



Our Ref: Norwich to Tilbury  
Date: 11 September 2023  
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BY EMAIL

For the attention of Liam Walker

[liam.walker@nationalgrid.com](mailto:liam.walker@nationalgrid.com)

Dear Mr Walker

## **NORWICH TO TILBURY 400kV GRID REINFORCEMENT**

Further to the recent second round of Non-Statutory Consultation, the Councils wish to re-emphasize their concerns around the draft proposals, whilst the opportunity still exists to explore all the available options for electrical grid reinforcement in the light of changing patterns of generation and consumption leading up to and beyond Net Zero.

As you will be aware the proposals as they exist will result in extensive terrestrial impacts including upon the landscape and communities. This includes designated landscapes and a proposed new settlement.

Furthermore, it is considered that National Grid have so far failed to demonstrate that alternative offshore cabling would not be a preferable option. Indeed, it is considered that improved offshore coordination between other energy projects would provide further opportunities for alternative solutions to be followed by for example removing the need for a new substation at Lawford.

Without prejudice to the further consideration of the above offshore options, the Councils also consider that the proposed mitigation and compensation as currently proposed falls far short in terms of what should be provided. This includes the need to provide additional undergrounding in sensitive areas: in the vicinity of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and in and around Diss & the Waveney Valley.

If the proposed development goes ahead, the Councils will be seeking an appropriate community benefits package in accordance with Government thinking as well as initiatives to work with local businesses. This is likely to include developing skills & employment strategies, landscape enhancements, and measures to offset energy poverty.

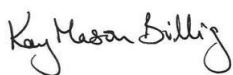
In addition, it is considered that National Grid should make a commitment to explore the wider potential opportunities and benefits in order to ensure that there is accompanying investment in the transmission networks to provide power to meet the needs of existing and planned growth in these areas.

If the proposals develop further the Councils would also like to see National Grid develop a more participatory approach to public consultation so that local communities can help find the best solutions within their area of jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,



**Matthew Hicks**  
**Leader of Suffolk County Council**



**Kay Mason Billig**  
**Leader of Norfolk County Council**



**Kevin Bentley**  
**Leader of Essex County Council**