

Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection

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# Project *News*

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# Welcome to the Spring edition of Project News.



## Where are we now?

Choosing the right route corridor between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee is a very important decision, and we are continuing to work hard to ensure that all views, including those of local people and a wide range of organisations, are taken into account.

We have been carefully reviewing over 3000 individual pieces of feedback in order to ensure that we consider all the issues raised before making a balanced decision.

We are committed to ensuring that we identify the most appropriate route corridor option. Once we are in a position to make an announcement, we will contact you to inform you of our decision and give you more information about next steps. Our website will also provide details of our decision and how

to get involved in the project as we continue to develop our proposals.

In the meantime, this newsletter will give you a brief update on our undergrounding consultation, introduce the community forum Chairperson and provide you with an overview of other work in East Anglia.

We hope you find this update useful and we look forward to seeing you during Stage 2 of the consultation.



**We have been carefully reviewing over 3000 individual pieces of feedback in order to ensure that we consider all the issues raised**



## Independent report on undergrounding costs



**We will take into account the findings of the report when it is published and review our proposals as necessary.**



**The Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project is one of a number of major new high voltage electricity lines being proposed across the country to connect power sources to the electricity transmission system.**

An independent report on the costs of undergrounding is being prepared by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the energy consultancy KEMA. The report will compare the cost of underground and subsea cabling with the cost of overhead lines, and may assist the Infrastructure Planning Commission in its examination of the evidence and decision-making process.

National Grid does not have a publication date for this report, which is a matter for the Institution of Engineering

and Technology. We anticipate that it will be published before we choose our preferred route corridor for the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project but if there is a significant delay, there will come a time when we will need to move forward with our consultation. In this instance we will take into account the findings of the report when it is published and review our proposals as necessary.

## Undergrounding consultation extended

**As we explained in our January update, our undergrounding policy was last reviewed in the early 1990s and we have been consulting widely on the approach we should take in future.**

The consultation has now been extended so that people have the opportunity to review the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) report (see article above) before the consultation closes. We will announce a new response deadline once the IET report has been published. National Grid will then publish a revised approach to undergrounding later this year.

The consultation process for the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project is a continuous one and we will consider very carefully the findings of the assessments being carried out and any potential implications they may have for this project.

This means that you still have time to contribute to the consultation on our undergrounding approach, whether you have already given feedback or not. For further information on the undergrounding consultation please visit our undergrounding website [www.nationalgridundergrounding.com](http://www.nationalgridundergrounding.com), or contact us in the following ways:

- Phone: 0800 319 6175
- Email: [info@undergroundingconsultation.com](mailto:info@undergroundingconsultation.com)
- Write to: National Grid Undergrounding Consultation, Freepost NAT3717, London SE1 2BR



## Stage 2 overview



Once we have finished reviewing your feedback and announced our preferred route corridor, we will move into the second stage of the consultation. During Stage 2 there will be a range of opportunities for you to get involved so that your views can be taken into account by National Grid in developing the most appropriate route for the connection between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee.

### Information events

Drop-in sessions will be held along the chosen corridor on a regular basis. These will be an opportunity for you to speak to the project team, catch up on the latest developments and give us your feedback.

### Community forums

Up to five community forums will be set up along the chosen route corridor. Each will be based on a geographic area and have local issues to address. All community forums will be chaired by an independent Chairperson, Brian Smith.



Members will be encouraged to provide input and feedback into the connection design as it develops, taking into account the findings of 'thematic groups' that will be providing specialist technical input.

The forums will be held regularly and are made up of between 15 and 25 members. We will aim to make membership of forums as inclusive as possible, and ensure that forums are representative of local communities and interests.

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Once we have announced the preferred route corridor we will hold several information sessions about the community forums, where you will be able to find out more and let us know if you are interested in joining.

## Community forum chairperson

**We are delighted to announce that Brian Smith has been appointed to chair the community forums in Stage 2. Brian was put forward as a candidate by Suffolk County Council and his appointment has been approved by officers from the local planning authorities.**

Brian lives in Cambridge and has over 30 years' experience of working in local authorities at a senior level.

Having stepped down from his role of Executive Director of Environment Services at Cambridgeshire County Council last year, Brian now works part time as a management and transport consultant and has both chaired and been a member of various government panels.

### What is your professional background?

I joined Cambridgeshire County Council in 1983, having previously worked for Norfolk, Coventry and Eastbourne Councils. I held various senior roles at Cambridgeshire County Council, including Director of Libraries and Heritage, and Director of Corporate Planning and Director of the newly-formed Department of Environment and Transport in 1996. The Department established a strong national reputation and received many awards, such as winning Transport Local Authority of the Year in 2001 and 2007. In July 2009 I received a lifetime contribution for transport award at the National Transport Awards.

### What experience do you have as a Chairperson?

I have several years' experience of chairing a variety of advisory groups and boards. This includes chairing the National Travelwise Association for three years, the CSS Transport and Environment Committee for three years, the Network Management Board for two years, and taking a leading role in Regional Planning as Chairman of the Technical Advisory Group. I am currently chairing quarterly meetings for Defra's Flood and Water Management Act Implementation Review Panel.

### Can we contact you independently of National Grid?

You will be able to contact me both through the usual channels (via National Grid) and a separate email address ([brian.smith@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:brian.smith@communityrelations.co.uk)). I will have access to this email address alongside the community relations team, who will log the issues raised and support me in ensuring that they are addressed. The local planning officers will also be given the details of the inbox and be able to access its contents. I look forward to meeting you in Stage 2.



**Brian Smith,  
Community Forum  
Chairperson.**



**I have several years' experience of chairing a variety of advisory groups and boards.**



# East Anglia network reinforcement

## Work to begin on rewiring the existing overhead line



As part of our programme of network reinforcement across East Anglia, we need to re-conductor (rewire) the existing 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead line between Bramford substation and Twinstead Tee.

As you may be aware, the existing 400kV overhead line between Bramford and Twinstead Tee was built in the 1960s. The re-conductoring work will involve replacing the existing conductors with new ones. This will help to increase the capacity of the network in East Anglia and ensure that we continue to provide safe and reliable electricity supplies.

Before this work can start, environmental surveys will be carried out. These will look at the temporary works needed to gain access to the pylons, such as laying down trackway across a field. The environmental surveys will help to mitigate the impact of the works on the environment, and all land used will be fully reinstated once the works are complete.

### Timeline

- We are working with the local authority officers responsible for biodiversity and cultural heritage to discuss what surveys may be required.
- Environmental specialists will start their surveys within the next few weeks, and are expected to have completed these by late September.
- This stage of the re-conductoring work is due to start in April 2012 and take about six months to complete.



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# Q&A



## Is this work linked to the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project?

The reconductoring of the existing 400kV line forms part of our ongoing programme of network reinforcement work in East Anglia and is not linked to the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project.

## How will this work impact me?

Over the next few months you may notice environmental specialists examining the area surrounding the pylons along the existing 400kV overhead line. This work will have a minimal impact on the local community.

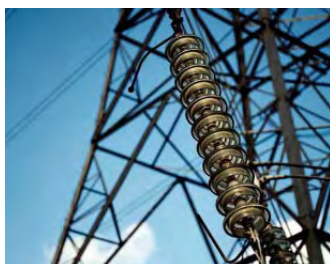
Landowners will be contacted by our Lands Officers team to arrange access to the pylons.

## Will there be local power cuts during the proposed work?

This work will have no impact on your electricity supplies. The National Grid network operates at the highest voltages. Power is supplied locally by the electricity distributor in your area at a lower voltage to homes, businesses, schools and other premises.

## Where can I get more information about this work?

We will provide details about how to get in touch nearer to the start of the reconductoring work, however, in the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Bramford to Twinstead Tee community relations team.



## Bramford substation

### Work has been under way to extend Bramford substation since late 2009.

This work will increase its capacity to accommodate additional power from new generators including offshore wind farms and the proposed King's Lynn B gas-fired power station. This stage of the main construction work is due for completion by late 2011, and we plan to carry out landscape works in autumn 2011.

As part of this work we need to change the routes of two of the existing overhead lines as they enter the substation. For the overhead line which comes in from the west, we intend to rebuild the line on a different alignment. For the other overhead line, which comes in from the north, we intend to change the position of a pylon within the substation and slightly change the alignment of the conductors.



This work is not connected to the Bramford to Twinstead Tee Connection Project, and forms part of the wider system reinforcement plans for East Anglia which will ensure continued safe and reliable electricity supplies. We are in discussion with the relevant landowners about the work.



**This stage of the main construction work is due for completion by late 2011...**





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## Contact us

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You can find out more information by:

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Visiting our project website:  
[www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead](http://www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead)

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Sending an email to:  
[bramford-twinstead@uk.ngrid.com](mailto:bramford-twinstead@uk.ngrid.com)

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Calling our freephone number:  
**0800 377 7340**

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Writing to our freepost address at:  
**Freepost National Grid Connections**

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