



Planning Inspectorate

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

Agenda for open floor hearing (OFH):

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Open floor hearing 2 (OFH2)	Thursday 12 February 2026 See annex A for further details including the start and registration times for each session 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 pre-registered

Agenda items

Please note that the following agenda is indicative and may be amended by the Examining Authority (ExA) at the start of the hearing.

- 1. Welcome, introductions, and arrangements for the hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the open floor hearing**
- 3. Confirmation of those who have notified the ExA of a wish to be heard at the open floor hearing and the order in which parties will be heard**
- 4. Representations by interested parties and others**

Each interested party (IP) who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited in turn by the ExA to speak. Following each submission, the ExA may wish to ask the speaker questions.

Speakers will be heard in the order shown under the list of speakers in annex A and will be allocated the following maximum speaking times:

- 3 minutes for individual IPs, including businesses
- 5 minutes for those representing groups, membership organisations or Councils

Persons without IP status, as defined by section 102 of the Planning Act 2008, are referred to as non-Interested Parties (non-IP); however this is not intended to suggest a lack of interest in the application. Any non-IPs that are being heard at the discretion of the ExA are included in the list of speakers in **annex A**. The same maximum speaking times and procedure will apply as for IPs.

The ExA may ask questions of IPs, non-IPs about matters arising from written and oral submissions. If they do so during a timed oral submission, the time taken by the ExA will not count against the speaking time.

Those who have not previously registered to participate in this hearing and have not been allocated a slot in the speaking list at annex A, are unlikely to be able to speak on the day due to the number of registered participants and restrictions on the time available. Any request to participate in a future OFH must be made by **deadline 1 (Thursday 26 February 2026)**.

5. Close of the open floor hearing

Participation, conduct and management of the open floor hearing

OFHs are hearings where IPs who are individuals, groups and organisations have the opportunity to raise any matters that they consider are important and relevant to the consideration of the application.

Submissions should be based on previous representations. The ExA has read all of these, therefore participants do not need to repeat submissions already made, but should provide further detail, explanation or evidence to help inform the examination of the application.

To allow everyone to have a fair opportunity to be heard, the time limits shown on the agenda will be strictly applied. Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the end of their time limit or by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

If on the day of the OFH there are individuals who are not registered but who wish to make submissions at the event, the ExA will use its discretion to hear these only if

time permits. Once you have spoken at one OFH you do not have the right to speak again at another. It is important therefore that you use the allotted time well to communicate your message to the ExA.

Speakers have been given a time slot based on the information provided during the registration process (annex A). Please contact the case team as soon as possible using the contact details below if you wish to attend via a different method (in person or virtually), or if you are no longer able to attend.

It would also assist the ExA if written summaries of anything that you say are submitted by **deadline 1 (Thursday 26 February 2026)**.

People who have land or rights affected by compulsory acquisition or temporary possession are affected persons (APs) and have a right to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH). If you are an AP wishing to speak about your land or rights then a future CAH will be the best forum to raise any such issues.

Please note that the ExA will not be discussing individual plots with APs at the first CAH on Wednesday 11 February but will do so at a future CAH.

The ExA has asked the applicant to attend this OFH to listen to the submissions. The applicant will not be asked to address questions raised by IPs at the hearing, but will do so in written submissions at the next relevant deadline. It is not the purpose of these hearings to enable the applicant to make its case.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching it will be posted on the [Norwich to Tilbury project page](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the event date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording after it has concluded.

There is another OFH (OFH3 Norfolk) taking place concurrently with OFH2 on Thursday 12 February. The ExA panel are split between both hearings, however the panel at OFH3 will watch the recording of OFH2 after the event and vice versa.

Requests to be heard

The deadline to request to be heard at OFH2 was procedural deadline A (Tuesday 27 January 2026). Anyone wishing to speak at OFH2 who did not make their request by this date should note that it is unlikely there will be time for anyone who has not registered to be heard at this hearing, however there are other sessions taking place in the same week (OFH1 on 10 and 11 February, and OFH3 on Thursday 12 February 2026) and it may be possible to be accommodated at a different session, at the discretion of the ExA.

If your request cannot be accommodated within OFH1, OFH2 or OFH3, then further OFHs may need to be arranged for later in the examination. Any request to participate in a future OFH should be made by **deadline 1, Thursday 26 February 2026**.

Event registration process

Parties who have registered to speak at the OFH 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. The joining instruction email will be sent to all registered parties, including those due to appear in person. If you are attending virtually, please join at the virtual registration start time set out in the relevant agenda to ensure that the registration process is completed 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.

Advice

To help you participate effectively, the Planning Inspectorate has published the following advice which it is highly recommended you refer to before the event:

- [Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)
- [What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)

Annex A

Open floor hearing 2 Essex
Thursday 12 February 2026 10:00
(registration from 09:00)

Order	Name/ organisation	Time limit	Attendance Virtual (V)/ Physical (P)
1	Chelmsford City Council	5 minutes	V
2	Essex County Council	5 minutes	P
3	Tendering District Council	5 minutes	V
4	Thurrock Council	5 minutes	P
5	Ardleigh Parish Council	5 minutes	P
6	Terrence Leonard Nichols	3 minutes	P
7	Jenny Nichols	3 minutes	P
8	Little Bromley Parish Council	5 minutes	P
9	North-West and South-West of Chelmsford Parishes Group	5 minutes	V
10	Fordham Parish Council	5 minutes	P
11	Tritton Farming Partnership LLP	3 minutes	P
12	Charles Tritton	3 minutes	P
13	Brett Aggregates Limited	3 minutes	P
14	Freddie Botfield	3 minutes	V
15	Paul Walker	3 minutes	V
	Break		
16	Suzanne Bolwell-Davies	3 minutes	P
17	Graeme Crook	3 minutes	V
18	William Doran	3 minutes	P
19	Mike Lambert	3 minutes	V
20	Helen Pardoe	3 minutes	P
21	Charles Micklem	3 minutes	P
22	Jenny Micklem	3 minutes	P
23	Mark Pym	3 minutes	P
24	Michael Steel	3 minutes	V
25	Adam Whipps	3 minutes	V
26	Robin Upton	3 minutes	P
	End		