



Norwich to Tilbury

EN020027

Post-Hearing Submission for Open Floor Hearing 1

Mid Suffolk District Council



Deadline 1
26 February 2026

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Glossary of Acronyms

<i>DCO</i>	<i>Development Consent Order</i>
<i>ES</i>	<i>Environmental Statement</i>
<i>NSIP</i>	<i>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project</i>
<i>PPA</i>	<i>Planning Performance Agreement</i>

“BDC” refers to Babergh District Council; “MSDC” refers to Mid Suffolk District Council; “BMSDC” refers to BDC and MSDC jointly; “SCC” refers to Suffolk County Council; and “the Councils” refers to BDC, MSDC, and SCC jointly.

Purpose of this Submission

The document has been prepared by Mid Suffolk District Council to provide a written summary of the representations made by the Council at Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) held on 11 February 2026. Examination Library references are used throughout to assist readers.

Written Summary of Representations made at Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)

Agenda Item	Title of Matter and MSDC’s Written Summary of Representation	References
1	Welcome, introductions, and arrangements for the hearing	
	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council were represented by the following team in person:</p> <p>1.1 Councillor Andrew Stringer</p> <p>Attending colleagues were supported by the following team virtually:</p> <p>-</p>	
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	
	<u>Written Summary of Oral Submission of Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) - Session 2 - Part 1 by Mid Suffolk District Council</u>	

Agenda Item	Title of Matter and MSDC’s Written Summary of Representation	References
	<p><u>23:05 – Cllr Andrew Stringer</u></p> <p>My name is Councillor Andrew Stringer, I am Cabinet Member for Heritage, Planning & Infrastructure at Mid Suffolk District Council.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to address the examination.</p> <p>The full details of the Council’s concerns are set out in our relevant representation and other submissions so I will take this opportunity to reiterate some of the main issues affecting our district.</p> <p>But firstly, I would want to state that I understand why Tilbury, but I simply do not understand how licences have already been granted to land, energy in Norwich with no forward customer. Mid Suffolk has a unique character and already has a north and south National Grid pylon route that was more than doubled in capacity in recent years.</p> <p>In the transition to cleaner energy, Mid Suffolk will more than play its part, but as with all transitions, if the changes are not seen to be just, this essential transition could be delayed or even fail in maintaining our principal objection to the project. Mid Suffolk District Council cites the conclusion of the Hiorns report that the current transition network capacity, including Bramford, to Twinstead reinforcement, which is currently under construction, is likely to be sufficient for committed connections until 2035 and that, as a result, it is reasonable to call for a delay to the consideration of this project to allow appropriate analysis of alternative options.</p> <p>The Council maintain a preference for alternatives such as an undersea route or high and high voltage direct current undergrounding for the entire length of the project or even using ultra high voltage direct current using existing infrastructure to avoid and mitigate the devastating impacts of this development. If China can fit the entire energy needs of a small country into one single ultra-high voltage cable, why can't we have at least explored this option?</p>	

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	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council reiterates its disappointment that the Waveney Valley Alternative Route has been abandoned. It is necessary and appropriate for this project to take the opportunity for a strategic approach for the coordinated delivery of interrelated energy projects and network infrastructure to improve connectivity for Freeport East, Gateway 14, as well as other major commercial operations and the interests in the area, enabling decarbonisation and other green energy objectives for these sites and effective communities. But we have concerns regarding the volume, nature and cumulative impacts of development at and around the Bramford substation and consider a strategic design and mitigation approach is essential to minimize impacts on the surrounding communities, public safety, landscape, heritage and highway network.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk has over 3400 listed buildings and numerous other designated and non-designated heritage assets, of which the district have a duty to and are proud to seek to protect. The applicant has failed to meet the requirements of National Policy Statement EN-1 in their consideration of non-designated heritage assets, undermining the value of their overall heritage assessment and risking significant harm to the unique historic environment of the district. The district has a rich and diverse natural environment, including numerous protected species and habitats.</p> <p>The applicant's reliance on post decision surveys and mitigation across such a large project area risks the lawful and effective protection of ecology. I have walked much of the route and can testify that rich array of biodiversity, from small farmyard ponds to ancient copses, many will be lost or at best blighted. The landscape of the district is highly valued, with many sensitive views that contribute to the unique character of Mid Suffolk and the wider region. The applicant states the project will have a significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, which are not considered to be adequately mitigated or compensated.</p> <p>The project would have significant far-reaching impacts on local and residential amenity and the health and wellbeing of our communities, which must be appropriately assessed and adequately mitigated. Tourism is a significant part of</p>	

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	<p>our local economy, supporting many jobs and businesses within the district and the wider region. The construction phase of the project, in particular, has the potential to irrevocably damage East Anglia's tourist economy through its visual impacts, traffic disruption, noise and disturbance, as well as the challenge of accommodating and integrating the construction workforce.</p> <p>We feel there has been inadequate consideration of impacts on the existing tourism businesses, jobs and visitors. We have major concerns regarding the cumulative impacts of the proposals, with other projects across the region and the likely impacts on agriculture, social economics, tourism and other businesses, especially given the number of projects seeking to construct within the same geographic area time frame and affecting many of the same communities, landscapes and environments and highway networks. Mid Suffolk already transmits energy, generates energy, grows our food, has a rich biodiversity in enthralled tourists and inspires artists.</p> <p>This project, in its current form will threaten food production, devastate biodiversity and will decimate local tourism and impoverish our unique heritage. Mid Suffolk District Council maintains a position of objecting in principle to this project.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
5	Close of Open Floor Hearing	