

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

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 3: draft Development Consent Order

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<p>Issue specific hearing 3 (ISH3)</p> <p>On the draft development consent order (DCO)</p>	<p>Wednesday 24 June 2026</p> <p>Hearing starts 14:00</p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from 13:30 and virtual registration process from 13:30</p>	<p>The Sports Bar Chelmsford City Racecourse Chelmsford Essex CM3 1QP</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have preregistered</p>

Agenda

Wednesday 24 June 2026	
Item 1	Welcome, examining authority (ExA) introductions and arrangements for the hearing
Item 2	Purpose of the issue specific hearing and ExA opening remarks
Item 3	Introduction of participants
	Discussion points
Item 4	<p>Change Requests as relevant to ISH3</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 14(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010, the ExA will give an opportunity for any additional interested party or additional affected person, as a result of the accepted change requests [PD-016] to make oral representations on the matters previously discussed at ISH1 and ISH2.</p>
Item 5	<p>The development consent order</p> <p>The ExA will be examining the following broad headings:</p> <p>5.1 Articles and Schedules of the draft DCO, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the term ‘unreasonably withheld or delayed’ • Article 10 (Planning permissions and other consents) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within this article, what differentiates the DCO being sought from other DCOs - The need for an additional sub-paragraph required making it clear nothing in the article prevents any enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or the Planning Act 2008 from being taken in relation to any breach of that permission or consent where that breach is not an inconsistency for the purposes of Article 10(2) • Part 5 (Acquisition and Possession of Land) Articles 24 to 46 – Work Plans and Book of Reference – Class 8 land that is not subject to powers of acquisition nor temporary use • Article 48 (Defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance) and whether Schedule 3, requirement 14 needs to be accounted for within drafting • Article 50 (Felling and Lopping)/ Article 51 (Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders) – In the light of the Ancient Woodland Technical Note should a sub-paragraph be inserted in these articles specifying paragraph (1) does not apply to any trees identified as ancient or veteran unless they have previously been agreed to be removed or are agreed to be

	<p>dead, dying or dangerous by the relevant planning authority and there is no alternative to their removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 56 (Safeguarding) and whether there has been any discussion with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero concerning the issuing of a safeguarding direction • Schedule 16 Protective Provisions – Update on parties seeking protective provisions and when these are to be included within the draft DCO <p>5.2 Schedules 3 and 4 of the draft DCO (Requirements and discharge of requirements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule 3 (Requirements) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirement 5 (Archaeology) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Restricting pre-commencement works and the applicant's comments [REP5-201], especially on responses to question DCO 1.S8 Schedule 3 – Requirement 5 (archaeology) on pages 23 and 24 of that document; and ii) Revised wording in the draft DCO [REP5-060] and the meaning of the wording 'the relevant land' - Requirement 7 (Construction hours), including start-up and close down periods - Requirement 12 (Design of permanent buildings) – Question why this is limited to permanent buildings only, and views on a sub-paragraph being imposed requiring details of all above ground works at substations being submitted to and agreed with the relevant planning authority prior to works commencing - Requirements related to: i) Management Plans and Commitments, including in relation to the Employment and Skills Plan; ii) Management plans to be approved; iii) mitigation of intra-project cumulative effects; and iv) the provision of as built details to relevant local authorities, especially in relation to underground cable corridors • Schedule 4 (Discharge of requirements) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant will be asked to talk the ExA through its 'Proposed Approach to Adopting the DESNZ Requirement Discharge Units for Norwich to Tilbury', as set out in appendix A of its 'Comments on Post-Hearing Submissions and Interested Party Action Points' [REP5-194] - The applicant will also be asked for timescales for consideration of responses to its proposed revisions and for incorporation into the draft DCO - Relevant local authorities and other relevant interested parties will be asked for their views on the applicant's proposed approach • Update regarding validation checklists for submissions <p>5.3 Article 60 and Schedule 19 of the draft DCO – Certification of plans</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on plans and/ or documents to be certified <p>5.4 Consents, licences and other agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on consents, licences and other agreements (including planning obligations and side agreements), including an update of progress and timescales for completion
Item 6	Review of actions arising and close

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

ISH3 relates to its consideration of the draft DCO and will focus on areas within that document the ExA considers further oral examination may assist it in its consideration of its content, as relevant to the proposed development. A limited range of environmental matters will be considered the following day at ISH4 and there may be some further discussion at that hearing in relation to the draft DCO.

Attendees

The ExA will be primarily 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 6 (7 July 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 ISH3 was provided in the ExA's letter dated 22 May 2026 [[PD-022](#)]. Interested parties who wish to speak at this event were required to provide notification by deadline 5, 10 June 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. To enable the hearing to start on time at **14:00** those attending virtually should join promptly at **13:30** 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 interested party 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 interested parties 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 6 (7 July 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.