

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

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1): the scope of development and alternatives

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) on Scope of development and alternatives	Friday 13 February 2026 Hearing starts at 10:00 Registration and seating available at venue from 09:00 and virtual registration process from 09:00	The Gold Room Orsett Hall Prince Charles Avenue Orsett Essex RM16 3HS and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have preregistered

Agenda

Item 1	Welcome, Examining Authority (ExA) introductions and arrangements for the hearing
Item 2	Purpose of the issue specific hearing and ExA opening remarks
Item 3	Introduction of participants
	Discussion points
Item 4	Scope of the proposed development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 The applicant is to provide an overview of the location of the proposed pylon transmission route, siting of new substations at Ardleigh and Tilbury North, cable sealing ends, and the main construction compounds. 4.2 The applicant is to provide an overview of their approach to limits of deviation. 4.3 The applicant is to explain its proposals for existing pylons and overhead transmission lines, including reconfiguration,

	<p>modification and removal of parts of the existing transmission electric line and the existing distribution electric line.</p> <p>4.4 The applicant is to provide an overview of the choice of underground cabling (AC or DC) and proposed methods of installation.</p> <p>The applicant will be asked to display plans to illustrate the proposals.</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions of the applicant in relation to the above and other matters relating to the scope of the proposed development.</p>
Item 5	<p>Alternatives</p> <p>5.1. The applicant is to provide an overview of its approach to alternative methods of electricity transmission (during all pre-application stages of project design development) and reasons for discounting them, signposting to the relevant sections of Environmental Statement chapter 3, the EIA regulations, national policy requirements, and National Grid and National Electricity System Operator (NESO) guidelines.</p> <p>5.2. The above shall include a summary of its reasoning for the choice of overhead transmission lines instead of underground cables, choice of pylon size and design, and different types of transmission including offshore connections, including costings.</p> <p>5.3. The applicant will be asked to display plans to illustrate any points made.</p> <p>The ExA will ask questions of the applicant in relation to the above and other matters relating to alternatives.</p> <p>Attendees should note that this agenda item will be at a high level only relating to the approach taken by the applicant prior to submission of the application. It will not relate to site-specific parts of the proposed development unless otherwise specified by the ExA.</p> <p>Site-specific matters relating to alternative types of transmission and substation siting will be dealt with by the ExA in future issue specific hearings and/ or written questions. The applicant is expected to have reviewed the relevant representations submitted by interested parties so as to target those areas of most concern in relation to alternatives.</p>
Item 6	<p>Interrelationship with other projects</p> <p>The applicant is to provide an update on the status of other projects which interrelate with the proposed development including:</p> <p>6.1. The production of the Interrelationship Report.</p>

	<p>6.2. A summary of the approach to continuing dialogue with the promoters or operators of those projects with regard to any provisions to be included in the draft Development Consent Order and surveys and/ or mitigation to be shared between projects.</p> <p>6.3. An indication of any additional statements of common ground to be submitted at deadline 1.</p>
Item 7	Any other matters
Item 8	Review of actions arising and close

Please note that the above agenda is indicative and may be amended by the Examining Authority (ExA) at the start of the hearing. The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail in this agenda to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing.

Notification of the date, time and attendance instructions for ISH1 was provided in the ExA's Rule 6 letter dated 13 January 2026 [\[PD-009\]](#). Interested parties (IPs) who wish to speak at this event were required to provide notification by 27 February 2026. If you haven't notified us that you wish to attend or to speak, you must contact the case team as soon as possible.

Attendees

The ExA will be directing its questions to the applicant on the matters as set out in this agenda, and there will be limited time available for IPs to make submissions on the items in the agenda.

However, this does not indicate that IPs will not be able to contribute. All are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to time constraints and the ExA's ability to control the hearing. Active participation by IPs is at the discretion of the ExA.

If any IP intends to make lengthy or detailed comments on any of the agenda items or in response to the applicant's submissions at the hearing, they can be submitted in writing at **deadline 1 (Thursday 26 February 2026)**.

The event will be livestreamed, and recorded. A link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project page](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. Therefore if any IPs and other members of the public wish to observe the hearing only they can do so using the livestream. Alternatively, they can view and listen to the recording in their own time after the event.

Registration process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to

participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at **10:00** those attending virtually should join promptly at **09:00** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

If you are attending in person, please be aware registration at the venue may be busy and you are encouraged to ensure you arrive as early as possible after the registration process opens. It is your responsibility to ensure you have allowed enough time to register. Failure to register at the Hearing prior to its start may affect your ability to participate.

Conduct and management of hearings

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence at hearings through direct questioning of persons making oral representations.

Questioning at this hearing will therefore be led by the ExA. Cross questioning (or cross examination) of the person giving evidence by another IP or their legal representative will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary. This is to ensure representations are adequately tested or that each has had a fair chance to put their case, and in ensuring that efficient use is made of time in the hearing.

The business of the hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA. This may include matters arising from relevant representations as well as oral submissions made in other hearings being held in the same week. Therefore, the ExA may raise issues that are not listed on the agenda in the course of the discussion.

Oral submissions on other subject matters or from IPs who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance, efficiency or fairness.

Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of that issue, including the asking of written questions by the ExA.

A recording and transcript of the hearing will be published by the Planning Inspectorate on the [project page](#) of the National Infrastructure website and any IP may make a written submission on the specific matters either included in the agenda or arising at the hearing by **deadline 1 (Thursday 26 February 2026)**.

Evidence presented orally at these hearings should be included in post-hearing submissions including written submissions of your oral case and submitted at the above deadline, in order to ensure that it has been recorded accurately.

To help you participate effectively, the Planning Inspectorate has published [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice Pages](#).

This material includes advice on how to use Teams (our virtual event system) and on protecting your privacy during virtual events. The advice relating to virtual events is also relevant to blended events where parties can attend virtually. Please read this

advice before you join your hearing, as it will help you to prepare and get the best out of your participation.

Contingencies

If this hearing is unable to proceed or continue, then the ExA will adjourn incomplete business to hearing times later that have been reserved in the examination timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided in the banner on the National Infrastructure Planning Website.