



24 February 2026

Your Reference EN020027

Relevant Representation Reference Number [REDACTED]

Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

Dear Sirs

### Request for Accompanied Site Inspection

The General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) (RR Number [REDACTED]) is an Interested Party acting on behalf of a number of aerodromes directly affected by the proposed National Grid Norwich to Tilbury project.

The GAAC wishes to request that two Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) are timetabled.

The Norwich to Tilbury project adversely impacts a number of General Aviation aerodromes.

Suffolk County Council has requested an ASI to Raydon Wings Airfield in Suffolk. The GAAC supports this request.

In addition, the GAAC requests a joint ASI to visit Tibenham Aerodrome and Priory Farm Aerodromes in Norfolk. Adam Ramsay MP also requested this in his comments at the OFH on 12 February 2026.

It is appreciated that unaccompanied site visits took place, on 14 October 2025, in the vicinity of Tibenham and Priory Farm aerodromes, but these appear to have been road based and so some distance from the aerodromes themselves.

Our Written Representations show that original the line of the proposed pylon route, which remains unchanged, took no account of the presence of these aerodromes. National Grid has put forward no justification for the route and its assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the operational safety of these aerodromes is flawed. Aviation safety is a material consideration which has not been properly addressed and an ASI would assist the Inspectorate in its understanding of the Applicant's failure to justify its proposed route / means of transmission in this location.



In line with Procedural Decision 5 the following information is provided:

***The location***

The location for the proposed ASI is land at Tibenham and Priory Farm Aerodromes.

***The location to be observed***

The general location to be observed is related to Pylons RG38-RG68

The sites to be observed are:

Tibenham Aerodrome Norfolk, NR16 1NT

Grid Reference TM 142888 and the Clubhouse is TM 148890 52.457N 1.161E ; and

Priory Farm Aerodrome, Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norfolk, NR16 1NY

Grid Reference TM127880 52.450N 1.130E

***The issues to be observed*** are:

- a. The proximity of the proposed pylon route to the aircraft runways at Tibenham Aerodrome<sup>1</sup>
- b. The proximity of the proposed pylon route to the aircraft runways at Priory Farm Aerodrome
- c. The approximate N-S orientation of the proposed pylon route in this location
- d. The relationship between the N-S orientation of the proposed pylon route and runways 15/33 and 08/26 at Tibenham Aerodrome.
- e. The relationship between the N-S orientation (and proximity) of the proposed pylon route and runway 01/19 at Priory Farm
- f. The areas where overflying is not permitted for the protection of residential amenity, in particular at Tibenham village, Pristow Green and Tibenham Farm
- g. Dependent on weather conditions, aircraft take-offs and landings.

To enhance the visualisation of the direct impact on one example airfield, Priory Farm, the operator is able to arrange to align up to 5 tethered manned balloons along the line of

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<sup>1</sup> The enclosed plan shows Tibenham and Priory Farm aerodromes in relation to the proposed overhead power line. It also shows the cone areas for Tibenham that should remain free of obstacles should an aircraft be required to land following an engine failure on take-off.





proposed pylons. These would be tethered to a height of approx. 50m (equivalent to the proposed height of the pylon line).

A number (2 or 3) light aircraft would also be able to fly the normal 500' and 1000' circuits from Priory Farm Aerodrome to demonstrate normal approach and departure and arrival paths. This could be augmented by a simulated Engine Failure After Take-off (EFATO) from both 01 and 19 runways at Priory Farm Aerodrome.

### **Site Access:**

The entrances to both sites are accessible from public highways. Apart from entrance into the aerodromes and access 'landside' at Tibenham Aerodrome, land within the aerodrome boundaries may only be accessed under escort, for safety reasons.

### **Reason why the location has been suggested**

Tibenham and Priory Farm Aerodromes are well established aerodromes offering a range of recreational activities (for pilots, trainee pilots and members of the public), aircraft training, and flying competitions.

The safety and operations of Tibenham and Priory Farm Aerodromes, in relatively close proximity to each other, and both affected by a similar part and length of the proposed overhead power lines, would be significantly adversely affected by the Applicant's submitted scheme.

The activities at the two Aerodromes differ. Tibenham Aerodrome is intensively used, principally for gliding training, power training, recreation and competition. Priory Farm Aerodrome operates fixed-wing aircraft. It is principally used for recreation and provides some pilot training, particularly where owners extend their group ownership of aircraft with additional members.

The two aerodromes have arrangements in place to minimise conflict with published circuits that are available on most modern aviation GPS tools (SkyDemon etc ).

The proposed pylon route is 700m from the end of Priory Farm runway 01 and 1900m from the end of Tibenham runway 26 so the proposed real time balloon and flying simulation would provide valuable input to the process.



We trust this request will be fully considered. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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Head of Planning, GAAC

cc: Matthew Wilkins, Chairman, GAAC



