoing environmental assessments and technical studies to help identify the proposals presented at statutory consultation.

3.1.6. At both non-statutory consultations National Grid sought to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may be affected by the works. National Grid consulted with stakeholders at an early stage to ensure technical advice and local

knowledge was taken into account in the early development of the Project. These stakeholders included local councils, elected representatives, local residents, hard-to-reach groups, and local interest groups.

3.1.7. National Grid gave the stakeholders and members of the public digital and non-digital opportunities to engage with the proposals through a dedicated website, public events and webinar events as well as via email, phone and Freepost. At the launch of both consultations, National Grid wrote to all homes within 1 km of the proposals – around 50,000 addresses – and placed adverts in local papers and on social media. Paper copies of the key consultation documents were also placed at information points in publicly accessible venues – libraries and council officers – along the route. Alternative versions of the documents were available on request.

3.1.8. More information on both non-statutory consultations and how the feedback received at both consultations helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report and the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report. These are available on the Project website.

3.1.9. Methods used to raise further awareness of the Project ahead of the statutory consultation period have included:

- Issuing an interim newsletter to all addresses within the 2023 Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) providing an update following the 2023 non-statutory consultation (issued in December 2023);
- Offering to brief and update elected representatives, local interest groups, local planning authority officers and hard to reach groups about the current status of the Project, plans for the forthcoming statutory consultation, and how people can get involved; and
- Engagement with the local media to raise awareness of the Project and each phase of consultation.
- Providing updates to the Project website when new information is available.

3.1.10. More detail on the methods National Grid will use to publicise the statutory consultation is provided in **Section 5.5**.

## 4. Project Timeline

4.1.1. The Project is currently in the pre-application stage of the national infrastructure planning process. Table 4.1 sets out the milestones for each stage of the Project and indicative dates from pre-application consultation through to construction.

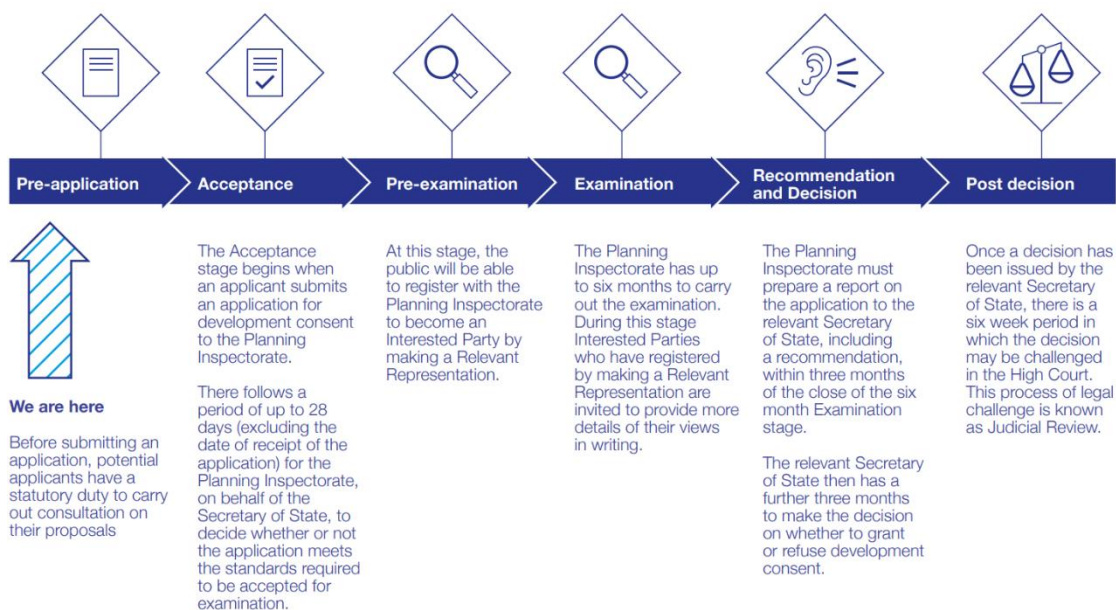
**Table 4.1: Project Milestones**

<b>Stage</b>
<b>Non-statutory consultation</b> – We held a period of non-statutory consultation between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
<b>Consideration of 2022 non-statutory consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation to inform the design of the Project
<b>Non-statutory consultation</b> – We held a second non-statutory consultation between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
<b>Consideration of 2023 non-statutory consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation to inform the design of the Project.
<b>Statutory consultation</b> – We will consult the public and statutory consultees (as outlined in sections 42 and 47 of the Act) on the draft proposals.
<b>Consideration of 2024 statutory consultation feedback</b> – We will review and have regard to the feedback received from the statutory consultation and finalise the proposed design. We will also continue engagement with stakeholders prior to submission of our DCO application.
<b>Application submission</b> – We plan to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, has up to 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.
<b>Examination</b> – If the application is accepted, it will go through a six-month examination period. Prior to this period, stakeholders can register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing during this phase. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority, including to all relevant representations, and supporting evidence.
<b>Recommendation and Decision</b> – The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application to the SoS, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of Examination. The SoS has a further three months to make a decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.
<b>Post-decision</b> – Once a decision has been issued by the SoS, there is a six-week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court, known as Judicial Review. If granted development consent, construction could begin in 2024 and be completed by 2028.

4.1.2. Figure 4.1 sets out the DCO consenting process.

**Figure 4.2: The DCO process.**





## 5. Consulting on the proposed application

### 5.1. When will the consultation take place?

5.1.1. The statutory consultation will run for ten weeks. All responses to the consultation must be received by 11:59pm on the final day of the consultation.

### 5.2. What proposals will be consulted on?

5.2.1. The Project comprises a major reinforcement and upgrade of the Electricity Transmission System in East Anglia and is illustrated in Figure 5.1. This figure shows the geographical extent of the Project, including the locations where new infrastructure is proposed.

5.2.2. Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the Project and will be provided during the statutory consultation (split into sections 'A-H'), consistent with how the Project has previously been presented.

5.2.3. We will consult on all aspects of the proposed development for the Project, including:

- Proposals for a new 400 kV electricity transmission connection of approximately 183 km in overall length from Norwich Main substation to Tilbury Substation via Bramford Substation comprising:
  - Approximately 158 km of new overhead line (OHL) supported on approximately 520 steel pylons.

- Approximately 25 km of underground 400 kV cabling, in four sections including around 19 km through and in the vicinity of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- New Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds to connect the OHLs to the underground cables.
- A new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation on the Tendring Peninsula.
- Proposals for construction, including access roads and track, compounds and associated requirements.
- Likely environmental impacts and proposed mitigation.

5.2.4. The Project is an 'environmental impact assessment (EIA) development' under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Therefore, we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this consultation in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.

**Figure 5.1: Project extent.**

### **5.3. Who will be consulted?**

5.3.1. Under section 47 of the Act, we have a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land, i.e., the local community. In consultation with the local authorities set out in section 1.1.3 we have developed a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) for the distribution of our Community Newsletter, as shown in Appendix A.

5.3.2. The PCZ includes people whose property postcodes lie within 1 km of the Project's red line boundary (representing the anticipated maximum extent of land in which the Project may take place). This zone amounts to approximately 50,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods. All relevant stakeholders within this area will be consulted including contacting each residential and business addresses directly.

5.3.3. An additional wider Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) has been developed, comprising a 4 km buffer around the red line boundary, whereby wider publicity of the Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix B.

5.3.4. Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via methods outlined in Section 5.4.3.

5.3.5. Alongside all properties and businesses within the PCZ, we will also consult the following groups and individuals:

- Parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ;
- Relevant host and neighbouring local authorities defined under section 43 of the Act, as listed in Appendix C;
- Ward councillors and relevant council representatives within the core consultation zone;
- Members of Parliament (“MPs”) representing constituencies within the core and wider consultation zones;
- Seldom heard and hard-to-reach groups within the PCZ and SCZ who have been drawn to our attention and through our own research, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials; and
- Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife within the core and wider consultation zone, or who have been in touch through consultation and engagement to date.

5.3.6. In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (b) and section 43 of the Act. We will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (“PILs”) under sections 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the Act.

## 5.4. Consultation Materials

5.4.1. **Table 5.1** sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the proposed Project and provide their feedback.

**Table 5.1: Consultation Materials**

Document	Detail
Project Background document	<p>This document will provide a summary of the Project including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The background to the Project.</li><li>• Information about design changes as a result of the 2023 non-statutory consultation.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about potential benefits and impacts of the proposed Project.</li> <li>• How we propose to mitigate any significant effects; and</li> <li>• Signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project.</li> </ul> <p>This document will be available online and in paper copy on request, at public information points and at face-to-face events.</p>
Community newsletter April 2024	<p>Local residents within the core consultation zone will be notified of the start of the consultation through a consultation newsletter, inviting them to participate in the consultation. The newsletter will also be issued to section 42 consultees and wider consultees via email or post and will be available on the Project website during the consultation period.</p> <p>The newsletter will set out the Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	<p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the benefits of the Project.</p> <p>A non-technical summary ("NTS") of the PEIR will also be made available. The PEIR and NTS will be available on the Project website. Copies of the NTS will be available to the public at the consultation events for people to take away (subject to availability). Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>
Design Development Report 2024	An in-depth technical document detailing the work we have undertaken to date, focusing on the work since the 2023 non-statutory consultation.
Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024	Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process.
2023 Non-Statutory	Summarising the feedback we received during the 2022 non-statutory

Consultation Feedback Report	consultation and how it has been considered.
Project map book / Project area maps	A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the Project will be made available online and at the consultation events for people to view during the consultation period.
Consultation banners	A series of exhibition banners with information relating to the project that will be used at the public consultation events. These will be made available on the website as PDFs.
Interactive Project map	An interactive map of the Project will be made available via the Project website and be available on screen at the public consultation events.
Consultation notices	We will publish a notice with details of the consultation and provide it to statutory consultees as required under Section 48 of the Act.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	This SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation and paper copies will be provided on request.
Feedback questionnaire	We will provide a feedback questionnaire for anyone wishing to respond to the statutory consultation. The feedback questionnaire will be available online, via the Project website, and at the consultation events and public information points. Copies can also be provided on request (and will be returnable free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T

5.4.2. National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in **Table 5.1** in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances. All consultation materials will also be available on the Project's website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements. Further detail on the functionality of the Project website is provided in **Table 5.2**.

**Table 5.2: Website functions**

Function	Rationale
Interactive Project map with layers that can be added and removed	To enable members of the public to see how different components of the proposed Project fit together and how they interact with the existing area.
HTML/digitally accessible version of Project Background document	To present the content of the Project Background document in a format more compatible with accessibility tools and different device formats
Videos, infographics and animations	To aid with understanding of the proposed Project.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the Project Team or attend an in-person event.
Online feedback questionnaire	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.
Webinar sign-up form	To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the Project Team for any further questions.

5.4.3. **Table 5.3** sets out how we will make the consultation documents available.

**Table 5.3: Methods to make consultation documents available**

Activity	Detail
Project website	<p>All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation period. We will also ask the following local authorities to provide a link to all the consultation documents on their website(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Suffolk County Council</li> <li>• Essex County Council</li> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> <li>• South Norfolk District Council</li> <li>• Mid Suffolk District Council</li> <li>• Babergh District Council</li> <li>• Tendring District Council</li> <li>• Colchester City Council</li> <li>• Braintree District Council</li> <li>• Chelmsford District Council</li> <li>• Brentwood District Council</li> <li>• Basildon District Council</li> </ul> <p>Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>
Inspection points	While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online,



	<p>the Consultation Newsletter, Project Background Document, PEIR NTS, SoCC and feedback questionnaire will be available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norfolk County Council* County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2DH</li> <li>• Long Stratton Library The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ</li> <li>• Diss Library Church Street, Diss, IP22 4DD</li> <li>• Stowmarket Library Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX</li> <li>• Suffolk County Council Endeavour House, 8 Russell Rd, Ipswich, IP1 2BX</li> <li>• Capel Library The Street, Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EF</li> <li>• Tendring District Council 88-90 Pier Avenue, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 1TN</li> <li>• Manningtree Library* High Street, Manningtree, CO11 1AD</li> <li>• Colchester Library Trinity Square, Colchester, CO1 1JB</li> <li>• Coggeshall Library 29 Stoneham Street, Coggeshall, Colchester, CO6 1UH</li> <li>• Witham Library* 18 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2AQ</li> <li>• Writtle Library 45 The Green, Writtle, Chelmsford, CM1 3DT</li> <li>• Chelmsford Library County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH</li> <li>• Ingatestone Library High Street, Ingatestone, CM4 9EU</li> <li>• Billericay Library* 143 High St, Billericay, CM12 9AB</li> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council Town Hall, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AY</li> <li>• Tilbury Library Kanmore House, 16 Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD</li> </ul> <p>Prior to attending these locations, it is advised opening times are checked. We will regularly check that consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period. We will also try to use local websites to act as public information points, by requesting they host a link to the Project website. These may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local authority websites</li> <li>• local library websites parish websites</li> <li>• popular community magazines/news outlets</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MP websites</li> </ul>
Document requests	<p>Following the launch of the statutory consultation, people will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request, free of charge will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation Newsletter</li> <li>• Project Background Document</li> <li>• Feedback questionnaire</li> <li>• Non-technical summary of the PEIR. Requests for paper copies of the technical documents (PEIR) will be reviewed on a case by-case basis.</li> <li>• Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</li> </ul> <p>Paper copies of the other consultation documents will also be available on request however, a reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and posting costs. Requests can be made by contacting us using the details provided in Section 6.1. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print.</p>
Public consultation events	<p>Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review and some will be available to take away at the public consultation events. For the technical documents, limited copies will be available for review at these events, but document request forms will be available to the public.</p> <p>More detail on the public events is available in Section 5.6.</p>

## 5.5. Promoting the consultation

5.5.1. All residents, local businesses and community organisations within the PCZ will be notified of the start of the consultation through a community newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 above. A map showing the PCZ (approximately 50,000 addresses) can be found in Appendix A.

5.5.2. A range of other methods will be utilised to promote the consultation, as set out in Table 5.7.

**Table 5.7: Promotion methods**

Method	Detail
Press releases	Press releases publicising the upcoming consultation and how the

	<p>community and wider stakeholders can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list will include the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basildon Standard</li> <li>• BBC Radio Essex</li> <li>• BBC Radio Norfolk</li> <li>• BBC Radio Suffolk</li> <li>• Basildon Standard</li> <li>• Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo</li> <li>• Braintree and Witham Times</li> <li>• Brentwood Gazette</li> <li>• Brentwood Live</li> <li>• Brentwood Weekly News</li> <li>• Bury &amp; West Suffolk Magazine</li> <li>• Bury Free Press</li> <li>• Bury Mercury</li> <li>• Chelmsford Weekly News</li> <li>• Dereham Times</li> <li>• Diss Express</li> <li>• Diss Mercury</li> <li>• Dunmow Broadcast</li> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times</li> <li>• Eastern Daily Press</li> <li>• Essex Chronicle</li> <li>• Essex Focus</li> <li>• Essex Live</li> </ul> <p>The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and the SCZ, as well as further afield.</p>
Newspaper advertisements	<p>Two rounds of newspaper advertisements will be undertaken before and during the consultation. Advertisements will provide details of the consultation, where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the engagement activities.</p> <p>Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the primary and secondary consultation zones. We will place adverts in the following titles:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times</li> <li>• Eastern Daily Press</li> <li>• Essex Chronicle</li> </ul>
Emails and letters	<p>We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs</li> <li>• Elected representatives at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Norfolk County Council</li> <li>○ Suffolk County Council</li> <li>○ Essex County Council</li> <li>○ Thurrock Council</li> <li>○ South Norfolk District Council</li> <li>○ Mid Suffolk District Council</li> <li>○ Babergh District Council</li> <li>○ Tendring District Council</li> <li>○ Colchester City Council</li> <li>○ Braintree District Council</li> <li>○ Chelmsford District Council</li> <li>○ Brentwood District Council</li> <li>○ Basildon District Council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Host parish councils;</li> <li>• Neighbouring local authorities; and</li> <li>• Neighbouring parish councils.</li> </ul>
Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the Act to publicise the consultation and the SoCC will be published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publicising the SoCC – once in the following local circulating newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ East Anglian Daily Times</li> <li>○ Eastern Daily Press</li> <li>○ Essex Chronicle</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>publicising the consultation – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers.</p>
Information posters	<p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public</p>

	<p>locations within the core and wider consultation zone, subject to permission.</p> <p>We will also send posters to each parish council within the PCZ and host local authorities.</p>
Social media	<p>We will promote the consultation on National Grid UK's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook account, @NationalGridUK.</p> <p>We will also develop a social media guide for local authorities to use on their social media channels. This guide will include links for the Project website.</p> <p>Consultation feedback will not be accepted through social media channels.</p>

5.5.3. Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and advertised in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Project. Any activity changes will also be published on the Project website and on National Grid UK's Twitter and Facebook accounts @NationalGridUK.

## 5.6. Public consultation events

5.6.1. 12 public information exhibitions will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project Team. The exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ

5.6.2. Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each exhibition. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.

5.6.3. Those attending the public consultation events will be encouraged to provide their feedback via the online or paper feedback questionnaire on the proposals.

5.6.4. **Table 5.8** outlines the indicative locations of each of the exhibitions.

**Table 5.8: Public consultation events, times and locations**

Date and time	Venue
	The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, CM15 9NN
	Diss Youth & Community Centre, Shelfanger Road, Diss, IP22 4EH

	Lawford Venture Centre 2000, Bromley Road, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2JE
	Tibenham Community Hall, Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1PX
	TBC – Bury St Eds
	Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford, CM3 1QP
	Langham Community Centre, School Road, Langham, Colchester, CO4 5PA
	The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU
	TBC Tasburgh
	Copdock Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock, IP8 3JN
	Witham Public Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham, CM8 2DY
	Basildon Sporting Village, Cranes Farm Road, Basildon, SS14 3GR

## 5.7. Webinars

5.7.1. A total of six webinars will be held during the consultation period. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid via email to book a place.

5.7.2. The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team. The sessions will be recorded and made available as soon as possible after the session(s).

5.7.3. National Grid will also make a series of sessions available at the start of the consultation that provide an overview of the Proposals.

5.7.4. National Grid will make British Sign Language interpretation available for one of the live webinars and provide captions on pre-recorded materials and the recorded webinar sessions.

5.7.5. **Table 5.9** provides a summary of the webinars that will take place.

**Table 5.9: Webinar details**

Date	Time

## 5.8. Stakeholder briefings and meetings



5.8.1. National Grid will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:

- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone.
- elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ.
- parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ.
- local authorities.
- key prescribed consultees, such as AONB conservation boards.
- persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act.

5.8.2. National Grid will also meet with other organisations and individuals upon request. These may include:

- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act.
- third party groups such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and Business Groups.
- community groups or residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the project
- parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ.
- interest groups with a close relationship to the project.
- local Youth Parliaments/Councils, Youth Advisory Boards (YABs), youth groups, and universities.

## **5.9. Hard-to-reach/seldom heard groups**

5.9.1. We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.

5.9.2. To allow people engage with the Project and the consultation at their own convenience we have taken a 'digital first' approach to consultation. This allows individuals and groups to take part even if they can't make an event. The online webinar and Project website is open and accessible to anyone to attend and ask questions of the Project team. All information will be available on the website and people are encouraged to submit feedback using the online feedback form. Those engaging with the Project can also ask questions and find out more by calling the freephone hotline or by using the Freepost address.

5.9.3. For those less able or less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed consultation 'in person' aspects to be as assessable as possible, with the focus on ensuring events are

accessible and held over several days in different locations to encourage attendance. We have also ensured there's adequate parking and venues are accessible from public transport.

5.9.4. Inspection points have also been identified based on their accessibility and availability for people wanting to access Project information.

5.9.5. We also recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulty taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups outlined in Appendix D. These organisations will be written to, via email, at the start of consultation. Requests for specific additional consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.

5.9.6. On request, we will also consider providing materials in alternative formats such as dementia friendly and large print. We will also provide British Sign Language signing at one of our webinars.

5.9.7. Table 5.10 sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.

**Table 5.10: Hard to reach and seldom heard group engagement tools**

<b>Group category</b>	<b>Methods to be used</b>
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary.</li><li>• Face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route.</li><li>• Webinar events for people unable to attend in-person events.</li><li>• Availability of an induction loop during public exhibitions.</li><li>• Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille</li></ul>

	<p>and large print (upon request).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with community groups serving the demographic.</li> <li>• Providing paper copies of materials at inspection point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send Consultation Packs to those who are unable to access the material online.</li> </ul>
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On request, audio guide of consultation banners.</li> <li>• Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (on request).</li> <li>• Options to enlarge text on the Project's website.</li> </ul>
People with limited mobility/disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary.</li> <li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li> <li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li> <li>• Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request).</li> <li>• Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the proposed Project.</li> <li>• Virtual webinar sessions for those with</li> </ul>

	<p>further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of an induction loop during public exhibitions.</li> <li>• On request, the provision of a British Sign Language interpreter and live captions at webinars.</li> </ul>
Youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online engagement and provision of the Project website.</li> <li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield. Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li> <li>• Reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> <li>• Provision of a youth webinar forum during consultation.</li> </ul>
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li> <li>• Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li> <li>• Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li> <li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li> <li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li> </ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online engagement</li> <li>• Social media and newspaper advertising</li> </ul>

	<p>across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</p> <p>Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</p>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li> <li>• Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li> <li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, to negate the need for travel</li> <li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li> </ul>
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaching out to community groups representing underrepresented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing consultation materials in alternative languages upon request</li> </ul>
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaching out to community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li> </ul>

Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li> <li>• Advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li> <li>• Providing paper copies of materials at deposit point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send information and materials to those who are unable to access the material online.</li> </ul>
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## 6. Responding to the consultation

### 6.1. Methods of responding

6.1.1. People will be able to submit their feedback throughout the consultation, up until 23:59 on the final day.

6.1.2. This can be done in the following ways:

- Completing the feedback questionnaire online via the Project website: [www.nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury](http://www.nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury)
- Providing feedback by email ([contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)) or in writing (FREEPOST N TO T).
- Completing a paper feedback questionnaire, which can be provided on request, at one of the designated public information points, or completed in person at the face-to-face events. The questionnaire can be returned free-of-charge using the Freepost address: **FREEPOST N TO T** (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).

6.1.3. Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.

- 6.1.4. Responses given orally, such as via telephone (0800 151 0992) or via a meeting, will only be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.
- 6.1.5. All responses must be received by 11:59pm on the final day. Feedback submissions sent via post will be accepted for up-to five working days after this date [DATE].
- 6.1.6. Although they will not be formally included as consultation feedback, National Grid will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.
- 6.1.7. All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 6.1.8. More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents can be found in the consultation feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.

## **6.2. Presenting the results**

- 6.2.1. As set out in **Figure 4.2**, following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where practicable, refined in light of feedback.
- 6.2.2. The proposed application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Act.
- 6.2.3. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for development consent, as required by Section 37 (3)(c) of the Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for development consent.
- 6.2.4. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.
- 6.2.5. Upon receipt of an application for development consent, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process,

local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.

6.2.6. The consultation report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and may be subject to a printing charge.

### **6.3. Further consultation**

6.3.1. If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

### **6.4. Other developers' consultations**

6.4.1. The Project Team is aware that National Grid and other organisations are developing energy and network proposals in the area, including:

- National Grid's Bramford to Twinstead reinforcements
- National Grid Ventures' LionLink (formerly known as EuroLink) and Nautilus interconnectors
- National Grid's Sea Link proposal
- National Grid's Grain to Tilbury proposal
- North Falls offshore wind farm
- Five Estuaries offshore wind farm
- Tarchon Interconnector

6.4.2. National Grid will work to understand other local projects to ensure that the scope and context of this Project is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include:

- having headline information about the other consultations at our events;
- seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations, where appropriate; and
- ensuring that any responses submitted to our statutory consultation that are intended for another consultation is passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team. However, should people have specific questions about other projects, they should engage directly with relevant project team(s) to ask questions and/or provide feedback.

## **Appendices**



- Appendix A – Primary consultation zone (PCZ)
- Appendix B – Secondary consultation zone (SCZ)
- Appendix C – Host and neighbouring authorities
- Appendix D – Identified seldom heard and hard to reach groups

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# **Appendix E3**

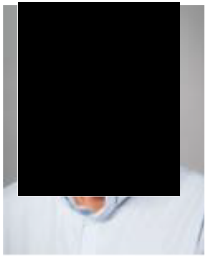
## **Informal SoCC Presentation Slides**

# Norwich to Tilbury Connection Project

Host Planning Authorities Workshop  
November 2023

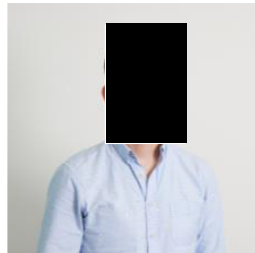
nationalgrid

# Meet the team



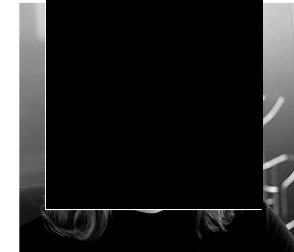
**Simon Pepper**  
Senior Project  
Manager

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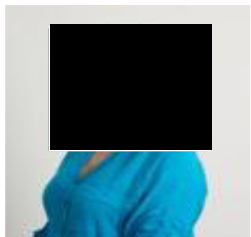
**Simon Gill**  
Consents Officer

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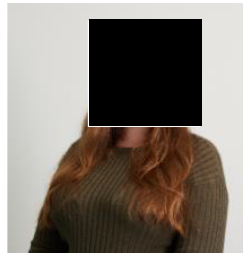
**Carys Pakula**  
Account Manager  
Camargue

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**Donna Burnell**  
Regional External  
Affairs Manager

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**Lucy Cook**  
Consents Officer

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# Agenda

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| <b>01</b> | Project Update |
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| <b>02</b> | Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)<br>overview |
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| <b>03</b> | Programme |
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| <b>04</b> | Questions and AOB |
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# 01

## Project Update

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**

# Norwich to Tilbury – Current Activities

## Design:

- Alignment and other permanent infrastructure
- Construction activities and locations
- Site surveys

## Environment:

- Site surveys
- PEIR approach and drafting

## Communication:

- Community newsletter
- Monthly updates

# Norwich to Tilbury – External factors

As with any major project, there are external political, public and policy factors outside our control that we continue to monitor and will need to consider as we develop our proposals:

## **The Offshore Coordinated Support Scheme (OCSS) and Energy Systems Operator (ESO) review**

- The OCSS will provide grant funding to projects to explore potential coordination options for offshore transmission infrastructure, while at the same time progressing existing connection proposals.
- The ESO Study will objectively assess the options for this project and other proposed network reinforcements across East Anglia following the outcome of the OCSS awards. The Study will take a fresh look at the drivers for the network reinforcements in East Anglia, alongside the various considerations that need to be taken into account.

## **The NPS drafts**

- National Policy Statements for energy were published on 22 November, including EN-5 – NPS for electricity networks infrastructure. The Energy Act (2023) also gained royal assent on 26 October. We'll review policy as we continue to develop our proposals.

## **Outcomes from the community benefits consultation**

- The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero consulted on a recommended approach to community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure. The consultation is proposing to create voluntary guidance for industry and communities when developing individual community benefit packages. It also recommends establishing a recommended level of funding for community benefits in agreement with Ofgem. Consultation closed on 15 June 2023.



# Norwich to Tilbury – External factors (cont)

## **The Electricity Transmission Costing study**

- National Grid have re-commissioned the work done in 2012, endorsed by the Institute of Engineering and Technology, which studies the comparative costs of new electricity infrastructure.

## **The Andy Hiorns/Essex County Council review (on behalf of all host LPAs)**

- An independent report commissioned by Essex County Council to critique the need and timing of the Norwich to Tilbury project.

## **Wind generation strike price changes**

## **Ongoing public and political interest in the project**

# 02

## Statement of Community Consultation: Strategy and overview

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**

# 2024 statutory public consultation

## **We will consult on all aspects of the Project, including:**

- The updated alignment, covering pylon positions, the locations of underground cables, cable sealing end (CSE) compounds, and the connection node substation.
- Proposals for construction, including access roads and tracks, compounds and associated requirements.
- The Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

## **We will also:**

- Explain where we have made changes to our proposals since the last consultation.
- Ensure all stakeholders and the public can provide feedback on our work to date.
- Outline the next steps, the programme and how we will further develop our proposals.

# Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) introduction

**The SoCC outlines how we intend to consult, developing it is a requirement under Section 47 of the Planning Act.**

- Similar approach to the 2022 and 2023 consultation strategy, and outlines how we'll consult with potentially affected communities along the route.
- Consistent with other National Grid projects, for example Sea Link
- Will make the draft version available this month for early views and comments.
- Intention is to consult formally on the SoCC in the new year with all potentially affected local authorities.
- 28-day (plus one) consultation on the SoCC, we will explain where and how comments have been taken into account following that period.
- Will be published at the start of public consultation and made available in line with the Planning Act 2008.

## How are we consulting

- Statutory consultation will run for **ten weeks**.
- We're planning for **12 public information events** and **six webinars**, spread throughout the consultation period. These will start at least a week into the consultation period.
- We want to engage with all stakeholders, including youth and hard to reach groups.
- We will advertise the consultation ahead of launch, including both social and local newspaper advertising.
- We aim to run an inclusive and easily accessible consultation, making sure people can take part in a way that best suits their needs.

# How we are consulting

## Materials being published

- Project website, which includes an interactive map to show proposals, FAQs, online feedback form and land team information.
- Project Background Document 2024, Design Development Report 2024, Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024, and 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report.
- PEIR and PEIR non-technical summary (NTS).
- Maps and supporting technical documentation.
- Consultation/community newsletter – which will feature a large project map.
- Feedback form.
- 3D model (available at events).

# How we are consulting

## Project stakeholders

- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone.
- Elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ.
- Parish council webinars, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ.
- Local authority officers.
- Key prescribed consultees, such as AONB conservation boards.
- Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act.
- We will also consult with neighbouring authorities (s43(3)).



# How we are consulting

## Hard to reach and seldom heard

- Older people.
- People with visual impairments.
- People with limited mobility/disability.
- Youth groups and organisations.
- Carers and families with young children.
- Economically inactive individuals.
- Geographically and digitally isolated individuals.
- Underrepresented minority ethnic groups.
- ESL.
- Travellers.



# Raising awareness of our consultation

To help target our engagement activity to reach communities who may be most directly affected by our proposals we identified two 'consultation zones':

- Primary consultation zone (PCZ) – extending for approx. 1 km from edge of the preferred draft alignment, and including all properties within the 2022 and 2023 PCZs.
- Secondary consultation zone (SCZ) – extending for approx. 4 km from edge of the preferred draft alignment.

We will seek to raise awareness of the project and public consultation with stakeholders across both zones through the broad dissemination of information.

We will directly target stakeholders within the PCZ, while promoting more widely beyond that.

## Direct mailing to PCZ

- newsletter to include summary information on the project, a map, consultation events, information on how to find out more and how to provide feedback
- project contact details (email, phone, freepost)

## Advertising across SCZ

- paid-for advertisements in local and regional newspapers (plus s47 and s48 notices)
- advertising on social media targeted geographically to SCZ
- information provision for parish councils to circulate to their communities
- press release distributed to regional / local publications

## Information points

- send posters, newsletters, consultation documents and feedback forms to popular community 'hub' locations such as libraries.
- provision of content for social media channels

# Provisional consultation event locations

Venue	Local authority	Venue	Local authority
TBC (Tasburgh)	South Norfolk	Langham Community Centre	Colchester
Tibbenham Village Hall	South Norfolk	Witham Public Hall	Braintree
Diss Youth and Community Centre	South Norfolk (directly adjacent to Mid Suffolk)	Chelmsford City Racecourse	Chelmsford
TBC	Mid Suffolk	Brentwood Centre	Brentwood
Copdock Village Hall	Babergh	Basildon Sporting Village	Basildon
Foundry Court, Manningtree	Tendring	The Civic Hall	Thurrock

# Provisional information points

Venue	Local authority	Venue	Local authority
Norfolk County Council	South Norfolk	Coggeshall Library	Braintree
Long Stratton Library	South Norfolk	Witham Library	Braintree
Diss Library	South Norfolk (directly adjacent to Mid Suffolk)	Writtle Library	Chelmsford
Stowmarket Library	Mid Suffolk	Ingatestone Library	Chelmsford
Babergh District Council	Babergh	Brentwood Borough Council	Brentwood
Capel Library	Babergh	Billericay Library	Basildon
Manningtree Library	Tendring	Tilbury Library	Thurrock
Colchester Borough Council	Colchester		

# Responding to the consultation

- We'll mirror the previous approaches:
  - **Website:** [www.nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury](http://www.nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury)
  - **Email:** [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)
  - **Call:** 0800 151 0992
  - **Freepost:** FREEPOST N TO T
- Feedback forms will be available:
  - online
  - at information points
  - at public events.
- Paper copies of all materials and feedback forms can be requested over the phone or by email.
- A consultation report will be prepared as part of the DCO application. This will set out how we've had regard to the feedback received at statutory consultation.



# 03

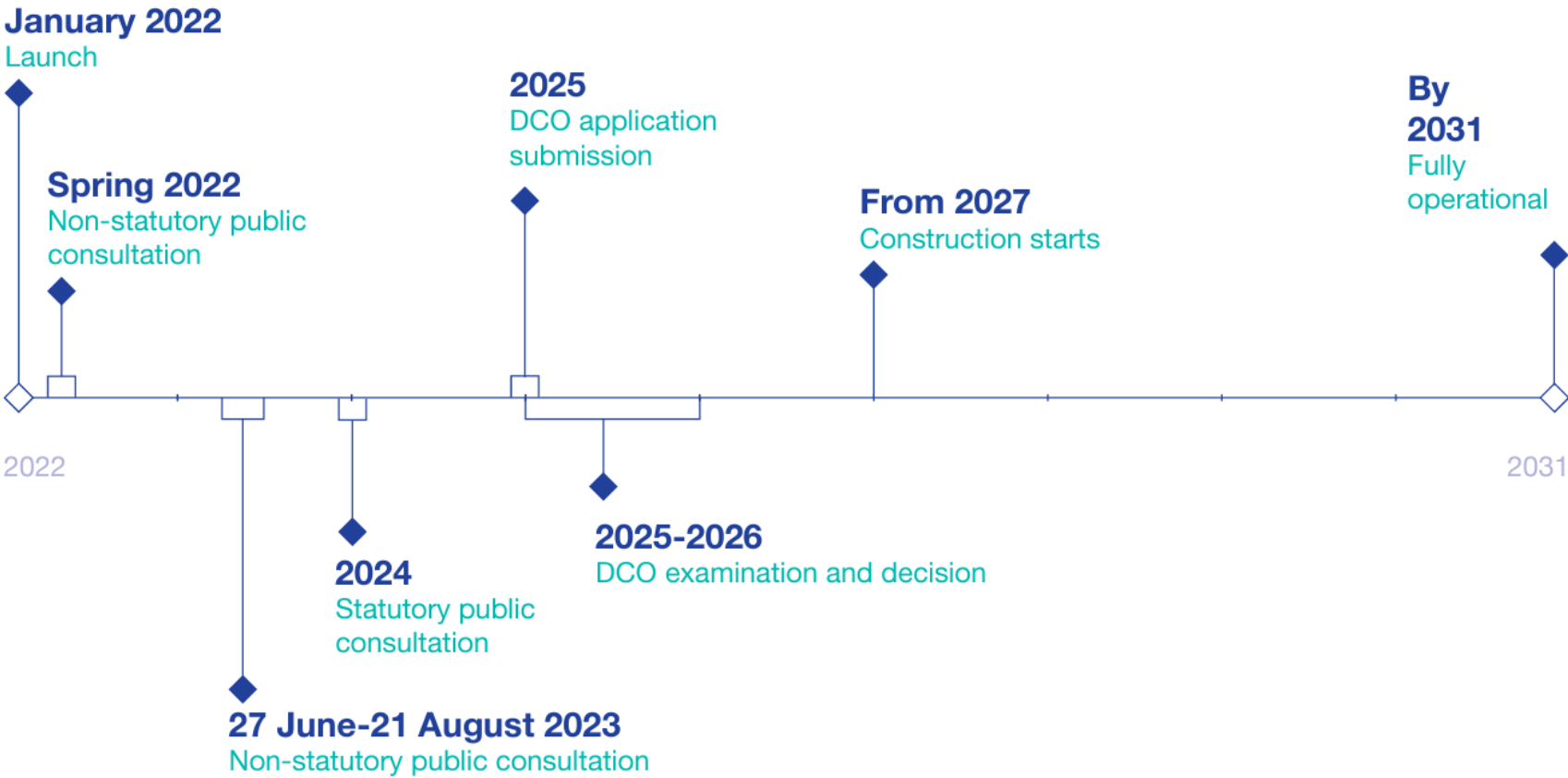
## Programme

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**

# Project timeline





A photograph of a field of yellow wildflowers in the foreground, with a power line tower visible in the background under a cloudy sky. The text '04' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# 04

## Questions and AOB

**nationalgrid**

## **Appendix E4**

Regard had to informal comments  
on the proposed SoCC



Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
Brentwood Borough Council	Change Brentwood District Council to Brentwood Borough Council	Noted. Amended.	We also the reference to Basildon Borough Council as this was also wrong
Brentwood Borough Council	Change draft list of events to reflect the order they will be in.	We will publish a full list of final venues once we've confirmed venue availability and risk assessed any new or replacement venues.	We will publish the list of venues in the order they would be in. This will be done at launch and separate to the SOCC.
Brentwood Borough Council	Give residents more notice ahead of events following criticism from residents and low attendance.	We will aim to start events at least two weeks after consultation opening. We're also aiming to carry out some pre-consultation advertising, further increasing the period ahead of events starting.	No action in the SoCC needed. We cover the consultation process in Section 5 of the draft SoCC and will publish the final list of Public Information Events when we launch consultation. This will be done separately to the SoCC.
Brentwood Borough Council	The Council will be holding local elections in Spring/Summer 2024 that will likely coincide with the consultation. This has potential to result in Officers being unable to take a draft consultation response to be endorsed by elected Members at Committee in advance of the consultation end date. Given this we request permission to submit a draft response ahead of the closing date, subject to amendment/endorsement from Members at the next available Committee.	Not a SoCC deliverable, but we can accommodate and support this.	No action in the SoCC needed. We can adjust our approach to briefings to accommodate for different authorities and elected members.
Norfolk County Council	Consultation materials placed in local libraries rather than County Hall due to increased storage space and footfall.	Noted. This will vary across the route depending on each authority's requirement.	We will publish a list of our inspection points in the SoCC at the start of consultation. This will not be final and we will continue to approach other venues as potential inspection points on request as we consultation progresses.
Norfolk County Council	Make paper copies available upon request ( <i>this relates to people approaching a local authority for documents</i> )	Within the SoCC we provide a list of the documents we will provide paper copies of free of charge. We'll consider requests for other documents. We're happy to organise and	No action required.

Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
		respond to public enquiries and make arrangements for copies of these documents to be delivered.	
Norfolk County Council	Expand table 5.7 (promotion methods) to include BBC Look East.	Noted. Amended.	Amended in SoCC to include BBC Look East.
Norfolk County Council	Send materials to NCC in advance of consultation.	We recognise the Council is keen to see material early. Given the scale of some of the documents, we're likely to be finalising up to the point they're ready for publication.	No action in the SoCC needed. What we may be able to share as soon as possible is being assessed by the team
Norfolk County Council	Non-technical versions of as many documents as possible.	We'll provide an NTS of the PEIR at statutory consultation as this is the main technical document. Executive summaries will be included as part of other key documents.	No action in the SoCC needed. Information on the documents we will make available at statutory consultation is available in table 5.1
Norfolk County Council	P3 – reference just LAs instead of local planning authorities	Noted. Amended.	Amended in SoCC to reference only Local Authorities.
Norfolk County Council	P5 – is Figure 1.1 (structure of NG companies) needed and should there be an update to explain ESO moving to FSO status.	Section to be updated in line with other documentation.	Amended in SoCC with text lifted from the ESO's <a href="#">explanatory pages</a> .
Norfolk County Council	P9 – ensure that all stakeholder engagement is repeated in any subsequent consultation.	We outline how we will carry out any future consultation in section 6.3 if it is required at a later date.	No action in the SOCC needed. We cover the issue of further consultation in paragraph 6.3.1
Norfolk County Council	P10 – include details on when the Statutory Consultation will be.	We will add this information (including closing date) once we're able to confirm.	We will publish dates for our statutory consultation at launch. This will be done separately to the SoCC
Norfolk County Council	P10 – include more details and dates of when the DCO application will be.	We will update this table once dates have been agreed. The change will align with the overarching programme that will be published at statutory consultation – which will point to 2025 as the DCO submission.	We will publish dates for our statutory consultation at launch. This will be done separately to the SoCC.

Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
			In the SoCC we will publish a timeline for the DCO submission of the project.
Norfolk County Council	P11 – highlight in figure 4.2 (The DCO Process) which stage of the consultation this is (i.e. S42 of 2008 Planning Act).	We will amend/re-create the image to say statutory consultation at design stage.	Amended in SOCC to demonstrate where the process is in the planning process.
Norfolk County Council	P11 – include consultation dates	We will add this information (including closing date) once we're able to confirm.	We will publish dates for our statutory consultation at launch. This will be done separately to the SoCC.
Norfolk County Council	P11 – Figure 5.1 is missing	To be added at design.	We will add Figure 5.1 into the final design of the SoCC which we will publish at statutory consultation launch.
Norfolk County Council	P12 – undergrounding across Waveney Valley should be included in project plans summary	The description presented in the draft SoCC was lifted from the non-statutory consultation documents. This has now been updated to reflect the consultation contents.	Amended in SoCC to reflect the latest project proposals that are being consulted on.
Norfolk County Council	P12 – request for the Council to be sent the PEIR and NTS ahead of formal consultation to allow greater time to assess and respond.	We recognise the Council is keen to see material early. Given the scale of some of the documents, we're likely to be finalising up to the point they're ready for publication.	No action for the SoCC.
Norfolk County Council	P12 – no map of SCZ included	The PCZ and SCZ maps will be included in the appendices once complete.	We will add maps for the PCZ and SCZ into the final design of the SoCC which we will publish at statutory consultation launch.
Norfolk County Council	P13 – make a summary sheet of available documentation with links	National Grid is producing a <i>Guide to interacting with our proposals</i> document as part of the suite of information published at the start of statutory consultation. We've included this in the list in the SoCC.	No action in the SOCC needed. We cover what documents will be produced at our statutory consultation in table 5.1.
Norfolk County Council	P13 – the website should link through to respective LA websites	National Grid can provide website links for each authority where relevant.	No action in the SOCC needed. There's no need to point members of the public to each authority's website. All the

Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
			consultation content is hosted on our website.
Norfolk County Council	P21 – is a venue needed closer to Norwich e.g. Mulbarton	Noted. We are assessing options close to Mulbarton in the north of the proposed route. We'll publish a full list of final venues once we've confirmed venue availability and risk assessed any new or replacement venues.	We will publish the final list of venues for our Public Information Events when we launch consultation. This will be done separately to the SoCC.
Norfolk County Council	P22 – include a webinar for elected members too	The webinars outlined in Section 5.7 relate primarily to those open to the public (although anyone can attend). In section 5.8 we specially identify briefings for members and other stakeholders. These will be held online via Microsoft Teams.	No action in the SOCC needed. We cover the issue of briefings for elected members in Section 5.8.
Norfolk County Council	P23 – conduct meetings with MPs in PCZ via Teams	The stakeholder briefings outline in Section 5.8 will be carried out via Teams.	No action in the SOCC needed. It's likely these briefings will be held on teams but we can adjust our approach to accommodate for different authorities and elected members.
Norfolk County Council	P23 – conduct meetings with parish councils in PCZ via Teams	The stakeholder briefings outline in Section 5.8 will be carried out via Teams.	No action in the SOCC needed. It's likely these briefings will be held on teams but we can adjust our approach to accommodate for different authorities and elected members.
Norfolk County Council	P30 – section 6.4.1 (other proposals in the area) needs reference to: G2W and EGL 3 and 4 projects	Noted. Amended.	Amended in SoCC to add these projects into Section 6.4.1.
Chelmsford City Council	Recommendation to display site notices along the route	We will be contacting landowners, residents and communities within the PCZ in a number of ways so do not believe site notices are an effective way to raise the profile of the consultation. However, we will be providing parishes along the route with posters for use in community notice boards/in village halls to	No action in the SOCC needed. We can produce site notices but do not believe this is an effective measure and is no longer a requirement of the Planning Act.

Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
		advertise the consultation and encourage people to take part.	
Chelmsford City Council	Change 'Chelmsford District Council' to 'Chelmsford City Council'	Noted. Amended.	Amended in SoCC to refer to Chelmsford District Council as Chelmsford City Council.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	The project timeline seems to have dates for some stages but not for others and some bits that don't match such as 'If granted development consent, construction could begin in 2024'. It would be helpful to have more specific dates if possible	The final version of the SoCC will provide a better summary of dates. These are likely still be fairly broad on the later stages of the project, but will align to the high level programme and process we've previously discussed and presented to the community.	This is a reference to the section 4.1 table. We recommend adding rough dates/years for each stage. This aligns with Sea Link.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	Ensure 'Parish Councils' include 'Parish Meetings' where appropriate	Noted. Amended.	Amended in SoCC to refer to Parish Meetings where appropriate.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	Inform MSBDC about specific methods used for seldom heard and hard to reach groups, and also measures being taken to reach BAME groups and younger audiences	The tactics outlined in the SoCC provide an overview of how we'll engage with each group. Ahead of consultation, we will make contact with a number of gatekeeper organisations to understand how best to provide information at launch.	No action in the SOCC needed. We cover the issue of hard to reach and seldom heard groups in Section 5.9.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	Include a public exhibition event in Mid Suffolk	Noted. We are assessing options in Mid Suffolk. We'll publish a full list of final venues as part of the SoCC once we've confirmed venue availability and risk assessed any new / replacement venues.	We will publish the final list of venues for our Public Information Events when we launch consultation. This will be done separately to the SoCC.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	Inform MSBDC about confirmed dates and times of public exhibition events and webinars	We will provide all local authorities with the final event programme – including in person and webinar events.	No action in the SOCC needed. We cover the issue of briefings for elected members in Section 5.8.  We will publish dates of Public Information Events and webinars when we launch consultation and will share this information with elected members.

Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	Suggest that LPA officers are copied into invitations to any offer of briefings to elected members.	Noted. We'll liaise with each authority to agree process for setting up briefings.	No action in the SOCC needed. We can adjust our approach to briefings to accommodate for different authorities and elected members.
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	It would be helpful to discuss with other LPAs given the cross-boundary nature of the project.	Not a SoCC deliverable, but we can accommodate and support this.	No action in the SoCC needed. We can support any co-ordination the councils want to carry out on the consultation of the SOCC.
Colchester City Council	Include James Ryan (NSIP Project Manager for Colchester City Council) in the elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ and in the parish councils where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ.	Noted. We'll liaise with each authority to agree process for setting up briefings.	No action in the SOCC needed. We can adjust our approach to briefings to accommodate for different authorities and elected members.
Colchester City Council	Request for a meeting between National Grid and Ward Members as soon as possible.	As per section 5.8, we will liaise with local authorities to set up briefings with elected members to provide an overview of the Project.	No action in the SOCC needed. We cover the issue of briefings for elected members in Section 5.8.
South Norfolk and Broadland Councils	3.1.7 Identify in which Council Offices documents were placed. In any subsequent consultation we are unable to hold any paper documentation due to limited storage space, so I would suggest the use of libraries.	We will provide and publish a list of confirmed information points in the final SoCC.	We will publish a list of our inspection points in the SoCC at the start of consultation. This will not be final and we will continue to approach other venues as potential inspection points on request as we consultation progresses.
South Norfolk and Broadland Councils	3.1.9 Contact Claire Curtis for contact details for council members to ensure correspondence is not sent to the wrong people. Exclude Broadland District Council as they are not affected. Copy Claire Curtis into future correspondence so she can coordinate briefings.	Noted. We'll liaise with each authority to agree process for setting up briefings.	No action in the SoCC needed. We can adjust our approach to briefings to accommodate for different authorities and elected members.
South Norfolk and Broadland Councils	Indication of when the Statutory Consultation and submission would be details/dates would be helpful	We will provide all local authorities with the final event programme – including in person and webinar events.	We will publish dates for our statutory consultation at launch. This will be done separately to the SoCC.

Council	Comment(s)	Regard had / response	Actions /comments
South Norfolk and Broadland Councils	Link specific / key documentation for the councils to add to their websites under NSIP page but make clear that comments are <u>not</u> to be submitted to the councils but instead the project directly.	Noted. We will provide a link to the consultation pages on the Norwich to Tilbury website, rather than provide certain links to certain documents. We can provide a form of words about how to submit feedback / ask questions.	No action in the SoCC needed. We can provide a link to the project website for the councils to share. We will make it clear in our project documents how to leave feedback.
South Norfolk and Broadland Councils	The Council was concerned at only one location for public information events in South Norfolk at the start of the consultations and the increase to 3 was welcomed. The Council wouldn't wish the amount of locations within South Norfolk to be reduced. It would be helpful to have the confirmation of the dates and times of the public exhibitions and webinars, as soon as they are available.	We'll publish a full list of final venues as part of the SoCC once we've confirmed venue availability and risk assessed any new / replacement venues. South Norfolk is one of the areas we're looking at venues.	We will publish the final list of venues for our Public Information Events when we launch consultation. This will be done separately to the SoCC.
Suffolk County Council	The council may not be able to provide a link to the statutory consultation website.	Not a SoCC deliverable.	No action in the SoCC needed, but we will still supply links to the relevant project pages.
Suffolk County Council	The Council would want a consultation period of at least 8 weeks.	Noted. As this is statutory consultation, we are required to hold a consultation of at least 28 days. Recognising this is a complex Project, we are proposing a 10 week consultation.	No action in the SoCC needed. The length of the consultation is in line with the requirements placed on us from the 2008 Planning Act.

## **Appendix E5**

Letter to Local Authorities Regarding  
the Formal Consultation on the  
Proposed SoCC



Dear XX

## National Grid Energy Transmission – Norwich to Tilbury

### Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

National Grid Energy Transmission ('National Grid') is intending to carry out statutory consultation, as required by the Planning Act 2008 ('the Planning Act'), on its proposals for the Norwich to Tilbury project. This is ahead of submitting an application for development consent in 2025.

Please find enclosed a draft of National Grid's Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'), which describes the approach to upcoming statutory consultation, as prescribed by Section 47 of the Planning Act.

We are consulting the host local authorities on the draft SoCC, and we would welcome any comments you have on our consultation proposals.

In line with Section 47 of the Planning Act, we would ask that any comments on the SoCC are received by **Tuesday 2 April**, in line with the 28-day consultation period specified in the Planning Act.

The SoCC has been developed in line with the requirements of the Planning Act. We have also used the experience we gained delivering our first two non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023 respectively to inform our approach.

As part of statutory consultation, National Grid will be holding 14 public information events for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project Team. These events will be held for at least five hours and at publicly accessible venues within or near to the Primary Consultation Zone ('PCZ'). A list of these venues – in running order, is included below:

Date and time	Venue
Wednesday 24 April 2024 12-5pm	Towngate Theatre, St Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL ( <i>subject to a final risk assessment</i> )
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 2-7pm	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

The details of where and when the public information events will be held will be published on the Project website and in the Community Newsletter, which will be sent to all properties within the PCZ and available at inspection points.

If you have any questions about our proposals, or the activities outlines in the SoCC, we'd be happy to discuss these further. Please contact [consents.N-T@nationalgrid.com](mailto:consents.N-T@nationalgrid.com) or phone 0800 915 2497.

Yours sincerely

Simon Pepper

# **Appendix E6**

## **Formal Draft SoCC**



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

# Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

**nationalgrid**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1.

This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“National Grid”) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Reinforcement Project (referred to here as the proposed “Project”). National Grid proposes to provide a new link to the transmission system by upgrading and reinforcing the electricity transmission system in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex specifically).
- 1.1.2.

National Grid expects the proposed Project to be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “SoS”) via a Development Consent Order (“DCO”). This document has been prepared in line with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Planning Act”), which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult about the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be located, from here called “the local community”, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement. As the proposed Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development, this SoCC therefore also sets out how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).
- 1.1.3.

In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities:

  - **Norfolk County Council**
  - **Suffolk County Council**
  - **Essex County Council**
  - **Thurrock Council**
  - **South Norfolk District Council**
  - **Mid Suffolk District Council**
  - **Babergh District Council**
  - **Tendring District Council**
  - **Colchester City Council**
  - **Braintree District Council**
  - **Chelmsford City Council**
  - **Brentwood Borough Council**
  - **Basildon Borough Council**



1.2. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1.

The proposed Project is expected to be classified as an NSIP under Section 14(1) (b) and Section 16(1)(a) of the Planning Act because it comprises new above ground electricity transmission connections of more than 2 km, with an operating voltage of above 132 kilovolt (“kV”). National Grid intends to submit an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 37 of the Planning Act.
- 1.2.2.

The application for a DCO will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. The Planning Inspectorate will provide a recommendation to the SoS, who will ultimately decide whether to grant development consent for the proposed Project.
- 1.2.3.

Before submitting an application, the Planning Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be located and prescribed stakeholders.
- 1.2.4.

Early involvement of communities, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information about the potential effects of the proposed Project, where feedback from consultees can help shape the Project’s development.
- 1.2.5.

Early involvement also ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application for a DCO is submitted.

1.3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 1.3.1.

The proposed Project is an ‘EIA Development’. On 7 November 2022, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the SoS for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy<sup>1</sup>, to inform the EIA for the proposed Project.
- 1.3.2.

Within the Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal written notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the proposed Project will require (and that National Grid will in due course provide) an Environmental Statement in respect of the Project and it is considered to be an ‘EIA Development’.
- 1.3.3.

A scoping opinion for the proposed Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the SoS) on 14 December 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Predecessor to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, which was formed on 7 February 2023.

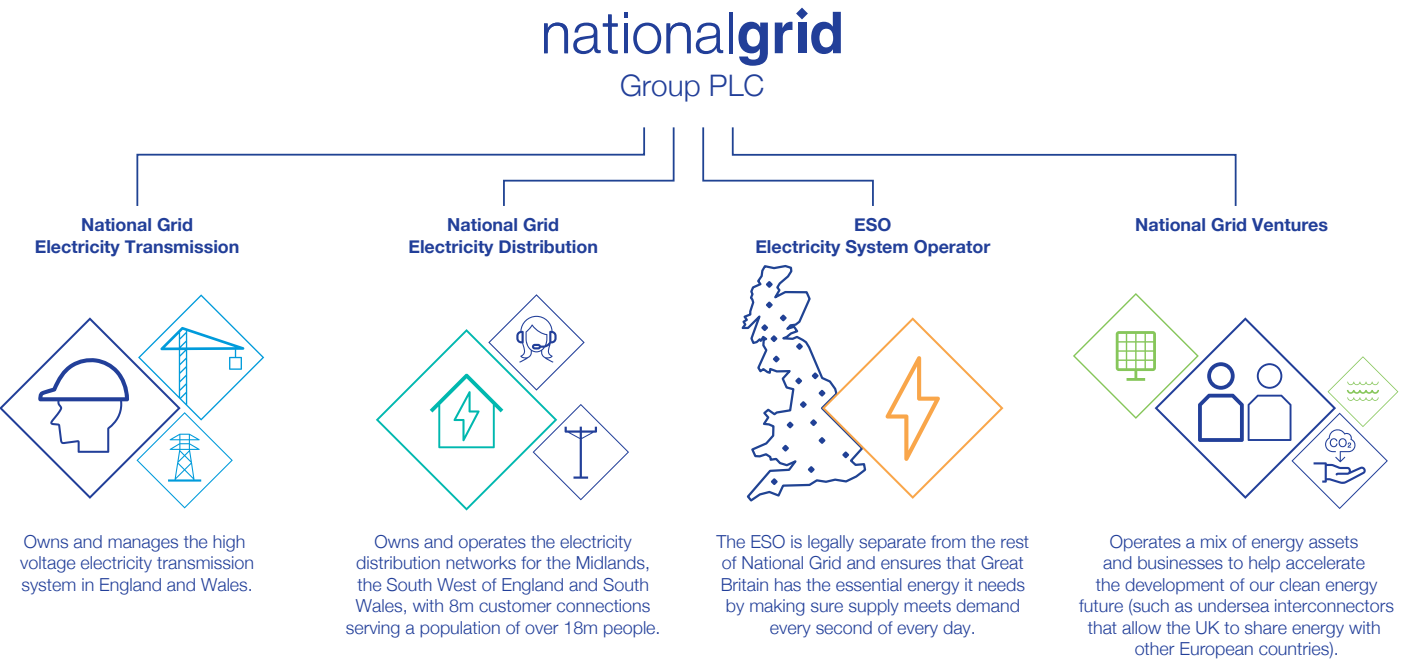
1.4. About National Grid Group PLC

- 1.4.1.

National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light, and power we bring to our customer’s homes and businesses; in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair, and affordable energy future.
- 1.4.2.

Within the wider National Grid PLC group of companies there are four separate legal entities, each with their own roles and responsibilities. The structure of the National Grid PLC group of companies is available in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Structure of the wider National Grid PLC group of companies



- 1.4.3. National Grid Electricity Transmission (referred to here as National Grid), holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. National Grid owns, builds, and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country. It is National Grid that is developing the proposals for the Norwich to Tilbury Reinforcement Project.

1.4.4. National Grid Electricity Distribution owns and operates the distribution networks for the Midlands, the southwest of England and south Wales.

1.4.5. National Grid ESO is the Electricity System Operator (“ESO”) which operates the transmission network in Great Britain, including the networks in Scotland owned by Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks. ESO manages the network, ensuring the right amount of energy is provided where it is needed. In April 2019, ESO became a legally separate business within the National Grid PLC group and is regulated independently by Ofgem.

1.4.6. As legislated in the Energy Act 2023, ESO will be replaced by the Future Systems Operator (“FSO”), which will be founded on the current activities of the ESO and take a whole system approach to strengthen energy security, help deliver the Government’s Net Zero legislative agenda and ensure household bills are affordable in the long term.

1.4.7. National Grid Ventures is the unregulated commercial arm of the National Grid PLC group, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors – connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.
- 1.4.8. National Grid has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989. This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

1.4.9. National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to preserve amenity, as outlined below.  
  
*Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and*  
  
*Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.*

1.4.10. How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/81026/download>

## 2. The Project

### 2.1. Project introduction

- 2.1.1. The Project is a proposal by National Grid to provide a new link on the transmission system by upgrading and reinforcing the electricity transmission system in East Anglia between Norwich and Tilbury.

2.1.2. The proposed Project would include the construction of new infrastructure to reinforce the system to increase the capacity of the transmission network in this area. The work proposed includes approximately 159 km of new overhead lines and 25 km of underground cabling between the Norwich Main and Bramford substations in the northern part of the route, and from
- Bramford to Tilbury substations in the southern part of the route, as well as a new 400 kV substation.

2.1.3. An alternative design at the Waveney Valley is also being considered, which would comprise approximately 2 km fewer overhead lines and an additional 2 km of underground cabling.

2.1.4. All of this work forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade – National Grid’s programme to deliver over five times the amount of electricity transmission infrastructure in the next seven years than has been built in the past 30 years.

### 2.2. Project background and need

- 2.2.1. The increase in renewable energy generation, in line with the UK Government’s Net Zero legislative agenda, is driving the need to expand the capacity of National Grid’s transmission system.

2.2.2. Great Britain already has 8.5 gigawatts (“GW”) of offshore wind energy in operation, and another 1.9 GW under construction. The Government’s Energy White Paper<sup>3</sup> (December 2020) outlines a plan to increase energy from offshore wind to 40 GW by 2030 (this Government target was increased in April 2022 to 50 GW) and this Project would support in achieving this target.

2.2.3. New connections for new offshore wind and nuclear power generation projects and for interconnectors into East Anglia are expected to continue in addition to the current contracted position.
- 2.2.4. These new connections are being constructed or are expected to connect into substations at Necton, Norwich Main, Bramford, Friston and Sizewell. Additionally, connection agreements are in place with two offshore wind farm projects and one interconnector based on their connections into a new East Anglia Connection Node substation. National Grid has a duty to facilitate new connections and maintain a safe National Electricity Transmission System (“NETS”) and has considered the capability of the existing network to support such connections. This assessment considered various published Future Energy Scenarios (a range of scenarios which seek to address the uncertainty that exists over such an extended planning horizon) to consider network capability relative to the expected connection requirements.

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future-accessible-html-version](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future-accessible-html-version)



- 2.2.5.

Much of East Anglia's 400 kV electricity transmission network was built in the 1960s. It was designed to supply regional demand, centred around Norwich and Ipswich. With the growth in new energy generation from offshore wind, nuclear power and interconnection with other countries, there will be more electricity connected in East Anglia than the network can currently accommodate.
- 2.2.6.

As a result, and to meet its duties, National Grid needs to reinforce the electricity network to allow power to be imported to, and exported from, East Anglia and to provide additional capability to allow power flows into and out of the south east area to connect with areas of demand and interconnectors to Europe.
- 2.2.7.

The proposed Project could also connect new offshore wind farms off the Essex coast to the electricity transmission network and a European interconnector. Two offshore wind farms, the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, and the Tarchon Energy interconnector (from Germany) have been proposed. If consented, they are expected to be operational by the end of the decade.

### 3. Consultation and engagement to date

- 3.1.1.

National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the proposed Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.
- 3.1.2.

National Grid's approach to engagement in support of the proposed Project is to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation guided by the requirements of the Planning Act.
- 3.1.3.

The first non-statutory consultation was held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022. This was followed by a second non-statutory consultation held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023. These are now being followed by statutory consultation as set out in **Section 5**.
- 3.1.4.

At the first non-statutory consultation, National Grid presented a broad swathe within which new infrastructure (pylons and underground cables) could be located as well as a proposed new substation site on the Tendring Peninsula. Following the conclusion of this consultation, we analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work, developed the project design ahead of the second non-statutory consultation.
- 3.1.5.

At the second non-statutory consultation, National Grid presented a preferred draft indicative alignment showing potential pylon positions, underground cables, cable sealing end compounds and connection substations. The feedback received at this consultation was combined with our ongoing environmental assessments and technical studies to help identify the proposals presented at statutory consultation.

- 3.1.6.

At both non-statutory consultations National Grid sought to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may potentially be affected by the proposed Project. National Grid consulted with stakeholders at an early stage to ensure technical advice and local knowledge was taken into account in the early development of the Project. These stakeholders included local councils, elected representatives, local residents, hard-to-reach groups, and local interest groups.
- 3.1.7.

National Grid gave the stakeholders and local community digital and non-digital opportunities to engage with the proposals through a dedicated website, public events and webinar events as well as via email, phone and Freepost. At the launch of both non-statutory consultations, National Grid wrote to all homes within a 1 km Primary Consultation Zone ("PCZ") of the proposals – around 50,000 addresses – and placed adverts in local papers and on social media. The PCZ included people whose property postcodes lie within 1 km of the Project boundary presented at both consultations. This includes the graduated swathe presented at the 2022 non-statutory consultation and the preferred draft indicative alignment presented at the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Paper copies of the key consultation documents were also placed at information points in publicly accessible venues – libraries and, where possible, council offices – along the route. Alternative versions of the documents were available on request.
- 3.1.8.

More information on both non-statutory consultations and how the feedback received at both non-statutory consultations helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report and the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report. These are available on the Project's website<sup>4</sup>.
- 3.1.9.

Methods used to raise further awareness of the proposed Project ahead of the statutory consultation period have included:
  - issuing an interim newsletter to all addresses within the 2023 PCZ providing an update following the 2023 non-statutory consultation (issued in December 2023)
  - offering to brief and update elected representatives, local interest groups, local planning authority officers and hard to reach groups about the current status of the Project, plans for the forthcoming statutory consultation, and how people can get involved
  - engagement with the local media to raise awareness of the Project and each phase of consultation
  - providing updates to the Project website when new information is available.
- 3.1.10.

More detail on the methods National Grid will use to publicise the statutory consultation is provided in **Section 5.5**.

<sup>4</sup> [www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury](https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury)

# 4. Project timeline

- 4.1.1.

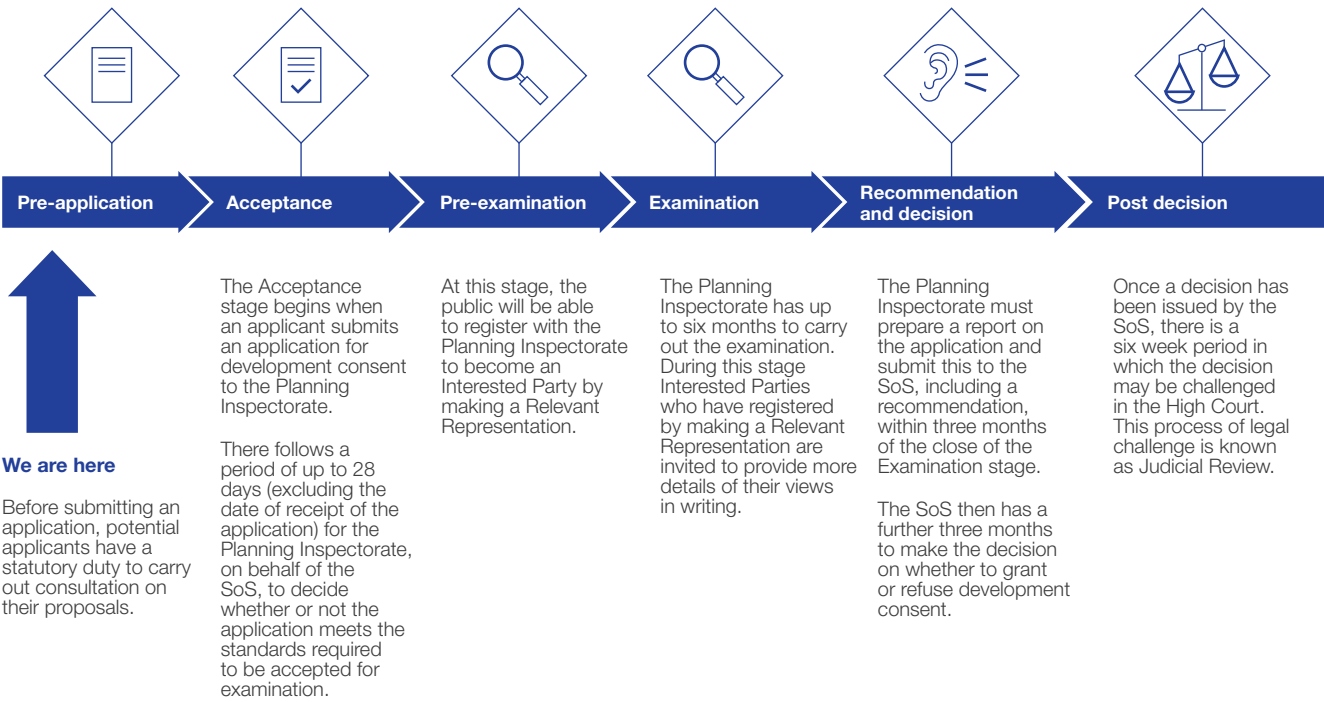
The proposed Project is currently in the pre-application stage of the national infrastructure planning process. Table 4.1 sets out the milestones for each stage of the proposed Project and indicative dates from pre-application consultation through to construction.
- 4.1.2.

Figure 4.1 sets out the DCO consenting process.

Table 4.1: Project milestones

Stage
<b>Non-statutory consultation</b> – We held a period of non-statutory consultation between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
<b>Consideration of 2022 non-statutory consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation to inform the design of the proposed Project.
<b>Non-statutory consultation</b> – We held a second non-statutory consultation between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
<b>Consideration of 2023 non-statutory consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation to inform the design of the proposed Project.
<b>Statutory consultation</b> – We will consult the local community and statutory consultees (as outlined in Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act) on the draft proposals.
<b>Consideration of 2024 statutory consultation feedback</b> – We will review and have regard to the feedback received from the statutory consultation and finalise the proposed design. We will also continue engagement with stakeholders prior to submission of our DCO application.
<b>Application submission</b> – We plan to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, has up to 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.
<b>Examination</b> – If the application is accepted, it will go through a six-month examination period. Prior to this period, stakeholders can register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an ‘Interested Party’ by making what is called a ‘Relevant Representation’. Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing during this phase. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority, including to all relevant and written representations, and supporting evidence. The Examining Authority is the Inspector or the Panel of Inspectors appointed to conduct the Examination of the application for the DCO.
<b>Recommendation and Decision</b> – The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application and submit this to the SoS, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of Examination. The SoS has a further three months to make a decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.
<b>Post-decision</b> – Once a decision has been issued by the SoS, there is a six-week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court, known as Judicial Review. If granted development consent, construction could begin in 2026.

Figure 4.1: The DCO process



# 5. Consulting on the proposed application

## 5.1. How long will statutory consultation be?

5.1.1. The statutory consultation (under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act) will run for ten weeks.

## 5.2. What proposals will be consulted on?

5.2.1. The proposed Project comprises a major reinforcement and upgrade of the Electricity Transmission System in East Anglia and is illustrated as a map of the Project area in **Figure 5.1**. This figure shows the geographical extent of the proposed Project boundary.

5.2.2. Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the proposed Project and will be provided during the statutory consultation, consistent with how the Project has previously been presented.

5.2.3. National Grid will consult on all aspects of the proposed development for the Project, including:

- approximately 159 km of new overhead line supported on approximately 510 steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) some of which are gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed CSEs compounds, or existing or proposed substations
- approximately 25 km of 400 kV underground cabling some of which is located through the Dedham Vale Natural Landscape (formerly known as Dedham Vale AONB)

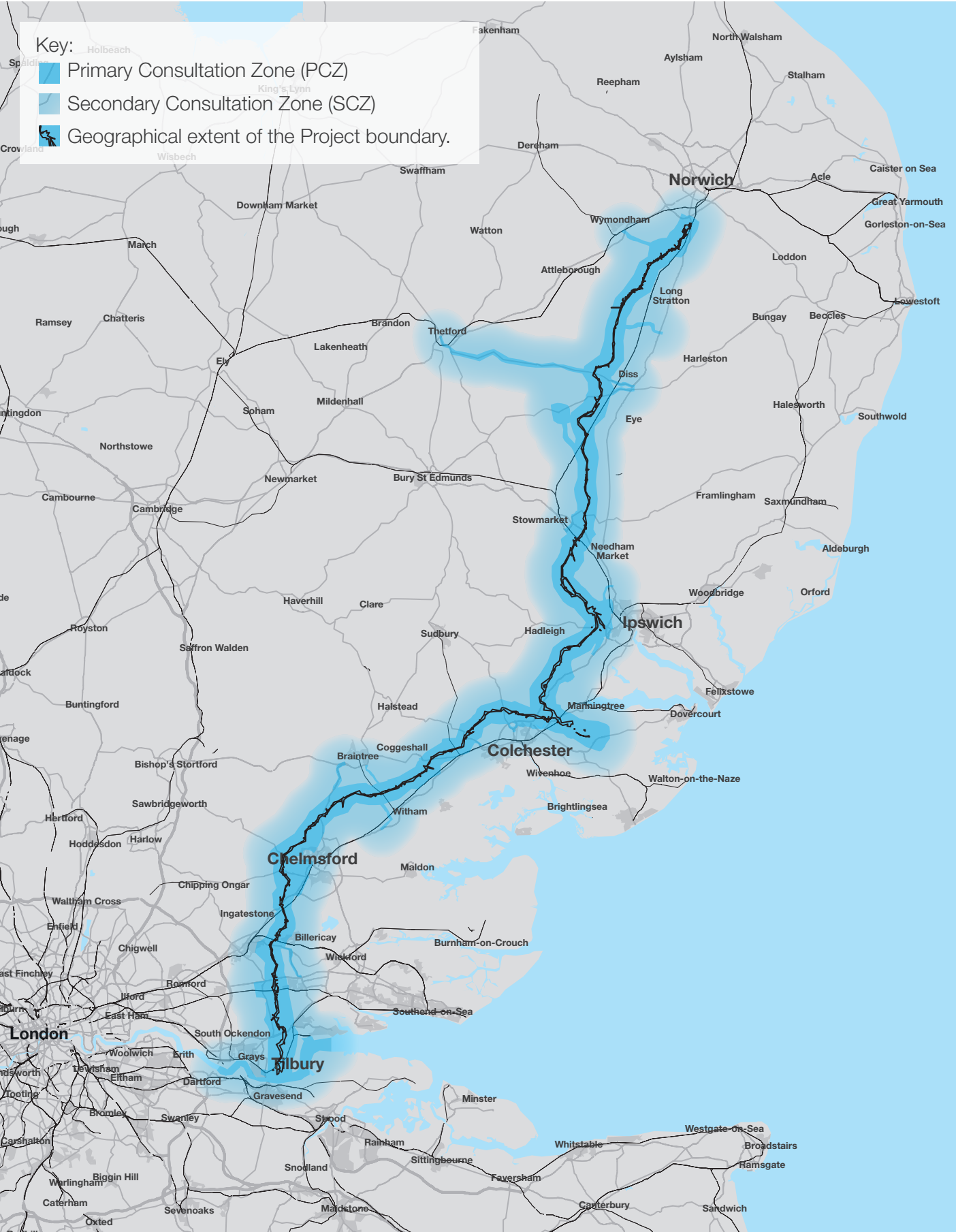
- six new CSE compounds, each with a permanent access, to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables
  - a new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node (“EACN”) substation, with a new permanent access, on the Tendring Peninsula. This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (“AIS”) substation
  - substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation to connect and support operation of the new transmission connection
  - temporary works associated with construction of the Project.

- An alternative design at the Waveney Valley (referred to as the Waveney Valley Alternative) is also being considered and is the subject of consultation and ongoing assessment. This design alternative, if taken forward, would result in the following changes to some of the elements of the proposed Project listed above. This would comprise:
  - installation of approximately 157 km of new 400 kV overhead line.
  - installation of approximately 27 km of 400 kV underground cabling some of which is located through the Dedham Vale Natural Landscape.
  - eight new CSE compounds (each with a permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.
- All other works listed in the earlier bullet points would remain consistent within the Waveney Valley Alternative.
- In addition, third party utilities diversions and / or modifications would also be required to facilitate the construction of the Project. There would also be land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment including Biodiversity Net Gain (“BNG”).
- As well as the permanent infrastructure, land would also be required temporarily for construction activities including for example working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and temporary construction access.
- The Project would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable health and safety legislation. The Project would also need to comply with design safety standards including the NETS Security and Quality of Supply Standard (“SQSS”), which sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the NETS. This informs a suite of National Grid policies and processes, which contain details on design standards required to be met when designing, constructing and operating assets such as proposed for the Project.

5.2.4. The Project as currently proposed is an EIA development and therefore we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this statutory consultation in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.



Figure 5.1: Map of Project area



### 5.3. Who will be consulted?

- 5.3.1.

The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project, and National Grid will have regard to all consultation responses received by the relevant deadline.
- 5.3.2.

Under Section 47 of the Planning Act, we have a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land, i.e., the local community. In consultation with the local authorities set out in **Section 1.1.3** we have developed a PCZ for the distribution of our Community Newsletter, as shown in Appendix A.
- 5.3.3.

The PCZ includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the proposed Project's red line boundary (representing the anticipated extent of land in which the proposed Project may take place). The zone has changed since the last round of consultation. This latest zone amounts to approximately 77,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods. The PCZ has also been extended to include residential properties and businesses near to highways routes.
- 5.3.4.

An additional wider Secondary Consultation Zone ("SCZ") has been developed, comprising a 4 km buffer around the red line boundary, whereby wider publicity of the proposed Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.3.5.

Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via methods outlined in **Section 5.5**.
- 5.3.6.

As well as properties and businesses within the PCZ, we will also consult with various groups and individuals including parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities defined under Section 43 of the Planning Act.
- 5.3.7.

In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and Section 43 of the Planning Act. We will also consult persons who fall within Section 42(1) (d) and Section 44 of the Planning Act.

5.4. Consultation Materials

5.4.1. Table 5.1 sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the proposed Project and provide their feedback.

Table 5.1: Consultation materials

Document	Description	Target audience
Project Background Document	This document will provide a summary of the proposed Project including:	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the background to the Project</li></ul>	This document will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>information about design changes as a result of the 2023 non-statutory consultation</li><li>information about potential benefits and impacts of the proposed Project</li><li>how we might propose to mitigate any significant effects</li><li>signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project.</li></ul>	National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.
Community Newsletter 2024	The newsletter will set out the proposed Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the proposed Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period.	All residents and businesses with properties within the PCZ.  The Community Newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. It will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.  National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.

Document	Description	Target audience
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR will contain a description of the proposed Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the benefits of the proposed Project.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
	A non-technical summary (“NTS”) of the PEIR will also be made available.	The PEIR will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.  The NTS will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request (subject to availability), at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.  Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
Design Development Report 2024	An in-depth technical document detailing the work we have undertaken to date, focusing on the work since the 2023 non-statutory consultation.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.  Paper copies of the Design Development Report 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024	Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.  Paper copies of the Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report	Summarising the feedback we received during the 2023 non-statutory consultation and how it has been considered.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.  Paper copies of the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.

Document	Description	Target audience
Project map book / Project area maps	A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the proposed Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy at public information events.</p>
Consultation banners	A series of exhibition banners with information relating to the proposed Project that will be used at the public information events.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.</p>
Interactive Project map	An interactive map of the proposed Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The interactive Project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.</p>
Consultation notices	We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 48 of the Planning Act.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy on request.</p>
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC sets out how National Grid intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The SoCC will be published on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events.</p> <p>As required under Section 47 of the Planning Act, notice of the SoCC will also be published in local newspapers.</p>
Feedback questionnaire	An online and paper feedback questionnaire to gather responses to the statutory consultation.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The feedback questionnaire will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.</p> <p>Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T).</p>
Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans	A guide outlining the consultation maps and plans, and how to use them.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>This document will be available on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at public information events.</p>

- 5.4.2.

National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in Table 5.1 in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.

All consultation materials will also be available on the Project’s website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements.
- 5.4.3.

Table 5.2 sets out how we will make the consultation documents available.

Table 5.2: Methods to make consultation documents available.

Activity	Detail
Project website	<p>All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation period. We will provide the following local authorities with a link to all the consultation documents:</p> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Norfolk County Council</li><li>Suffolk County Council</li><li>Essex County Council</li><li>Thurrock Council</li><li>South Norfolk District Council</li><li>Mid Suffolk District Council</li><li>Babergh District Council</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tendring District Council</li><li>Colchester City Council</li><li>Braintree District Council</li><li>Chelmsford City Council</li><li>Brentwood Borough Council</li><li>Basildon Borough Council.</li></ul></div></div> <p>Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>
Inspection points	<p>While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure the Community Newsletter, Project Background Document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire are available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period.</p> <div><div><p><b>Long Stratton Library</b> The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ</p><p><b>Norwich Library</b> Unit 3, The Forum Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW</p><p><b>Tuckswood Library</b> Robin Hood Road, Eaton, NR4 6BX</p><p><b>Diss Library</b> Church Street, Diss, IP22 4DD</p><p><b>Stowmarket Library</b> Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX</p><p><b>Capel St Mary Library</b> Village Hall, The Street, Capel St. Mary IP9 2EF</p><p><b>Coggeshall Library</b> The Friends Meeting House, Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH</p></div><div><p><b>Chelmsford Library</b> Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH</p><p><b>Colchester Library</b> Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB</p><p><b>Tilbury Library</b> Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD</p><p><b>Greenstead Library</b> Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE</p><p><b>Stanway Library</b> 10, Villa Road, Stanway CO3 0RH</p><p><b>Prettygate Library</b> Prettygate Road, Colchester CO3 4EQ</p><p><b>Wivenhoe Library</b> 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB</p></div></div> <p>Prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked. We will check that consultation documentation remains at the inspection points throughout the consultation period. We will also try to use local websites to act as public inspection points, by requesting they host a link to the Project website. These may include the following:</p> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>local authority websites</li><li>parish websites</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>local library websites</li><li>MP websites.</li></ul></div></div>

Activity	Detail
Document requests	<p>Following the launch of the statutory consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request, free of charge will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community Newsletter</li><li>Project Background Document</li><li>Feedback questionnaire</li><li>NTS of the PEIR. Requests for paper copies of the technical documents forming the PEIR will be reviewed on a case by-case basis</li><li>SoCC.</li></ul> <p>Paper copies of the other consultation documents will also be available on request however, a reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and posting costs. Requests can be made by contacting us using the details provided in <b>Section 6.1</b>. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents on a case by case basis.</p>
Public information events	<p>Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review at the public information events.</p> <p>More detail on the public events is available in <b>Section 5.6</b>.</p>

## 5.5. Promoting the consultation

- 5.5.1.

Residents, local businesses and community organisations within the PCZ will be notified of the start of the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community Newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 above. A map showing the PCZ (approximately 77,000 addresses) can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.5.2.

A range of other methods will be used to promote the consultation to local communities, as set out in Table 5.3.



Table 5.3: Promotion methods

Method	Detail
Press release	<p>A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list is likely to include the following media:</p> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basildon Standard</li><li>• BBC Look East</li><li>• BBC Radio Essex</li><li>• BBC Radio Norfolk</li><li>• BBC Radio Suffolk</li><li>• Basildon Standard</li><li>• Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo</li><li>• Braintree and Witham Times</li><li>• Brentwood Gazette</li><li>• Brentwood Live</li><li>• Brentwood Weekly News</li><li>• Bury &amp; West Suffolk Magazine</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bury Free Press</li><li>• Bury Mercury</li><li>• Chelmsford Weekly News</li><li>• Dereham Times</li><li>• Diss Express</li><li>• Diss Mercury</li><li>• Dunmow Broadcast</li><li>• East Anglian Daily Times</li><li>• Eastern Daily Press</li><li>• Essex Chronicle</li><li>• Essex Focus</li><li>• Essex Live.</li></ul></div></div> <p>The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and the SCZ, as well as further afield.</p>
Newspaper advertisements	<p>Two rounds of newspaper advertisements will be undertaken during the consultation. Advertisements will provide details of the consultation, where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the engagement activities.</p> <p>Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ. We will place adverts in the following titles:</p> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• East Anglian Daily Times</li><li>• Eastern Daily Press</li><li>• Essex Chronicle.</li></ul></div>

Method	Detail
Emails and letters	<p>We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</p> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs</li><li>• Elected representatives within the PCZ at:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Norfolk County Council</li><li>• Suffolk County Council</li><li>• Essex County Council</li><li>• Thurrock Council</li><li>• South Norfolk District Council</li><li>• Mid Suffolk District Council</li></ul></li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Babergh District Council</li><li>• Tendring District Council</li><li>• Colchester City Council</li><li>• Braintree District Council</li><li>• Chelmsford City Council</li><li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li><li>• Basildon Borough Council</li><li>• Parish Councils within the PCZ</li></ul></div></div>
Statutory notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will publish statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers</li><li>• We will publicise the consultation – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers.</li></ul>
Information posters	<p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be sent to each parish council within the PCZ.</p>
Social media	<p>We will promote the consultation on National Grid UK’s X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook account, @NationalGridUK.</p> <p>We will also develop a social media guide for local authorities to use on their social media channels. This guide will include links for the Project website.</p> <p>Consultation feedback will not be accepted through social media channels.</p>

5.5.3.

Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and advertised in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the proposed Project.

Any activity changes will also be published on the Project website and on National Grid UK’s X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts @NationalGridUK.

5.6. Public information events

- 5.6.1.

Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.
- 5.6.2.

Details of where and when the public information events will be held will be published on the Project website and in the Community Newsletter sent to all properties within the PCZ and available at inspection points.
- 5.6.3.

The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and at least one will be held on a weekend, where feasible.
- 5.6.4.

Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each event. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.
- 5.6.5.

Those attending the public information events will be encouraged to provide their feedback via the online or paper feedback questionnaire on the proposals.
- 5.6.6.

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(ies).

5.7. Webinars

- 5.7.1.

We will try to hold six webinars during the consultation period. We will run two general overview webinars and four that are section specific. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in **Section 6.1**.
- 5.7.2.

The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team.
- 5.7.3.

National Grid will endeavor to make British Sign Language interpretation available for one of the general overview webinars which will be recorded and published on the Project website.

5.8. Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 5.8.1.

National Grid will offer briefings and / or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:

- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone.
  - Elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ.
  - Parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ.
  - Local authorities, including neighbouring authorities.
  - Key prescribed consultees, such as National Landscapes (formerly known as AONB) conservation boards.
  - Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act.
- 5.8.2.

National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.

5.9. Hard-to-reach / seldom heard groups

- 5.9.1.

National Grid wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.

5.9.4.

Inspection points have also been identified based on their accessibility and availability for people wanting to access Project information.
- 5.9.2.

To allow people to engage with the proposed Project and the consultation at their own convenience, we have taken a ‘digital first’ approach to consultation. This allows individuals and groups to take part even if they cannot make an event. The online webinar and Project website is open and accessible to anyone to attend and ask questions of the Project team. Information will be available on the website and people are encouraged to submit feedback using the online feedback questionnaire. Those engaging with the Project can also ask questions and find out more by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in **Section 6.1**.

5.9.5.

We also recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulty taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. These organisations will be written to, via email, at the start of consultation. Requests for specific additional consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.
- 5.9.3.

For those less able or less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed consultation ‘in person’ aspects to be as accessible as possible, with the focus on ensuring events are accessible and held over several days in different locations to encourage attendance. We will also seek to ensure there is adequate parking and venues are accessible via public transport.

5.9.6.

On request, we will also consider providing materials in alternative formats. We will endeavor to provide British Sign Language signing at one of our webinars.
- 5.9.7.

Table 5.4 sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.

Table 5.4: Hard to reach and seldom heard group engagement tools

Group category	Methods to be used
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary.</li><li>• Face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route.</li><li>• Webinar events for people unable to attend in-person events.</li><li>• Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.</li><li>• Engaging with community groups serving the demographic.</li><li>• Providing paper copies of materials at inspection point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online.</li></ul>
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On request, audio guide of consultation banners.</li><li>• Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.</li><li>• Options to enlarge text on the Project’s website.</li></ul>
People with limited mobility / disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary.</li><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>• Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.</li><li>• Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Virtual webinar sessions for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs.</li><li>• Endeavouring to provide a British Sign Language interpreter at one of our webinars.</li></ul>

Group category	Methods to be used
Youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online engagement and provision of the Project website.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield. Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Contacting local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Provision of a youth webinar forum during consultation.</li></ul>
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li><li>• Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online engagement</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li><li>• Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li></ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Locally under-represented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emailing community groups representing under-represented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li></ul>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endeavouring to provide consultation materials in alternative languages upon reasonable request.</li></ul>

Group category	Methods to be used
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contacting community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li><li>• Providing paper copies of materials at inspection point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online.</li></ul>

## 6. Responding to the consultation

### 6.1. Methods of responding

6.1.1.	People will be able to submit their feedback in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completing the feedback questionnaire online via the Project website: <a href="https://nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury">nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury</a></li><li>• Providing feedback by email (<a href="mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com">contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com</a>) or in writing (FREEPOST N TO T).</li><li>• Completing a paper feedback questionnaire, which can be provided on request, at one of the designated inspection points, or completed in person at the face-to-face events. The questionnaire can be returned free-of-charge using the Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).</li></ul>	6.1.2.	Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.
		6.1.3.	Responses given orally, such as via telephone or in a meeting, may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.
		6.1.4.	All responses must be received by 11:59pm on the final day of consultation.

- 6.1.5.

All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 6.1.6.

More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the consultation feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.

6.2. Presenting the results

- 6.2.1.

Following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where appropriate, refined in light of feedback.
- 6.2.2.

The proposed DCO application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act.
- 6.2.3.

A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for a DCO, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for a DCO.
- 6.2.4.

Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.
- 6.2.5.

Upon receipt of an application for a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 6.2.6.

The Consultation Report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for a DCO has been accepted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.

6.3. Further consultation

- 6.3.1.

If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.

6.4. Other developers' consultations

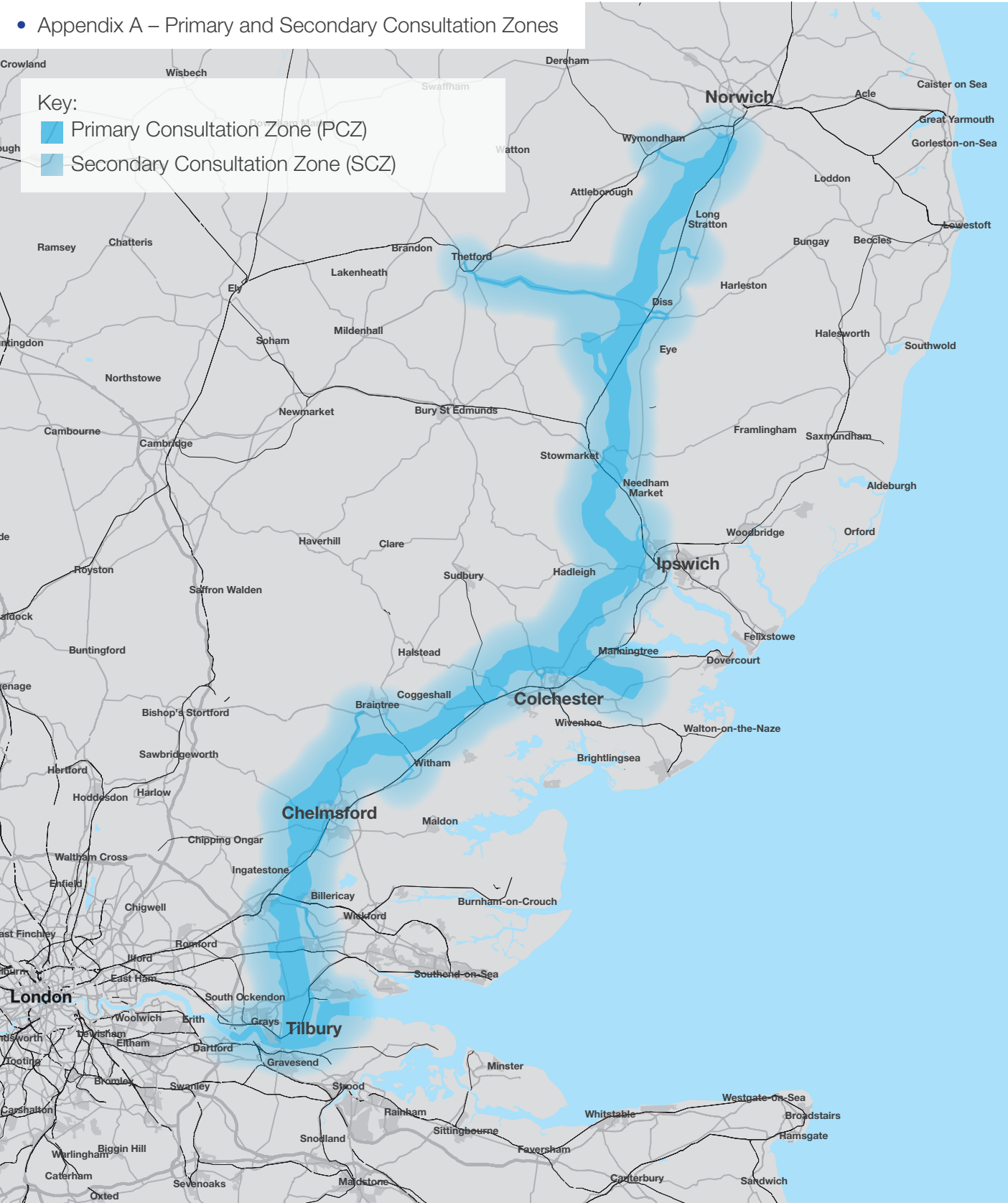
- 6.4.1.

The Project team is aware that National Grid and other organisations are developing energy and network proposals in the area, including:
  - National Grid's Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcements
  - National Grid Ventures' LionLink (formerly known as EuroLink) and Nautilus interconnectors
  - National Grid's Sea Link proposal
  - National Grid's Grain to Tilbury proposal
  - National Grid's Eastern Links 3 and 4 proposals
  - National Grid's North Humber to High Marnham and Grimsby to Walpole proposals
  - North Falls offshore wind farm
  - Five Estuaries offshore wind farm
  - Tarchon Interconnector.
- 6.4.2.

National Grid will work to understand other local projects to ensure that the scope and context of this proposed Project is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include:
  - having headline information about the other consultations at our events
  - seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations, where appropriate
  - ensuring that any responses submitted to our statutory consultation that are intended for another consultation are passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team. However, should people have specific questions about other projects, they should engage directly with relevant project team(s) to ask questions and/or provide feedback.



Appendix





## 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](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)**  
**[nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury](http://nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury)**





# **Appendix E7**

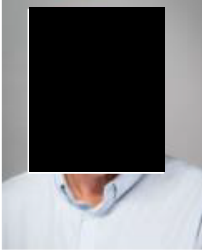
## Formal SoCC Presentation Slides

# Norwich to Tilbury Connection Project

Host Planning Authorities Workshop  
January 2024

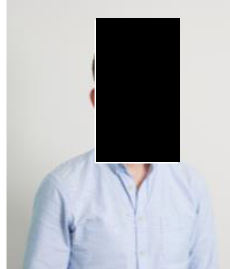
nationalgrid

# Meet the team



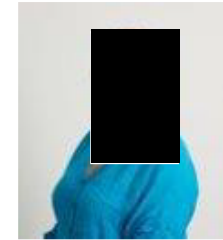
**Simon Pepper**  
Senior Project  
Manager

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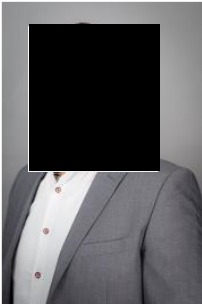
**Simon Gill**  
Consents Officer

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**Donna Burnell**  
Regional External  
Affairs Manager

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**Graham Livings**  
Senior Project  
Manager

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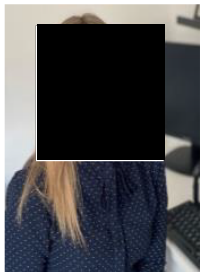
**Catrin Owen**  
Consents Officer

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**Lucy Cook**  
Consents Officer

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**Emma Bennett**  
Head of  
Socioeconomic and  
Community Benefit

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# Agenda

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| <b>01</b> | Project update and external factors |
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| <b>02</b> | Draft DCO order limits and construction overview |
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| <b>03</b> | Community benefits |
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| <b>04</b> | Draft SoCC feedback |
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| <b>05</b> | Programme |
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| <b>06</b> | Questions and AOB |
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# 01

## Project Update

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**

# Norwich to Tilbury – Current Activities

## Design:

- Alignment and other permanent infrastructure
- Construction activities and locations
- Site surveys
- Individual confidential LPA workshops planned for February

## Environment:

- Site surveys – ecology, archaeology, geotechnical
- PEIR drafting
- Viewpoint consultation and ZTV – documents issued 24 January

## Communication:

- Monthly updates
- Statutory consultation on the SoCC (February-March)

# Norwich to Tilbury – External factors

**As with any major project, there are external political, public and policy factors outside our control that we continue to monitor and will need to consider as we develop our proposals:**

## **The Offshore Coordinated Support Scheme (OCSS) and Energy Systems Operator (ESO) review**

The OCSS will provide grant funding to projects to explore potential coordination options for offshore transmission infrastructure, while at the same time progressing existing connection proposals.

The ESO Study will objectively assess the options for this project and other proposed network reinforcements across East Anglia following the outcome of the OCSS awards. The Study will take a fresh look at the drivers for the network reinforcements in East Anglia, alongside the various considerations that need to be taken into account. We have been advised that the Study will be published by Mid-March 2024 at which point we will be able to understand if it has any bearing on the project as currently designed.

## **The NPS drafts**

National Policy Statements for energy were published on 22 November, and ratified by parliament on 17th Jan 2024, including EN-5 – NPS for electricity networks infrastructure. We'll review policy as we continue to develop our proposals.

## **Outcomes from the community benefits consultation**

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero consulted on a recommended approach to community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure. The consultation is proposed to create voluntary guidance for industry and communities when developing individual community benefit packages. It also recommends establishing a recommended level of funding for community benefits in agreement with Ofgem. Consultation closed on 15 June 2023. We will continue to work with the government and regulator as they define the details of these schemes emerging from the consultation and,, once published, will work to understand what this means for our projects.



# Norwich to Tilbury – External factors (cont)

## **The Electricity Transmission Costing study**

National Grid have re-commissioned the work done in 2012, endorsed by the Institute of Engineering and Technology, which studies the comparative costs of new electricity infrastructure technologies (underground cabling, offshore cabling and overhead line).

## **The Andy Hiorns/Essex County Council review (on behalf of all host LPAs)**

An independent report commissioned by Essex County Council to critique the need and timing of the Norwich to Tilbury project. Welcomed by NG. Largely in agreement with need for project and that onshore is less expensive but disagrees with the timing. Project will post response on project website at launch of statutory consultation. Publicly available here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/county-councils-remain-united-against-norwich-tilbury-onshore-option>

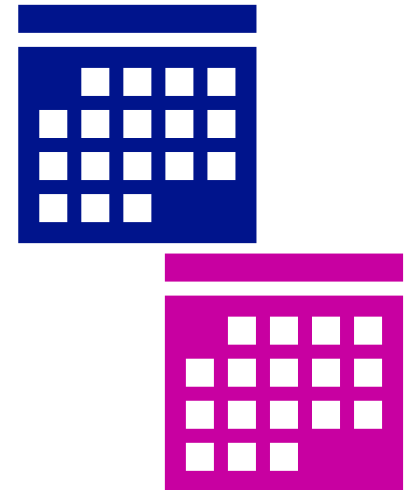
## **Ongoing public and political interest**

- General election
- Offset MPs
- Media coverage (local/regional/national)
- Campaign groups

# Norwich to Tilbury – External factors (cont)

## Timing of next General Election

- **17 December 2024** is exactly five years since parliament first met after the last general election, in 2019. If an election has not been called by this point, parliament would be automatically dissolved and the election would take place 25 working days later. This means the latest date for the next general election is 28 January 2025.
- It is within the Prime Minister's power to decide to call an election at an earlier date if he so wishes. The key factor most likely to determine when Rishi Sunak calls the next election is when he has the maximum chance of success.
- There are broadly three scenarios for when the Prime Minister will call for an election:
  - An early election: most likely in **May 2024** – following a March budget.
  - **An autumn 2024 election**: which would avoid the summer and a campaign taking place over the Christmas period.
  - A late election: held at the last possible moment, **in January 2025**.



# Norwich to Tilbury – External factors (cont)

## General Election – our approach

- There's no formal requirement to pause consultation if an election is called, and the rules that govern the pre-election period do not apply to National Grid.
- Given the timeframes National Grid are working within, significantly delaying a consultation could have considerable knock-on impacts for the delivery timelines of projects and ultimately decarbonisation targets.
- However, we recognise the level of interest in the project is high and likely to be a focus during a campaign. We also want to continue to ensure consultation isn't impacted and people feel they're able to take part and submit feedback.
- Without knowing the date of an election, we're continuing to plan for a spring statutory consultation. If an election is called that would run alongside consultation, we will assess the impact and consider the potential effects and next steps. This could include:
  - A postponement (if consultation hasn't started).
  - An extension to the consultation period (depending on when an election is called/held)
  - Rescheduling events.
- We will discuss the strategy with host authorities and PINS should a General Election be called.



# 02

## Construction overview

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**



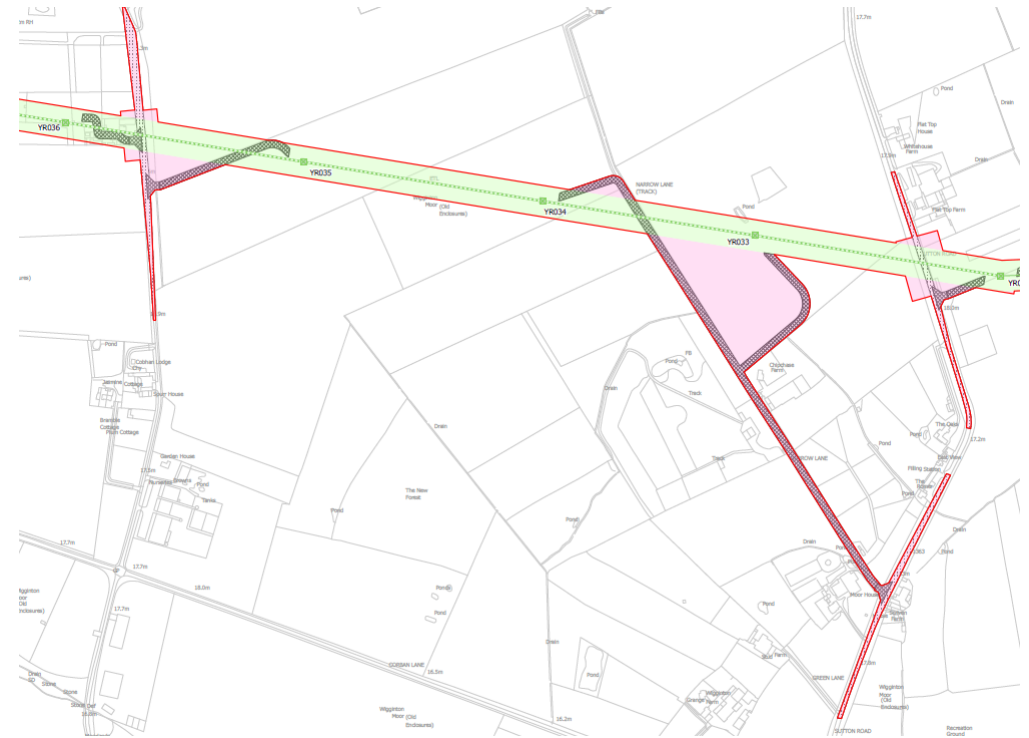
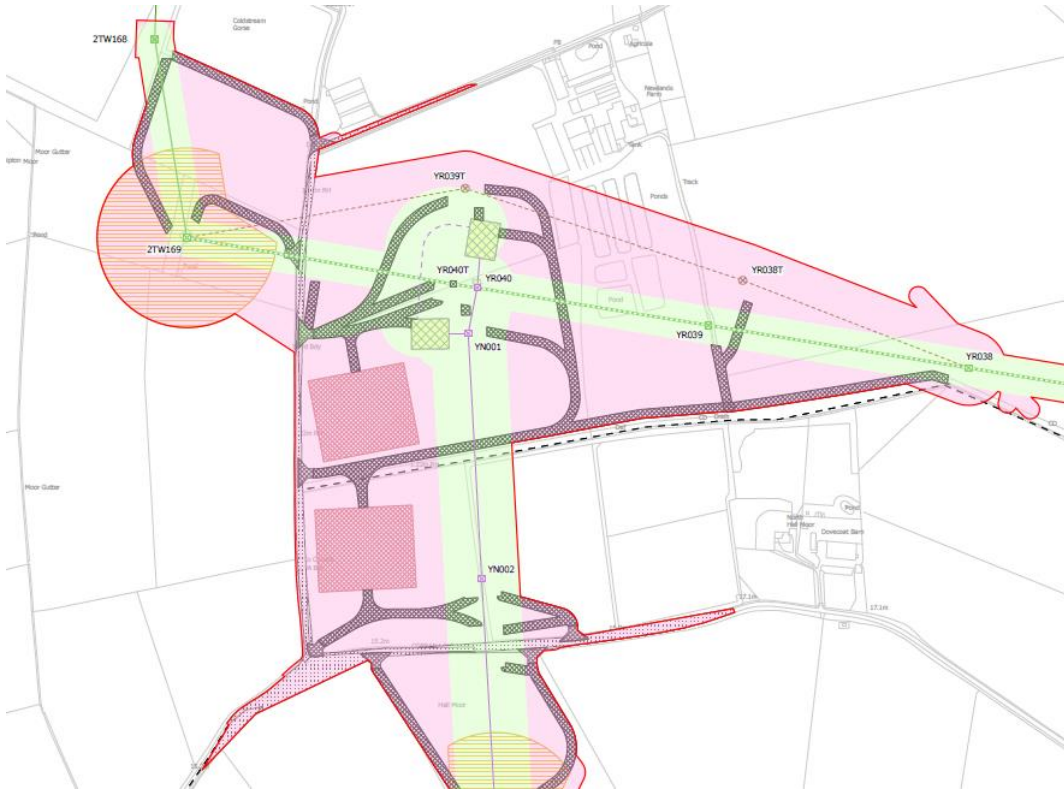
# The Draft Order Limits (red line boundary) is made up of:

Draft Order Limits and Land use	Description
<b>Draft Order Limits</b>	Red line boundary extents of the Project
<b>Highways Draft Order Limits</b>	Red line boundary extents of the Project (specifically related to highways works – sometimes offset from the main Project works)
<b>Zone for Permanent Assets (NGET)</b>	Shows the areas of the draft Order Limits that may contain new permanent infrastructure (i.e. pylons, conductors, underground cables, cable sealing end compounds, substations, permanent accesses, and environmental mitigation.  For the NGET works only.
<b>Zone for Construction, Operation and Maintenance (NGET and Statutory Undertaker)</b>	Shows the areas of the draft Order Limits that are required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project.  This reflects NGET and Statutory Undertaker works.
<b>Statutory Undertaker Works</b>	Indicative work areas required to divert, underground or protect existing third party statutory undertaker assets – in order to facilitate the Project.  e.g. communications and electricity wood pole overhead lines, electricity lattice pylon overhead lines and buried pipelines (gas, oil, sewage, and water etc).
<b>Environmental Areas</b>	Areas identified for environmental mitigation and/or Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - generally located at substations and cable sealing end compounds.

The Project Design: Permanent Assets	Description
<b>Overhead Line Alignments</b>	Pylon positions and overhead line centreline
<b>Underground Cable Alignments</b>	Underground cable centreline and construction swathe.
<b>Underground Cable – Trenchless Crossings</b>	Locations where the underground cable installation method is proposed as trenchless (or potentially so) e.g. under main rivers and railways.
<b>Substations</b>	Boundaries of existing and new substations.
<b>Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSEC)</b>	Boundaries of new CSECs.
<b>Limits of Deviation</b>	Limits of Deviation for Project.  Descriptions provided in the PEIR but also covered by the Zone for Permanent Assets.
<b>Permanent Access (Substations and CSECs)</b>	Permanent operation and maintenance access – physical access road.
<b>Permanent Access (Overhead Line)</b>	Permanent operation and maintenance access – rights over land only.
<b>Permanent Drainage</b>	Attenuation ponds and channels for substations and CSECs.
<b>Permanent Spoil Bund</b>	Indicative locations adjacent substations and CSECs.

The Project Design: Temporary Construction Works	Description
<b>Compounds</b>	The type, size and what is included at each compound is subject the works it is facilitating, but may include for example: parking, offices, reception, break out areas, toilets/showers/changing facilities, cleaner's room, kitchen/canteen, visitors centre, gym, induction/training room, drying room and the working yard / storage area.
<b>Construction Laydown Areas</b>	Areas identified for material storage (e.g. for temporary holding of stone adjacent Site Access Points prior to the haul road being constructed).
<b>Site Access Point (Bellmouth) and Visibility Splay</b>	The location on a Primary Access Route where construction vehicles will transition between the Local Road Network (LRN) and Haul Roads / working areas.
<b>Primary Access Routes (PAR)</b>	An access route promoted for use by construction vehicles along the LRN (typically for HGVs) to typically travel from the MRN to the Haul Road. Any works required to improve the PAR (e.g. widening) is included within the Highways Draft Order Limits.
<b>Haul Road</b>	Temporary roads provided outside of the existing public highway. These routes link the Site Access Points to specific working areas.
<b>Overhead Line Pylon Construction Work Area</b>	Work area (stoned) around all new pylons – required to construct the pylons.
<b>Overhead Line Conductor Pulling/Stringing Work Area</b>	Larger work area around the angle/tension pylons (where they change direction) required for installing the overhead conductors.
<b>Overhead Line Crossing Protection Work Area</b>	Work area required to install scaffolding – required to provide a netted protection of crossings when installing the conductors (e.g. public highways and railways crossings).
<b>Temporary Drainage</b>	Temporary attenuation / settlement ponds and channels required during the construction of the overhead line, underground cables, CSECs and substations.
<b>Temporary watercourse crossings</b>	Culverts and bridges along the haul road as required to cross existing watercourses.

# The Draft Order Limits Statutory Consultation Plan – Yorkshire GREEN Example



# 2024 Statutory Consultation

**The statutory consultation works plans detail the following aspects of the construction of the Project:**

- Draft Order Limits
- Norwich to Tilbury permanent assets design and locations: overhead lines, underground cables, cable sealing end compounds, substations and permanent access routes (substations and CSEC only)
- Indicative work areas required to divert, underground or protect existing third-party Statutory Undertakers assets (e.g. existing overhead lines and underground pipelines)
- Environmental areas.
- Temporary site access & crossover points, visibility splays and haul roads.
- Temporary construction compounds and laydown areas.
- Temporary crossing protection work areas.
- Primary Access Routes.

**Additional information on the construction of the Project is provided within the PEIR:**

- Overhead line permanent access routes (rights over land only, no physical works).
- Temporary drainage attenuation / settlement ponds and channels.
- Temporary watercourse crossings (culverts and bridges).
- Pylon construction work areas.
- Pylon pulling / stringing work areas.
- Locations of public rights of way.



# Overhead line overview

# Overhead Line construction:

## Lattice Tower construction :

- Fabricated from rolled steel angles and delivered to site in numbered parts (similar to flat-pack furniture)
- Sections e.g. crossarms assembled at ground level and raised into position using a crane



## Pylon types:

- Tension pylons – required when deviating from a straight line. Conductors are pulled from tension pylons and therefore these need to be more robust



• Tension

- Suspension lattice
- Low height lattice



• Suspension



• Low Height Lattice

# Overhead Line construction:

Access, working areas and ground preparation:

- Access Tracks
- Localised vegetation clearance
- Drainage/dewatering works might be required depending on ground conditions/water table
- Every tower requires its own working area

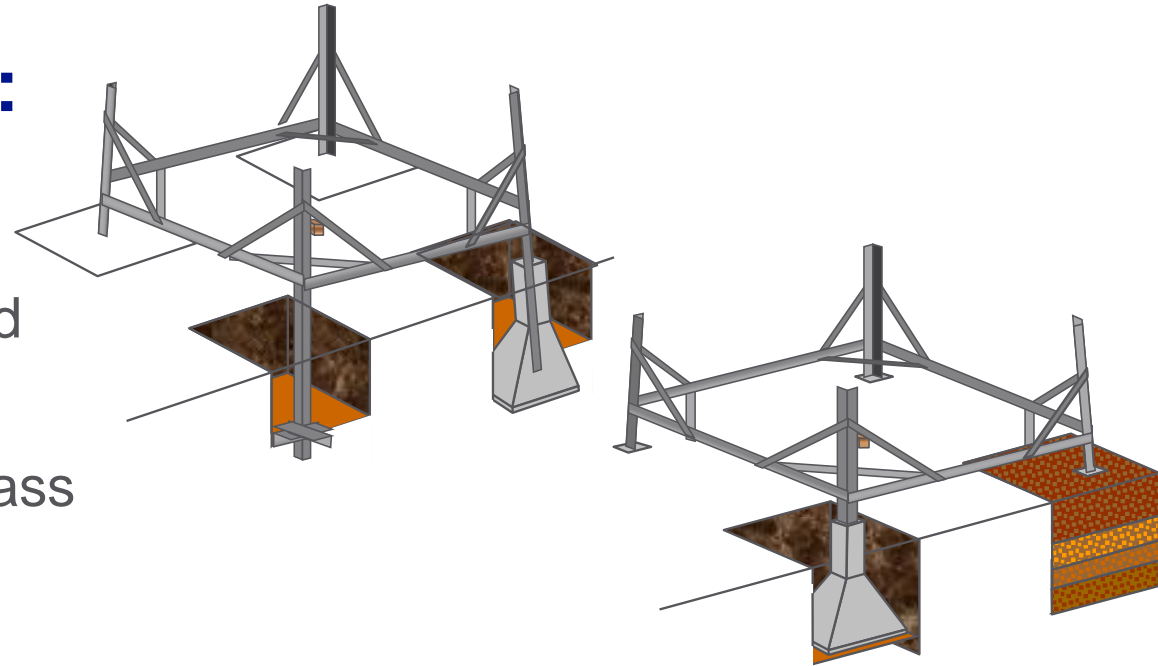




# Overhead Line construction:

## Foundations excavated and piled:

- Foundation type dependent on ground conditions
- Excavated foundations encased in mass concrete
- Piled foundations also use concrete



# Overhead Line construction:

## Equipment required:

- Excavator for foundations and any drainage works
- Delivery of materials to site
- Crane to assemble towers
- Telehandler to move materials around on site
- Winch and tensioner
- Temporary protection of Roads and other crossings





# Overhead Line construction:

## Stringing conductors:

- Draw wires winched through
- Conductors are winched into position
- Conductors pulled through suspension towers
- Winch and tensioner placed at tension towers
- fittings (spacers, insulators etc.) installed



# Reinstatement:

- At end of construction, temporary access tracks and working areas are removed unless agreed to remain
- Land returned to original condition



Image date 24/09/2018

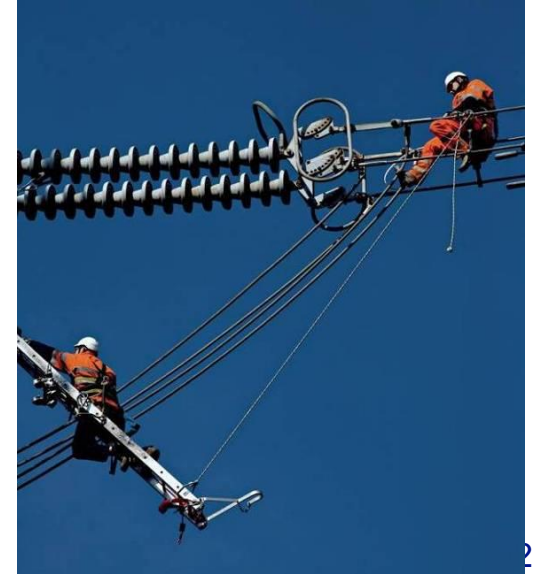


Image date 30/03/2021



# Overhead line – inspection and maintenance:

- Towers are repainted and individual pieces of steel replaced as require depending on condition
- Replacement of fittings during routine inspection, if required

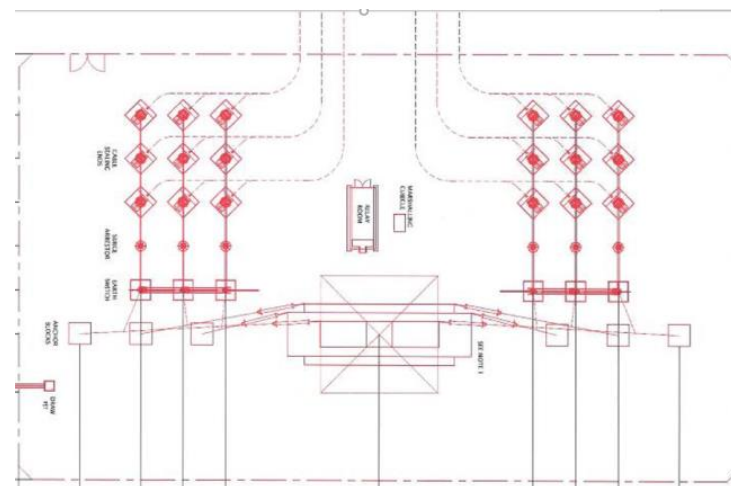


# Underground cable overview



# Transition – overhead to Cable:

- Sealing End Compound (SEC) provides connection between overhead line and underground cables
- Area protected by standard substation fence with electrified fence inside
- Permanent vehicle access required
- Cable sealing ends emerge from ground





# Underground cable - components:

- Anticipated 18 cables would be needed, laid in 6 x groups of 3
- Separation required to allow heat to dissipate
- Joints and link boxes required at every cable joint
- Sealing end compounds required at either end of underground section



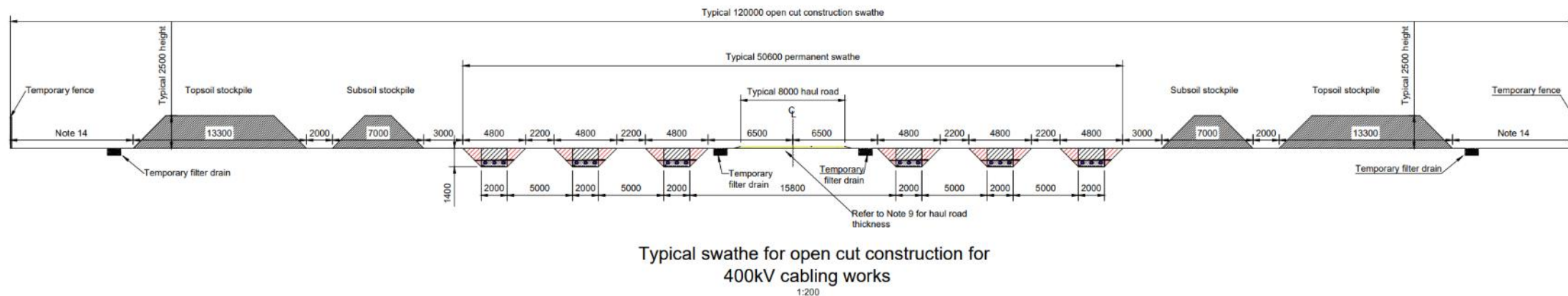
# Underground cable – access for construction:

- Approx. 100m wide corridor, protected by post and wire fencing
- Temporary access road provide vehicle access
- Vegetation clearance across working area
- Drainage works
- Temporary soil storage



# Underground cable – cable trenches and laying:

Typical section through a working area:



# Underground cable – machinery required:

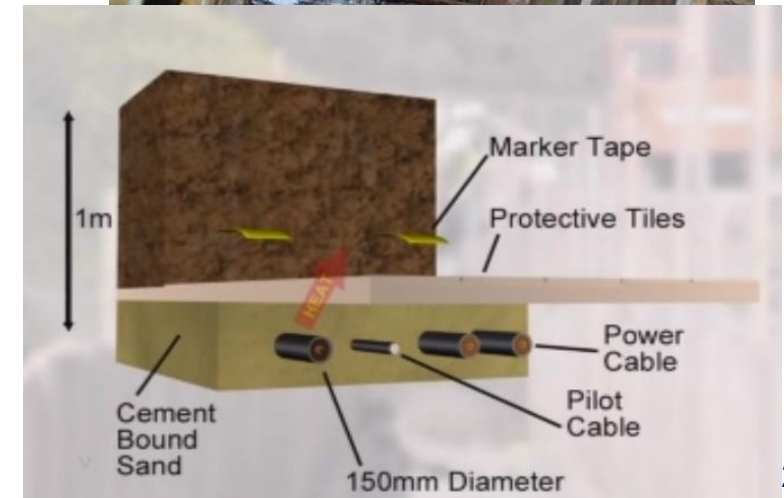
- Excavators to clear working area, dig trenches and improve drainage
- Delivery of materials to site using large lorries (cables on drums)
- Tractors, telehandlers and other smaller vehicles used to transport materials within cable route and carry out drainage works





# Underground cable – cable trenches and laying:

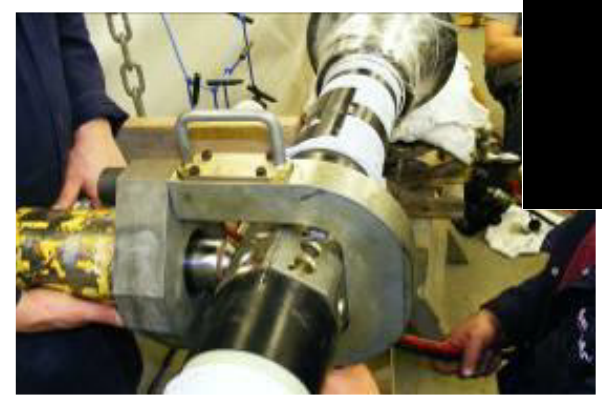
- Excavation of up to 6 trenches within working area
- Cables typically laid at a depth of 1m on Cement Bound Sand bed and surrounded by an additional CBS layer
- Protective tiles
- Warning tapes





# Underground cable – cable jointing:

- Joints required every 500 – 1000m depending on length of cables able to fit on the drum
- Technically demanding and labour intensive
- Insulation hand wrapped
- Protected by glass fibre box filled with resin or bitumen
- Above ground link boxes required at every cable joint



# Underground cable – reinstatement:

- Reinstatement of soil above cable trench and across working area
- Temporary access tracks and site fencing removed



# Underground cable – inspection and maintenance:

- Inspection is carried out at a min. every 3 years using test equipment carried in vans
- Monitoring is carried out via fibre optic cables installed with the power cables
- Excavation required to carry out cable repairs
- Cable replacement every 40 years (approx.)



# Substation overview



# Substations:

- Form important links between the generating station, transmission systems, distribution systems
- Supply of electric power within specified voltage limits (Transforming it as necessary eg: 400kV to 125kV)
- Optimum efficiency of plant and the network switching circuits in and out
- Permanent vehicle access required
- Transformers delivered as abnormal loads - existing roads may need widening etc.





# Substations:

- Air insulated switchgear (AIS) standard technology
- Gas insulated switchgear (GIS) uses greenhouse gas SF6 and therefore no longer recommended for use.
- Research ongoing to find alternative



# Substations - components:

- Busbars – connections carrying electrical power
- Circuit breakers – automatically operated switch
- Transformers
- Reactive compensation
- Control and welfare buildings
- Parking
- Security fence



# Construction access

- Primary access routes promoted to get vehicles from the major road network using local road network to reach the site access points on to the haul road.
- The proposed Haul Road is only discontinuous at major obstructions along the cable and OHL corridor such as major roads, railways, areas of environmental or historical significance and major watercourses. Each obstruction has been assessed on a case-by- case basis, the haul road is included on the consultation plans.
- Separate set of plans for highway works required further away from the main RLB.
- This strategy will enable a high percentage of construction traffic to be routed to the site predominantly via 'A' and 'B' roads, rather than via local, rural roads.





# Comfort break

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**





03

# Community benefits update

▶ **The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**



## Community benefits – background and context

We believe that communities hosting significant electricity infrastructure are supporting the delivery of a national benefit and **should receive fair and enduring benefits for doing so.**

There is currently **no clear policy requirement** to deliver community benefit for transmission infrastructure projects. This can result in mis-aligned expectations and an uncertainty over how community benefit can be delivered.

As a regulated business, we have been advocating for **guidance that brings greater clarity and consistency** to how community benefit packages are delivered and supports **earlier conversations** about community benefits with communities and local stakeholders.

# We shared our views on how community benefit could be delivered, as part of government's consultation

In November 2023, Government published it's 'minded to' position, and we **expect guidance to be published in 2024.**

## What government are proposing?

- To introduce **voluntary guidance which sets out key principles and expectations** for industry and communities when developing 'wider' community benefit packages.
- This guidance is expected to include a **recommended level or range of funding** for community benefit, based on the type of infrastructure being proposed.
- It is expected to be flexible, allowing developers and communities to work together to **develop benefits that can be targeted to local need.**
- This community benefit guidance would be **distinctly separate to compensation and mitigation** and **separate to the planning process.**
- Separately, government are continuing to explore options for 'direct' community benefits.

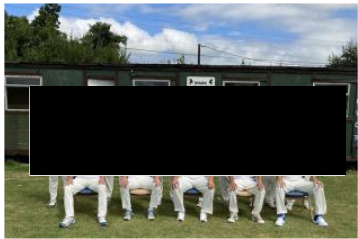
We **support the introduction of community benefit guidance** and believe it should allow us to **work with communities and stakeholders** to deliver **local and regional legacy benefits.**

# An overview of our current approach

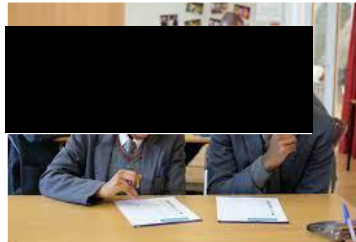
Across our projects, we work with local communities and stakeholders to understand what is important to them and endeavour to deliver initiatives to support those priorities.

## Examples of some of our existing initiatives:

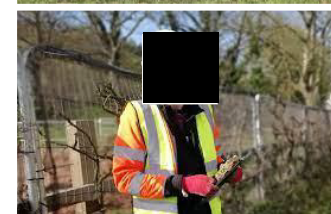
### Community Grant Programme



### Skills/STEM



### Environment



# How we're developing our approach further

We recognise the collective opportunity of our projects, and other NSIP projects in the region. We are aspiring to build on our current community benefit offering, **delivering broader, socioeconomic outcomes and community benefits across host regions.**

Regional	 Skills and Employment	Develop regional partnerships to deliver initiatives which will help give the next generation of engineers the skills they need to be part of the Net Zero Workforce. Collaboration with supply chain, through our <a href="#">Great Grid Upgrade Partnership</a> , to encourage local opportunities.
	 Environment	Form partnerships to deliver environmental enhancements in host regions, which go beyond our Biodiversity Net Gain commitments.
Local	 Communities	Continue to support projects that make a positive impact on local communities. Informed by community insight and consultation.

Our approach will be **subject to the outcome of the government's consultation**, but we are working to understand regional priorities as we develop our plans. We are keen to hear **regional aspirations** as we develop our strategy further.

## Next steps

- We continue to work with Government and Ofgem in relation to the community benefit guidance.
- Alongside this, we are working to understand regional priorities as we develop our plans.
- We are committed to engaging with stakeholder and host authorities as we develop our strategy further.
- We would welcome suggestions of representatives that should be engaged in these discussions.





# 04

## Draft SoCC feedback

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**

# Draft SoCC – responding to feedback

Key theme(s)	Our response/action
<b>Provide residents with as much notice as possible ahead of events starting.</b>	While we're still assessing venue availability our aim is provide notice ahead of events starting. We're also aiming to carry out advertising in advance of consultation launch.
<b>Update the list of events to show their running order in the SoCC.</b>	Yes. In the SoCC we will list the areas in which we will hold events.
<b>Provide details on the timelines and timescales – particularly consultation dates and the latter end of the programme.</b>	Noted. More information on the programme will be made available at statutory consultation.
<b>Events: Are we looking at any additional events in the north of the route – close to Mulbarton.</b>	We're assessing venue options in the northern section of the route.
<b>Events: Ensure we include an event in Mid Suffolk.</b>	We're assessing venue options in Mid Suffolk.
<b>Events: Include another consultation in South Norfolk.</b>	We're assessing venue options in South Norfolk.

# Draft SoCC – responding to feedback

Key theme(s)	Our response/action
Engagement: Provide more detail on engagement with seldom heard groups.	The SoCC outlines the tactics we'll use to engage each group, but we will be making contact with key contacts at local authorities to understand how best to provide information at launch.
Engagement: Make sure we hold a webinar for elected members.	We're proposing specific briefings for elected members in the SoCC. These will be online. There will also be webinars for the public, which elected members are also welcome to attend.
Update the project description to describe what is being consulted on.	We will provide an updated project description within the SoCC.





# 05

## Programme

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Norwich to Tilbury

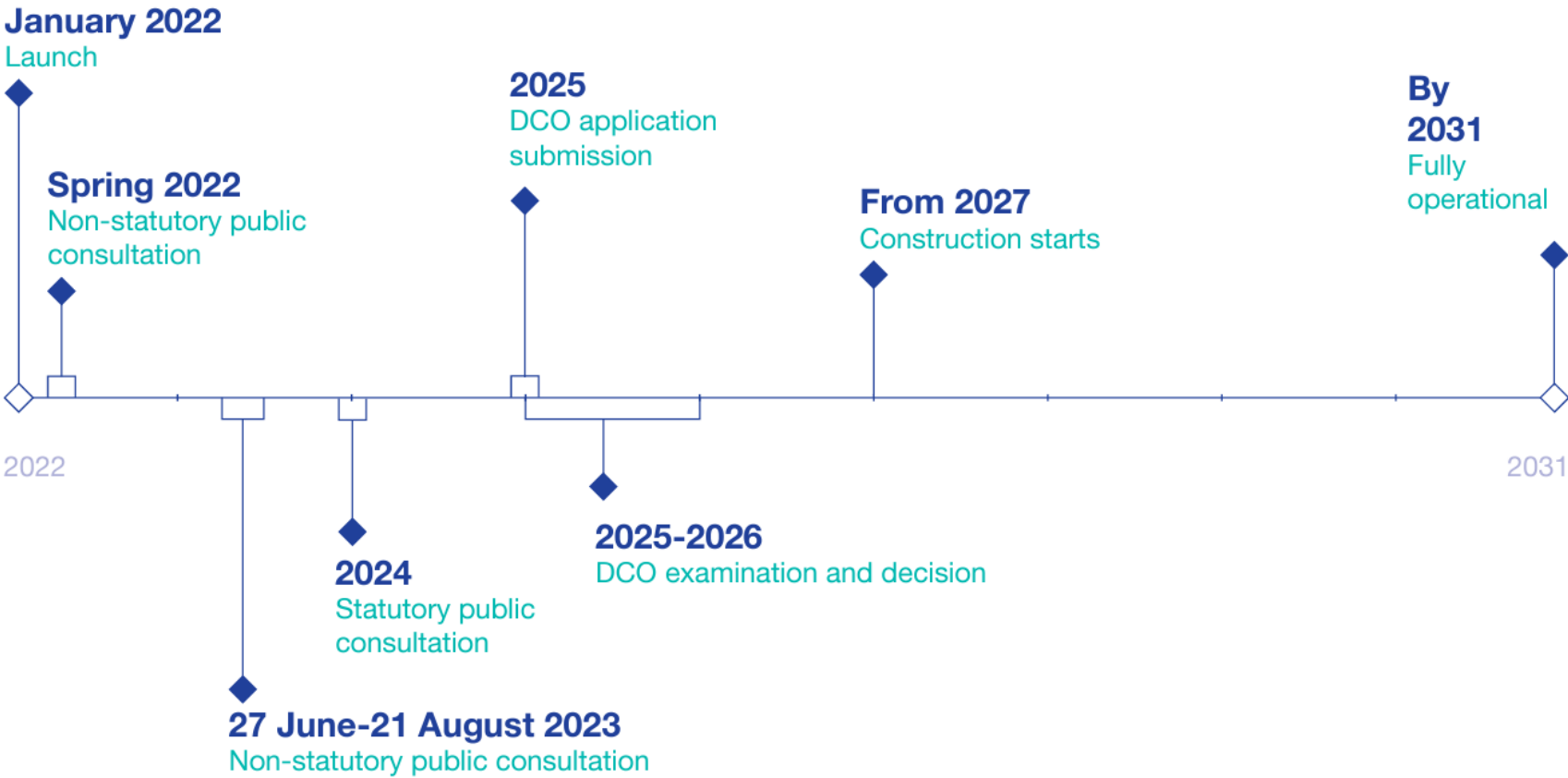
**nationalgrid**

# Engagement lookahead

MONTH	ACTIVITY
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alignment and draft Order Limits briefings</li><li>• Statutory SoCC consultation starts</li><li>• Consultation on viewpoint locations (with ZTV)</li></ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly LPA workshop (focus on structure and timing of statutory consultation)</li><li>• PPA deadline</li><li>• Statutory SoCC consultation ends</li></ul>
April (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation launch notifications and briefings</li><li>• Shapefile made available</li><li>• Stakeholder webinars</li></ul>



# Project timeline



A photograph of a field of yellow wildflowers in the foreground, with a power line tower and other towers visible in the background under a cloudy sky. The text '06' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# 06

## Questions and AOB

**nationalgrid**

## **Appendix E8**

Regard had to formal comments on  
the proposed SoCC

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Braintree District Council	It is not clear why the 'Community Newsletter' has been called such; will it be single issue notifying residents in the PCN or will it form a regular effort to reach out and update these communities? If the latter, then why and how often will it be issued?	We've published several editions of the community newsletter and - to be consistent - continue to use the title, however, it will be clear from the front page the purpose of the document. It will be regular document, and - while not yet confirmed - expect to publish future editions.	N
Braintree District Council	The Newsletter should contain detail of where to find all the documents available online. It should state clearly where and when the community events are being held, giving good notice of these. It should make it clear that it is sent to everyone within 1km of the red line so that it can be appreciated why some receive it and others do not.	The Community Newsletter will clearly contain how and where people can find out more about the project, including public information event dates, webinar details and contact channels. We have also included a note explaining why people are being contacted - particularly new people.	N
Braintree District Council	It does not appear that any effort will be made to tailor the information to different areas or communities. It is not likely the majority of those affected will be interested in the finer details of the wider project; this covering an extensive area and giving rise to vast amounts of information overall. The immediate question for all those living and working within the PCZ and SCZ is likely to be 'what is planned near me?' Instead of this being immediately accessible, for example by provision of a map or details of the project in their area, it appears that they will have to attend a public information event (of which there is only one venue in Braintree District) or navigate the wider interactive mapping system to answer this relatively simple question.	As with previous Community Newsletters announcing the start of non-statutory consultations in 2022 and 2023, we will provide an accompanying project map. This will be a two-sided A1 document showing more detail than in previous editions. The newsletter will also point people towards the interactive Project map, which will be available on the Project website - replacing the current version.	N
Braintree District Council	If the information cannot be presented in digestible, relevant portions targeted at different communities at this late stage, it should otherwise be ensured that the wider interactive mapping system is easily navigable, for example by inputting a postcode. It should also be ensured that the maps are of sufficient scale and contain sufficient information to allow those affected to understand precisely what is being planned near them without having to 'work too hard' to find out what elements consist of and how development proposed may impact upon them.	The interactive Project map offers a postcode search function and an overview on what's being proposed in each section of the route (A-H).	N
Braintree District Council	It should be possible to print out your own paper feedback questionnaires.	The website will contain both the online and 'offline' feedback questionnaire, so people can download and print copies. People will also be able to email and write to us with their comments and we will be happy to mail copies of the feedback questionnaire should that be required.	N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Braintree District Council	Deadlines should be made clear at every step of the process and all forms should reiterate this.	We've made deadlines as clear as possible in all our key consultation materials, including the Community Newsletter, website, Feedback Questionnaire and Project Background Document.	N
Braintree District Council	There should be opportunities for individuals to interact meaningfully with National Grid online or telephone over the course of the consultation process. It is not clear whether it would be 'one way' in these communication channels. For example, it should be possible to submit queries as well as feedback online. If these queries were answered over the course of the consultation process, then individuals and communities can be better informed when they come to submit their feedback.	Anyone can submit queries to us at any point and we will respond. We have a hotline, email address and an online request form available that is monitored throughout the day (Monday – Friday 9 am - 5:30 pm).	N
Braintree District Council	On a more general note, it is understood that the PIER will still be awaiting up-to-date baseline survey data in several areas. It will therefore be difficult to critically review the mitigation approaches when the nature and magnitude of impacts are still unknown. Whilst technically acceptable solutions may be available that can subsequently be presented at DCO stage to address issues once all the survey data has been collected, this approach denies everyone the full opportunity to engage with the fine grain detail before choices are made based on it. It is also noted that this will be the first time the full draft Order limits will be available, and this covers substantial additional area that has not been published to date. A continual and flexible approach to engagement right up until submission of the DCO will therefore be needed to avoid Council's, residents and communities becoming passengers in this regard [Camargue bolding for ease of highlighting required ongoing actions]; BDC welcomes further discussions with National Grid as to how this might be best resolved.	The PEIR presents our environmental assessments undertaken on the Project so far, we're presenting it at this stage to enable stakeholders and consultees to provide their feedback. Once consultation closes, we anticipate our engagement to continue with local authorities and relevant expert bodies as we continue to develop our Project, consider feedback, and carry out further assessment.	N



Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Essex County Council	The metrics listed in the draft SoCC are extensive and important in understanding who, what and when NGET will consult. However, ECC would query what these metric measure and the significance of these metrics in overcoming objections and criticisms around engagement.	During consultation, our aim is to allow consultees to examine and provide feedback on our proposals at that stage. We then consider that feedback in light of ongoing Project development and through the relevant consultation report, provide answers to that feedback. Typically, we don't monitor metrics aside from reporting on volume of feedback and highlight themes. In November / December 2023 we used this information to develop an interim Community Newsletter to address the themes arising from the non-statutory consultation held in summer 2023. We produced a similar Community Newsletter in January 2025 addressing the themes from our 2024 statutory consultation.	N
Essex County Council	Whilst ECC has found the project website very useful, in particular the interactive map and updated frequently asked questions, it remains a traditional one-way form of communicating brand and information that is not dialogue orientated. It appears from the use of limited social media platforms (X and Facebook) listed (Table 5.3) that similarly to the use of the website, it remains as a promotional tool to share branding and information about the project. ECC notes that consultation responses will not be accepted through social media. However, given how social media is used by many different cohorts of people and the extensive use of social media by local politicians and the local community to discuss the project, ECC would once again suggest that NGET include in its SoCC a more robust social media strategy. The limited use of social media in the draft SoCC is missing important opportunities for NGET to support two-way, dialogue orientated engagement with a wider and more diverse range of people potentially affected by the project. ECC are concerned at the level of misinformation spread on social media about the project and consider that NGET should be addressing be using social media to address this directly as part of the SoCC.	We recognise the importance of social media for a range of audiences, and its role in driving awareness and engagement on projects such as Norwich to Tilbury. As outlined in the SoCC, we'll make use of the channels we own – X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook – to raise awareness of the consultation and how to get involved. This will include using targeted advertising to reach communities who don't follow our existing channels. We'll monitor any comments we receive on social media, but due to the more restrictive nature (and limited space) of social media to provide feedback, wherever possible we'll point people towards the website, the interactive Project map and our feedback channels. This enables us to ensure we get high quality feedback and that it is captured properly. Our website will also include a series of FAQs we'll monitor and update to address any misinformation or provide clarity.	N
Essex County Council	Paragraph 1.4.9 – 1.4.10 of the draft SoCC would benefit from reference to relevant national planning policy, which includes the new Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5) published in 2024, particularly when explaining to the community how impacts will be assessed and the need for NGET to	We note your comment and have amended the SoCC to include reference to the relevant National Policy Statements.	Y

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
	apply the mitigation hierarchy, including compensation. ECC considers that the absence of reference to EN-1 and EN-5 places too greater emphasis on the Electricity Act 1989 and NGET's own internal Stakeholder, Community and Amenity policy from 2016.		
Essex County Council	Para. 3.1.5 of the draft SoCC states that feedback received at the second round of non-statutory consultation (27 June – 21 August 2023) was combined with NGET's ongoing environmental assessment work to help identify the preferred route to be shared at statutory consultation. ECC would query how conscientious this consideration of feedback could have been when the PEIR will be based on desk-based assessments and partial survey data up to September 2023, and for traffic and transport up to November 2023.	Thank you for your comments on the PEIR. We note there's not a specific request to change the SoCC but we do recognise the importance of engaging with Essex County Council on the PEIR. We don't agree with the assessment that the PEIR will contain limited content but will engage with the council during statutory consultation – and in the lead into DCO submission in 2025 to ensure your comments and concerns have been addressed.	N
Essex County Council	ECC would reiterate previous concerns that the PEIR will not contain sufficient baseline environmental information to help consultees understand the likely significant effects of the project. Further that ECC and its local authority partners have been provided with insufficient opportunity and time to input into the PEIR prior to statutory consultation. Further, in the absence of sufficient baseline and a lack of engagement with the relevant local authorities, ECC does not understand how the PEIR can contain any meaningful consideration of mitigation, which include compensation either or how benefits will be maximised (Table 5.1).	We recognise there will be a significant amount of information and material presented at statutory consultation. Some of this material will be technical in nature, but wherever possible we've sought to ensure there's a mixture of information for different audiences. This includes non-technical materials as well as interactive maps and the provision of webinars and public information events. People can also ask us questions and submit comments directly if they need any further help. All the feedback we received on the contents of the PEIR will be addressed separately in Appendix K of this consultation report.	N
Essex County Council	ECC are concerned that statutory consultation will be based on a poor quality and/or insufficiently developed PEIR that will act as a substantive barrier to effective engagement. ECC recommends that Table 5.1 makes clear the limitations of the PEIR and explain why it cannot provide detailed assessment of likely significant environmental effects. Further that the draft SoCC clarifies that the PEIR does not fully correspond to the draft Order limits, which ECC has still not had sight of, or any (if any) proposed changes to the preferred route since surveys were concluded in 2023.	In the case of parish councils, we're happy to engage with parishes where they need additional support from us. As outlined in the SoCC we're planning to hold a briefing session for parishes within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) during consultation and will be available at public information events and via any of our contact channels should parishes have any questions. Thank you again for your feedback and continued engagement with our Norwich to Tilbury proposals. We hope that this addresses some of your concerns, however we welcome any further queries which you may have.	N
Essex County Council	ECC consider that the limited content of the PEIR would have been of greater assistance in supporting robust environmental assessment if it had been shared earlier in the pre-application consultation process.		N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Essex County Council	ECC remain concerned that consultants working on behalf of NGET can be dogmatic in their approach and presentation of environmental assessment, often providing insufficient information and adequate time to consider and respond to consultation. Further that environmental thematic group meetings do not benefit from having the relevant non-departmental public bodies in attendance. ECC understands that consultants acting on behalf of NGET have chosen to engage with these bodies separately.		N
Essex County Council	ECC welcomes a robust and proportionate environmental assessment for N2T and the provision of a non-technical summary (Table 5.1). ECC is concerned that the volume, complexity and issues detailed above with the PEIR will limit the ability of local communities to effectively engage at statutory consultation. ECC are aware that non-specialists are likely also to want to engage with technical information.		N
Essex County Council	There is notable distrust in NGET from politicians and some local communities due, in part, to criticism around predetermination and engagement. ECC recognises this distrust and so is looking at how we can empower communities to engage with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). ECC recommends that the SoCC makes provision to identify and resource third party engagement to support town and parish councils in being able to understand the project and engage constructively with the statutory consultation process. ECC would welcome the opportunity to support NGET in identifying an impartial provider.		N
Tendring District Council	We fully support the response made by ECC with regards to the SoCC [above]. One additional point from TDC: Given the scale and location of the EACN at Ardleigh / Lawford could the materials also be placed in Manningtree Library?	We will approach Manningtree Library. If we are able to secure an inspection point location here we will update the list of inspection points on our website.	N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Norfolk County Council	The County Council are generally pleased with the radius for the Primary Consultation Zone and Secondary Consultation Zone proposed on the map of the project area (Figure 5.1). However, the County Council would like to hear the rationale for the zones extending out from Diss to Thetford. This is a significant variation from the projects route, both in terms of direction and distance from the overhead line route, we are keen to hear the reasoning behind this.	Our PCZ has been extended to take account of changes since the 2023 non-statutory consultation, this includes proposed routeing and siting of pylons, construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction. As a result, the numbers included in the PCZ has increased over the previous non-statutory consultation.  Our PCZ for statutory consultation extended to Thetford as one of our proposed secondary access routes used the A1066 from Thetford to Diss.	N
Norfolk County Council	Where possible, the County Council requests early sight of consultations such as the PEIR and NTS ahead of the formal consultation, to allow as much time as possible to assess the documents, prepare our response and go through Council reporting mechanisms. This has worked well to date with NGET, and we are happy to sign non-disclosure agreement (NDA) where requested.	We recognise the Council is keen to see material early. Given the scale of some of the documents, we're likely to be finalising up to the point they're ready for publication.	N
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	It would be helpful to know the webinar dates please.	We have now provided these dates.	N
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils	I suggest it may be helpful to explicitly reference the ESO East Anglia Study in the other developments sections as this has quite a high level of visibility within the affected communities who are anxious to know whether the study outcome will affect the N2T project.	Noted. We've aimed to keep this section focused on live projects but highlight the role of the ESO higher up the document in the section 'About National Grid Group Plc'.	Y

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Colchester City Council	<p>[The proposed social media approach] appears as rather light on a method of engagement that is the primary source of information for much of the population, especially the younger generations that are highly unlikely to be engaged in the process via other means. The omission of Instagram (including Reels), TikTok, YouTube (including YouTube shorts) and Snapchat will significantly reduce the reach of the consultation. These formats have the ability for you to promote the consultation to those other than your existing followers who likely already know about the statutory consultation in any event. There appears to be no reason to prevent feedback through social media channels. This is a highly restrictive approach. Those who engage via social media will want to respond via social media. The Council accepts that there will be responses that are efamatory/inappropriate etc but these simply need to be filtered out.</p>	<p>We recognise the importance of social media for a range of audiences, and its role in driving awareness and engagement on projects such as Norwich to Tilbury. As outlined in the SoCC, we'll make use of the channels we own – X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook – to raise awareness of the consultation and how to get involved. This will include using targeted advertising to reach communities who don't follow our existing channels. We'll monitor any comments we receive on social media, but due to the more restrictive nature (and limited space) of social media to provide feedback, wherever possible we'll point people towards the website, the interactive Project map and our feedback channels. This enables us to ensure we get high quality feedback and that it is captured properly. Our website will also include a series of FAQs we'll monitor and update to address any misinformation or provide clarity.</p> <p>We will hold youth focussed events both in person and online to reach out to these audiences.</p>	Y



Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Colchester City Council	<p>I also have significant concerns regarding the length of the consultation, noting the inevitable scale/length/weight of the PEIR. For Colchester CC in particular the (probable) order limits will pass through (and are also close to) numerous Parishes as the alignment makes its way south from Suffolk to the EACN in Tendring DC and then west to the Braintree DC boundary. It passes right across the Rural North of the City Council administrative area. This means there are a significant amount of Parish Councils that will want to engage with Colchester City Council prior to commenting on the Stat Con. The Council gets 8 weeks to determine a planning application for a residential extension, however we are expected to comment within 10 weeks for a scheme of a scale the LPA has not previously experienced. Further, as is to be expected, CCC will use consultants for matters such as Ecology and the Historic Environment. These consultants are likely to need 8 weeks or more to give due consideration to the PEIR. Clearly this gives the LPA very little time to consider the consultant's response and then draft our response from that. It is not held to be proportionate for CCC to be able to respond to a vast set of documentation in 10 weeks. I note that the only document CCC has had early sight of is the Historic Environment Baseline Report and that is 1613 pages long. A 10 week consultation is not proportionate to the scale of the documentation NG are likely to consult upon and it is not proportionate to the scale of the scheme, be that as a whole or as its impact on the CCC administrative area. The scheme is of a huge scale at both a national and local level. I would therefore request a 12 week consultation period in this instance. The extra two weeks will allow the host LPA's to provide a more thorough response. It is not reasonably likely to impact on your project timeline, in fact it is more likely to provide a more focused response from CCC that in turn will be of more use to you.</p>	<p>Noted. As this is statutory consultation, we are required to hold a consultation of at least 28 days. Recognising this is a complex Project, we've extended this period to 10 weeks.</p>	N
Colchester City Council	<p>Please can I also take this opportunity request invites to Parish webinars in the CCC area and very importantly please can I also be invited to the CCC Elected Members briefing.</p>	<p>Noted. We will issue invitations. The parish webinars will require registration, so we'll issue you a registration link at launch.</p>	N
Brentwood Borough Council	<p>It's noted there are no inspection points within Brentwood Borough, with the nearest being Chelmsford Library. Given the extent of the Project and its potential impact upon the borough, to ensure all the borough's residents have accessible access to view the</p>	<p>Noted. We've previously tried to secure inspection points locally but haven't been able to confirm these at this point. We'll aim to secure space in Brentwood Borough and, if</p>	N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
	consultation documents, we request further consideration be given to the provision of an inspection point within Brentwood Borough (potentially at the Council's Town Hall).	successful, will add the address/details to the Project website.	
	They agree and further the comments made in the Essex CC response about the limitations of the PEIR. Specifically, that the PEIR doesn't go far enough in considering potential impacts the project might have on the environment and mitigation for these.	Thank you for your comments on the PEIR. We note there's not a specific request to change the SoCC but we do recognise the importance of engaging with Brentwood Borough Council on the PEIR. We don't agree with the assessment that the PEIR will contain limited content but will engage with the council during statutory consultation – and in the lead into DCO submission in 2025 to ensure your comments and concerns have been addressed.	N
	It's noted "All responses must be received by 11:59pm on the final day of consultation (6.1.4)". In reference to the consultation closing date. Brentwood Council will be holding local elections in May 2024 that will coincide with the consultation period. This has potential to result in Officers being unable to take a draft consultation response to be endorsed by elected Members at Committee in advance of the consultation end date. Given this we request permission to submit a draft response ahead of the closing date, subject to amendment/endorsement from Members at the next available Committee.	We recognise there are elections in some boroughs / districts in May 2024. We're happy to work with officers during this period. We're also happy to brief any new councillors on the Project and the consultation if required.	N
Chelmsford City Council	Our only suggestion is that site notices should be displayed along the route. Site notices are used for planning applications in Chelmsford so people are familiar with them. They are a good way to inform local people about the exact location of the route "on the ground". Site notices also help to target people who may walk in the area, but not live there and therefore would not necessarily receive a newsletter.	Noted. Site notices will be displayed along the route.	N
Basildon Borough Council	Although Inspection points are no longer statutory, National Grid has confirmed its intention to use them for the pending consultation. As such, a clear explanation of how this geographical spread of coverage was deemed acceptable would be useful. The access to drop-in points and inspection points is somewhat unbalanced. 15 of the 28 drop-in points and inspection points are located within the Ipswich and Colchester postcode areas alone. 4 of the 14 inspection points are libraries within the city of Colchester, in addition to a further 2 inspection points in other towns within that	In developing the list of inspection points we contacted libraries we've previously used and some additional libraries, in some cases we were unable to confirm locations in time. We continue to approach inspection points - particularly in Basildon and Brentwood - and will add new addresses to the Project website. It's also important to note that if people do need hard copy documentation, we can provide that directly.	N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
	<p>borough. This makes little sense given there is no inspection point proposed for either the Basildon or Brentwood Borough Council areas.</p> <p>The nearest such locations are either Chelmsford or Tilbury in the south of Thurrock district, a destination which has no direct public transport service from Basildon.</p>		
Basildon Borough Council	<p>The commentary provided at an all-borough liaison meeting on 28th March by National Grid representatives was not helpful. During the two non-statutory consultation events in 2022 and 2023 National Grid did not limit their venues to local libraries, and an event was hosted at the Basildon Sporting Village in Summer 2023. By way of comparison, if several Local Authorities were working together on a strategy which required formal consultation, it would be expected that every partner borough would host at least one Inspection Point where physical copies of any necessary documents were available. It should be noted that some harder-to-reach groups, including elderly persons, may not have internet access at home.</p>		N
Basildon Borough Council	<p>National Grid want the host local authorities to publish the consultation on their own websites, so, in turn, the Council would encourage National Grid to assess the need for additional inspection points in advance of the statutory consultation period. Residents at the southern end of the route currently appear to face a significant disadvantage in their access to physical documentation.</p>		N
Basildon Borough Council	<p>While, overall, we consider that the approach to consultation should be satisfactory, there is no clarity over the weighting which will then be given to any of the views received. This may lead to accusations of the consultation being a simple 'tick box' exercise rather than a genuine opportunity to influence thinking. This is an important observation and poses questions over the issues which are available to influence. For example, if at this point, National Grid received a range of objections from local residents stating they want underground cabling, would these be completely disregarded? It would also be helpful if the statutory consultation is clear about the possible route alignments which have been considered and then ruled out on for each of the different sections. This is in the interest of transparency.</p>	<p>We don't disregard any feedback, all feedback we receive we will consider and report on as part of the development of a Consultation Report. In the consultation documentation we make it clear what we're looking for feedback on and encourage people to provide their comments on those points, but we don't restrict or ignore comments on any aspect of the Project. We also make it clear how the Project has evolved, including consideration of other options and issues. This information will be contained within the 2024 Design Development Report and the 2024 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review.</p>	N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Basildon Borough Council	The Council would query if National Grid has considered the need to make any support or materials available in languages other than English? The failure to do so may attract some criticism at any future DCO hearings as National Grid may be accused of looking to shut some members of the community out of the process. Local authorities do typically offer the option of translating any documents upon payment of a fee. With reference to pages 15 and 17, the Council would comment that it is unclear why the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the main PEIR should have different availabilities? Surely copies of both the NTS and PEIR should either be free or chargeable, as they are essentially the same document?	We are happy to consider requests for consultation material in different formats, including language. In terms of the allocation of a fee to the main PEIR this is due to the document being a significantly more technical document and therefore much larger. The NTS of the PEIR is designed to be readily available to consultees.	N
Basildon Borough Council	The Council agrees with Essex County Council's observations that there is scope for National Grid to make greater use of social media to engage with local politicians, residents and other stakeholders who will be affected by any new routes being developed as part of "The Great Grid Upgrade", which include Norwich to Tilbury. Social media platforms can help to facilitate two-way dialogue with a wider group of people, and messages can be responded to instantaneously. While consultation responses are not accepted through social media, it is important to note how the extensive use of social media by local politicians does now form an accepted, non-traditional communication route for engagement with the local community. It may, therefore, be beneficial for National Grid to consider a social media strategy.	We recognise the importance of social media for a range of audiences, and its role in driving awareness and engagement on projects such as Norwich to Tilbury. As outlined in the SoCC, we'll make use of the channels we own – X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook – to raise awareness of the consultation and how to get involved. This will include using targeted advertising to reach communities who don't follow our existing channels. We'll monitor any comments we receive on social media, but due to the more restrictive nature (and limited space) of social media to provide feedback, wherever possible we'll point people towards the website, the interactive Project map and our feedback channels. This enables us to ensure we get high quality feedback and that it is captured properly. Our website will also include a series of FAQs we'll monitor and update to address any misinformation or provide clarity.	Y
Basildon Borough Council	There is still very little information provided on what the community benefits are from the proposal. This is disappointing as, based on the Council's own experience of carrying out consultation, we would anticipate that this will be among the first questions that residents raise, and that, as such, offering greater clarity about such points may be of benefit for the project overall. The Council has also raised this observation in its non-statutory consultation responses to date.	We note this isn't a SoCC request, but we note the comment and will continue to engage with councils along the route as we continue to develop the Project.	N

Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Basildon Borough Council	It is noted that the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) which previously covered around 50,000 properties, has now increased by 54% to 77,000. Such a substantial level of increase cannot have arisen solely as a consequence of housing completions throughout the route since 2022. This seems to suggest that, as more of the necessary evidence work has been undertaken, it has become clear that there is a need to include further properties within the scope of the PCZ. It is unclear why such a significant increase in size is only now being considered given that the occupants of some 27,000 properties – equivalent to a medium size town, were not considered as primary consultees for the earlier consultation exercises.	Our PCZ has been extended to take account of changes since the 2023 non-statutory consultation, this includes proposed routeing and siting of pylons, construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction. As a result the numbers included in the PCZ has increased over the previous non-statutory consultation.	N
Thurrock Council	This consultation does not explain the changes clearly since the previous version of the proposal and there still appears to be an absence of plans to show the Order Limits.	The consultation materials - particularly the 2024 Design Development Report and the Project Background Document will outline changes since the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Maps - including the interactive Project map, available on the website - will show the order limits.	N
Thurrock Council	Page 10, table 4.1: Consideration of statutory feedback – there is no mention here of feeding back to those that have provided comments with what has changed as a result, could this be added in?	All feedback received at this statutory consultation will be reported on and responded to within the Consultation Report developed as part of our DCO submission. We'll also publish a 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report at statutory consultation launch that details the feedback received at the 2023 non-statutory consultation and how we considered it.	N
Thurrock Council	Page 20 – inspection points – could we add East Tilbury library too – so there are two in Thurrock or Chadwell Library as both look to be inside the PCZ	Noted. We've approached Chadwell and East Tilbury libraries and if we can secure space we will publish the details on our Project website.	N
Thurrock Council	Page 22 – nothing about local press – this may be the responsibility of each LA area but it would be helpful to have that listed and add communications leads perhaps within the Emails and Letters section or its suggest CEO at each authority too, not just elected members to disseminate to officers as needed. Sending to members may not make its way to officers quickly.	We have added Thurrock Advertiser to our media list to ensure coverage in Thurrock. At launch we will be notifying councillors as well as officers and can extend that to include the CEO.	Y



Council	Comment	Regard had / response	SoCC amended
Thurrock Council	Page 23 – Information posters sent to Parish councils – we don't have them in Thurrock, what is the alternative to ensure we get Community Forums included?	No amendment to the SoCC, however on 10 April we emailed Thurrock Community Forums with a copy of the consultation poster attached.	N
Thurrock Council	Finally, there is also a lack of information about how the scheme is going to use social media which covers such a wide audience and should be included.	We recognise the importance of social media for a range of audiences, and its role in driving awareness and engagement on projects such as Norwich to Tilbury. As outlined in the SoCC, we'll make use of the channels we own – X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook – to raise awareness of the consultation and how to get involved. This will include using targeted advertising to reach communities who don't follow our existing channels. We'll monitor any comments we receive on social media, but due to the more restrictive nature (and limited space) of social media to provide feedback, wherever possible we'll point people towards the website, the interactive Project map and our feedback channels. This enables us to ensure we get high quality feedback and that it is captured properly. Our website will also include a series of FAQs we'll monitor and update to address any misinformation or provide clarity.	Y

# Appendix E9

## Final SoCC

The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

# Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

April 2024

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several high-voltage electricity pylons and power lines stretching across a landscape under a dramatic, orange-hued sky at sunset or sunrise. The pylons are silhouetted against the bright sky, and the power lines create a series of diagonal lines across the frame.  
nationalgrid

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1.

This document is a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) which sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“National Grid”) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Project (referred to here as the proposed “Project”). National Grid proposes to provide a new link to the transmission system by upgrading and reinforcing the electricity transmission system in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex specifically).
- 1.1.2.

National Grid expects the proposed Project to be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “SoS”) via a Development Consent Order (“DCO”). This document has been prepared in line with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Planning Act”), which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be located, from here called “the local community” about the proposed application, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement. As the proposed Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development, this SoCC therefore also sets out how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).
- 1.1.3.

In developing the SoCC, we consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities:

  - **Norfolk County Council**
  - **Suffolk County Council**
  - **Essex County Council**
  - **Thurrock Council**
  - **South Norfolk District Council**
  - **Mid Suffolk District Council**
  - **Babergh District Council**
  - **Tendring District Council**
  - **Colchester City Council**
  - **Braintree District Council**
  - **Chelmsford City Council**
  - **Brentwood Borough Council**
  - **Basildon Borough Council.**

## 1.2. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1.

The proposed Project is expected to be classified as an NSIP under Section 14(1)(b) and Section 16(1)(a) of the Planning Act because it comprises new above ground electricity transmission connections of more than 2 km, with an operating voltage of above 132 kilovolt (“kV”). National Grid intends to submit an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 37 of the Planning Act.
- 1.2.2.

The application for a DCO will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, who appoints an Examining Authority to examine the application on behalf of the SoS. The Examining Authority will provide a recommendation to the SoS, who will ultimately decide whether to grant development consent for the proposed Project.
- 1.2.3.

Before submitting an application, the Planning Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land where the Project is proposed to be located and prescribed stakeholders.
- 1.2.4.

Early involvement of communities, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information about the potential effects of the proposed Project, where feedback from consultees can help shape the Project’s development.
- 1.2.5.

Early involvement also ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into our designs before an application for a DCO is submitted.

## 1.3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 1.3.1.

The proposed Project is an ‘EIA Development’. On 7 November 2022, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the SoS for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy<sup>1</sup>, to inform the EIA for the proposed Project.
- 1.3.2.

Within the Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal written notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the proposed Project will require (and that National Grid will in due course provide) an Environmental Statement in respect of the Project and it is considered to be an ‘EIA Development’.
- 1.3.3.

A scoping opinion for the proposed Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the SoS) on 14 December 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Predecessor to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, which was formed on 7 February 2023.

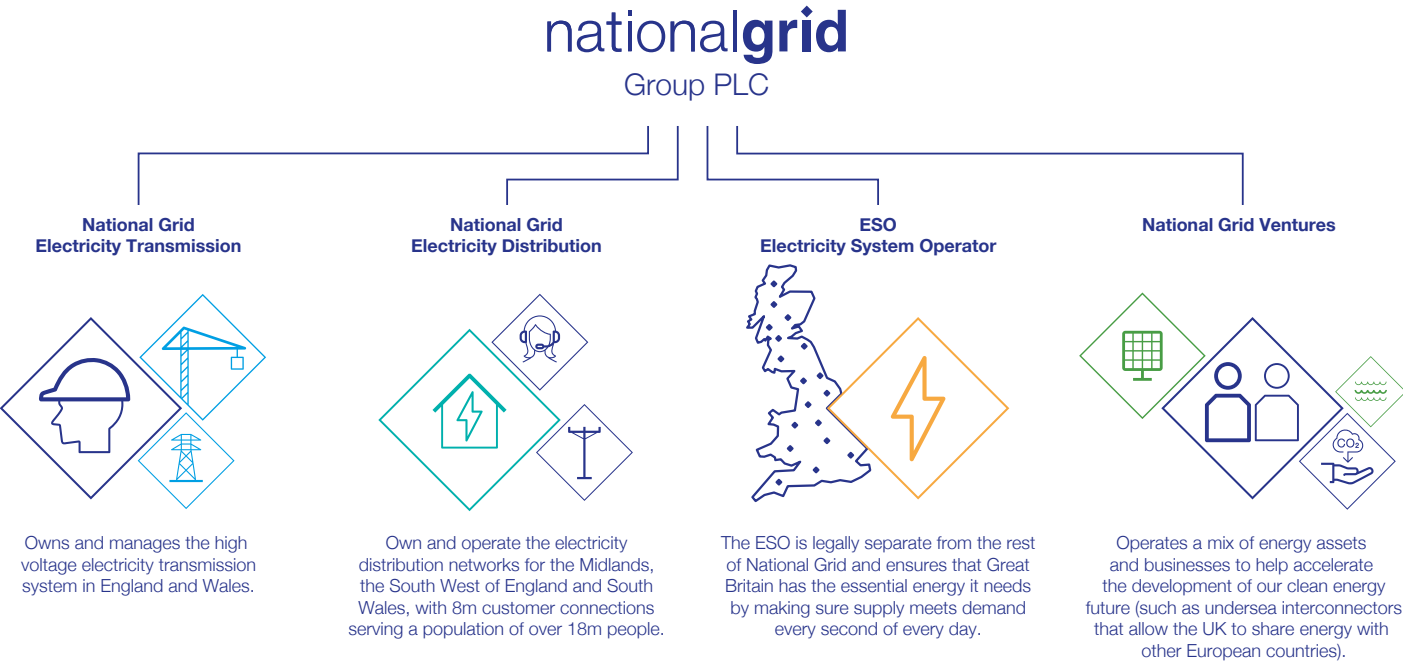
## 1.4. About National Grid Group PLC

- 1.4.1.

National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light, and power we bring to our customers’ homes and businesses; in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair, and affordable energy future.
- 1.4.2.

Within the wider National Grid PLC group of companies there are four separate legal entities, each with their own roles and responsibilities. The structure of the National Grid PLC group of companies is available in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Structure of the wider National Grid PLC group of companies





- 1.4.3.

National Grid Electricity Transmission (referred to here as National Grid), holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. National Grid owns, builds, and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country. It is National Grid that is developing the proposals for the Norwich to Tilbury Project.
- 1.4.4.

National Grid Electricity Distribution owns and operates the distribution networks for the Midlands, the southwest of England and south Wales.
- 1.4.5.

National Grid ESO is the Electricity System Operator (“ESO”) which operates the transmission network in Great Britain, including the networks in Scotland owned by Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks. ESO manages the network, ensuring the right amount of energy is provided where it is needed. In April 2019, ESO became a legally separate business within the National Grid PLC group and is regulated independently by Ofgem.
- 1.4.6.

The Energy Act 2023 legislated for the creation of a Future Systems Operator which will replace ESO in the future. In January 2024, ESO announced that the Future Systems Operator would be called the National Energy Systems Operator (“NESO”), which will be founded on the current activities of ESO and take a whole system approach to strengthen energy security, help deliver the Government’s Net Zero legislative agenda and ensure household bills are affordable in the long term.
- 1.4.7.

National Grid Ventures is the unregulated commercial arm of the National Grid PLC group, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors – connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.
- 1.4.8.

National Grid has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989. This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.
- 1.4.9.

In developing proposals that affect the transmission system (including proposals to reinforce the network to accommodate new connections), National Grid is required to consider relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs). The NPSs relevant to the proposed Project are the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). The National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) also includes support for the onshore infrastructure required to deliver new offshore wind development. These NPSs came into force in January 2024.
- 1.4.10.

National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to preserve amenity, as outlined below:  
  
*Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and*  
  
*Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.’*
- 1.4.11.

How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/81026/download>

## 2. The Project

### 2.1. Project introduction

- 2.1.1.

The Project is a proposal by National Grid to provide a new link on the transmission system by upgrading and reinforcing the electricity transmission system in East Anglia between Norwich and Tilbury.
- 2.1.2.

The proposed Project would include the construction of a new 400 kV electricity transmission connection to reinforce the system to increase the capacity of the transmission network in this area. The current draft proposals for the Project that are being consulted on include approximately 159 km of new overhead lines and 25 km of underground cabling between the Norwich Main and Bramford substations in the northern part of the route, and from
- 2.1.3.

An alternative design at the Waveney Valley is also being considered and is the subject of consultation and ongoing assessment, which would comprise approximately 2 km fewer overhead lines and an additional 2 km of underground cabling.
- 2.1.4.

All of this work forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade – National Grid’s programme to deliver over five times the amount of electricity transmission infrastructure in the next seven years than has been built in the past 30 years.
- Bramford to Tilbury substations in the southern part of the route, as well as a new 400 kV substation.

### 2.2. Project background and need

- 2.2.1.

The increase in renewable energy generation, in line with the UK Government’s Net Zero legislative agenda, is driving the need to expand the capacity of National Grid’s transmission system.
- 2.2.2.

Great Britain already has 8.5 gigawatts (“GW”) of offshore wind energy in operation, and another 1.9 GW under construction. The Government’s Energy White Paper<sup>3</sup> (December 2020) outlines a plan to increase energy from offshore wind to 40 GW by 2030 (this Government target was increased in April 2022 to 50 GW) and this Project would support in achieving this target.
- 2.2.3.

New connections for new offshore wind and nuclear power generation projects and for interconnectors into East Anglia are expected to continue in addition to the current contracted position.
- 2.2.4.

These new connections are being constructed or are expected to connect into substations at Necton, Norwich Main, Bramford, Friston and Sizewell. Additionally, connection agreements are in place with two offshore wind farm projects and one interconnector based on their connections into a new East Anglia Connection Node substation. National Grid has a duty to facilitate new connections and maintain a safe National Electricity Transmission System (“NETS”) and has considered the capability of the existing network to support such connections. This assessment considered various published Future Energy Scenarios (a range of scenarios which seek to address the uncertainty that exists over such an extended planning horizon) to consider network capability relative to the expected connection requirements.

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future-accessible-html-version](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future-accessible-html-version)

- 2.2.5.

Much of East Anglia’s 400 kV electricity transmission network was built in the 1960s. It was designed to supply regional demand, centred around Norwich and Ipswich. With the growth in new energy generation from offshore wind, nuclear power and interconnection with other countries, there will be more electricity connected in East Anglia than the network can currently accommodate.
- 2.2.6.

As a result, and to meet its duties, National Grid needs to reinforce the electricity network to allow power to be imported to, and exported from, East Anglia and to provide additional capability to allow power flows into and out of the south east area to connect with areas of demand and interconnectors to Europe.
- 2.2.7.

The proposed Project could also connect new offshore wind farms off the Essex coast to the electricity transmission network and a European interconnector. Two offshore wind farms, the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, and the Tarchon Energy interconnector (from Germany) have been proposed. If consented, they are expected to be operational by the end of the decade.

3. Consultation and engagement to date

- 3.1.1.

National Grid is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the proposed Project, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.
- 3.1.2.

National Grid’s approach to engagement in support of the proposed Project is to carry out both non-statutory and statutory consultation guided by the requirements of the Planning Act.
- 3.1.3.

The first non-statutory consultation was held between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022. This was followed by a second non-statutory consultation held between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023. These are now being followed by statutory consultation as set out in **Section 5**.
- 3.1.4.

At the first non-statutory consultation, National Grid presented a broad swathe within which new infrastructure (pylons and underground cables) could be located as well as a proposed new substation site on the Tendring Peninsula. Following the conclusion of this consultation, we analysed the feedback received and, along with further technical studies and design work, developed the project design ahead of the second non-statutory consultation.
- 3.1.5.

At the second non-statutory consultation, National Grid presented a preferred draft indicative alignment showing potential pylon positions, underground cables, cable sealing end (“CSE”) compounds and connection substations. The feedback received at this consultation was combined with our ongoing environmental assessments and technical studies to help identify the proposals presented at statutory consultation.

- 3.1.6.

At both non-statutory consultations National Grid sought to identify and understand the views and opinions of all the stakeholders and communities who may potentially be affected by the proposed Project. National Grid consulted with stakeholders at an early stage to ensure technical advice and local knowledge was taken into account in the early development of the Project. These stakeholders included local councils, elected representatives, local residents, hard-to-reach groups, and local interest groups.
- 3.1.7.

National Grid gave the stakeholders and local community digital and non-digital opportunities to engage with the proposals through a dedicated website, public events and webinar events as well as via email, phone and Freepost. At the launch of both non-statutory consultations, National Grid wrote to all homes within a 1 km Primary Consultation Zone (“PCZ”) of the proposals – around 50,000 addresses – and placed adverts in local papers and on social media. The PCZ included people whose property postcodes lie within 1 km of the Project boundary presented at both consultations. This includes the graduated swathe presented at the 2022 non-statutory consultation and the preferred draft indicative alignment presented at the 2023 non-statutory consultation. Paper copies of the key consultation documents were also placed at information points in publicly accessible venues – libraries and, where possible, council offices – along the route. Alternative formats of the documents were available on request.
- 3.1.8.

More information on both non-statutory consultations and how the feedback received at both non-statutory consultations helped influence and shape the proposals to date can be found in the 2022 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report and the 2023 Non-statutory Consultation Feedback Report. These are available on the Project’s website<sup>4</sup>.
- 3.1.9.

Methods used to raise further awareness of the proposed Project ahead of the statutory consultation period have included:
  - issuing an interim newsletter to all addresses within the 2023 PCZ providing an update following the 2023 non-statutory consultation (issued in December 2023)
  - offering to brief and update elected representatives, local interest groups, local planning authority officers and hard-to-reach groups about the current status of the Project, plans for the forthcoming statutory consultation, and how people can get involved
  - engagement with the local media to raise awareness of the Project and each phase of consultation
  - providing updates to the Project website when new information is available.
- 3.1.10.

More detail on the methods National Grid will use to publicise the statutory consultation is provided in **Section 5.5**.

<sup>4</sup> [www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury](https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury)

## 4. Project timeline

- 4.1.1.

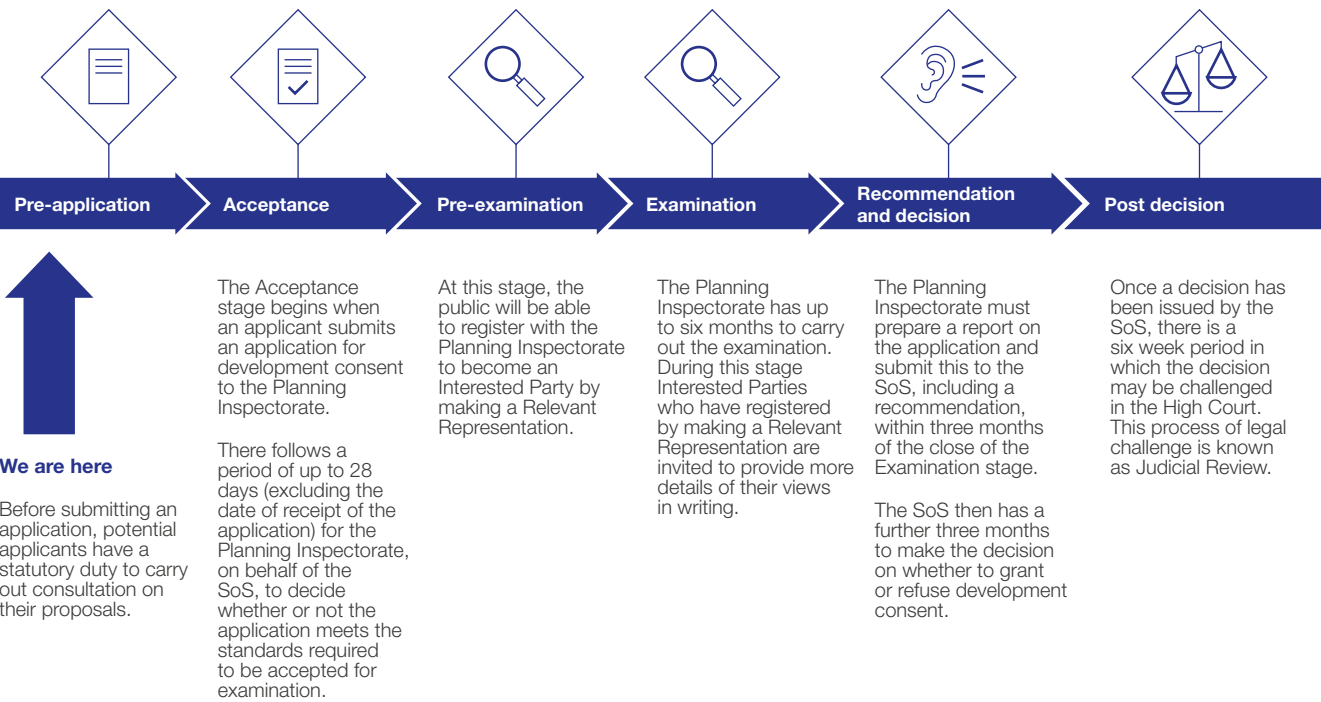
The proposed Project is currently in the pre-application stage of the national infrastructure planning process. Table 4.1 sets out the milestones for each stage of the proposed Project and indicative dates from pre-application consultation through to construction.
- 4.1.2.

Figure 4.1 sets out the DCO consenting process.

Table 4.1: Project milestones

Stage
<b>Non-statutory consultation</b> – We held a period of non-statutory consultation between 21 April 2022 and 16 June 2022.
<b>Consideration of 2022 non-statutory consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation to inform the design of the proposed Project.
<b>Non-statutory consultation</b> – We held a second non-statutory consultation between 27 June 2023 and 21 August 2023.
<b>Consideration of 2023 non-statutory consultation feedback</b> – We reviewed and had regard to feedback received during non-statutory consultation to inform the design of the proposed Project.
<b>Statutory consultation</b> – We will consult the local community and statutory consultees (as outlined in Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act) on the draft proposals.
<b>Consideration of 2024 statutory consultation feedback</b> – We will review and have regard to the feedback received from the statutory consultation and finalise the proposed design. We will also continue engagement with stakeholders prior to submission of our DCO application.
<b>Application submission</b> – We plan to submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, has up to 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.
<b>Examination</b> – If the application is accepted, it will go through a six-month examination period. Prior to this period, stakeholders can register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an ‘Interested Party’ by making what is called a ‘Relevant Representation’. Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing during this phase. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority, including to all relevant and written representations, and supporting evidence. The Examining Authority is the Inspector or the Panel of Inspectors appointed to conduct the Examination of the application for the DCO.
<b>Recommendation and Decision</b> – The Examining Authority must prepare a report on the application and submit this to the SoS, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of Examination. The SoS has a further three months to make a decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.
<b>Post-decision</b> – Once a decision has been issued by the SoS, there is a six-week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court, known as Judicial Review. If granted development consent, construction could begin in 2026.

Figure 4.1: The DCO process





# 5. Consulting on the proposed application

## 5.1. How long will statutory consultation be?

5.1.1. The statutory consultation (under Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act) will run for ten weeks.

## 5.2. What proposals will be consulted on?

- 5.2.1.

The proposed Project comprises a major reinforcement and upgrade of the Electricity Transmission System in East Anglia and is illustrated as a map of the Project area in **Figure 5.1**. This figure shows the geographical extent of the proposed Project boundary.
- 5.2.2.

Overall location plans will be used to describe sections of the proposed Project and will be provided during the statutory consultation, consistent with how the Project has previously been presented.
- 5.2.3.

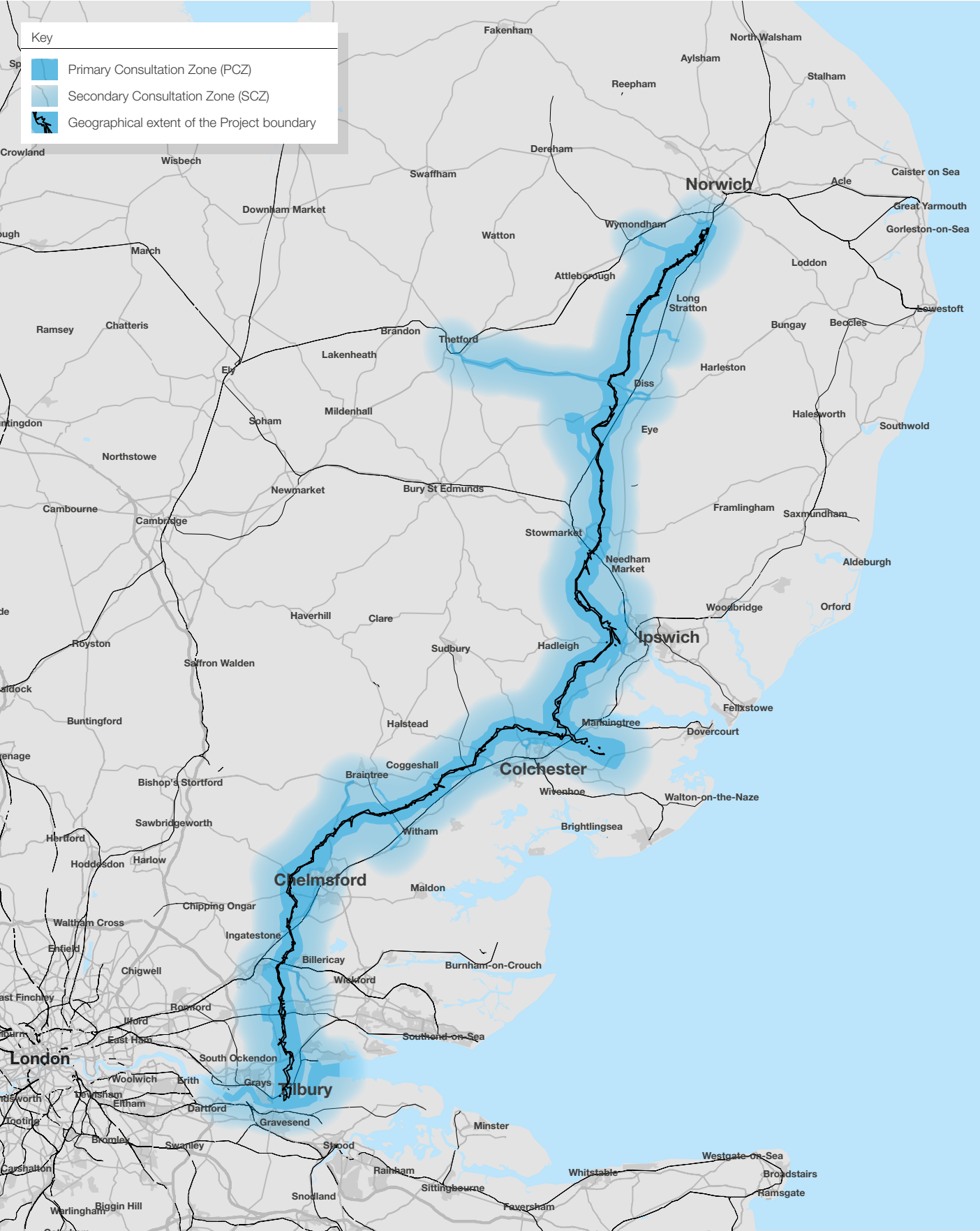
National Grid will consult on all aspects of the proposed development for the Project, including:

- approximately 159 km of new 400 kV overhead line supported on approximately 510 steel lattice pylons (approximately 50 m in height) some of which are gantries (typically up to 15 m in height) within proposed CSEs compounds, or existing or proposed substations
  - approximately 25 km of 400 kV underground cabling some of which is located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape (formerly known as Dedham Vale AONB)
- six new CSE compounds, each with a permanent access, to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables
  - a new 400 kV East Anglia Connection Node (“EACN”) substation, with a new permanent access, on the Tendring Peninsula. This is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (“AIS”) substation
  - substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation to connect and support operation of the new transmission connection
  - temporary works associated with construction of the Project.

- An alternative design at the Waveney Valley (referred to as the Waveney Valley Alternative) is also being considered and is the subject of consultation and ongoing assessment. This design alternative, if taken forward, would result in changes to those elements of the Project set out below. This would instead comprise:
    - installation of approximately 157 km of new 400 kV overhead line.
    - installation of approximately 27 km of 400 kV underground cabling (some of which is located through the Dedham Vale National Landscape.
    - eight new CSE compounds (each with a permanent access) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.
  - All other works not listed above would be consistent with either alternative.
  - In other words, the Waveney Valley Alternative, if taken forward and based on the 2024 preferred draft alignment would comprise approximately 2 km less new 400 kV overhead line and approximately an additional 2 km of 400 kV underground cabling and 2 additional new CSE compounds, each with a permanent access, to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.
  - In addition, third party utilities diversions and / or modifications would also be required to facilitate the construction of the Project. There would also be land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment including Biodiversity Net Gain (“BNG”).
  - As well as the permanent infrastructure, land would also be required temporarily for construction activities including for example working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and temporary construction access.
- 5.2.4.

The Project as currently proposed is an EIA development and therefore we will also consult on preliminary environmental information as part of this statutory consultation in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”). We will make the PEIR available on the Project website during statutory consultation, as well as a non-technical summary of the PEIR. We will seek views on the information in those documents.
- The Project would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with applicable health and safety legislation. The Project would also need to comply with design safety standards including the NETS Security and Quality of Supply Standard (“SQSS”), which sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the NETS. This informs a suite of National Grid policies and processes, which contain details on design standards required to be met when designing, constructing and operating assets such as proposed for the Project.

Figure 5.1: Map of Project area



5.3. Who will be consulted?

- 5.3.1.

The consultation will be open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project, and National Grid will have regard to all consultation responses received by the relevant deadline.
- 5.3.2.

Under Section 47 of the Planning Act, we have a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land, i.e., the local community. In consultation with the local authorities set out in **Section 1.1.3** we have developed a PCZ for the distribution of our Community Newsletter, as shown in Appendix A.
- 5.3.3.

The PCZ includes people and businesses with property postcodes within 1 km of the proposed Project’s red line boundary (representing the anticipated extent of land in which the proposed Project may take place). The zone has changed since the last round of consultation as a result of feedback and environmental studies as well as the inclusion of information such as construction access, compounds, laydown areas and the traffic routes we propose to use during construction. This latest zone amounts to approximately 77,000 addresses. Where appropriate, the PCZ has been extended to include whole streets and postcodes rather than the 1 km boundary dissecting hamlets or neighbourhoods.
- 5.3.4.

An additional wider Secondary Consultation Zone (“SCZ”) has been developed, comprising a 4 km buffer around the red line boundary, whereby wider publicity of the proposed Project will take place. The SCZ can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.3.5.

Communities within the PCZ and SCZ will be notified about the consultation via methods outlined in **Section 5.5**.
- 5.3.6.

As well as properties and businesses within the PCZ, we will also consult with various groups and individuals including parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ and relevant host and neighbouring local authorities defined under Section 43 of the Planning Act.
- 5.3.7.

In addition to the local community, we will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and Section 43 of the Planning Act. We will also consult persons who fall within Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the Planning Act.



5.4. Consultation Materials

5.4.1. Table 5.1 sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the proposed Project and provide their feedback.

Table 5.1: Consultation materials

Document	Description	Target audience
Project Background Document	This document will provide a summary of the proposed Project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the background to the Project</li><li>information about design changes as a result of the 2023 non-statutory consultation</li><li>information about potential benefits and impacts of the proposed Project</li><li>how we might propose to mitigate any significant effects</li><li>signposts for readers to more detailed information reports and how to provide feedback on the Project.</li></ul>	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.
		National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.
Community Newsletter 2024	The newsletter will set out the proposed Project information, details about the consultation, an overview map of the proposed Project area and how to provide feedback, along with a list of engagement activities throughout the consultation period.	<p>All residents and businesses with properties within the PCZ.</p> <p>The Community Newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. It will be published on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.</p> <p>National Grid will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.</p>

Document	Description	Target audience
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR will contain a description of the proposed Project, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed Project based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to reduce these effects and how we propose to maximise the benefits of the proposed Project.  A non-technical summary (“NTS”) of the PEIR will also be made available.	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		The PEIR will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.
		The NTS will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request (subject to availability), at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.
2024 Design Development Report	An in-depth technical document detailing the work we have undertaken to date, focusing on the work since the 2023 non-statutory consultation.	Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
		All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.
2024 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review	Providing an updated overview of the appraisal approach we have used to date to consider strategic options. These are reviewed and backchecked on as part of the ongoing strategic options assessment and decision-making process.	Paper copies of the Design Development Report 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
		All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.
2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report	Summarising the feedback we received during the 2023 non-statutory consultation and how it has been considered.	Paper copies of the Strategic Options Backcheck and Review 2024 can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.
		All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).
		This document will be available on the Project website, and available to view in paper copy at public information events.
		Paper copies of the 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.

Document	Description	Target audience
Project maps / Project area maps	A series of maps and plans showing the extent of the proposed Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy at public information events.</p>
Consultation banners	A series of exhibition banners with information relating to the proposed Project that will be used at the public information events.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information events and will also be made available on the Project website.</p>
Interactive Project map	An interactive map of the proposed Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The interactive Project map will be made available on the Project website and on screen at the public information events, subject to technical constraints.</p>
Consultation notices	We will publish notices with details of the consultation and provide to statutory consultees as required under Section 48 of the Planning Act.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>These will be available on the Project website and available to view in paper copy on request.</p>
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC sets out how National Grid intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents, businesses and local communities ahead of its application for development consent for the Project.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The SoCC will be published on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in Table 5.2 and at public information events.</p> <p>As required under Section 47 of the Planning Act, notice of the SoCC will also be published in local newspapers.</p>
Feedback questionnaire	An online and paper feedback questionnaire to gather responses to the statutory consultation.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The feedback questionnaire will be available on the Project website, and available in paper copy on request and at inspection points listed in <b>Table 5.2</b> and at public information events.</p> <p>Paper copies can be returned free of charge using a Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T).</p>
Guide to Interacting with our Consultation Plans	A guide outlining the consultation maps and plans, and how to use them.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>Section 5.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>This document will be available on the Project website and available in paper copy on request and at public information events.</p>

- 5.4.2.

National Grid will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in Table 5.1 in alternative formats on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.
- 5.4.3.

All consultation materials will also be available on the Project's website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements.
- 5.4.4.

Table 5.2 sets out how we will make the consultation documents available.

Table 5.2: Methods to make consultation documents available.

Activity	Detail
Project website	<p>All consultation documents will be hosted on the Project website throughout the consultation period. We will provide the following local authorities with a link to all the consultation documents:</p> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Norfolk County Council</li><li>Suffolk County Council</li><li>Essex County Council</li><li>Thurrock Council</li><li>South Norfolk District Council</li><li>Mid Suffolk District Council</li><li>Babergh District Council</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tendring District Council</li><li>Colchester City Council</li><li>Braintree District Council</li><li>Chelmsford City Council</li><li>Brentwood Borough Council</li><li>Basildon Borough Council.</li></ul></div></div> <p>Paper copies of selected consultation documents will also be available by request, free of charge. Paper copies of the PEIR can be provided on request. This may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.</p>
Inspection points	<p>While no longer a statutory requirement, in addition to being available online, we will seek to ensure the Community Newsletter, Project Background Document, NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and feedback questionnaire are available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period.</p> <div><div><p><b>Long Stratton Library</b> The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ</p><p><b>Norwich Library</b> Unit 3, The Forum Millenium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW</p><p><b>Tuckswood Library</b> Robin Hood Road, Eaton, NR4 6BX</p><p><b>Diss Library</b> Church Street, Diss, IP22 4DD</p><p><b>Stowmarket Library</b> Milton Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1EX</p><p><b>Capel St Mary Library</b> Village Hall, The Street, Capel St. Mary IP9 2EF</p><p><b>Coggeshall Library</b> The Friends Meeting House, Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH</p></div><div><p><b>Chelmsford Library</b> Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH</p><p><b>Colchester Library</b> Trinity Square, Colchester CO1 1JB</p><p><b>Tilbury Library</b> Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD</p><p><b>Greenstead Library</b> Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE</p><p><b>Stanway Library</b> 10, Villa Road, Stanway CO3 0RH</p><p><b>Prettygate Library</b> Prettygate Road, Colchester CO3 4EQ</p><p><b>Wivenhoe Library</b> 104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB</p></div></div> <p>Prior to attending these locations, it is advised that opening hours are checked. We will check that consultation documentation remains at the inspection points throughout the consultation period. We will also try to use local websites to act as public inspection points, by requesting they host a link to the Project website. These may include the following:</p> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>local authority websites</li><li>local library websites</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>parish websites</li><li>MP websites</li></ul></div></div>

Activity	Detail
Document requests	<p>Following the launch of the statutory consultation, consultees will be able to request paper copies of consultation documents. The documents that will be made available, on request, free of charge will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community Newsletter</li><li>Project Background Document</li><li>Feedback questionnaire</li><li>NTS of the PEIR. Requests for paper copies of the technical documents forming the PEIR will be reviewed on a case by-case basis</li><li>SoCC.</li></ul> <p>Paper copies of other consultation documents will also be available on request. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £500 for the whole suite of consultation documents. Requests can be made by contacting us using the details provided in <b>Section 6.1</b>. We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents on a case by case basis.</p>
Public information events	<p>Paper copies of the consultation documents will be available for review at the public information events.</p> <p>More detail on the public events is available in <b>Section 5.6</b>.</p>

5.5. Promoting the consultation

- 5.5.1. Residents, local businesses and community organisations within the PCZ will be notified of the start of the consultation in a variety of ways, including through a Community Newsletter, as outlined in Table 5.1 above. A map showing the PCZ (approximately 77,000 addresses) can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.5.2. A range of other methods will be used to promote the consultation to local communities, as set out in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Promotion methods

Method	Detail
Press release	<div><div>A press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation. The distribution list is likely to include the following media:</div><div><div><div><div>• Basildon Standard</div><div>• BBC Look East</div><div>• BBC Radio Essex</div><div>• BBC Radio Norfolk</div><div>• BBC Radio Suffolk</div><div>• Basildon Standard</div><div>• Basildon, Canvey, Southend Echo</div><div>• Braintree and Witham Times</div><div>• Brentwood Gazette</div><div>• Brentwood Live</div><div>• Brentwood Weekly News</div><div>• Bury Free Press</div></div><div><div>• Bury Mercury</div><div>• Chelmsford Weekly News</div><div>• Dereham Times</div><div>• Diss Express</div><div>• Diss Mercury</div><div>• Dunmow Broadcast</div><div>• East Anglian Daily Times</div><div>• Eastern Daily Press</div><div>• Essex Chronicle</div><div>• Essex Focus</div><div>• Essex Live</div><div>• Thurrock Advertiser.</div></div></div><div>The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and the SCZ, as well as further afield.</div></div></div>
Newspaper advertisements	<div><div>Two rounds of newspaper advertisements will be undertaken during the consultation. Advertisements will provide details of the consultation, where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the engagement activities.</div><div>Advertisements will be placed in both print and digital publications to ensure wider coverage within and beyond the PCZ and SCZ. We will place adverts in the following titles:<div><div>• East Anglian Daily Times</div><div>• Eastern Daily Press</div><div>• Essex Chronicle.</div></div></div></div>

Method	Detail
Emails and letters	<div><div>We will send, via email, letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</div><div><div><div><div>• MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone.</div><div>• Elected representatives within the PCZ at:<div><div>• Norfolk County Council</div><div>• Suffolk County Council</div><div>• Essex County Council</div><div>• Thurrock Council</div><div>• South Norfolk District Council</div></div></div></div><div><div>• Mid Suffolk District Council</div><div>• Babergh District Council</div><div>• Tendring District Council</div><div>• Colchester City Council</div><div>• Braintree District Council</div><div>• Chelmsford City Council</div><div>• Brentwood Borough Council</div><div>• Basildon Borough Council</div><div>• Parish Councils within the PCZ</div></div></div></div></div>
Statutory notices	<div><div>• We will publish statutory notices in locally circulating newspapers</div><div>• We will publicise the consultation – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers.</div></div>
Information posters	<div><div>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be sent to each parish council within the PCZ.</div></div>
Social media	<div><div>We will promote the consultation on National Grid UK’s X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook account, @NationalGridUK.</div><div>We will also develop a social media guide for local authorities to use on their social media channels. This guide will include links for the Project website.</div><div>We are unable to accept feedback through social media channels, however, we will monitor comments or questions we receive through our owned channels and respond where practicable. We will aim to point people towards sources of information, including the Project website, the interactive Project map and to formal feedback channels.</div></div>

- 5.5.3. Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and advertised in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the proposed Project.
- Any activity changes will also be published on the Project website and on National Grid UK’s X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts @NationalGridUK.

5.6. Public information events

- 5.6.1.

Public information events will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project team. The events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.
- 5.6.2.

Details of where and when the public information events will be held will be published on the Project website and in the Community Newsletter sent to all properties within the PCZ and available at inspection points.
- 5.6.3.

The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and at least one will be held on a weekend, where feasible.
- 5.6.4.

Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each event. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.
- 5.6.5.

Those attending the public information events will be encouraged to provide their feedback via the online or paper feedback questionnaire on the proposals.
- 5.6.6.

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(ies).

5.7. Webinars

- 5.7.1.

We will try to hold six webinars during the consultation period. We will run two general overview webinars and four that are section specific. People will be able to sign up to the webinars via the Project website, or by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in **Section 6.1**.
- 5.7.2.

The sessions will cover the proposals in detail and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Project team.
- 5.7.3.

National Grid will endeavor to make British Sign Language interpretation available for one of the general overview webinars which will be recorded and published on the Project website.

5.8. Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 5.8.1.

National Grid will offer briefings and / or meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:
  - MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone.
  - Elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ.
  - Parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ.
  - Local authorities, including neighbouring authorities.
  - Key prescribed consultees, such as National Landscapes (formerly known as AONB) conservation boards.
  - Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under Sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act.
- 5.8.2.

National Grid will consider meetings with other organisations and individuals upon request.



5.9. Hard-to-reach / seldom heard groups

- 5.9.1.

National Grid wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Hard-to-reach and seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 5.9.2.

To allow people to engage with the proposed Project and the consultation at their own convenience, we have taken a 'digital first' approach to consultation. This allows individuals and groups to take part even if they cannot make an event. The online webinar and Project website is open and accessible to anyone to attend and ask questions of the Project team. Information will be available on the website and people are encouraged to submit feedback using the online feedback questionnaire. Those engaging with the Project can also ask questions and find out more by contacting National Grid by using the contact details set out in **Section 6.1**.
- 5.9.3.

For those less able or less comfortable engaging digitally, we have developed consultation 'in person' aspects to be as accessible as possible, with the focus on ensuring events are accessible and held over several days in different locations to encourage attendance. We will also seek to ensure there is adequate parking and venues are accessible via public transport.
- 5.9.4.

Inspection points have also been identified based on their accessibility and availability for people wanting to access Project information.
- 5.9.5.

We also recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulty taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified several organisations representing hard to reach or seldom heard groups. These organisations will be written to, via email, at the start of consultation. Requests for specific additional consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that our activities best meet the needs of those it represents.
- 5.9.6.

On request, we will also consider providing materials in alternative formats. We will endeavor to provide British Sign Language signing at one of our webinars.
- 5.9.7.

Table 5.4 sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage hard to reach/seldom heard groups during the consultation.

Table 5.4: Hard to reach and seldom heard group engagement tools

Group category	Methods to be used
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary.</li><li>• Face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route.</li><li>• Webinar events for people unable to attend in-person events.</li><li>• Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.</li><li>• Engaging with community groups serving the demographic.</li><li>• Providing paper copies of materials at inspection point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online.</li></ul>
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On request, audio guide of consultation banners.</li><li>• Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.</li><li>• Options to enlarge text on the Project's website.</li></ul>
People with limited mobility / disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary.</li><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>• Consideration of alternative formats on a case-by-case basis.</li><li>• Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Virtual webinar sessions for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs.</li><li>• Endeavouring to provide a British Sign Language interpreter at one of our webinars.</li></ul>
Youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online engagement and provision of the Project website.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield. Face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Contacting local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Provision of a youth webinar forum during consultation.</li></ul>

Group category	Methods to be used
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li><li>• Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online engagement</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li><li>• Options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li></ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Face-to-face public information events and webinar sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project.</li><li>• Online engagement opportunities through the consultation website and webinars to negate the need for travel.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Locally under-represented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emailing community groups representing under-represented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li></ul>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endeavouring to provide consultation materials in alternative languages upon reasonable request.</li></ul>
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contacting community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Social media and newspaper advertising across the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li></ul>
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li><li>• Directly mailing the Community Newsletter to all properties within the PCZ and providing details of how to access digital and paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post if needed.</li><li>• Advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ, SCZ and further afield.</li><li>• Providing paper copies of materials at inspection point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send selected consultation documents to those who are unable to access the material online.</li></ul>

## 6. Responding to the consultation

### 6.1. Methods of responding

6.1.1.	People will be able to submit their feedback in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completing the feedback questionnaire online via the Project website: <a href="https://nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury">nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury</a></li><li>• Providing feedback by email (<a href="mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com">contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com</a>) or in writing (FREEPOST N TO T).</li><li>• Completing a paper feedback questionnaire, which can be provided on request, at one of the designated inspection points, or completed in person at the face-to-face events. The questionnaire can be returned free-of-charge using the Freepost address: FREEPOST N TO T (please write this in capitals, you do not need a stamp).</li></ul>	6.1.4.	All responses must be received by 11:59pm on the final day of consultation.
6.1.2.	Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, may not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.	6.1.5.	All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
6.1.3.	Responses given orally, such as via telephone or in a meeting, may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.	6.1.6.	More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents will be made available in the consultation feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.

6.2. Presenting the results

- 6.2.1.

Following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where appropriate, refined in light of feedback.
- 6.2.2.

The proposed DCO application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act.
- 6.2.3.

A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for a DCO, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for a DCO.
- 6.2.4.

Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.
- 6.2.5.

Upon receipt of an application for a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 6.2.6.

The Consultation Report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for a DCO has been accepted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and may be subject to a charge to cover printing and postage fees.

6.3. Further consultation

- 6.3.1.

If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant, practicable and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC or any update to it.

6.4. Other developers’ consultations

- 6.4.1.

The Project team is aware that National Grid and other organisations are developing energy and network proposals in the area, including:
  - National Grid’s Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcements
  - National Grid Ventures’ LionLink (formerly known as EuroLink) and Nautilus interconnectors
  - National Grid’s Sea Link proposal
  - National Grid’s Grain to Tilbury proposal
  - National Grid’s Eastern Links 3 and 4 proposals
  - National Grid’s North Humber to High Marnham and Grimsby to Walpole proposals
  - North Falls offshore wind farm
  - Five Estuaries offshore wind farm
  - Tarchon Interconnector.
- 6.4.2.

National Grid will work to understand other local projects to ensure that the scope and context of this proposed Project is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include:
  - having headline information about the other consultations at our events
  - seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations, where appropriate
  - ensuring that any responses submitted to our statutory consultation that are intended for another consultation are passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team. However, should people have specific questions about other projects, they should engage directly with relevant project team(s) to ask questions and/or provide feedback.

Appendix



Appendix A – Primary and Secondary Consultation Zones

Notes

Notes

Notes





## 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](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)**  
**[nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury](http://nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury)**



## **Appendix E10**

### **Evidence of SoCC on National Grid's Website**

## Project documents and maps

### Statutory consultation 2024 documents (47)

#### Statutory consultation 2024 plans (45)

#### Summer 2023 consultation plans and documents (10)

#### Summer 2023 consultation plans (18)

#### Project updates (11)

#### Spring 2022 consultation documents (7)

#### Landowner publications (7)

### Statutory consultation 2024 documents

#### Name

-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Project Background Document](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Guide to Interacting with Our Consultation Plans](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Strategic Options Back Check and Review](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Design Development Report](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Design Development Report Appendices](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - 2023 - Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report Appendices](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Community Newsletter](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Community Newsletter Map](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Feedback Questionnaire](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Statement of Community Consultation](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Consultation Event Materials - Consultation Banners](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Section 48 notice](#)
-  [PEIR Errata and Corrections Log - June 2024](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Non-Technical Summary](#)
-  [Norwich to Tilbury - Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Volume 1 - Main Text](#)

## The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

# Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

April 2024

**nationalgrid**





## Contact us

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**[nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury](http://nationalgrid.com/norwich-to-tilbury)**





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