Welcome to the latest e-newsletter from National Grid on Norwich to Tilbury, where we're busy preparing to deliver a brand new, high voltage electricity transmission line through Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

In this update, you can learn more about:

- the Norwich to Tilbury Community Fund
- our enabling works applications
- surveys taking place.

About the project

Norwich to Tilbury is a key part of the Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. It will enable us to carry more home-grown, clean energy from where it is generated to where it is needed, helping to boost energy security, support growing demand for electricity and make Britain more self-sufficient.

Find out more

What happens next

Our Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination ended on 10 August this year. On 10 November, the Planning Inspectorate confirmed it had sent its report and recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. This will help the Secretary of State decide whether to grant consent to build the project. This decision is expected within three months.

If we are granted consent, we will get ready to build the project. We will keep everyone informed and let you know before any work starts in your area.

Our work in your community

Community Fund update

Norwich to Tilbury will unlock a dedicated Community Fund of over £30 million if we receive consent to build and start construction.



On 7 July we launched a consultation asking for your views on the priorities the Community Fund could support. There's still time to share your feedback via our survey which can be accessed through the project website. We are looking to close the survey towards the end of November.

We've had good engagement so far, with over 550 responses to our survey and more feedback via email, meetings and events, phone calls, or in response to the social media adverts we ran over the summer.

You may have seen us out and about over the past couple of months, as we've been hosting pop-ups across the route to talk to you about the Fund and hear your views. We've also shared updates and sought views from a broader range of stakeholders and will be hosting stakeholder workshops over the coming month.

Once our consultation concludes, we will spend time going over everything we've heard and learnt to help us prepare a strategy for the Community Fund, which we will publish next year. Visit our Community Fund hub to find out more.

Local supply chain engagement

If Norwich to Tilbury is given to go ahead, the project will support local jobs, skills and economic growth. We're keen for local businesses to be able to take the opportunities the project has to offer during construction and so we've started working with our delivery partners to decide how best to promote these.

One of the things we're doing right now is developing a supplier portal where businesses of all sizes can register their interest and bid for opportunities as they become available. We're also looking into how we and our partners can meet with local businesses face to face in the near future. If that's of interest to you or someone you know, stay tuned as we'll share further information our website soon.

Update on our enabling works applications (Town and Country Planning Act, TCPA)

We've submitted planning applications to local planning authorities for some small, localised enabling works. This is a normal approach for many major infrastructure projects and helps ensure some local infrastructure is in place before full construction starts.

You can view our applications, including detailed plans, on local planning authority websites once they have been published. The local authorities will consult on our applications as part of the planning

process. So far, we have submitted a series of planning applications to Chelmsford City Council, which are currently available for comment on the council's website.

We are planning to submit a few more and will provide further details once these are live in our next project update.

Survey information

Throughout the development of the project, we've been carrying out a range of surveys to help inform our proposals and the assessments submitted as part of the planning application.

Even though the project's DCO examination has now closed, work to refine our designs and plan for construction (if consent is granted) continues, so you may still see our survey teams working in areas along the proposed route.

Working to minimise disruption

We aim to work closely with landowners to agree where and when we need to carry out surveys. Sometimes weather conditions can affect our work and can extend or delay survey activity. We try to communicate any changes as soon as possible.

Some surveys, such as archaeology or traffic monitoring, are also agreed with the relevant local authority or highway authority. Surveys are required for all major projects such as ours, and other developers may be carrying out similar surveys in the same areas at the same time.

You can find the latest information about our survey activity on the project website. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us using our telephone helpline or email (details at the bottom of this project update).

Surveys happening at the moment, or planned to happen soon, on the Norwich to Tilbury project include:



Environmental surveys

Over the past few weeks, we started a series of environmental surveys, which include a range of activities such as ecological, landscape, ground investigation, water environment, drone and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging, used to measure distances and create precise maps of areas) surveys.

You may have seen survey teams using specialist equipment, vehicles and drones in your local area. The information gathered

helps inform the detailed design and identify opportunities to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential impacts during construction.

Road surveys

We will be carrying out surveys on roads along the proposed route soon. This will help us better understand existing road conditions before any construction works take place, where utilities are, and how surface water drains. The findings from our surveys support safe and efficient construction planning.

Some of these surveys involve collecting footage of the Primary Access and Abnormal Loading Routes (Primary Access meaning the main access routes for the project, and Abnormal Loading Routes meaning the designated paths used by vehicles that exceed standard size, weight, or length regulations) that may be used by construction traffic. The vans used to carry out these surveys travel at normal road speeds and don't cause any disruption on the road network. They are similar to the vehicles used by local authorities to inspect roads.

We'll also start carrying out surveys on some sections of road to map utilities, which may require temporary traffic management, such as temporary traffic lights, for safety reasons while our team works in the road. All arrangements are being agreed with the relevant highway authority, and further information about individual surveys and any traffic measures will be available on our website as soon as details are confirmed.



Archaeological surveys

Archaeological surveys continue to take place along the proposed route to improve our understanding of the area's heritage and identify any archaeological remains that may be present.

This work involves trial trenching surveys, where a series of trenches, roughly 20 metres long and 1.8 metres wide, are dug at carefully selected sites. Each trench is assessed by our survey team for potential buried archaeology, then inspected and signed off by specialists from the relevant local authority before being carefully filled back in.

Click here to read more about the types of surveys we are carrying out on Norwich to Tilbury.

Next time...

We're working hard to find more ways to share news and information about the project with you, so you have everything you need at your finger tips to help you plan ahead. We are preparing to launch new

WhatsApp channels dedicated to sharing advance information about our surveys so watch out for more information on how to subscribe in our next project update and on our website.

Contact us

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

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