

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

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 4: Environmental matters (updated 17 June 2026)

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<p>Issue specific hearing 4 (ISH4)</p> <p>on</p> <p>Environmental matters</p>	<p>Thursday 25 June 2026</p> <p>and</p> <p>Friday 26 June 2026 (if required)</p> <p>Hearing starts at 10:00 on each day</p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from 09:00 and virtual registration process from 09:30</p>	<p>The Sports Bar</p> <p>Chelmsford City Racecourse</p> <p>Chelmsford</p> <p>Essex</p> <p>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

Day 1: Thursday 25 June 2026 (some items may be carried over to Day 2 on Friday 26 June if necessary)

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</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>Landscape and visual effects</p> <p>5.1 Mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation and the mitigation hierarchy • Masterplans [REP5-199] (and reference to specific areas covered by the masterplans) • Offsite planting delivery schemes • Monitoring <p>5.2 The Colne Valley, including discussion on the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planscape Landscape and Visual Technical Note [REP5-277] • The Landscape Partnership Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [REP5-226] <p>5.3 Limits of deviation (including in relation to heritage assets), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and amended viewpoints • The provisions of Commitment GG34 of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP5-139] • Decision making and approval mechanism <p>5.4 Any other landscape and visual matters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link pillars and dark skies in the Dedham Vale

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative effects • Residential Visual Amenity Assessment ([REP5-126] to [REP5-135]) • Veteran trees
<p>Item 6</p>	<p>Noise and vibration</p> <p>6.1 Update concerning Primary Access Route 30 (Bentley Road) and the magnitude of impact on noise sensitive receptors (both noise and vibration impacts) and mitigations proposed</p> <p>6.2 East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Noise Assessment – cumulative figures in Table A14.3.10 indicate this will be 35 dB LAr,Tr for all noise sensitive receptors. The applicant will be asked to confirm these figures are correct • The applicant will be asked to explain how the ExA can be satisfied the ‘Potential Mitigation Options’ [APP-259] at Table A14.3.7 (Indicative Mitigation Options) will be adequately secured and delivered to the satisfaction of the relevant local authorities • Requirement 14 of the draft DCO sets the noise rating level for standard operations at the EACN. The applicant will be asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) What does dB LAr, Tr actually represent ((LA - Level Audible), (r -reference), (Tr – Time reference). This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is r? Is it LA90 (background), LAeq (energy level) or other? b) What is the time reference (Tr)? c) Bearing in mind BS4142:2014+A1:2019 has been referenced elsewhere in the requirement is Tr nighttime or daytime? ii) Why have the levels in the requirement been set as they have, given with mitigation you indicate dB LAeq (with mitigation) would achieve better than dB LA90 (nighttime)? iii) why are only 6 properties referenced in requirement 14 when 13 are identified in [APP-259]? <p>6.3 Noise and vibration management plan (NV05 in the outline code of construction practice [REP5-139]). How will the need for any ongoing consultation/ authorisation be undertaken once it has initially been discharged by the relevant planning authorities?</p> <p>6.4 Any other matters related to noise and vibration arising from deadline 5 submissions</p>
<p>Item 7</p>	<p>Aviation safety</p> <p>7.1 Policy issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical National Priority (CNP) • General matters of aviation safety and risk <p>7.2 Latest updates and discussion arising from deadline 5 submissions on:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wattisham Station • Tibenham Aerodrome and Priory Farm • Raydon Winds • Chase Farm <p>7.3 Any other aviation related issues.</p>
Item 8	<p>Socio-economics</p> <p>8.1 The outline Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) [REP5-215]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial views of the local authorities and other interested parties will be sought • Supply chains – Does the outline ESP adequately respond to the matter of supply chains, including in relation to implications arising from the number of other nationally significant infrastructure projects taking place in the vicinity of the proposed development and how, if any are arising, the applicant is addressing those implications • Inclusion of requirement 15 into Schedule 3 of the draft DCO [REP5-060]. Local authorities will be asked for their views, including whether approval of the submitted document should be secured within the wording • Consultation on community benefit funding. Whilst it is appreciated such benefits are to be delivered outside the development consent process, the ExA would like a clearer understanding of the consultation process, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) timings for consultation ii) methods used for consultation iii) how will the applicant decide what is to be included within the community benefit strategy • Any other matters arising out of the Employment and Skills Plan
Item 9	<p>Any other matters</p> <p>The ExA may ask other questions of the applicant and interested parties on a limited range of other matters not included in the above topics.</p> <p>The ExA will seek updates on forthcoming submissions of any outstanding matters including finalised statements of common ground and responses to recent Rule 17 letters.</p>
Item 10	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. Discussions may carry over to Friday 26 June only if necessary. If this is required the hearing will close by 13:00. 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

A number of interested parties 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 ISH4 'environmental matters' encompasses a collection of matters affecting a range of locations, and will incorporate consideration of cumulative effects and alternatives where relevant. Such matters will only be discussed where they will assist in the ExA's consideration of the application.

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

Attendees

The ExA will direct its questions primarily to the applicant on the matters as set out in this agenda, and will also seek comments from local authorities where required. Submissions by other interested parties will only be at the discretion of the ExA, who may ask questions of those present but there is unlikely to be time to hear pre-prepared speeches.

However, this does not indicate that IPs will not be able to contribute. Representations should only be on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to time constraints and the ExA's ability to control the hearing. 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.

If any interested party 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 ISH4 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 **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 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.

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.