

**PLANNING ACT 2008**

**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010**

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OF NFU REGARDING THE NORWICH TO TILBURY  
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER APPLICATION BY NATIONAL GRID  
PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NO**

**SUBMISSIONS OF NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ON ISSUES FOLLOWING THE ISSUE  
SPECIFIC HEARING ON TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026.**

**DATE 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026**

**Louise Staples  
NFU  
Agriculture House  
Stoneleigh Park  
Stoneleigh  
Warwickshire**

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Submissions on behalf of the National Farmers Union (“NFU”) in respect of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) by National Grid. The NFU is making a case on behalf of its members. This submission is submitted to highlight issues of concern which have been raised by NFU on behalf of NFU members who will be affected by this project and were raised at the Issue Specific Hearing on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

## 2.0. DCO Articles

### 2.1.1 Article 5: Limits of Deviation: *5(d)(1) upwards such that the minimum distance that will be kept between the top of the protective tiles or the top of the cable ducts and the top of the finished ground level is 0.9 metres*

The NFU raised at the hearing that they are requesting that the depth between the protective tile to the top of the finished ground level is 1.2m and the depth should only be as shallow as 0.9metres for exceptional engineering reasons.

### 2.2.1 Article 22: Authority to survey and investigate the land 22.—(1) *The undertaker may for the purposes of this Order enter on any land shown within the Order limits or any land which may be affected by the authorised project and—*

The NFU raised at the hearing that they would like further clarity on what land may be ‘**any land which may be affected by the authorised project**’. The NFU believes that this is too wide an area and that this needs to be tighter so that landowners and occupiers will have an idea as to what land might be impacted.

The NFU would like to request that the word ‘adjacent’ should be included in the wording at 22.1 and that there should be a definition of adjacent included in the DCO.

2.2.2 The NFU raised at the hearing at 22 (1) (b) that the wording also included not just land but any buildings as well. ‘Buildings’ is not normally included and the NFU requested why was it necessary to include buildings.

2.2.3 The NFU raised at the hearing at 22 (1) (d) that the wording included ‘monitoring land’. The NFU raised that if equipment is left to carry out monitoring this can cause interference to day to day agricultural operations. Is this necessary?

### 2.3. Article 27: Temporary Use of Land: (2) *Not less than 14 days before entering on and taking temporary possession of land under this article National Grid must serve notice of the intended entry on the owners and occupiers of the land.*

The NFU at the hearing raised that they would like to see this notice period being for 3 months before entering and using the land. The National Grid scheme will be impacting many different types of farms, in particular some very intensive horticultural crops with multiple cropping and livestock farms including outdoor pigs. The notice period of 14 days is simply not enough time for a

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farming business to plan whether livestock will need to be sold, implications on forage and feed and in regard to the outdoor pigs, the relocating of the outdoor pig units to a different area of the farm.

It is impossible for a farmer to change operations/cultivations or make arrangements to do something different on an area of land. Changes may be needed to crop contracts and to do this farmers will need to know way in advance of the 14 days temporary notice.