

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

**Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2): environmental matters and the development consent order (DCO)**

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<p><b>Issue specific hearing 2 (ISH2)</b></p> <p><b>on</b></p> <p><b>environmental matters and the development consent order (DCO)</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 28 April 2026</b></p> <p>and</p> <p><b>Wednesday 29 April 2026</b></p> <p>and</p> <p><b>Friday 1 May 2026</b></p> <p><b>Hearing starts at 10:00 on each day</b></p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from 09:00 and virtual registration process from 09:30</p>	<p><b>Tuesday and Wednesday:</b></p> <p>The Layer Suite JobServe Community Stadium United Way Colchester Essex CO4 5UP</p> <p><b>Friday:</b></p> <p>Sir Bobby Robson Suite Ipswich Town Football Club Portman Road Ipswich IP1 2DA</p> <p>and</p> <p><b>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</b></p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have preregistered</p>

# Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday 28 April 2026	
Item 1	<b>Welcome, Examining Authority (ExA) introductions and arrangements for the hearing</b>
Item 2	<b>Purpose of the issue specific hearing and ExA opening remarks</b>
Item 3	<b>Introduction of participants</b>
	<b>Discussion points</b>
Item 4	<p><b>Noise &amp; vibration</b></p> <p>4.1 including discussions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piling</li> <li>• Primary Access Route 30 – Bentley Road and the magnitude of impact on noise sensitive receptors (both noise and vibration impacts), especially Jasmine Cottage, and mitigation</li> </ul> <p>4.2 Any other noise and vibration related issues</p> <p>Note: Construction hours to be discussed, where necessary, under the DCO heading below (second bullet point, item ii (<u>Schedules 3... of the draft DCO</u>)).</p>
Item 5	<p><b>Aviation safety</b></p> <p>5.1 Including discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy matters (including the differences between licensed and unlicensed aerodromes and critical national priority implications)</li> <li>• Wattisham Station</li> <li>• Tibenham Aerodrome</li> <li>• Priory Farm</li> <li>• Raydon Winds</li> <li>• Chase Farm</li> </ul> <p>5.2 Any other aviation related issues.</p>
Item 6	<p><b>The DCO</b></p> <p>The ExA will be examining the following broad headings:</p> <p>6.1 Articles and Schedules of the draft DCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant will be asked to provide a very brief overview of each part of the draft DCO</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExA may ask questions in respect of DCO powers, seeking responses where appropriate from the applicant, the local authorities and other interested parties</li> </ul> <p>6.2 Schedules 3 and 4 of the draft DCO – (Schedule 3 – Requirements and Schedule 4 (Discharge of requirements))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant will be asked to provide an overview of the requirements and the discharge process</li> <li>• The ExA may ask questions, seeking responses where appropriate from the applicant, the local authorities and any other interested parties who have registered to speak.</li> </ul> <p>6.3 Article 60 and Schedule 19 of the draft DCO – Certification of plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the plans and documents to be certified</li> </ul> <p>6.4 Consents, licences and other agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant will be asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to provide an overview of consents, licences and other agreements that would be required in order to undertake the proposed development</li> <li>○ to provide an update of progress and timescales for completion of such consents, licences and other agreements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The ExA may ask questions, including whether any planning obligations/ planning performance agreements/ side agreements/ other types of obligation/ agreement are proposed and any indicative timescales for finalising such documents.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjourn</b>	

**Day 2: Wednesday 29 April 2026**

<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Welcome, ExA introductions, opening remarks and resumption of the hearing</b>
	<b>Discussion points</b>
<b>Item 8</b>	<p><b>Landscape and visual effects</b></p> <p>8.1 Methodology</p> <p>8.2 Landscape and visual effects – general issues, including limits of deviation</p> <p>8.3 Consideration of the following specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waveney Valley</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burstall and Bramford</li> <li>• Dedham Vale National Landscape (including the duty to seek to further the purposes)</li> <li>• Ardleigh and Little Bromley</li> <li>• Colne Valley</li> <li>• Great and Little Waltham</li> <li>• Ingatestone and Buttbury</li> </ul> <p>Discussion of the above areas may also include consideration of heritage assets within such areas.</p> <p>8.4 Cumulative effects</p> <p>8.5 Mitigation</p> <p>8.6 Any other landscape and visual matters</p>
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>Historic Environment</b></p> <p>This item of the agenda will focus on above ground assets.</p> <p>9.1 Methodology, including levels of harm and vibration effects</p> <p>9.2 Historic Environment – general issues, including limits of deviation and approach to non-designated heritage assets (NDHA)</p> <p>9.3 Specific heritage assets, including NDHA, within the following local authority areas: (assets within the areas specified in 8.3 may have already been considered within that agenda item and if so will not be repeated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Norfolk</li> <li>• Babergh/Mid Suffolk</li> <li>• Tendring</li> <li>• Colchester</li> <li>• Braintree</li> <li>• Chelmsford</li> <li>• Brentwood</li> <li>• Thurrock</li> </ul> <p>9.4 Mitigation</p> <p>9.5 Any other historic environment issues</p>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	

**Day 3: Friday 1 May 2026**

<p><b>Item 10</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome, ExA introductions, opening remarks and resumption of the hearing</b></p>
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	<b>Discussion points</b>
<b>Item 11</b>	<p><b>Traffic and transport</b></p> <p>11.1 Baseline, modelling and future monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of modelling and assessments, including review of matters not agreed with highway authorities</li> <li>• Outstanding information requested by highway authorities</li> <li>• How monitoring of junction performance will be undertaken and what intervention looks like</li> <li>• Walking, cycling and horse riding assessments</li> </ul> <p>11.2 Cumulative impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative impact with other projects</li> <li>• Coordination and mitigation</li> </ul> <p>11.3 Abnormal indivisible load (AIL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of AIL strategy from applicant including timescales</li> <li>• Update on the status of AIL route planning and assessment</li> <li>• Update on AILs escort proposals</li> <li>• Cumulative impact with other developments and proposed developments</li> </ul> <p>11.4 The outline traffic management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel plans</li> <li>• Measures to reduce and monitor number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) and whether a cap on the number of HGVs is required</li> <li>• Maintenance of highways during construction and reinstatement on completion</li> <li>• Non-primary access routes</li> <li>• Extent of non-definitive commitments and how the ExA and highway authorities can be assured certain commitments will be delivered</li> <li>• Traffic Regulation Orders (temporary and permanent)</li> </ul> <p>11.5 Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposals at junctions and links</li> <li>• proposals for mitigation on Primary Access Routes</li> <li>• the proposed drivers information pack</li> <li>• the outline code of construction practice</li> </ul>
<b>Item 12</b>	<p><b>Public Rights of Way (PRoW)</b></p> <p>12.1 Applicant to outline mitigation, measures to reduce time and length of diversions and communication of impacts on PRoWs</p> <p>12.2 Opportunity for PRoW authorities to detail remaining concerns</p>
<b>Item 14</b>	<b>Any other matters</b>

<b>Item 15</b>	<b>Review of actions arising and close</b>
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Please note that the above agenda is indicative and may be amended by the ExA at the start of the hearing. The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail in this agenda to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing.

### **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 hearings.

### **Agenda items for discussion**

The ExA's rule 13 letter dated 31 March 2026 [[PD-015](#)], which provided notification of ISH2, stated that some of the environmental matters listed in the outline of matters for consideration at ISH2 may not be examined orally at the hearing. At the time of writing, the ExA was unable to confirm which matters may fall away until it had considered the responses to its first written questions (ExQ1) submitted at deadline 3 (Friday 10 April).

The following matters listed on page 3 of the rule 13 letter are not included on this agenda for ISH2:

- air quality
- flood risk and drainage
- health and wellbeing
- land use and soils
- socio-economics
- biodiversity

Following its review of answers to ExQ1 and other written submissions received at deadlines 1 to 3, the ExA is satisfied that it does not currently need to examine the above issues orally. Instead, the ExA may issue further questions on the above matters in its second written questions (22 May 2026) and/ or examine such issues orally in the next set of hearings which are to take place in the week commencing 22 June 2026.

Additionally, a number of IPs have previously 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 agenda above. The discussion 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 development consent order will be discussed on Tuesday 28 April, and may carry over into subsequent sessions.

All parties are reminded that the examination is a primarily written process.

### **Concurrent hearings**

ISH2 and compulsory acquisition hearing 2 (CAH2) will take place concurrently on Wednesday 29 April 2026 at two different venues as set out in the rule 13 letter dated 31 March 2026 [[PD-015](#)]. Three of the ExA panel members will be in attendance at ISH2 in Colchester, with the other two panel members at CAH2 in Ipswich. Both events will be live streamed and a recording made available on the project page of the website as soon as possible after the event.

Not all panel members of the ExA will be present at all hearings, but will watch the recordings of the hearings not attended.

### **Change requests**

Two change requests were made by the applicant on 27 March 2026. These are published in the examination library at references [CR1-001] to [CR1-017] and [CR2-001] to [CR2-017] (inclusive) and can be viewed on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The ExA responded to the requests on 31 March 2026 [[PD-016](#)]. The representation period for both change requests is currently underway, therefore there will be no discussion relating to the changes at ISH2.

### **Attendees**

The ExA will be directing its questions to the applicant on the matters as set out in this agenda, and there will be limited time available for IPs to make submissions on the items in the agenda.

However, this does not indicate that IPs will not be able to contribute. All are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to time constraints and the ExA's ability to control the hearing. Active participation by IPs is at the discretion of the ExA.

If any IP intends to make lengthy or detailed comments on any of the agenda items or in response to the applicant's submissions at the hearing, they can be submitted in writing at **deadline 4 (Thursday 12 May 2026)**.

The event will be livestreamed, and recorded. A link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project page](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. Therefore if any IPs and other members of the public wish to observe the hearing only they can do so using the livestream. Alternatively, they can view and listen to the recording in their own time after the event.

### **Registration process**

Notification of the date, time and attendance instructions for ISH2 was provided in the ExA's Rule 13 letter dated 31 March 2026 [[PD-015](#)]. Interested parties who wish to speak at this event were required to provide notification by deadline 3, 10 April

2026. If you haven't notified us that you wish to attend or to speak, you must contact the case team as soon as possible.

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) 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. To enable the hearing to start on time at **10:00** those attending virtually should join promptly at **09:30** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process 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.

### **Conduct and management of hearings**

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence at hearings through direct questioning of persons making oral representations.

Questioning at this hearing will therefore be led by the ExA. Cross questioning (or cross examination) of the person giving evidence by another IP or their legal representative will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary. This is to ensure representations are adequately tested or that each has had a fair chance to put their case, and in ensuring that efficient use is made of time in the hearing.

The business of the hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA. This may include matters arising from representations as well as oral submissions made in other hearings being held in the same week. Therefore, the ExA may raise issues that are not listed on the agenda in the course of the discussion.

Oral submissions on other subject matters or from IPs who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance, efficiency or fairness.

Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of that issue, including the asking of written questions by the ExA.

A recording and transcript of the hearing will be published by the Planning Inspectorate on the [project page](#) of the National Infrastructure website and any IP may make a written submission on the specific matters either included in the agenda or arising at the hearing by **deadline 4 (Thursday 12 May 2026)**.

Evidence presented orally at these hearings should be included in post-hearing submissions including written submissions of your oral case and submitted at the above deadline, in order to ensure that it has been recorded accurately.

To help you participate effectively, the Planning Inspectorate has published [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice Pages](#).

This material includes advice on how to use Teams (our virtual event system) and on protecting your privacy during virtual events. The advice relating to virtual events is also relevant to blended events where parties can attend virtually. Please read this advice before you join your hearing, as it will help you to prepare and get the best out of your participation.

### **Contingencies**

If this hearing is unable to proceed or continue, then the ExA will adjourn incomplete business to hearing times later that have been reserved in the examination timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided in the banner on the National Infrastructure Planning Website.