

# Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Community Newsletter  
March 2021



## National Grid Electricity Transmission is consulting on proposals to add much needed capability to the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex.

The proposed reinforcement is around 27km and includes building new pylons, some underground cables and a substation. We started to develop the project in 2009 and carried out extensive public consultation. Work on the project was paused in November 2013 after the timings of some electricity generation projects in the region were delayed.

Since then, the UK has made great leaps in moving towards cleaner, greener energy consumption. The Government has set ambitious targets to achieve net zero by 2050 and expects 40 GW of electricity to be generated from offshore wind by 2030.

These ambitions, coupled with increased demand for interconnection and new nuclear power, mean that generation in East Anglia is set to significantly increase. Our network studies show that we will need the reinforcement to be in place before the end of the decade and we now need to start work again to take the proposals forward.

**It is important that we hear the views of local people. Knowing what matters to you, matters to us. Our consultation opens on Thursday 25 March 2021 and the deadline for feedback is Thursday 6 May 2021. More information on how to get involved in the consultation can be found on the back of this newsletter.**

### About National Grid

National Grid is working to build a cleaner, fairer and more affordable energy system that serves everyone, powering the future of our homes, transport and industry.

National Grid Electricity Transmission owns, builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. It is National Grid Electricity Transmission that is developing plans for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement.



### Why is this reinforcement needed?

The existing transmission network in East Anglia was developed in the 1960s. Until today it has been able to meet demand and provides around 3.5 GW of power carrying capability out of the region. By 2030, the amount of renewable and low carbon energy connecting to the network will increase and the System Operator anticipates that up to 17.9 GW of power carrying capability is needed to carry cleaner greener energy to homes and businesses beyond the region by 2030.

In the first half of the decade, we will maximise the capability of our existing network by installing power control equipment in our substations and rewiring pylons with bigger cables to carry more power. This will increase the transfer capability of the network to around 6 GW. But this is still not enough. Only by reinforcing the network can we deliver the transfer capability that is needed.

Building this reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead would allow us to reconfigure the network and create two separate lines out of Bramford - one to Pelham and the other to Braintree/Rayleigh/Tilbury.

## Section AB – Bramford to Hintlesham

**We would build a new overhead line from Bramford substation to the south of the existing 400 kV line.**

We would build a new section of overhead line to the north of Ramsey Wood and divert the wires from the existing 400 kV line onto these pylons. The new reinforcement would use the existing pylons through Hintlesham Wood.

We chose this approach because we felt it would have less impact on landscape, visual amenity and heritage than other alignment options. It also allows for the greater paralleling of new and existing lines.

This area of the route includes the Grade I listed Hintlesham Hall, the ancient woodland in Hintlesham Little and Great Woods and Ramsey Wood, which are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

## Section C – Brett Valley

**We would build a new overhead line in this section.**

The line would pass to the south of Kate's Hill and follow the alignment of the existing 132 kV pylons.

The line would deviate directly to the south of Pipkin Lodge to the east of Benton Street. The pylons would be screened by trees in views from Benton Street, approaching from the Layham direction.

We would remove the existing 132 kV overhead line.

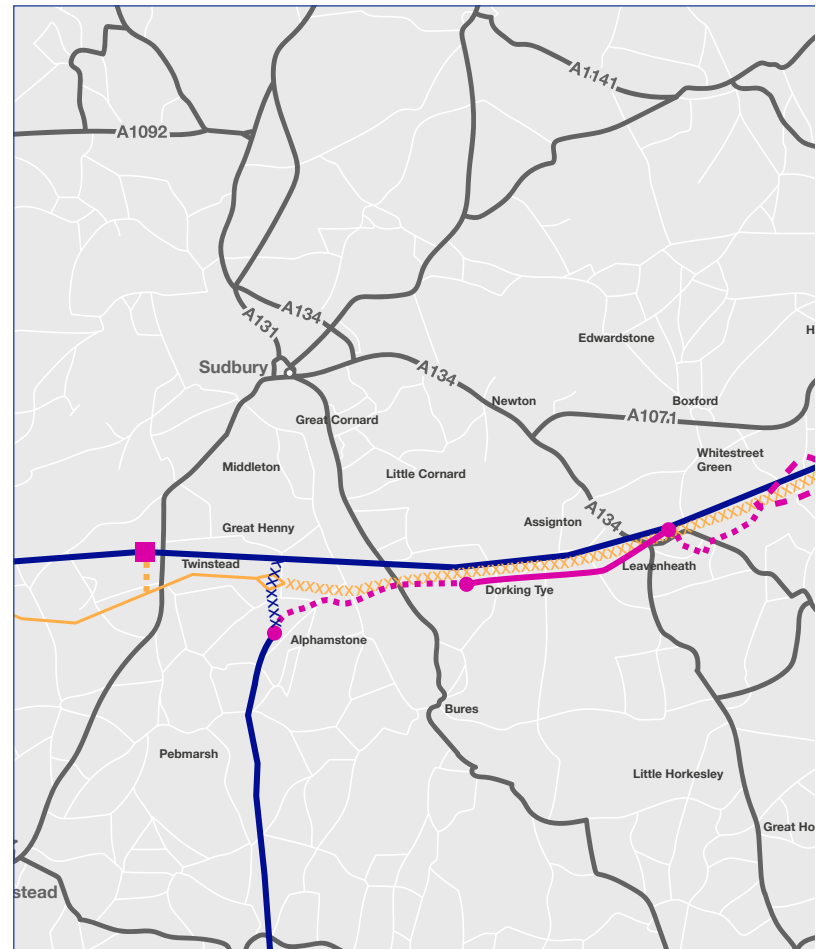
## Section D – Polstead

**We would build a new overhead line in this section.**

The alignment would run to the south of the existing 400 kV power line, roughly following the alignment of the existing 132 kV overhead line.

When approaching the Dedham Vale AONB the proposed line would deviate slightly south west and connect into a cable sealing end compound near Dollops Wood.

We would remove the existing 132 kV overhead line.



## Section E – Dedham Vale AONB

**We would build approximately 4km of underground cables through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).**

We are considering two options at Dollops Wood as shown on the map:

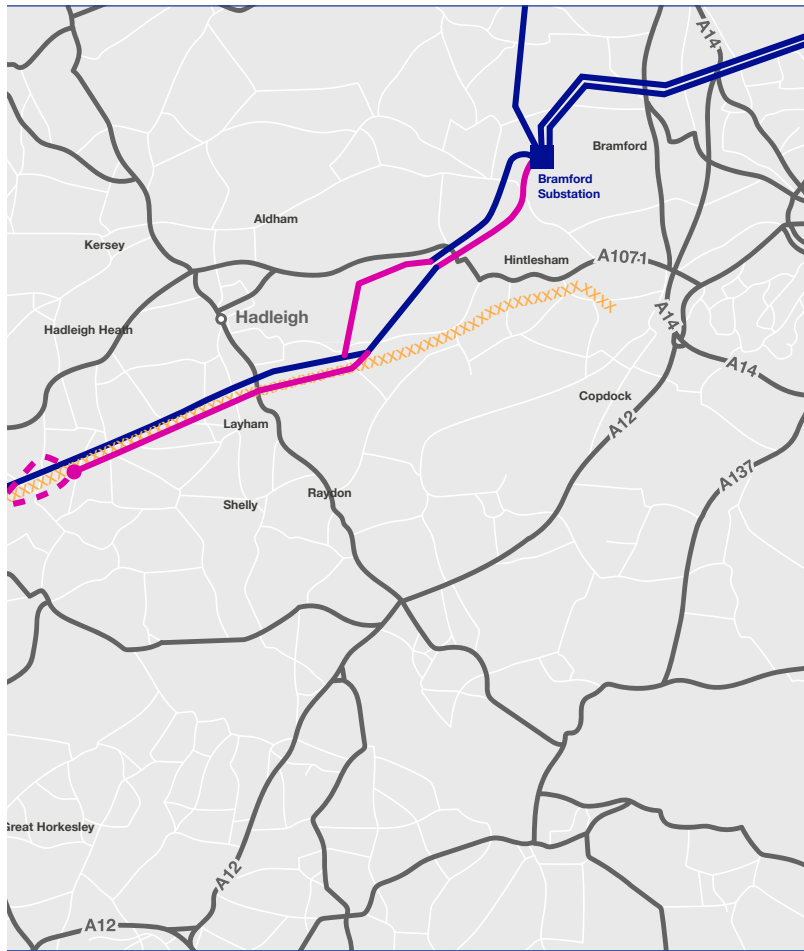
- horizontal directional drilling underneath the wood (which may present engineering challenges)
- direct buried cables avoiding the wood to the north of Sprotts Hall

At each end of the underground cables section, we would need to build a cable sealing end compound.

We are proposing to build the eastern cable sealing end compound to the south east of Sprott's Farm, east of the boundary of the AONB. This location provides an opportunity to screen the compound next to Dollops Wood. We would increase screening through additional planting and landscaping.

We are proposing to build the western cable sealing end compound to the immediate west of Boxford Fruit Farm. This location offers separation from the AONB to the east and is next to existing tree planting along the boundary of the orchard.

We would remove the existing 132 kV overhead line.



**Key**

- proposed 400 kV overhead line
- ⋯ proposed 400 kV underground cable
- - - proposed options for 400 kV underground cable
- existing 400 kV overhead line to be retained
- existing 132 kV overhead line to be retained
- xxxxxxx proposed removal of existing 132 kV overhead line
- xxxxxxx proposed removal of existing 400 kV overhead line
- ⋯ proposed 132 kV underground cable
- proposed substation
- proposed 400 kV cable sealing end
- existing 400 kV substation to be retained

## Section F - Leavenheath and Assington

**We would build a new overhead line in this section.**

The alignment would continue through Leavenheath to the south of the existing 400 kV line, south of Assington and Sudbury before crossing the B1508 and the railway.

We would remove the existing 132 kV overhead line.

## Section G – Stour Valley

**Your previous feedback told us how important the landscape in the Stour Valley is. The area is managed by the AONB and is suggested as an extension to the AONB. It also has cultural associations with Gainsborough, Constable and Nash.**

We came to the view previously that there was a case for placing approximately 4km of the new 400 kV line below ground, from west of Sawyers Farm through the Stour Valley Project Area, to where it would connect to the existing network. We would welcome your views on this, particularly as the Stour Valley Project Area has not yet been designated as an AONB.

We are proposing to build a cable sealing end compound to transfer the power from overhead line to underground cable south of Sawyers Farm. There is natural screening from existing vegetation, reducing the visual impact to the surrounding landscape.

Feedback from our previous consultation about the location for the western cable sealing end compound informed the selection of our preferred site. We selected a location south west of Ansells Farm. It benefits from existing mature screening and avoids Alphasstone Complex Local Wildlife Site.

Siting the cable sealing end compound here also means that the underground cable would be routed further south. This would allow us to remove approximately 1.5km of the existing 400 kV line between here and Twinstead Tee.

We would remove the existing 132 kV line overhead line up to the diamond crossing to the south west of Sparrows Farm.

## Proposed substation between Butler’s Wood and Waldegrave Wood

**Our proposals include taking down 26km of existing UKPN 132 kV pylons, between Burstall Bridge and the diamond crossing south of Twinstead Tee.**

To do that, we must first build a substation to keep the local area supplied with electricity.

Following feedback from the previous consultation we have selected a site between Butler’s Wood and Waldegrave Wood, off the A131 south of Sudbury.

We would remove the existing 132 kV overhead line.

## Our commitment to you

The aim of our non-statutory consultation is to:

- re-introduce the project and explain our proposals at the time we paused work in 2013
- explain our recent activity and next steps hear your views on our current proposals

The feedback we receive from this consultation, together with information from environmental and technical studies, will inform our detailed project design.

We will carry out a further statutory consultation, where you will be able to see how we have taken your views into account and you will be able to provide further feedback before we submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

## Take part in our consultation



### Online

[www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead](http://www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead)



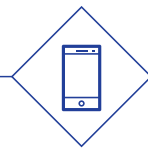
### Webinars

Sign up for our webinars



### Live chats

Live chat with our project team



### Team call back

Call us to book a telephone consultation

Date	Time	Content
Wednesday 31 March	4pm - 5pm	Overview of the proposals
Tuesday 6 April	7pm - 8pm	Overview of the proposals
Thursday 8 April	11am - 12pm	Overview of the proposals (A British Sign Language interpreter will be in attendance at this session)
Tuesday 13 April	7pm - 8pm	Sections AB and C: Bramford to Hintlesham and Brett Valley
Wednesday 14 April	7pm - 8pm	Sections D and E: Polstead and Dedham Vale AONB
Thursday 15 April	7pm - 8pm	Sections F and G: Leavenheath, Assington and Stour Valley
Thursday 22 April	4pm - 5pm	Overview of the proposals
Wednesday 28 April	4pm - 5pm	Overview of the proposals

Please sign up via the project website, or call the project team on the number provided.

To join a project live chat, just visit our website during one of the times listed below:

Date	Time
Friday 9 April	2pm - 4pm
Monday 19 April	6pm - 8pm

## Deposit locations

- Braintree Library
- Halstead Library
- Sible Hedingham Library
- Sudbury Library

Documents will be available at these deposit locations from 13 April subject to any changes in coronavirus restrictions that may impact planned re-opening dates of these venues. Please get in touch using the contact details provided for information on opening times.

## Contact us

[www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead](http://www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead)  
[contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com)  
 0808 196 1515

Call us to request paper copies of the materials