



Planning Inspectorate

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

Issue Specific Hearing 2

Dates: 28 and 29 April and 1 May 2026

Venue: Colchester United Football Club and Ipswich Town Football Club and MS Teams

Action points:

The action points listed below are all directed to **the applicant only** unless otherwise stated in **bold**.

All responses should be provided by **deadline 4 (Tuesday 12 May)** unless otherwise stated.

Reference to '**all local authorities**' includes the following: Norfolk County Council (CC), Suffolk CC, Essex CC, South Norfolk District Council (DC), Mid Suffolk DC, Babergh DC, Tendring DC, Colchester City Council, Braintree DC, Chelmsford City Council, Brentwood Borough Council (BC), Basildon BC and Thurrock Council.

Day 1	
Tuesday 28 April	
Agenda item 4: Noise and Vibration	
1	Percussive/ non-percussive piling Provide examples of the types of ground conditions where percussive piling is needed, and provide an indication of the likelihood of use for this project.
2	Use of term 'where practicable' All local authorities: Provide a response to the applicant's answer to first written question (ExQ1) NV1.6 and follow up to hearing discussion regarding use of the term 'where practicable' and whether commitment NV23 in the outline code of construction practice (CoCP) would be adequate.
3	Jasmine Cottage, Bentley Road Provide details of bespoke noise mitigation strategy for Jasmine Cottage. Provide details of how this will be secured.

Day 1

Tuesday 28 April

Agenda item 5: Aviation safety

5	<p>Norfolk Gliding Club: Tibenham airfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond in detail (“line by line”) to the relevant paragraphs of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) airfield advisory team letter of March 2025 concerning effects on Tibenham airfield.• Respond to suggestion of risks in pilots turning to avoid the power lines at lower than 300ft and partial engine failure.• Norfolk Gliding Club to provide further details of the origin of the 300ft figure.• Provide further justification to suggestion of lower height pylons in this location and effects on Tibenham and Priory Farm.• Provide details of the source of statistics – engine failure, including response to details provided by Mr Curtis of Raydon Wings.
6	<p>Licensed and unlicensed aerodromes and critical national priority (CNP)</p> <p>General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) and Raydon Wings to respond in writing to the applicants comments regarding National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 and the importance of unlicensed aerodromes in the context of CNP.</p>
7	<p>Maintenance of overhead lines (OHL)</p> <p>Provide a response to the Examining Authority (ExA) question regarding drone and helicopter use for maintenance of the OHL in the vicinity of aerodromes, including a possible requirement to secure any measures if necessary.</p>
8	<p>RAF Wattisham mitigation</p> <p>Provide details of outcome of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation assessment and the necessary mitigation required, including how it will be secured and the wording of a draft requirement.</p>
9	<p>Raydon Wings Airfield</p> <p>Provide a schedule of the interactions between the parties. Continue to progress a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) in a positive manner.</p>

Day 1**Tuesday 28 April****Agenda item 6: Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)**

10	Discharge period <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a full response in writing to the local authorities' request to further extend the period for discharge to 40 working days/ 56 calendar days.• Local authorities to provide additional justification for their request, including reasons for continuing to request additional days for discharge (with reference to experiences relating to Sea Link and Bramford to Twinstead).• Provide a response to the suggestion of a validation checklist being secured in the DCO.
11	ExQ1 DCO 1.A6 and 'maintain' Local authorities to comment on the applicant's position in its response to the question.
12	Article 5 Vertical limits of deviation Clarify the areas where these are restricted and how they would be secured, and respond to the National Farmers Union (NFU) question at the hearing regarding this.
13	Article 23 Removal of human remains Suffolk County Council to provide comments on the applicants response to ExQ1 DCO 1.28.
14	Article 29 (Temporary use of land for maintaining the authorised development) Applicant to respond in writing to the request raised by NFU regarding notice period for farmers set out in Article 29(3) of 10 business days, suggesting 3 months notice should be provided.
15	Schedule 16 Protective Provisions North Falls Offshore Wind Farm to provide a progress update on its protective provisions with the applicant.
16	Schedule 3 - Requirements 1 (Interpretations) Local authorities to comment on the applicants response to ExQ1 DCO 1.S5 regarding the discharging authority and the revised wording, including in relation to local government reform as set out in the Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill 2025. Both the applicant and local authorities to provide further comments on the definition of 'stage'.
17	Schedule 3 – Requirement 5 (Archaeology) Local authorities to provide comments on the applicant's answer to ExQ1 DCO 1.S8 and the document now provided [AS-090].

DAY 2**Wednesday 29 April****Agenda item 6: Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)**

18	Schedule 3 requirement 9: Reinstatement planting plan Provide a response to the ExA question regarding interpretation of what exactly the applicant is proposing as 'mitigation', 'enhancement', 'compensation' or 'biodiversity net gain' (BNG) as separate entities. Signpost to where, in the submitted application documentation, it specifically explains what elements of the proposed development will constitute 'mitigation', 'enhancement', 'compensation' and 'BNG' and where these different elements are shown in their own right on the submitted plans.
19	Schedule 4 Discharge of requirements The applicant and local authorities are both to provide a response to the ExA questions and comments including an update by deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June) regarding post-discharge functions and the involvement of the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), following the related submissions at the final deadline of the Sea Link examination. Enquiries are to be made whether DESNZ has been consulted or provided comments regarding the draft wording of the relevant schedule in the Sea Link draft DCO.
20	Article 60 and Schedule 19 Local authorities to respond to the points made at the hearing.
21	Consents, licences and other agreements Provide a summarised general update on consents and licences that are being sought.
22	ExQ1 GEN 1.21 and Appendix E The local authorities, highway authorities, police forces and statutory undertakers named in the Appendix E of [REP3-074] are to provide further response to ExQ1 GEN 1.21 and Appendix E, having regard to the criteria set out in s122(2) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. Rosie Pearson for Pylons East Anglia and Charles Micklem to provide in writing their comments regarding clauses in agreements relating to objections to planning applications and projects.
23	BNG and unilateral undertaking/ bilateral agreement Clarify the matter of planning obligations referenced in ExQ1 DCO 1.G4 and DCO 1.S15 are the same document or separate documents. DCO 1.S15 indicates a unilateral undertaking, whilst the document referenced in DCO 1.G4 appears to reference bilateral agreements between appropriate landowners and the relevant planning authorities or responsible bodies (as applicable). Clarify how these documents are to be secured, in terms of their relationship to the DCO, and how commitments to the management and maintenance of any off-site BNG is to be secured. Note: A request was made by the ExA regarding planning obligations not being submitted too late in the Examination, to allow time for interested parties to comment on these documents.

Day 2**Wednesday 29 April****Agenda item 8: Landscape and visual effects**

24	Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Further to ExQ1 LV1.21 provide an example where the technical guidance note has had an effect on the proposed route.
25	Limits of Deviation 1 Local authorities to identify the most sensitive locations and specific viewpoints that they would like to see additional visuals of pylons within the limits of deviation (so as to further illustrate the worst case scenario). The list of viewpoints is to be agreed as soon as possible with the applicant, and submitted by the applicant at deadline 4 (Tuesday 12 May) . The applicant is to submit the agreed visuals by deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June) .
26	Limits of Deviation 2 Applicant to provide a response to the ExA question regarding how the limits of deviation in the project compare to that in the DCO for Bramford to Twinstead project.
27	ExQ LV 1.28 and masterplans Masterplans to be provided at the next deadline, with an agreed position in terms of compensation measures for residual effects on the specified landscapes by deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June) .
28	Waveney Valley Provide more information on the technical reasons for other pylon types being discounted. Local authorities to provide further comments in writing in response to the discussion regarding the setting of St Remigius Church.
29	Dedham Vale 1 Clarify if the worst case scenario for the permanent visual effects of the link pillars has been assessed and provide details of the assessment. Provide details of the colour of the proposed link pillars and associated fencing.
30	Dedham Vale 2 Mr Buxton for the Dedham Vale Society and Pylons East Anglia to review and if necessary provide a response to the applicants response to ExQ1 ALT 1.6 and LV 1.15 [REP3-074] and the applicants responses to deadline 2 submissions (pages 197 to 206) [REP3-070].
31	Burstall and Bramford Respond to request by Mid Suffolk and Babergh DCs and Suffolk County Council for collaborative working with the Bramford to Twinstead project and a strategic landscape response.
32	Ardleigh and Little Bromley Ardleigh and Little Bromley Parish Councils (ALBA) to provide a list of suggested additional viewpoints. Applicant to provide further visuals as necessary at deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June) .
33	Bounds Farmhouse Respond in writing to the interested party regarding their oral submissions in relation to Bounds Farmhouse, Ardleigh.

34	<p>Colne Valley Provide written response to comments made at the hearing, in particular regarding the differing characteristics of the Colne Valley in terms of topography and whether the approach to the selection of the proposed pylon route has varied given these characteristics.</p>
35	<p>Cumulative effects Provide copies of the documents and cumulative photomontages provided to the Five Estuaries and North Falls examinations which indicate the location of Norwich to Tilbury EACN works.</p>
36	<p>Mitigation Respond to the comments made by interested parties regarding landscape mitigation, including tree and hedge loss.</p>
<p>Day 2 Wednesday 29 April Item 9: Historic Environment</p>	
37	<p>Heritage visualisations Historic England to provide comments on the applicant's response to ExQ1 HE 1.13 [REP3-074].</p>
38	<p>Further historic environment questions The ExA are to separately issue a Rule 17 letter to contain the remaining questions not covered in item 9 of the agenda. All parties listed in those questions should provide a response at deadline 4 (Tuesday 12 May).</p>

Day 3**Friday 1 May****Item 11: Traffic and Transport**

39	Diss to Thetford (PARs 8 and 9) Norfolk County Council to provide further comments and an update on discussions.
40	Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) Writtle Provide a response to ARU Writtle comments regarding traffic management for horse riders on Cow Watering Lane.
41	Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) 1 The Suffolk Constabulary and Essex Police (the Joint Forces) to provide a copy of National Police Chiefs' Council Guidelines on charging for police services.
42	Abnormal Indivisible Loads 2 Provide updated SoCG with the Joint Forces to include updates on discussions regarding outstanding concerns on certainty and funding mechanisms.
43	Abnormal Indivisible Loads: cumulative impacts Applicant and local highway authorities to provide in writing an update on cumulative impacts of AIL routing and progress with route assessments, including structural assessment.
44	Joint working with other projects Consider widening or replication of the Essex developer forum format for all authorities in the area and also consider the inclusion of relevant parish councils and provide details of how this might work and how it would be secured.
45	Caps on heavy goods vehicles (HGV) Signpost the assessment of this issue in the ExA's recommendation report on the Bramford to Twinstead project.
46	Non-primary access routes (PARs) Applicant and Suffolk County Council to discuss the inclusion of non-PARs in the outline construction traffic management plan (CTMP) and the assessment of environmental effects, and provide further written comments to summarise the issue and discussions to date.
47	CTMP and Construction Workers Travel Plan (CWTP) (and appendices) Assess the use of tailpieces and other non-committal forms of wording in the CTMP and the CWTP to make these as binding and enforceable as possible, and amend as necessary for submission of the next versions of the documents.
48	Driver's information pack Provide detailed information and explanation of the proposed drivers information pack in the outline CTMP so the ExA can be satisfied that the information in the final driver's information pack will be effective.
Item 12: Public rights of way	
49	Management plan Submission of updated outline PRow management plan.