



## **Examination into DCO Application by National Grid for Norwich to Tilbury**

### **Royal Mail Group Limited's Statement at Deadline 4 on 12 May 2026**

#### **Introduction**

Further to its s42 consultation response dated July 2024 and s56 relevant representation submitted in November 2025, Royal Mail and its consultants BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed National Grid's Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan dated April 2026. Set out below are Royal Mail's comments on the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan dated April 2026 preceded by relevant information about Royal Mail, as previously made available.

#### **Royal Mail – relevant information**

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail is under some of the highest specification performance obligations for quality of service in Europe. Its performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and this should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

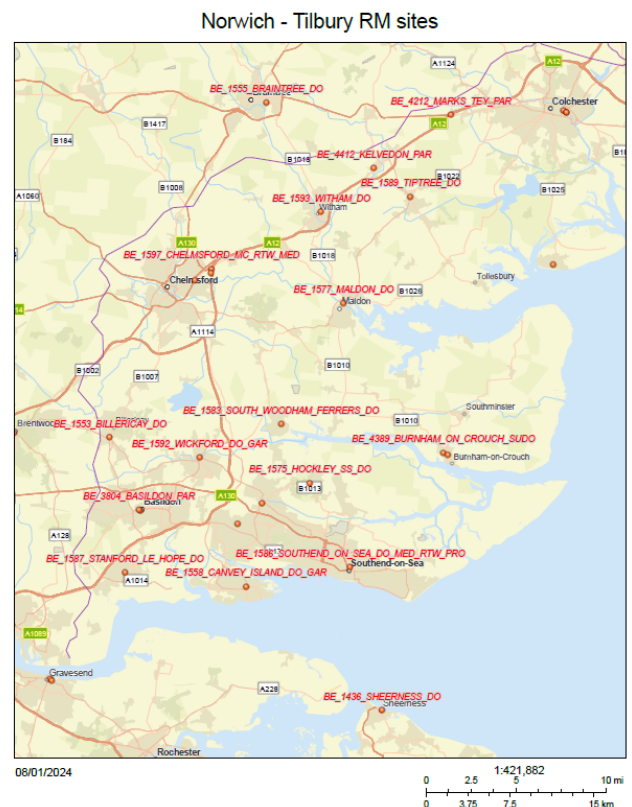
Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

Royal Mail has 21 operational sites within 5 km of the proposed electricity transmission line route, including at the following locations (with approximate distances to the route):

1. Billericay c.<1km
2. Marks Tey c.1km
3. Kelvedon c.1.6km
4. Long Stratton c.1.85km
5. East Bergholt c.2.3km
6. Diss DO c.2.5km
7. Diss c.2.65km
8. Stowmarket c. 2.65km
9. Basildon c.3.5km



10. Basildon c.3.65km
11. Ipswich West End c.3.9km
12. Stanford Le Hope c.4.1km
13. Manningtree c.4.3km
14. Framingham Earl c.4.5km
15. Braintree c.4.5km
16. Witham c.4.5km
17. Ipswich RTW c.4.65km
18. Colchester c.4.65km
19. Colchester c.4.75km
20. Grays c.4.9km
21. Tiptree c. 5km



Every day, in exercising its statutory duties Royal Mail vehicles use all of the main roads that may potentially be affected by the construction phase of the new electricity transmission line, including the A11, A12, A13, A14, A47, A120, A127, A128, A131, A140, A143, A176, A1089, A1013, A1089 and B1018.



Any periods of road disruption / closure, night or day, on or to the surrounding highway network will have the potential to impact operations and may consequently disrupt Royal Mail's ability to meet its Universal Obligation service delivery targets.

Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and as indicated above should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

### **Royal Mail position on Norwich to Tilbury at May 2026**

The construction works for this new electricity transmission line scheme will be of a scale, nature and duration that has potential to impact Royal Mail's road-based distribution and delivery services.

Advanced knowledge of any Traffic Management, road closures or other works affecting the public highway, its capacity or journey times is usually the key to enable Royal Mail to manage impacts on its operations and business. To this end Royal Mail requires full commitment to advanced notification of works affecting the highway by National Grid or its contractors.

Royal Mail supports Norwich to Tilbury and does not wish to stop or delay the construction works for this important infrastructure project from occurring. However, Royal Mail does wish to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivering service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations.

Royal Mail welcomes the references within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan dated April 2026 at paragraphs 5.3.14 and 5.3.15:

- 5.3.14 The Project will make effort to work with local stakeholders to ensure disruption caused by AIL deliveries is minimised. Groups include, but are not limited to:
- Schools
  - Local bus operators, including school bus operators
  - Local doctors, surgeries or health providers
  - Holiday accommodation developments
  - Royal Mail
  - Leisure centres
  - Churches.
- 5.3.15 Contact with these service providers will be made in advance of planning AIL deliveries.

Also at paragraph 5.8.5:



temporary speed restrictions, and information on planned A/E movements.

- 5.8.5 The Applicant will use reasonable endeavours to inform other relevant stakeholders (such as Royal Mail or Blue Light Services) of any road closures, diversions or access arrangements that are considered to impact their operations at the earliest possible opportunity.

However, these provisions do not go far enough to meet the mitigations that Royal Mail requested in its s42 consultation response in July 2024 and s56 relevant representation submitted in November 2025.

To re-iterate, in order to adequately protect Royal Mail's interests, it is requested that the Construction Traffic Management Plan includes the following mitigations, which if included would address Royal Mail's concerns:

1. a requirement that during the construction phase Royal Mail is notified by National Grid or its contractors at least one month in advance on any proposed road closures / diversions / alternative access arrangements, hours of working;
2. where road closures / diversions are proposed, National Grid or its contractors should be required to liaise with Royal Mail at least one month in advance to identify and make available alternative highway routes for operational use, where possible; and
3. a mechanism that informs Royal Mail about any other works affecting the local highways network (having regard in particular to the above identified operational Royal Mail sites in the area surrounding the proposed new electricity transmission line).

Royal Mail wishes to reserve its position to submit further representations to the future Public Examination, if required.

In the meantime, any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

████████████████████@royalmail.com), Senior Planning Lawyer, Royal Mail Group Limited

████████████████████@realestate.bnpparibas), Director, BNP Paribas Real Estate