

Deadline 7

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 17 Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for an order granting development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury project

**Request for further information relating to: the Development Consent Order;
compulsory acquisition and temporary possession of land and rights; biodiversity,
ecology and the natural environment; the historic environment; land use, soils and
green infrastructure; landscape and visual effects; safety and security; socio
economics, recreation and tourism; and the water environment**

1. Draft Development Consent Order

1.1. Requirement 11: Biodiversity Net Gain At deadline 6 the applicant submitted a revised draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [REP6 030]. In Schedule 3 of [REP6-030] a new requirement 11 on biodiversity net gain has been included. Comments are sought on this additional requirement, including any alterations to any of the wording that you would recommend.

Natural England welcomes the new requirement and has no comment on the wording. It is noted that Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1) supports an approach of Environmental Net Gain which is broader than Biodiversity Net Gain. Consideration should be given as to whether it would be appropriate to reference this within or alongside the new requirement.

3. Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment

3.1 Assessment of impacts on bat species and proposed mitigation. In paragraphs 6.1.11 to 6.1.14 of the revised version of the outline LEMP [REP6-084], the applicant has included further details of mitigation measures for bat species.

***To all local authorities and Natural England:** Comment on whether the amendments made to the revised outline LEMP [REP6-084] now satisfy your concerns in relation to the assessment of impacts on bats and proposed mitigation. This should include whether you think the 10% figure, as proposed in paragraph 6.1.12, would be sufficient. If you have any remaining concerns then please set these out, including what specific actions you consider should be undertaken by the applicant to resolve your concerns.*

Natural England's position is as set out in our Statement of Common Ground with the applicant and previous correspondence submitted to the examining authority. Natural England remains engaged with the scheme's ecological consultants to establish a licensable approach, informed by appropriate survey effort. Broad principles of bat mitigation and approach to bat licensing have been agreed with the Applicant. Natural England has provided the applicant with an advice letter providing further direction on licensable approaches.

REPORT on the IMPLICATIONS for EUROPEAN SITES

Natural England notes that no questions have been specifically addressed to us in the Report on the Implications for European Sites and confirms that it broadly reflects our position. We offer this advice without prejudice to the representations of other parties.

Natural England - 21 July 2026