

Bramford to Twinstead Tee
Connection Project

Project *News*

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Welcome to the autumn edition of *Project News*



Now we have begun Stage 2 of the project, we will again be asking for your views as we work towards a detailed design for the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection.



Where are we now?

We have now begun Stage 2 of the project, during which we will develop the detailed design of the connection. This stage will provide the opportunity for people to give their opinion about the design including where pylons could potentially go, possible areas for undergrounding and other ways of reducing visual impact.

After our preferred corridor announcement in July, the National Grid project team hosted a series of public drop-in events along the preferred corridor. These events provided people with an opportunity to discuss the corridor decision with the National Grid project team and to find out more about how to get involved in consultation during Stage 2 of the project.

Local people were invited to register an interest in joining Community Forums, and after two rounds of Forums in September



and October members have begun to have their say on National Grid's proposals. More details on the Community Forums can be found on page 3.

The screenshot shows the National Grid website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Energy & Services, Media, Community, and Careers. Below the menu is a large image of a worker in a high-visibility jacket. The main content area features the heading 'Bramford to Twinstead 400kV overhead line project' and a 'Background' section. The 'Background' section states: 'National Grid launched a public consultation in October 2009 on four possible route corridors for a new overhead power line, between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex, to connect a number of new power generation sites to the national electricity transmission system.' Below this, there is a 'The story so far' section which says: 'We have been consulting with the public since October 2009 about proposals to build a new overhead line'. On the right side of the page, there are 'Page Tools' including 'Print This Page' and 'Email This Page', and a 'Have your say' button.

Website: We have updated the website for Stage 2 of the project which you can find at www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead. As the project progresses we will be updating the site regularly.

Now we have begun Stage 2 of the project, we will again be asking for your views as we work towards a detailed design for the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection. In addition to Community Forums and providing information online, we will be rolling out a programme of public information events and site specific consultations.

In the meantime, this edition of *Project News* will give you an update on what has been happening since the announcement in July and provide you with an overview of what to expect in Stage 2. We hope you find this edition useful and we look forward to seeing you during Stage 2.



The purpose of the Forums is to provide an opportunity for representatives from the local community to have their say and provide input and feedback.



Community Forums

In July 2011, we invited residents and parish councils to register an interest to take part in a series of independently-chaired Community Forums along the corridor.

Each Forum is based on a geographic area and will focus on local issues. Their purpose is to allow representatives from the local community to provide input and feedback into the detailed connection design as it develops.

We have been pleased with the number of people who are participating, giving us a wide range of views.

The Community Forums began in September and the preliminary meetings focused on explaining how the Forums will run. The October meetings focused on developing the members' understanding of what is involved in constructing overhead lines and underground cables.

In the November Community Forums members are being asked to start mapping out the areas they consider to be of particular importance or value in their local area, including specific views, the character of the landscape or any issues relating to wildlife or features of historic value.

Information from these Forums, along with feedback from Thematic Groups, landowners and occupiers and the public, will be taken into account in National Grid's decision making in developing the connection solution. This stage of public consultation is expected to take 12–18 months.



Thematic Groups

National Grid will submit an Environmental Statement with its Development Consent Order application. This will set out the potential effects of the proposals on the environment and the measures we will take to avoid, reduce or compensate for significant adverse effects.

An important part of the environmental impact assessment is to decide the issues to be considered and how information is collected. Three aspects of the environment that at this stage we consider to have a strong influence in decision making are: landscape and views; biodiversity; and cultural heritage.

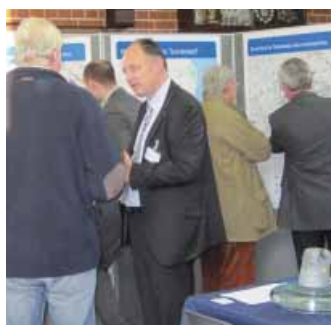
It is important that National Grid consults with the County and District planning authorities and other specialist organisations with responsibility for

specific aspects of the environment. National Grid has established a Thematic Group for each of the three topics, comprising representatives of relevant organisations.

The Thematic Groups began meeting in September and the initial meetings have focused on gaining an understanding of the likely types of effects that may arise and on the information National Grid needs to consider when making decisions on the connection. National Grid will assess the information it collects and each Group will offer advice.

The notes from Thematic Group meetings are posted on the project website and a summary of issues discussed will be presented at each Community Forum and at information events.

Consultation – what happens next?



National Grid recognises there are three issues that need to be addressed as soon as possible before focusing on the detailed alignment. These are:

1. what sections of the connection would be placed underground
2. the Hintlesham 2A/2B alignment options if overhead
3. the siting of the substation west of Twinstead.

This section of *Project News* explains how we will be taking these issues forward and how you can have your say.

Undergrounding

National Grid has committed to look along the whole route to give consideration to where placing cables underground may provide most benefit. This is one of the issues we have pledged to address first during this stage of the project.

In deciding where our planning application could propose to use underground cables, we will listen to the views given and advice received from the statutory consultees, Community Forums, Thematic Groups, persons with an interest in the land and others making representations.

We will be hosting information ‘drop-in’ events in January 2012 where you can come along and let us know your views. Details of these information ‘drop-in’ events will be made available via the project website and invitation letters.

The decision on what areas are to be considered for undergrounding is not expected until next year.

Hintlesham alignment options 2A or 2B consultation

Following this decision on undergrounding, if an overhead line is proposed in the Hintlesham area, next spring we plan to consult with local residents on whether the transmission connection should go north or south of Hintlesham and on its detailed alignment.

Following public consultation, and mindful of the additional advice received from Community Forums, Thematic Groups, persons with an interest in the land and others making representations, we will decide on whether to take forward the 2A or 2B alignment.

Details of the consultation events will be made available via the project website, invitation letters and in future editions of *Project News*.

Substation (west of Twinstead) consultation

We will hold a detailed consultation on the three potential locations for the substation west of Twinstead following further design work and environmental assessment.

The environmental assessment work has begun and includes consideration of the landscape setting for each of the sites, environmental constraints and opportunities and potential effects on biodiversity and cultural heritage. We intend to hold detailed public consultation events in spring 2012.

We will be holding three public information events in December aimed at:

1. presenting the information relating to the potential locations for the substation that was published during Stage 1 of the project

“
We look forward to meeting you in December at one of our information ‘drop-in’ events.
 ”

Public information events for substation west of Twinstead

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Monday 5 December | 2.00-8.00pm | Twinstead Village Hall |
| Tuesday 6 December | 2.00-8.00pm | Wickham St Paul Village Hall |
| Wednesday 7 December | 2.00-8.00pm | Great Yeldham Reading Room |



2. explaining the work that needs to take place in advance of holding the public consultation next year
3. discussing how the public can get involved and listening to your views on our approach to the substation consultation.

We look forward to meeting you in December at one of our information events.

As with the Hintlesham alignment, following the public consultation, and mindful of the additional advice received from Community Forums, Thematic

Groups, persons with an interest in the land and others making representations, the decision on the proposed substation location will be made by National Grid.

How to keep involved

Information ‘drop-in’ events – We want to continue to hear your views about our plans. Starting in January 2012, we will be holding information ‘drop-in’ events every quarter, or around key project milestones. We hope you will come along to one of these events to meet the National Grid project team and take the opportunity to ask us questions and give us your views. Details of these information ‘drop-in’ events will be made available via the project website, invitation letters and in future editions of *Project News*.

Stage 3 Consultation

On completion of Stage 2, Stage 3 Consultation will present the detailed connection design which we would intend to submit within our planning application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission or its successor. This stage will last for at least 28 days.



If you have not heard from our land agents and feel that you should have, please contact them on 0845 437 7361.



Landowners and those with an interest in land

It is also important that we take into account feedback from landowners and others with a legal interest in the land within the preferred route corridor so that potential effects on land use can be taken into account. At this stage of the project we need to identify all those who could be affected.

Under the Planning Act 2008, National Grid is required to record the information of all those who could potentially be affected by our plans before we apply for a Development Consent Order.

The land agents working on our behalf, Fisher German, are in the process of making contact. If you have not heard from our land agents and feel that you should have, please contact them on 0845 437 7361.



Other work in your area



Existing overhead line refurbishment

Work has begun on refurbishing the existing overhead lines in the region. As part of our programme of network reinforcement across East Anglia, we need to refurbish (rewire) the existing 400,000 volt (400kV) overhead line between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee. The refurbishment work will involve replacing the existing conductors (wires) with new ones. This will also help to improve the performance to increase the capacity of the network in East Anglia and ensure that we continue to provide safe and reliable electricity supplies.

Work is under way on refurbishing the existing 400kV overhead line between

Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee. This work will include some vegetation clearance (from November) in areas where we will need to access the pylons to carry out the work. The main phase of the overhead line refurbishment work will be undertaken from April 2012 and take approximately six months to complete.

The project team responsible for the refurbishment has undertaken environmental surveys to assess the potential impacts of the work on the environment, and is consulting with the District planning authority. Land used will be reinstated in agreement with the landowner once the work is complete.



Twinstead Tee

Work will be required at Twinstead Tee to remove the old wires and some groundwork has already taken place in the area around the Tee pylon.

The refurbishment project for the existing overhead line requires the widening of the access from the lane located to the west of Henry Road, between Lamarsh and Henry Street, to the work area. The project team intends to submit a planning application for this in December.



Bramford substation

Work has been under way to extend Bramford substation since late 2009. This will ensure the ongoing reliability of the substation and accommodate future connections.



Work is under way on refurbishing the existing 400kV overhead line between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee.



Recent announcements

National Grid's approach to undergrounding

Following national consultation, we have now announced our approach to the design and routing of new electricity transmission lines.

National Grid last reviewed its undergrounding policy in the early 1990s. We have been consulting widely on the approach we should take in future, asking for the views of industry, government, non-governmental and environmental stakeholders, as well as from the public. We have received a large amount of useful and valuable feedback

on the consultation and would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

Taking this into consideration, we broadened the scope and have published an approach to the design and routing of new electricity transmission lines, not just an approach to undergrounding. There is a link to this at www.nationalgrid.com.

The development of the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project design will be consistent with this approach.

Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET)

In October 2010 the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) requested an independent report into the comparative costs of installing new high voltage transmission, using cables underground, beneath the sea or overhead lines. National Grid is funding this study and has to date supplied all information requested.

However, it has been agreed that further work will be required to acquire and analyse more data in order to produce the report. Parsons Brinckerhoff have been appointed as the consultants who will be succeeding KEMA to complete this work. It is expected that a final analysis will be published later this year and we will take into account any of its findings. For further information please visit www.theiet.org.

Pylon design

We are currently reviewing pylon designs, including those used overseas, and we are considering alternative pylon designs that may be available for use on the UK transmission network. Further information on these designs will be made available.

Separately, a national competition to design a new pylon was launched in May 2011, run by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and National Grid. The winning design (see right) was announced in October 2011. If the winning design meets technical standards in time and is appropriate, we will include it in our consultation. For further information see www.ribapylondesign.com.

National Policy Statements

On 18 July 2011 the House of Commons approved six National Policy Statements (NPS) for energy.

The energy NPSs set out the national policy against which proposals for major energy projects will be assessed and decided on by the Infrastructure Planning Commission. For more information please go to www.decc.gov.uk/.





nationalgrid

Contact us



You can find out more information by:



visiting our project website:
www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead



sending an email to:
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If you, or someone you know, would like information in Braille, audio, large print or another language, please get in touch on the freephone above.