

The Secretary of State
c/o The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

For the attention of: Siân Evans

29 August 2025
By file transfer

Our Reference: Document Reference 1.2
Your Reference EN020027

Dear Ms Evans

**Planning Act 2008
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
The proposed Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order**

The Application

Please find enclosed an application on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury project ('the Project'). The proposed development includes the installation of an electric line above ground that is greater than 2 km in length and therefore constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project as defined under Section 14(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008. The Project meets relevant qualifying criteria as set out in Section 16(1) of the Planning Act 2008.

In accordance with the guidance at Paragraph 031 of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (published 30 April 2024), the applicant confirms its approval for the Planning Inspectorate to make the application documents available on the relevant project page of the National Infrastructure portal. We request that the Planning Inspectorate publishes (with the exception of any identified documents requiring redaction due to sensitive nature) the application documents following acceptance of the application.

Fee to accompany the application and shapefile

The fee to accompany the application of £10,735.20 was paid by BACS and the Planning Inspectorate confirmed receipt on 30 July 2025.

A GIS shapefile of the land over which authorisation is sought within the application was submitted on 30 July 2025.

The application has been submitted through the uploading of the application documents to the Planning Inspectorate's SharePoint. This was agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the submission.

Application formalities

Document reference 1.1 contains the completed Application Form. The Guide to the Application (document reference 1.3) sets out the documents included as part of the application.

The applicant notes the Secretary of State's obligation under Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 to decide whether to accept this application by the end of a period of 28 days, beginning with the day after the day on which this application is received. To assist with this process, we have included a self-completed Section 55 Checklist (document reference 1.8) detailing compliance with the criteria set out in Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008.

Please note that some of the application documents contain confidential information. **We would request that the Planning Inspectorate does not publish in full the documents listed below due to their sensitive content:**

- Environmental Statement Appendix 8.7 – Breeding Bird Report (document reference 6.8.A7)
- Environmental Statement Appendix 8.13 – Otter and Water Vole Report (document reference 6.8.A13)
- Environmental Statement Appendix 8.15 – Badger Report (document reference 6.8.A15).

We have supplied two versions of these documents; please do not publish the version marked 'CONFIDENTIAL'. The versions for publication marked 'CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REDACTED' have Schedule 1 raptor nesting locations, otter holt locations and badger sett locations redacted.

Under Regulation 5(2)(l) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations), an applicant is required to provide, where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:

- i. Any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation such as sites of geological or landscape importance;
- ii. Habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and
- iii. Water bodies in a river basin management plan,

together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development.

The information required by Regulation 5(2)(l) is contained within the Environmental Statement Figures at the references provided below:

- i. Any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation such as sites of geological or landscape importance
 - Environmental Statement Figure 13.1 - LVIA Study Area and Landscape Designations (document reference 6.13.F1)
 - Environmental Statement Figure 9.4 - Geologically Designated Sites (document reference 6.9.F4)
- ii. Habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features
 - Figures within Environmental Statement Appendix 8.1 - Habitat Report (document reference 6.8.A1).

- Figures within Environmental Statement Appendix 8.16 - Designated Sites Report (document reference 6.8.A16).
- iii. Water bodies in a river basin management plan
- Environmental Statement Figure 12.3 - Water Framework Surface Waterbody Status (document reference 6.12.F3).

The assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the Project is presented in Environmental Statement Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.13), Chapter 9 - Contaminated Land, Geology and Hydrogeology (document reference 6.9), Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity (document reference 6.8) and Chapter 12 - Hydrology, Land Drainage and Flood Risk (document reference 6.12). A Water Framework Directive Assessment is also included in the application (document reference 7.10).

There is an equivalent requirement under Regulation 5(2)(m) of the APFP Regulations in relation to certain historic sites and features. The information in relation to Regulation 5(2)(m) of the APFP Regulations is included on Environmental Statement Figures 11.2 - Designated Heritage Assets Assessed in the ES Chapter (document reference 6.11.F2) and 11.3 - Non-Designated Heritage Assets Assessed in the ES Chapter (document reference 6.11.F3) as well as figures within Environmental Statement Appendix 11.1- Historic Environment Baseline Report (document reference 6.11.A1). The assessment of any effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the Project is presented in Environmental Statement Chapter 11 - Historic Environment (document reference 6.11).

We have enclosed a number of draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) (document reference 5.9.1 - 5.9.32) in anticipation of requests from the Examining Authority. It should be noted that the submitted draft SoCGs will continue to be updated throughout the Examination and final signed versions submitted at the appropriate Examination deadline.

Land interests

All persons with an interest in land included in the Book of Reference (document reference 4.3) were consulted at either the statutory consultation (between 10 April 2024 and 26 July 2024); at the targeted consultations (between 30 January 2025 to 17 April 2025) or during the additional landowner consultations (between 18 June 2025 and 10 July 2025).

Subsequent to the additional landowner consultations, 227 further parties ranging from Category 1, 2 and 3 were identified through diligent inquiries and contacted by National Grid. In accordance with paragraph 024 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008): Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024) any new PILs identified after the June/July consultation mailouts were written to separately. This letter included details about the project, where further information could be found, how to get in touch with National Grid and to explain how there would be an opportunity to provide comments to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) once the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been submitted. A copy of this letter and a list of PILs identified and notified can be found in Appendix L of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1).

Lands and Rights Negotiation Tracker

National Grid has briefed the Inspectorate (pre-submission) on its approach to the Lands and Rights Negotiation Tracker, and which versions will be used for submission and pre-examination. A short form tracker which mirrors Appendix B of the Statement of Reasons (document reference 4.1) is provided with this application. A more detailed version of the tracker will be provided during

the pre-examination period. The Project is aware of advice given in response to the Sea Link application for development consent and will take this into account in our own Lands and Rights Negotiation Tracker.

Updates to policy and guidance documents

Guidance contained in updates to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes have been taken into account in preparing this application. Recent updates to Advice Notes taken into consideration include:

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (last updated 29 May 2025)
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Fifteen: drafting Development Consent Orders (last updated 24 March 2025)
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Preparing Applications for Linear Projects (last updated 27 February 2025)
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process (last updated 25 March 2025)

The application has been prepared with full knowledge of the March 2025 updated flood risk and coastal erosion data from the Environment Agency. Further details of the flood risk data used in this application are provided in the Flood Risk Assessment (document reference 7.9).

In addition, Natural England made several updates to its guidance in April 2025. National Grid has considered and incorporated the updates in its relevant application documents, including Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Ecology and Biodiversity (document reference 6.8).

On 9 April 2025 the government published guidance on Community Funds for transmission infrastructure. This guidance confirms that the community funds outlined within the guidance are separate from, and not a material consideration in, the planning process. Furthermore, on 8 August 2025 a Government consultation was launched in respect of a scheme for bill discounts for transmission network infrastructure. National Grid will comply with government policy but in the context of this application will not refer to the guidance or consultation.

On 24 April 2025 revised National Policy Statements EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 were published for consultation. The Policy Compliance Document (document reference 5.7) does not reference the consultation documents. Planning Statement Tables 2.1 to 2.4 (inclusive) (document reference 5.6) include a summary of proposed changes to NPS EN-1 and EN-5 relevant to the Project. Once the new NPSs are designated we would be happy to provide a new Policy Compliance Document at the request of the Examining Authority.

Other matters

Whilst the applicant has provided sufficient environmental information with this application to meet the relevant requirements, some supplementary environmental information will be submitted post-submission. This has been discussed and agreed upon with the relevant technical stakeholders in advance. Agreement has been reached with Natural England regarding the provision of supplementary environmental information, and a copy of this correspondence is enclosed. Historic England acknowledges that there is scope for further fieldwork to be undertaken. They recognise the reasons for this and are content for National Grid to provide supplemental information following submission of the application. This approach has been agreed with Historic England and will be documented in the SoCG.

On 6 September 2024 the Planning Inspectorate published guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in casework evidence. It is understood that this includes applications for development consent such as this one. The applicant can confirm that artificial intelligence has not been used to create any application text or images.

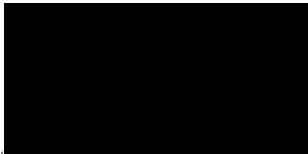
An Application Index has been prepared in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's advice on the preparation and submission of application documents. To comply with the naming convention within the index, any report titles that include 'brackets' have had these removed from the filenames.

Correspondence

The initial point of contact for the Planning Inspectorate on this application will be Ian Fletcher and his contact email address is [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com, as set out in the Application Form (document reference 1.1).

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter and accompanying application. We look forward to receiving confirmation that the application is accepted for Examination in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Pepper
Project Director

Enc: Natural England Letter: Dated 4 July 2025

Date: 04 July 2025
Our ref: Norwich to Tilbury Supplementary Environmental Information
Your ref:



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By email only: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

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Dear Sir/Madam

Norwich to Tilbury – Supplementary Environmental Information

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the Supplementary Environmental Information document.

Natural England is generally supportive of the approach outlined therein. Licencing specialists have advised that they have 'no concerns' with the proposal as presented. Where an absence of data exists Natural England Wildlife Licencing Service (NEWLS) is satisfied with an 'assumed presence' until surveys can be completed in line with industry best practice. It will up to the ecologists and the applicant to ensure sufficient data exists to inform draft licence applications

With regards to Biodiversity Net Gain and Habitats of Principle Importance we are satisfied that the current mix of aerial habitat surveys and ground truthing are sufficient to draw preliminary conclusions and commend the precautionary approach (e.g. assuming species presence/good condition) which is in line with good practice.

We are are therefore satisfied that the ES baseline will be sufficiently robust without results of the limited surveys (outlined in Table 1 of the above document) and commend the commitment to gathering and presenting further survey information as and when it becomes available.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 020 802 61025

Yours faithfully

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Sustainable Development Senior Officer – West Anglia