

The Great Grid Upgrade

Norwich to Tilbury

Project update

August 2025

nationalgrid

Development Consent Order application submitted

Norwich to Tilbury has reached a significant milestone with the submission of its Development Consent Order (DCO) application

As demand for energy, including in East Anglia, is set to double, the Norwich to Tilbury project will deliver new capacity across East Anglia, a powerhouse of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind, but a region that has historically had limited transmission infrastructure.

National Grid has today submitted its application for a DCO. This submission marks the result of three years of public and stakeholder engagement, design refinements and environmental and land assessments. It's a landmark moment for National Grid and the region, part of our readiness to move from planning to delivery.

Norwich to Tilbury is a key part of a £30 bn nationwide transformation of a network originally designed for coal-powered energy. Meeting clean energy targets means urgently expanding our ability to carry clean power from where it's generated, often offshore, to where it's needed.

We are proposing to build approximately 180 km of new electricity transmission reinforcement between Norwich and Tilbury. This will be made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and two new substations.

This project is a part of [The Great Grid Upgrade](#), which will increase energy security, protect homes, business and public services from global price fluctuations, and reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

What is the Great Grid Upgrade

The Great Grid Upgrade is 17 major infrastructure projects that will both scale up the grid and update our existing networks. It will enable us to carry more clean, secure energy from where it's generated – like out in the North Sea by wind turbines – to where you need it, delivering more homegrown British energy, supporting increased demand as well as boosting local economies, creating jobs, and providing cleaner, more affordable energy.



Development Consent Order application - the process

The Planning Inspectorate now has up to 28 days to decide if the application meets the required standards to be accepted for examination.

[Click here](#) to find the latest information on our application on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

If our application is accepted, our submission documents will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website. This will include a Consultation Report providing responses to the feedback submitted during the 2024 statutory consultation and the targeted consultations earlier this year.

The Planning Inspectorate will appoint an Examining Authority which will hold a six-month examination of our application. Local residents, landowners and our stakeholders will be able to register an interest at that point so they can provide comments and take part in the examination period. We will provide more information on how to take part if our application is accepted.

Following examination, the Examining Authority will prepare a detailed report along with its recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Secretary of State then has three months to decide whether to approve the application.

We expect the whole process to take around 18 months.

More information about our proposals is available on our [project website](#).

[Click here](#) to watch a video on how Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are refused or approved.

What happens next

Stage**Detail**

Acceptance

The Planning Inspectorate is reviewing our application to decide whether to accept it.

Opportunity to register as interested party

If the application is accepted the Planning Inspectorate will prepare for the examination period. Anyone who wishes to take part in the examination process will be able to register as an interested party. The Planning Inspectorate has a guide on their website for those who want to register and have their say.

Examination

The Examining Authority will have six months to ask questions about the proposed development. Anyone who has registered as an interested party can have their say on the application.

Recommendation

After the close of the examination phase, the Planning Inspectorate has up to three months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

Decision

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero then has three months to make a decision.

Contact us

If you would like to contact the community relations team, please get in touch via:

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