



## The Great Grid Upgrade

Grain to Tilbury

# Public consultation invitation

October 2023

**As part of our work to decarbonise the energy system, National Grid Electricity Transmission is consulting on proposals to upgrade the electricity infrastructure between Grain and Tilbury. Our plans will involve building a new tunnel, installing new electricity cables and the construction of a headhouse at either end of the tunnel.**

## The need for reinforcement

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.

We sit at the heart of Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day.

The UK has set a world leading target to tackle climate change, which is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Put simply, this means that we will remove the same amount of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere as we produce.

In response to this, we are embarking on The Great Grid Upgrade: The largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations.

The Great Grid Upgrade will play a significant part in meeting the UK government's plan to power all homes and businesses with greener energy by 2030, ensuring our electricity network is fit for the future.

As part of this, alongside the Grain to Tilbury project, we are developing a number of other improvements in the wider region. These include Sea Link - an offshore link between Suffolk and Kent - and Norwich to Tilbury - a proposal for 180 km of new overhead line from Norwich to Tilbury.

## Why Grain to Tilbury?

**The existing Thames Cable Tunnel, beneath the river Thames, between Grain and Tilbury, is coming to the end of its useful life. Therefore, the proposed new tunnel will replace this and help to reinforce the network.**

Grain to Tilbury also forms part of the 'Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment' programme which is targeted at unlocking the government's target to connect 50 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2030. These are key projects, approved by Ofgem, which have been identified to deliver on National Grid's net zero commitments.

# Our proposals

As part of our plans to upgrade the network in the Tilbury and Gravesend area we propose to:

- construct a new tunnel underneath the Thames which will house upgraded cables which will deliver cleaner electricity. This will require planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act in Thurrock and Gravesham
- build two new 'headhouses' at either end of the tunnel at Gravesend and Tilbury. These headhouses are buildings which are needed to connect the tunnel and act as access points for National Grid workers. Both headhouses will also require planning permission from both Thurrock and Gravesham Council
- deliver and install a new pylon at both the Gravesend and Tilbury headhouses. This is planned for 2027/2028
- refurbish the existing overhead line between Tilbury, Kingsnorth, and the Isle of Grain. This phase of works is not planned until 2028 and does not form part of this consultation.



## Public consultation events

We want to hear the views of local people. Knowing what matters to you, matters to us, so please get in touch and let us know what you think of our proposals.

We will carefully consider all feedback, which will help to inform our plans, before we send our planning applications to Thurrock Council and Gravesham Council.

### Join us in person:

- **Clarendon Royal Community**  
Royal Pier Road  
Gravesend, DA12 2BE  
Wednesday 11 October 3:00pm-7:00pm
- **Tilbury Community Association**  
Civic Square  
Tilbury, RM18 8AA  
Friday 13 October 3:00pm-7:00pm

### Join us online:



- **Gravesham webinar**  
Wednesday 18 October  
7:00pm-8:00pm
- **Thurrock webinar**  
Thursday 19 October  
7:00pm-8:00pm

Sign up to attend using the QR Code or visit our project website; [nationalgrid.com/GraintoTilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/GraintoTilbury)

Our project team will be available at all events to answer any questions you may have. You can also find out more about the project on our project website or you can speak to our community relations team using these contact details.

## How do I respond to the consultation?

Please provide your feedback by Sunday 29 October 2023.

You can do this by:

Completing our online feedback form at [nationalgrid.com/GraintoTilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/GraintoTilbury)

Sending a completed paper copy of the feedback form or a letter to FREEPOST Grain to Tilbury project

Emailing your comments to: [contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com)

Should you wish to receive hard copies of our materials, please contact our project team via 020 3398 1599 or by email: [contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com)

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