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The Applicant

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020027

Date: 19 December 2025

Dear Mr Pepper

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC for an order granting development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury Project

Notice by applicant of intention to submit requests for changes to the application

Thank you for your submissions of 12 December 2025 giving notice of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC's intention to submit two change requests for changes to the application. The change request (CR) submission documents have been published on the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#) and can be found in the examination library under references [\[AS-049\]](#) (Change Request 1 (CR1)) and [\[AS-050\]](#) (Change Request 2 (CR2)).

The applicant's letters have been submitted having regard to the Planning Inspectorate advice '[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination](#)' as Step 1 of the process. Two areas likely to be within the formal CRs have been set out. The applicant considers the changes respond positively to comments from stakeholders and are necessary to avoid or minimise potential operational impacts of the project on existing third-party infrastructure (CR1) and existing land uses (CR2).

A summary of the likely areas to be included in the CRs is set out in the table below:

| Change Request | Examination Library Reference | Area of proposed change and description |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | AS-049 | Bulphan: Changes to third party access and works (Section H): an increase in the Order Limits to facilitate works required for the protection of the existing Thames to Buncefield Multifuel Pipeline, west of Langdon Hills Golf Club. This proposed change responds to feedback from the British Pipeline Agency Ltd who act as the agent for the owner, United Kingdom Oil Pipelines Limited. |
| 2 | AS-050 | Little Bromley: Change to the East Anglia Connection Node access (Section C): an amendment to the Order Limits in order to support a modification to the route of the applicant's construction access (for use when a third-party access is not available) and a further modification to the route for the private permanent abnormal indivisible load access route. The amendments respond to further engagement with landowners and are intended to reduce temporary and permanent impacts on land uses. |

The applicant considers each of the suggested changes not to be substantial, either individually or cumulatively, because they apply to discrete geographical areas of the project, and consequently the vast majority of the project will remain unchanged.

The examining authority (ExA) considers the CR notifications provide clear descriptions of proposed changes, along with an explanation of the need for these changes.

The applicant's appraisal of the implications of the CRs on the environmental assessment submitted with the original application are noted, as is the applicant's view that these proposed changes are unlikely to give rise to new or materially different likely significant effects already assessed within the environmental statement. However, the ExA cannot currently take a view on this without further details and reserves its right to consider this matter further in the light of the addendum report expected to be submitted with the formal CRs.

The applicant recognises that both CRs would be likely to engage Regulations 5 to 19 of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (as amended) (CA Regulations), as they are seeking to include additional land within the submission and consent has not been obtained from persons with an interest in that additional land to its inclusion. As such the ExA agrees there is a need for further consultation in regard to both CR1 and CR2, and that the applicant should take a targeted and proportional consultation approach.

The ExA notes the details of the scale of the approach differs in the applicant's CR notification documents (CR1 [\[AS-049\]](#) and CR2 [\[AS-050\]](#)). However as the submissions are to coincide, the ExA advises that the targeted consultations should follow similar approaches. The applicant should carry out a targeted consultation with prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and parish councils, persons with an interest in land affected by the proposed change and nearby properties which are likely to be affected. The applicant should also publish advertisements in the press, in accordance with the

‘Duty to publicise...’ (Regulation 8 of the CA Regulations). Please note Regulation 8 goes beyond just local press advertisement.

The ExA expects the applicant to notify relevant stakeholders outlining the proposed change, consultation scope, dates of consultation and details of how to participate in the consultation relevant to them. The correspondence should refer recipients to the applicant’s website to access the relevant consultation materials pertinent to the CR applicable to them, including (but not limited to):

- consultation leaflets as relevant to each CR, which provides further information on the proposed changes and include plans and figures showing the location of the proposed changes
- environmental implications of the change documents for the relevant CR, which provides further information on the likely environmental effects associated with the proposed change compared against the submitted environmental statement
- a feedback form
- contact details so people can contact the applicant to ask questions on the proposed changes and request hard copies.

The ExA notes the applicant’s intent to hold a public webinar for residents living near to each of the proposed changes and not to hold any in-person consultation events. However, the ExA advises that persons without internet access or who have protected characteristics must be considered. Therefore the ExA expects at least one in-person event within the area of each of the CRs to be held in addition to the proposed webinar.

With regard to impacts on the examination timetable, both CR1 and CR2 indicate submissions on 23 March 2026. The ExA requests a clear and detailed justification for the apparent delay in the applicant’s indicative timetable for the formal submission of the CRs, as set out in Table 2 of the CR letters CR1 [\[AS-049\]](#) and CR2 [\[AS-050\]](#). On receipt of such justification, the ExA will confirm if it is satisfied enough time is likely to remain within the statutory six months examination period.

In addition, before the ExA takes a decision, it requests an updated statement of reasons that clearly sets out the applicant’s current strategy for evaluating compulsory acquisition, temporary possession and land rights. It also seeks an explanation in regard to the intention for any other additional potential changes that may arise through negotiations that have not been resolved to date.

The additional information sought in the above two paragraphs must be submitted to the ExA no later than 23:59 on Sunday 4 January 2026.

The ExA would strongly suggest the formal CRs be brought forward and submitted promptly following the start of the examination (the date of which will be published early in the new year), and amendment of the timetable so that it more clearly complies with the timescales for the various triggers set out in the CA Regulations.

The ExA stresses that delayed submissions and multiple proposed changes submitted during the examination, once the timetable is set, may not give sufficient time within the remainder of the examination period to adequately examine those CRs. The ExA also highlights its concerns that multiple further CRs could be submitted. Such requests may have the potential to confuse interested parties and affected persons, as well as affect the

efficient and timely running of the examination. The ExA reminds the applicant of Regulation 6(1) of the CA Regulations in that a decision as to whether or not to accept a CR related to a compulsory acquisition request in respect of additional land must be made within 28 days of a formal request submitted in compliance with Regulation 5 of the CA Regulations.

In summary, subject to the applicant addressing the points set out above, the ExA considers that the targeted consultation approach on the proposed changes would be fair, appropriate and proportionate.

The ExA asks that the applicant submits a statement with the formal CRs which sets out:

- a list of the persons consulted, including whether they have been previously consulted on the proposed development, and whether they have commented as part of relevant representations (with examination library references)
- whether they are an existing or new affected person and their status in the book of reference
- that there are no new affected persons identified who should be consulted but haven't been

If the ExA decides to accept the changes as outlined in CR1 and CR2 into the examination, all interested parties will then have an opportunity to make representations on the changed application.

Finally, the applicant should note that the ExA does not currently imply any acceptance of the CRs in this letter. Furthermore if it appears that it would not be possible to achieve all processes associated with the proposed changes in the required time prior to the close of the examination, then the ExA would not be in a position to take the CRs into account in its recommendation to the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely

Susan Hunt

Susan Hunt
Lead member of the Examining Authority

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