

Susan Hunt
Lead Member of the Examining Authority
The Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
60 Buckingham Drive
Slough
SL1 4PN

9 February 2026
By email

Your Reference EN020027

Dear Ms Hunt

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
The proposed Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order
Applicant's update on progress in respect of the proposed electrical connection to Tilbury North Substation

Background

As the Examining Authority will be aware, the application for development consent includes two potential scenarios through which the Applicant proposed to facilitate an electrical connection to Tilbury North Substation.

The inclusion of those scenarios, referred to in Section 11.4 of the Design Development Report [APP-122] as "Scenario A" and "Scenario B", was intended to afford sufficient flexibility in light of uncertainty surrounding the precise nature of interaction between the Applicant's proposals and consented, as well as emerging, third party developments (including, but not limited to, the Lower Thames Crossing Project). Such flexibility was considered necessary given the critical national need which the Norwich to Tilbury Project is intended to address.

In broad terms, and with reference to Paragraph 11.4.33 of the Design Development Report [APP-122], Scenario A comprised *"more extensive diversions and modifications of the existing overhead line infrastructure to facilitate a connection to Tilbury North Substation by overhead line"* whilst Scenario B consisted of *"more limited modifications to the existing overhead line network but which requires the connection to Tilbury North to be made by underground cable at additional cost."*

At Paragraph 11.4.34 of the Design Development Report [APP-122], the Applicant confirmed that, on balance, it favoured Scenario B on the basis that it *"addresses the concerns of LTC and does not present additional construction risk to that project. It reduces substantially the potential for reduced housing delivery and also reduces the effects on visual amenity through considerably less new tall infrastructure. It also reduces the engineering delivery risk by reducing the outage requirement for construction."*

Both scenarios were retained by the Applicant at the point of submission of the application for development consent, pending the outcome of further discussions with National Highways (Lower Thames Crossing) and other stakeholders.

Update on Progress

Following the Government's decision to grant development consent for Lower Thames Crossing and with design detail emerging on the interfaces with the Norwich to Tilbury Project, the Applicant has continued to progress its multi-disciplinary evaluation, including in response to matters raised by National Highways (Lower

Thames Crossing) in its Relevant Representation [RR-2215]. Design workshops have also been held with relevant stakeholders.

As a consequence, the Applicant wishes to confirm to the Examining Authority that **only** Scenario B is to be taken forward as part of the Project.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant no longer intends to seek development consent for any aspects of Scenario A.

The Applicant has notified National Highways (Lower Thames Crossing) of its intention to proceed with Scenario B and is pleased to report to the Examining Authority that, as a consequence, a number of matters raised in its Relevant Representation [RR-2215] have been resolved. A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) confirming the position is to be submitted at Deadline 1.

The Applicant also anticipates that reaching and communicating its decision to proceed with Scenario B at this early stage of the Examination process will be of material assistance in enabling the Examining Authority's and other Interested Parties' understanding of the proposed electrical connection to Tilbury North Substation.

Next Steps

The Applicant recognises that its decision to proceed with Scenario B only provides an opportunity to remove the flexibility contained within the current Application by making a number of consequential updates to various documents within Volume 2 (Plans / Drawings / Sections), Volume 3 (Draft Development Consent Order) and Volume 4 (Compulsory Acquisition), Volume 6 (Environmental Statement) and Volume 7 (Other Documents) of the development consent application, where applicable.

The Applicant therefore proposes to submit at **Deadline 1** a programme setting out when these updates will be submitted to the Examining Authority.

The Applicant trusts that the contents of this letter are of assistance to the Examining Authority and other Interested Parties and would be pleased to discuss any aspect of the same, as well as any associated matters, with the Examining Authority during the Preliminary Meeting on 10th February.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter in the intervening period, please contact [REDACTED] (email address [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com).

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Project Director