



# Planning Inspectorate

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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN020027

Date: 31 March 2026

Dear Sir / Madam

## Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 13

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

#### Notification of hearings

The examination timetable at annex A of the Examining Authority’s (ExA) [rule 8 letter](#), dated 17 February 2026, included reserved dates for hearings.

We are now writing to advise you that the following hearings will be held under sections 91 and 92 of the Planning Act 2008. The hearings will be blended events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
<b>Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)</b>  On environmental matters and the development consent order (DCO) including: air quality, biodiversity, design, flood risk and drainage, health and wellbeing, historic environment, noise, land use and soils, landscape, public rights of way, safety	<b>Tuesday 28 April 2026</b>	<b>Registration and seating available from: 09.00am</b>	All hearings will be blended events at:  <b>Tuesday and Wednesday:</b> The Layer Suite JobServe Community Stadium United Way Colchester Essex. CO4 5UP  <b>Friday:</b> Sir Bobby Robson Suite Ipswich Town Football Club Portman Road Ipswich. IP1 2DA
	and		
	<b>Wednesday 29 April 2026</b>	<b>Virtual registration process from: 09.30am</b>	
	and		
	<b>Friday 1 May 2026</b>	<b>Event start (on each day): 10.00am</b>	

and security including aviation safety, socio-economics and transport (see table below on page 3 of this letter)			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
<b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2)</b>	<b>Wednesday 29 April 2026</b>  and <b>Thursday 30 April 2026</b>	<b>Registration and seating available from: 09.00am</b>  <b>Virtual registration process from: 09.30am</b>  <b>Event start (on each day): 10.00am</b>	All hearings will be blended events at:  Sir Bobby Robson Suite Ipswich Town Football Club Portman Road Ipswich. IP1 2DA  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

**NOTES:**

If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to interested parties (IP) of the decision to cancel.

Change requests accepted by the ExA, **will not** be discussed at the Hearings scheduled above. They will be discussed at future hearings yet to be notified.

**Applicant’s notification duties**

The applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

**Purpose of hearings**

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate’s Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for information about the purpose of issue specific and compulsory acquisition hearings.

## Concurrent hearings and outline of matters for consideration at hearings

ISH2 and CAH2 will take place concurrently on Wednesday 29 April 2026 at two different venues as set out above. Three of the ExA panel members will be in attendance at ISH2 in Colchester, with the other two panel members at CAH2 in Ipswich.

In order to be helpful to the parties, and to enable them to plan accordingly for their attendance at ISH2, the ExA has set out a broad outline of the matters it considers will be examined at ISH2.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Matters to be discussed</b>
<b>Tuesday 28 April 2026</b>	<b>ISH 2 Environmental Matters and DCO</b>	The Layer Suite JobServe Community Stadium United Way Colchester Essex CO4 5UP	Including (in no particular order): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• air quality</li> <li>• flood risk and drainage</li> <li>• health and wellbeing</li> <li>• land use and soils</li> <li>• noise</li> <li>• safety and security including aviation safety</li> <li>• socio-economics</li> <li>• the DCO</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 29 April 2026</b>	<b>Continuation of ISH 2</b>	The Layer Suite JobServe Community Stadium United Way Colchester Essex CO4 5UP	Including (in no particular order): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• landscape and visual effects</li> <li>• design</li> <li>• historic environment</li> <li>• biodiversity</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 29 April and Thursday 30 April 2026</b>	<b>CAH2</b>	Sir Bobby Robson Suite Ipswich Town Football Club Portman Road Ipswich IP1 2DA	The detailed agenda for CAH2 will include a speaking order for registered participants to make their oral submissions over the two days.
<b>Friday 1 May 2026</b>	<b>Continuation of ISH 2</b>	Sir Bobby Robson Suite Ipswich Town Football Club Portman Road Ipswich IP1 2DA	May include agenda items carried over from Wednesday 29 April, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic and transport</li> <li>• Public rights of way</li> </ul>

**ISH2:** Some of the environmental matters listed above for discussion at ISH2 may not be examined orally at the hearing. The ExA is unable to confirm which matters may fall away until it has considered the responses to its first written questions (ExQ1) which are to be submitted by deadline 3 (Friday 10 April).

A number of IPs have requested hearings on specific environmental topics, specific areas of the route of the proposed development, or in relation to alternatives. The limited time available within the examination period does not enable the ExA to hold individual or standalone hearings. The title of ISH2 'environmental matters' encompasses a collection of topics as set out in the table above. These will include a range of locations, and will incorporate consideration of cumulative effects and alternatives where relevant, and only where such matters will assist in the ExA's consideration of the application. The DCO will be discussed following the environmental topics on Tuesday 28 April. All parties are reminded that the examination is a primarily written process.

**CAH2:** This will provide the opportunity for those affected persons who have objected to the compulsory acquisition or temporary possession of their land or interests. A running order will be produced as part of the detailed agenda and updates will also be sought on progress on statutory undertakers and crown land interests.

**Open floor hearing (OFH):** Numerous notifications were received to the ExA's request for notification of those IPs who wish to be heard at a further OFH by deadline 1. Therefore another OFH will be held, but this will be at a later date to be confirmed and not in week commencing 27 April.

**Accompanied site inspection (ASI):** The examination timetable includes provision for an ASI during week commencing 27 April. It will not take place during this week due to lack of time, however if one is required it will take place during week commencing **25 May 2026**, as also set out in the examination timetable. Notice of this and an itinerary will be issued at least five working days beforehand.

The detailed agendas and arrangements for ISH2 and CAH2 will be published on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days before the hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

All hearings will include examination of submissions up to and including deadline 3.

All hearings will commence at 10:00. All hearings will close by 17:00 except on Friday 1 May when ISH2 will close by 13:00.

### **Registration and requests to participate in hearings**

**Please register using the [event participation form](#) by Friday 10 April 2026 if you intend to participate in the hearings and provide all the information requested. If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the case team.**

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the [project webpage](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. Please contact the case team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the [project webpage](#) after the event.

Any request to participate in a hearing should include the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- for compulsory acquisition hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the book of reference and the land plans; and
- the examination library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Joining instructions for hearings will be issued by the case team via email shortly before the hearing dates.

Please contact the case team if you require any support or assistance to attend any hearing, either virtually or in person.

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you can either:

1. Watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. Watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to observe only by **Friday 10 April 2026** using the [event participation form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 10 April 2026**.

## Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend on the relevant days:

- the applicant
- all local authorities
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- National Highways
- Essex Police, Suffolk Constabulary, Norfolk Constabulary
- Dedham Vale National Landscape Partnership
- Dedham Vale Society
- Pylons East Anglia Ltd
- Any other public authority, body or organisation or an IP or AP affected by the proposed development can also attend if they wish

## Procedure at hearings and post hearing submissions

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Participation in a hearing will be subject to the ExA's powers of control. It is for the ExA to determine how the hearing will be conducted, including the time allowed at the hearing for the making of a person's representations. The hearing will be managed in the interests of ensuring fair access to the hearing for all parties, and to ensure that the submissions of all invited persons are fully heard within the allotted time. For issue specific hearings IPs may be invited to make oral representations at the hearing on the specific issues being examined at the hearing as set out in the agenda.

All hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed at a hearing.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation applies. Please refer to our '[Privacy Notice](#)' for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain. The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

The evidence presented orally at hearings should be included in post hearing submissions and submitted at the relevant deadline in the [examination timetable](#).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team [norwichtotilbury@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:norwichtotilbury@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

*Susan Hunt*

**Susan Hunt**  
**Lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors**

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