



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Grain to Tilbury

# Grain to Tilbury

Statement of Community Involvement

December 2023

**nationalgrid**

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# Executive summary

To help achieve net zero National Grid is embarking on The Great Grid Upgrade, which will play a critical role in the UK government's plan to power all homes with green energy by 2030. The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. Our infrastructure projects across England and Wales are helping to connect more renewable energy to homes and businesses. The Grain to Tilbury project is one of many schemes across the country that will see electricity infrastructure upgraded to support the low carbon needs of tomorrow.

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

This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared as part of National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) planning application to replace the Thames Cable Tunnel between Tilbury and Gravesend. The applications, which will be consented under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA), also includes the construction of two new headhouses – one at either end of the tunnel. The proposed development will be referred to as 'the proposed tunnel replacement in this document'.

The proposed tunnel replacement falls within the administrative boundaries of Gravesham Borough Council and Thurrock Council. The existing tunnel was built in the 1960s and houses 400 kilovolt (kV) transmission cables between Tilbury and Gravesend as part of National Grid's high voltage transmission network. The new proposed tunnel will replace this and help reinforce the network.

Two new headhouses, and sealing end compounds, will be required at either end of the tunnel at Gravesend and Tilbury. This infrastructure is required to connect the existing overhead line route to the new cable in the tunnel, to the rest of the electricity network, and act as access points. It will also be necessary to later install a new pylon at both the Gravesend and Tilbury headhouse sites and remove three existing pylons in Tilbury. This overhead line refurbishment work is planned for 2027/2028 and therefore did not form part of this consultation. As the pylons and overhead lines are existing infrastructure, the refurbishment is not included as part of this Town and Country Planning Act application, and further engagement will take place when this work is due to take place.

The proposed Gravesend site is located to the east of the town centre, adjacent to the Metropolitan Police training centre. The new headhouse will be located directly south of the existing headhouse, and a new pylon is proposed to be constructed next to the new headhouse. RSPB land is located to the east of the proposed site.

The proposed Tilbury site is located within an industrial area to the east of the Tilbury2 port and Tilbury Fort. The proposed site is located to the southeast of Tilbury town centre.

Extensive engagement was carried out with stakeholders and the community as part of this project, and this Statement of Community Involvement provides details of this programme of engagement. NGET engaged with key stakeholders prior to the launch of the public consultation to introduce the project and offer an opportunity to meet with the project team to discuss the proposals and ask questions. Engagement with relevant stakeholders continued throughout the consultation process and following the close of the public consultation.

Two in-person public exhibition events and two webinars were held to introduce the proposals to residents in Gravesend and Tilbury. Their aim was to provide the local communities and key stakeholders with an opportunity to speak to the project team. These events were advertised extensively via a newsletter which was sent to over 11,000 households and businesses in the local areas surrounding the two proposed sites. The events were also advertised on the dedicated project website, and through social media advertisements. The public consultation period ran from 27 September to 29 October 2023.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared to accompany an application by NGET for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, for the proposed replacement of the existing Thames Cable Tunnel between Tilbury and Gravesend. The tunnel falls within the administrative boundaries of Gravesham Borough Council and Thurrock Council.
- 1.1.2 The Statement of Community Involvement seeks to provide the local planning authorities, and other interested parties, with details of the programme of stakeholder and community engagement carried out by NGET in relation to the proposed development. This Statement of Community Involvement should be read alongside the documents and plans submitted in support of this application.
- 1.1.3 This Statement of Community Involvement is structured as follows:
- Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: The Site and Local Context
  - Chapter 3: Public Consultation
  - Chapter 4: Post-Consultation Engagement
  - Chapter 5: Summary
  - Chapter 6: Appendices

## 2. The Site and Local Context

### 2.1 Site Context



- 2.1.1 The project will involve the replacement of the existing 1960s Thames Cable Tunnel which runs beneath Thames, between Tilbury and Gravesend. A headhouse is also needed at both ends of the tunnel. The Gravesend headhouse will be located within Gravesham Borough Council's boundaries, and the Tilbury headhouse will be located within Thurrock Council's boundary.
- 2.1.2 The proposed site of the Gravesend headhouse is located to the east of Gravesend Town Centre, just south of the bank of the river Thames.
- 2.1.3 The site neighbours the Metropolitan Police training centre and the Milton Rifle Range, with the Saxon Shore Way to the north and a railway line to the south. The new headhouse will be constructed to the south of the existing Eastcourt Marshes electricity substation and will connect the cable through the new Thames tunnel to a new terminal pylon to the south of the headhouse.
- 2.1.4 The proposed site of the Tilbury headhouse is located within an industrial area to the south-east of Tilbury Town Centre and Tilbury Sewage Treatment Works and to the east of the Tilbury2 port.
- 2.1.5 The site neighbours unused land, with the Tilbury substation to the north, Power Station Road to the west and Ash Field Road to the south.

## 2.2 Policy Context

- 2.2.1 NGET has complied with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states that *"early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties"*. The NPPF also highlights that *"good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community"*.
- 2.2.2 A planning application for the full replacement tunnel will be submitted to both Gravesham Borough Council and Thurrock Council. Individual applications for each headhouse will also be submitted to the respective councils.
- 2.2.3 Gravesham Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (2019) makes the following recommendations in relation to consultation surrounding major developments:
- *The Council strongly encourages applicants to undertake public pre-application consultation with potentially interested/affected parties to identify and resolve issues in advance of submission. Such front-loading should be seen as an opportunity to overcome delays within the planning process, reducing the risk of refusal or the need to deal with such issues at the application stage.*
  - *For major planning application proposals, the Council will seek to discuss the form of any such developer consultation with the applicant as part of its pre-application advice service.*

- *Such early consultation should be as open as possible and provide a genuine opportunity for the local community to influence the design and form of the development proposed. The extent of consultation will depend on the nature of the proposal itself and its likely impact - including impact on the local highway network and demands that may be placed on local services. Factors such as scale, location prominence, proximity and sensitivity of adjoining development are all likely to be relevant.*

2.2.4 Thurrock Council's draft updated SCI (2022) makes the following recommendations in relation to consultation surrounding major developments:

- *The Council strongly encourages applicants of large-scale development proposals to involve local communities before the formal application stage begins. This enables local communities to put forward initial constructive comments and suggestions and may lead to fewer objections being made further down the line, which are then material to the determination of the application.*
- *It is recommended that pre-application consultation carried out by applicants with local communities should be in the form of meetings, presentations and/or exhibitions. Applicants are encouraged to speak with the Council before arranging these events, so that they can be undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to the local community's concerns. However, any pre-application engagement undertaken with the community is done so by the applicant, independently of the council.*

2.2.5 NGET sought to incorporate these points into its engagement programme. Government guidance and the Councils' SCIs encourage pre-application discussions and community involvement at an early stage in the design process.

2.2.6 NGET has adhered to the guidance provided by both councils and has delivered a comprehensive consultation which has sought to engage with a wide variety of potential stakeholders.



# 3. Public Consultation

## 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 The design and siting of the proposed tunnel replacement was presented during a four-week public consultation period between 27 September and 29 October 2023. During this time, residents and stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposals via a consultation website (featuring a virtual exhibition), two in-person exhibitions at local venues in Gravesend and Tilbury, and two virtual webinar events. A freephone information line and a feedback email address were also made available throughout the course of the pre-application consultation, to allow interested parties to receive further information and enable people to provide their feedback to the project team.
- 3.1.2 The consultation sought to gather feedback to inform the ongoing design of the project, and invited views on the proposals, including the proposed tunnel replacement, two new headhouses, the layout and design of the buildings, ecology and landscaping, and construction traffic management. We also included information on the overhead line refurbishment works as part of this consultation, however we did not seek feedback on this work at this stage as further engagement will be undertaken when this work is being prepared.
- 3.1.3 A public consultation event for the Gravesend site was held on 11 October 2023, and a public event for the Tilbury site was held on 13 October 2023. Alongside these events, a virtual consultation was also hosted on the project website, and the project team held two webinars to present the proposals for each location.
- 3.1.4 To raise awareness of the consultation within the local community:
  - NGET distributed an invitation newsletter to over 11,000 homes and businesses in Tilbury and Gravesend, together with other identified stakeholders including elected representatives, local authorities, and third-party and community interest groups. The two-page newsletter included a QR code with a direct link to the project website, as well as information on the two public exhibitions and two webinar events.
  - Paid-for Facebook adverts ran, directing Facebook users in the vicinity of the project to the dedicated project website.
  - A press-release was issued to the following news outlets:
    - Thurrock Gazette

- Daily Gazette
- Essex County Standard
- Kent Live
- Gravesend Messenger
- Essex Live
- News Shopper

- Briefing sessions were held with a range of elected representatives and community interest groups, including the political leadership at Thurrock Council and BugLife. The list of consultees is set out in section 3.2 below.
- NGET also approached Gravesham Borough Council, Thurrock MP Jackie Doyle-Price, Gravesham MP Adam Holloway, and other relevant third-party groups but received no requests to meet from these stakeholders thus far.

3.1.5 A total of 16 feedback responses were received from members of the public and interested parties. From the number of feedback forms received, nine were submitted online and seven were submitted as paper copy. Six emails were also received regarding the proposals. NGET has reviewed the feedback received to date, and the main comments raised by the local community have been addressed within this document and the wider material submitted as part of the planning application.

3.1.6 Following submission of the application, NGET will ensure that interested parties and key stakeholders remain informed and updated regarding the proposals.

## 3.2 Engagement

### Consultation process

3.2.1 Prior to submitting the formal planning applications for the two sites, NGET undertook a detailed programme of community consultation. A public consultation event for the Gravesend site was held on 11 October 2023, and a public event for the Tilbury site was held on 13 October 2023. A virtual webinar event for Gravesend was also held on 18 October 2023, and for Tilbury on 19 October 2023. These events provided an opportunity for the team to share the proposals for submission with residents and invite the public to meet the team and have their questions answered. These events were supported by a consultation website which could be viewed at any time online. The website was made publicly available from 27 September 2023, feedback was then accepted until 11:59pm on 29 October 2023.

## Stakeholder engagement

- 3.2.2 Ahead of the launch of the public consultation, NGET engaged with key stakeholders to introduce the proposals and offer an opportunity to meet with the team to discuss the project in more detail. The project team also offered stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions on the proposals ahead of the main public consultation period. Introductory letters and prior notice of the consultation were sent to members of Gravesham and Thurrock Councils, local MPs, and key third-party groups in Gravesend and Tilbury.
- 3.2.3 Conversations were also had with relevant stakeholders throughout the public consultation period. This included briefings with members of Thurrock Council, including Leader Cllr Andrew Jefferies, and with BugLife charity. A virtual meeting was arranged for 12 December with Thurrock Councillor John Allen, however the councillor did not attend. Several opportunities for engagement were also offered to members of Gravesham Borough Council and other third-party groups, however no request for a meeting was received.
- 3.2.4 NGET has also had extensive ongoing engagement with the Port of London Authority. In 2023, 18 meetings have been held with the authority between January and October. This included face-to-face meetings, two site visits, and virtual meetings to discuss the Grain to Tilbury proposals.
- 3.2.5 NGET remains committed to engaging with all interested parties and stakeholders and discussions remain ongoing with stakeholders across both Thurrock and Gravesham.
- 3.2.6 Below is a full list of the stakeholders identified during the consultation process who were invited to participate in the consultation activity. Advanced notification of the community consultation process was issued to these stakeholders in the week commencing 25 September 2023. The letter provides recipients with information about the proposals and offered a meeting with the project team should they be unable to attend:

### Gravesham Borough Council

- Cllr John Burden - Leader of the Council
- Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox - Deputy Leader of the Council (and Strategic Environment portfolio holder)
- Cllr Emma Morley - Operational Services portfolio holder
- Cllr Jenny Wallace - Housing Services portfolio holder
- Cllr Lauren Sullivan - Community and Leisure portfolio holder
- Cllr Deborah Croxton - Ward member
- Cllr Lee Croxton - Ward member
- Cllr Leslie Hills - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Lyn Milner - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Gurdip Ram Bungar - Neighbouring ward member

- Cllr Jenny Wallace - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Lee Croxton - Chair of Planning Committee
- Cllr Rajinder Atwal - Vice-chair of Planning Committee
- Cllr Ejaz Aslam - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Gary Harding - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Samir Jassal - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Alan Metcalf - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Lyn Milner - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Peter Scollard - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Alison Williams - Planning Committee member
- Cllr Jordan Meade – Gravesend East (Kent County Council)
- Cllr Alan Ridgers – Gravesend East (Kent County Council)
- Angela Coull – Kent County Council Principal Transport and Development Planner

### **Thurrock Council**

- Cllr Andrew Jefferies - Leader of the Council
- Cllr Deborah Arnold - Deputy Leader of the Council
- Cllr Susan Little - Mayor of Thurrock
- Cllr Ben Maney - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Highways
- Cllr Luke Spillman - Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Cllr Cici Manwa - Ward member
- Cllr John Allen - Ward member
- Cllr Fraser Massey - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Sue Sammons - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Kairen Raper - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Steve Liddiard - Neighbouring ward member
- Cllr Tom Kelly - Chair of the Planning Committee
- Cllr Georgette Polley - Vice-chair of the Planning Committee
- Cllr Jacqui Maney - Planning committee member
- Cllr Paul Arnold - Planning committee member
- Cllr Terry Piccolo - Planning committee member
- Cllr Sue Shinnick - Planning committee member
- Cllr Steve Liddiard - Planning committee member
- Cllr Lee Watson - Planning committee member

- Cllr Steve Taylor - Planning committee member
- Dave Smith - Chief Executive
- Chris Purvis - Major Applications Manager
- Louise Reid - Strategic Lead Development Services
- Chris Stratford - Consents and DCO Senior Consultant
- Nina Hicks – Thurrock Planning Department Case Officer

### MPs

- Jackie Doyle-Price - Thurrock
- Adam Holloway - Gravesham

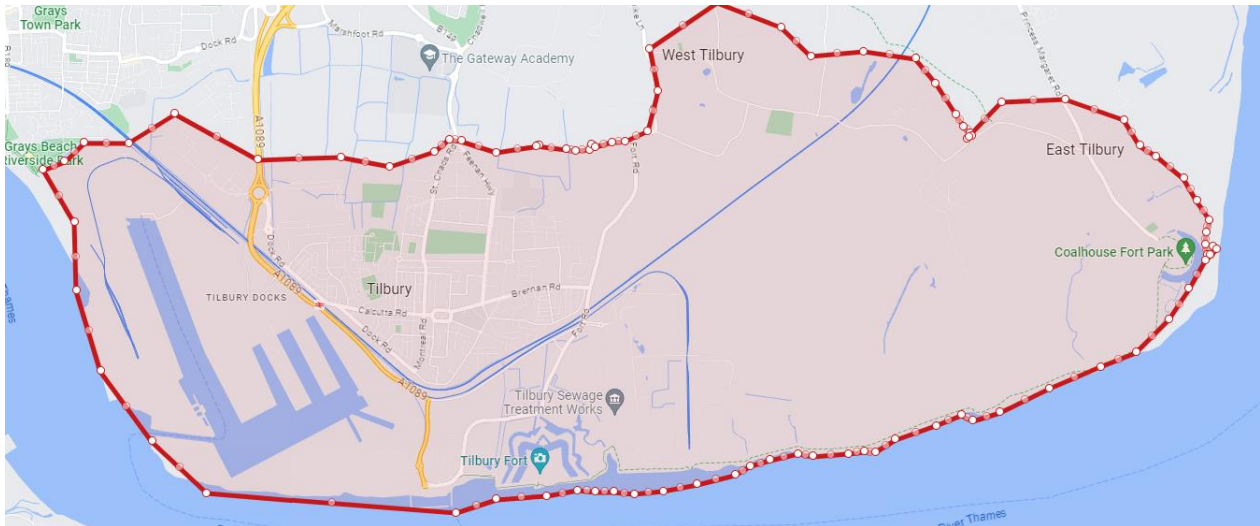
### Key groups

- BugLife
- Port of Tilbury
- Metropolitan Police training centre
- Albion Homes
- East of England Sustrans
- SELEP
- Essex Chambers of Commerce
- Lower Thames Crossing
- Port of London
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)
- Marine Management Organisation
- National Highways, and the Kent County Council highways and Thurrock Council highways teams
- RSPB
- Natural England
- Port of London Authority

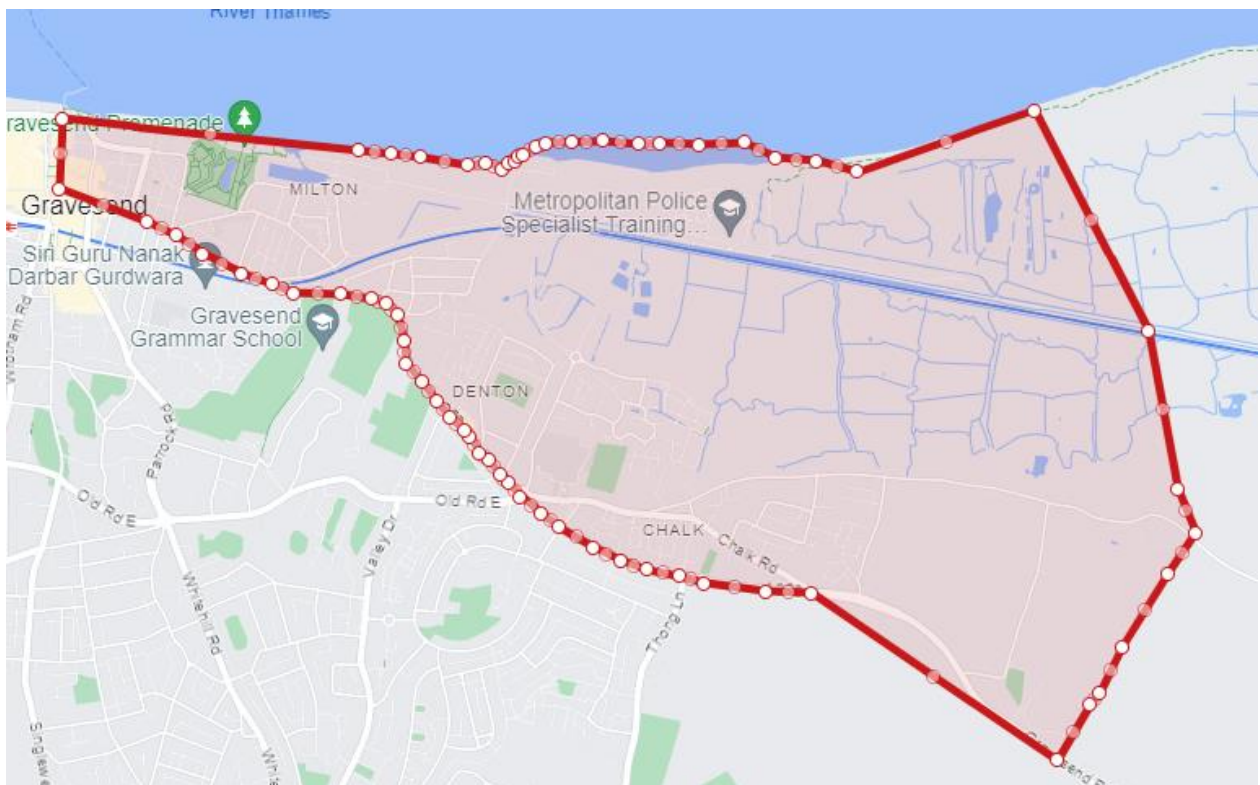
3.2.7 **A copy of the notification letter can be found at Appendix 6.1**

## Invitation newsletter

3.2.8 The consultation was promoted via an A4 flyer and included information about NGET's proposals, the consultation website, and information on the public and virtual consultation events. The invitation was posted to over 11,000 households and businesses in Gravesend and Tilbury in the week commencing 25 September 2023. The following maps illustrate the distribution areas in Gravesend and Tilbury.



3.2.9 The two-page A4 invitation newsletter contained the following information:



- An overview of the proposals
- An overview of the need for the project
- Indicative site location plans

- Details of the project website and virtual consultation (including a QR code to directly link to the webinar sign-up page)
- Invitation to attend the public exhibitions and webinars, with details of each
- Details of the proposed tunnel replacement
- Email and freephone contact information
- Details of how to respond to the consultation

3.2.10 **A copy of the invitation newsletter can be found at Appendix 6.2**

## **In-person exhibition events**

- 3.2.11 Two public drop-in exhibition events were held to present the proposals and provide residents with an opportunity to speak to the project team.
- 3.2.12 The first event was held in Gravesend on 11 October 2023, at the Clarendon Royal Community Hotel from 3:00-7:00pm. 17 people attended over the session.
- 3.2.13 The second event was held in Tilbury on 13 October 2023, at the Tilbury Community Association from 3:00-7:00pm. Seven people attended over the session.

## **Webinar events**

- 3.2.14 Two webinar events were also held to provide people with an opportunity to engage with the proposals and ask questions to the project team virtually.
- 3.2.15 The first webinar was held on 18 October 2023 to present the Gravesend proposals. 12 people registered for this event.
- 3.2.16 The second webinar was held on 19 October 2023 to present the Tilbury proposals. Nine people registered for this event.

## **Press release**

- 3.2.17 To ensure the wider community was aware of the consultation, a detailed press release was issued to several local media publications:
- Thurrock Gazette
  - Daily Gazette
  - Essex County Standard
  - Kent Live
  - Gravesend Messenger
  - Essex Live
  - News Shopper

- 3.2.18 The press release contained the following information:
- An overview of the proposals
  - An overview of the need for reinforcement
  - Details of the in-person and virtual consultation events
  - Benefits of the proposed tunnel replacement
  - Contact information including the freephone information line and project website address
- 3.2.19 **A copy of the press release can be found at appendix 4.3**

## Feedback form

- 3.2.20 A feedback form allowing residents to share their views on the proposals was available at the in-person events and published online via the consultation website. Those without access to the internet were also able to request a paper copy of the feedback form to be sent to their home address.
- 3.2.21 The form asked five questions covering different aspects of the proposals with a mixture of question formats, including multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The feedback obtained from the forms is shown in the next chapter.
- 3.2.22 Both the online and print feedback were identical in content and design.
- 3.2.23 **A copy of the feedback form can be found at Appendix 6.4**

## Pre-paid post, email address and freephone number

- 3.2.24 During the consultation, access to a freephone line was offered to those who wished to find out more about the proposals, request hard copy materials, or to register their comments via the telephone.
- 3.2.25 The telephone number was in operation Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00am and 5:30pm. Outside of these hours a voicemail facility was available for messages to be left.
- 3.2.26 An email address ([contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com)) was made available for residents to contact the project team and submit queries. Six emails were received containing feedback and other comments and queries for the project team. These were monitored and replied to in coordination with the project team.
- 3.2.27 A pre-paid freepost envelope was available at the public exhibitions, allowing feedback forms to be posted back free of charge.





### 3.3 Analysis of feedback

- 3.3.1 The following review includes all comments received up to the closure of the public consultation on 29 October 2023, including online, public exhibition and postal responses. A total of 24 visitors attended the two in-person exhibition events.
- 3.3.2 During the consultation period, a total of 16 feedback forms were received. In addition to this, the project team also received six emails from residents and local businesses. These emails ranged from providing feedback, as well as asking questions to the wider project team.
- 3.3.3 Overall, the feedback received was broadly positive, with the majority of respondents stating that they were in favour of the proposals. 66% of respondents strongly supported or supported the proposal to upgrade the existing cable tunnel. 56.5% of respondents strongly supported or supported the construction process plan, including the proposal to move spoil via barge on the Thames.

**Question 1: Our proposals will reinforce the electricity network and aid our transition to net zero. To what extent do you support our plans to upgrade the electricity infrastructure between Grain and Tilbury, via the construction of a new tunnel, the installation of new cabling, and the construction of two headhouses at either end of the tunnel?**

Strongly Support	Support	Unsure	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
8	2	4	0	1

Example comments:

- *A great scheme supporting the need to keep the lights on which is desperately needed*
- *Would be good for local jobs*
- *We have concerns about heavy vehicles using and potentially damaging the northside canal towpath/footpath/cycling route*

- *It will make a huge difference for the local and national economy and ease the traffic in the area*

**Question 2: During construction we intend to move as much of the rock, soil, and debris offshore as possible via barges on the Thames. Where this isn't possible, we will use HGVs to move materials as described in our construction management plan which will be submitted as part of the application. To what extent do you support this plan for our construction process?**

Strongly Support	Support	Unsure	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
6	3	5	0	2

Example comments:

- *The river in this area is very busy, obviously want as little disruption as possible, both traffic wise and noise*
- *Barge movements are one key to the success as the existing road infrastructure will not be able to sustain significant HGV movements*

**Question 3: We have been undertaking an extensive range of ecological and environmental surveys to reduce the impact of our works on the local area. Our planning application will set out these plans in detail. Are there any further environmental issues you would like to make us aware of?**

- *You are aware of the environmental risks and constraints, just need to avoid or minimise them during the works. The headhouse should be as unobtrusive as possible*
- *Main issue is to reduce the noise from the traffic for the locals*
- *Many species including water voles live in the canal. The pumping system for canal top-up draws water from an adjacent dyke. We would need assurances that any works would not pollute the intake in any way.*

**Question 4: Are there any local groups or community organisations that you believe should be engaged with as part of our proposals or who may benefit from National Grid’s local incentives?**

- *Shorne Parish Council – we may be able to come up with some ideas once we have more information about what grants/funds are available and how to apply*
- *Business unions*
- *The Thames and Medway Canal Association who manage the canal and pump top-up system. Sustrans who manage the towpath which is designated Cycle Route 1*

**Question 5: Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?**

- *The project should be delivered immediately as it is overdue.*

3.3.4 A summary of the consultation feedback received, and NGET’s responses, are detailed in the table below:

Table 2.1: Analysis of consultation feedback from Gravesham residents

Matter Raised	NGET’s Response
The Thames and Medway Canal Association has infrastructure adjacent to the proposed site area. We would need assurances that the works will in no way affect either the canal route and towpath or the pumping system located in the adjacent field.	-

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Many species including water voles live in the canal. The pumping system for canal top-up draws water from an adjacent dyke. We would need assurances that any works would not pollute the intake in any way.

As part of the planning process, NGET has carried out extensive surveys to establish the baseline for the Environmental Statement and ensure we design the most suitable mitigation against any potential impact on local wildlife. These surveys include reptile, great crested newt, and water vole surveys. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be submitted detailing any mitigation measures required.

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Do not want any HGVs to clog the road and pollute the air. With Lower Thames Crossing happening during that period congestion on the roads will be so bad.

Where possible, NGET intends to move spoil from the construction sites via barge movements on the Thames to reduce the impact on the road network. Some construction movements will need to take place via HGV, which has been outlined in the Construction Traffic Management Plan that will support the planning applications submitted to each council.

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Ensure the environment is not affected by dust, noise, or light nuisance.

As part of the planning process, NGET has been carrying out environmental surveys, including a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, habitat surveys and protected species surveys. Our planning applications will include a detailed EIA which will set out the findings of our surveys and the mitigations we plan to put in place during construction to minimise the impact of our works.

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Ensure that the projects are awarded to British firms and delivery of equipment is sources from United Kingdom, and local people are employed in the project.

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Support as stated to be tunnelling from north to south, so spoil is not generated within the North Kent Marshes interconnected ecosystem. Need to minimise footprint of works and impact on ditch patterns and functions. We have concerns about heavy vehicles using, and potentially damaging, the northside canal towpath/footpath/cycling route as it is not constructed for taking very heavy weights. Rail transport could also be considered as nearby.

Where possible, NGET will use barge movements to transport construction materials and spoil, reducing the impact of construction works on the road network. Some HGV movements will be required, as set out in our Construction Traffic Management Plan.

<p>Many issues already raised and discussed at the webinar, which was very helpful. You are aware of the environmental risks and constraints, just need to avoid or minimise them during the works. The headhouse should be as unobtrusive as possible.</p>	<p>The new headhouses at Tilbury and Gravesend will be located close to the existing buildings to minimise additional impact on the local area. The headhouses will also have biodiverse roofs to support biodiversity net gain and provide a rainwater buffer.</p>
<p>I am pleased to hear that the work will not prevent walking along the shore. However, I am dismayed to hear that construction will cause closure of the canal footpath at times. Walking from the riverside area, central Gravesend has been disrupted for years due to Kent County Council closure of public footpaths to the west and east. Any further pedestrian restrictions are totally unacceptable.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Care needs to be taken with narrow roads in the current plan. Our experience during the Lower Thames Crossing enabling works was that there were many complains of noise, soiling of roads, debris, movements of traffic etc. Water tankers were constantly moving through these narrow roads and transporting tens of thousands of litres of water to support the drilling activities – something that locals were very vocal about.</p>	<p>NGET's priority is to move spoil from our construction sites via the Thames to reduce our impact on the road network. To support our planning applications, we will submit a Construction Traffic Management Plan which will set out the good practice measures we propose to carry out in order to minimise the impact of our works locally.</p>
<p>What is the impact on and within the river ecosystems?</p>	<p>Our planning applications will include a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment. This will set out the finding of our survey works and the mitigations we plan to put in place during construction to help minimise the impact of our works. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be submitted detailing any mitigation measures required.</p>
<p>The TBM slurry discharge needs to be considered as the existing sewer network cannot take any further flow.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>The works are in the RAMSAR and as such need to be carefully planned as this area is a haven for wild birds.</p>	<p>Extensive surveys have been carried out to establish the baseline for the Environmental Statement and ensure we design the most suitable mitigation against any potential impact on local wildlife.</p>

I would like to see National Grid insist on the engagement of local SMEs to promote economic growth in the area.	-
The traffic impact needs to be carefully reviewed as the infrastructure cannot cope with the looming Lower Thames Crossing project, the disruption for a significant amount of time for the residents will be untenable.	NGET's priority is to move spoil from our construction sites via the Thames to reduce our impact on the road network. To support our planning applications, we will submit a Construction Traffic Management Plan which will set out the good practice measures we propose to carry out in order to minimise the impact of our works locally.
I would be interested to know what the old tunnel would be put to. I did suggest the cable tunnels with cabled buried could double up as cycle tunnels.	-
Concerned about cost and who will pay.	-
Seals on the mud areas of both sides and lots of migrating birds using Gravesend waterside, however I'm sure you know this from your surveys.	Our planning applications will include a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment. This will set out the finding of our survey works and the mitigations we plan to put in place during construction to help minimise the impact of our works. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be submitted detailing any mitigation measures required.
The river in this area is very busy. We'd obviously want as little disruption as possible, both traffic-wise and noise.	-

Table 2.2: Analysis of consultation feedback from Thurrock residents

<b>Matter Raised</b>	<b>NGET's Response</b>
Don't want any harm to come to wildlife.	Our planning applications will include a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment which will set out the findings of our environmental survey works

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and the mitigations we plan to put in place during construction to help minimise the impact of our works. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be submitted detailing any mitigation measures required. NGET is working with Natural England and county biodiversity officers to further develop our environment protection measures.

---

It will make a huge difference for the local and national economy. Barge movements will also ease traffic in the area.

-

---

The main issue is to reduce noise from the traffic for the locals.

NGET's priority is to move spoil from our construction sites via the Thames to reduce our impact on the road network. To support our planning applications, we will submit a Construction Traffic Management Plan which will set out the good practice measures we propose to carry out in order to minimise the impact of our works locally.

---

The damage to wildlife and the countryside is not clear, so far, the works adjacent to the crossing have brought the area of East Tilbury to a standstill twice.

As part of the planning process, NGET has been carrying out environmental surveys, including a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, habitat surveys and protected species surveys. The result of this work will help inform the design and decision-making process as we finalise our plans. The new headhouses at Tilbury and Gravesend will have biodiverse roofs to support biodiversity net gain and provide a rainwater buffer. We will also plant native vegetation around both sites to further encourage local wildlife and habitat creation. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be submitted detailing any mitigation measures required as a result of our survey works.



## 4. Post-consultation engagement

- 4.1.1 The consultation email address, phone information line, Freepost address and website for the project will remain active throughout the application process and into construction if planning permission is granted. During this phase we will continue to have a communications strategy in place to update the community about our works.
- 4.1.2 Any correspondence received following the closure of the consultation period will not be included as feedback, however NGET will respond to inbound questions and continue to monitor feedback.
- 4.1.3 Feedback submitted after the consultation end date (29 October 2023) will be monitored by the project team.
- 4.1.4 NGET will update residents that have provided feedback with updates and information on the proposals and application.
- 4.1.5 The dedicated project website will remain live, and residents will be able to submit questions via email.
- 4.1.6 The project website feedback page has been updated to allow users to register for updates on the project.
- 4.1.7 A post-consultation letter was sent to key stakeholders including members of Gravesham Borough Council, Thurrock Council, key third party groups and local MPs. The project team offered stakeholders a further opportunity to meet to discuss the proposals following the consultation period.
- 4.1.8 **A copy of the post-consultation stakeholder letter can be found at Appendix 6.5**

## 5. Summary

- 5.1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement has been produced with the aim of clearly and concisely highlighting the community consultation undertaken by NGET in respect of its proposals for the replacement of the existing Thames Cable Tunnel. It provides an account of the consultation activity that has been undertaken within the pre-application stage of the planning application, and the feedback received from interested parties during the consultation period.
- 5.1.2 Feedback from the public consultation period will help to inform the environmental, engineering, and economic details of the proposals, prior to the submission of TCPA planning applications to Gravesham and Thurrock Councils in Winter 2023.
- 5.1.3 Following submission of the applications, NGET will ensure that interested parties and key stakeholders remain informed and updated regarding the proposals.

# 6. Appendices

## 6.1 Notification letter

nationalgrid



28 September 2023

Dear Councillor,



### **The Great Grid Upgrade: Grain to Tilbury**

Further to our introductory letter earlier in the year, setting out the background to the Grain to Tilbury project, I am writing to let you know that we have now launched the public consultation, which will last until the 29 October.

Our proposals comprise a new high-voltage electricity cable between Tilbury and Gravesend under the river Thames replacing the existing cable tunnel which is at the end of its useful life.

This project, which will upgrade the local network, is also being brought forward to reinforce the wider network, as part of The Great Grid Upgrade - the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. This is essential to support the connection of more sustainable sources of energy, such as offshore wind, as part of the Government's plan to power all homes with renewable energy by 2030.

Our proposals also include the construction of two headhouses – one at Tilbury and the other at Gravesend, as well as new cable sealing end compounds to connect the cable to the overhead line. The works, which will require planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, are planned to start in summer 2024, with the construction process expected to last four years. An existing overhead line between Tilbury, Kingsnorth and the Isle of Grain in Kent, will also need refurbishing. However, this is not planned until 2028 and does not form part of this consultation.

We are holding two in-person, public consultation events:

#### **Clarendon Royal Community**

Royal Peir 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

There will also be webinar sessions the following week:

#### **Gravesham webinar**

Wednesday 18 October  
7:00pm-8:00pm  
[Sign up here](#)

**Thurrock webinar**  
Thursday 19 October  
7:00pm-8:00pm  
[Sign up here](#)

We would love for you to attend any of these sessions, or alternatively, we would be happy to hold a briefing session with yourself and members of the project team, should you wish.

Residents will have the option to engage and provide feedback both in-person and online, during our four week consultation period. We have contacted over 11,000 households to make them aware of our consultation.

For more information you can also visit our project website: [www.nationalgrid.com/GrainToTilbury](http://www.nationalgrid.com/GrainToTilbury)

If you would like to meet, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,



Bryan Truscott  
Project Manager  
National Grid

## 6.2 Invitation newsletter



**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)

**nationalgrid**

## 6.3 Press release



### Press Release

Date: 29 September 2023

## National Grid launches consultation on planned Grain to Tilbury infrastructure upgrades

- The Grain to Tilbury project will see the replacement of the existing Thames Cable Tunnel, linking Tilbury and Gravesend, alongside the delivery of a new headhouse at each end of the tunnel
- The existing Thames Cable Tunnel between Tilbury and Gravesend is over 50 years old and is coming to the end of its useful life. The proposed new tunnel will replace this and help to reinforce the local network
- Grain to Tilbury will help the UK achieve its net zero target for 2050 by connecting more offshore wind power
- National Grid will consult communities for four weeks as part of a public consultation which includes in person and online events. The deadline for feedback is Sunday 29 October

National Grid is holding a public consultation on its plans to upgrade electricity infrastructure between Grain and Tilbury. The consultation is now live and will run for four weeks until Sunday 29 October 2023.

As part of its plans, National Grid Electricity Transmission propose to build a new cable tunnel underneath the Thames which will deliver cleaner electricity to the area. This will require planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, in both Thurrock and Gravesham.

Two new 'headhouses' will also be built 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.

Additionally, a new pylon at each headhouse site will need installing at a later date in 2027 or 2028.

National Grid is also planning the later refurbishment of the existing overhead line between Tilbury, Kingsnorth, and the Isle of Grain, though this phase of works is not planned until 2028 and does not form part of this consultation.

**nationalgrid**

The Grain to Tilbury proposal form part of a wider suite of infrastructure upgrades and reinforcements planned by National Grid as part of The Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. The Great Grid Upgrade will play a big part in the UK government's plan to power all homes and businesses with green energy by 2030.

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.

**Bryan Truscott, Lead Project Manager, commented:** "The Grain to Tilbury project is essential to upgrade the energy network in Kent and Essex to ensure that we can continue to carry more clean energy to homes and businesses, and help the country reach Net Zero by 2050.

"Local people can take part in the consultation and speak with our team by attending one of our public consultation events, joining an online webinar, or by visiting the project website."

Details of the events are:

#### **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

The consultation is also being hosted on a project website where residents may also register to attend a webinar session.

#### **Webinars**

Gravesham Webinar  
Wednesday 18 October  
7:00pm-8:00pm

Thurrock Webinar  
Thursday 19 October  
7:00pm-8:00pm

All information about the consultation and how to give feedback can be found on the project website, [nationalgrid.com/GrainToTilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/GrainToTilbury).

Residents who prefer to respond to the consultation via post can receive a printed copy of the feedback form and freepost envelope by calling the telephone information line on **020 3398 1599**.

**nationalgrid**



Residents within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project will also receive a newsletter with more information on the consultation.

## ENDS

### Notes to editors

#### Contact for media information only:

Helen Blake  
External affairs manager  
National Grid Electricity Transmission  
nationalgrid  
07790 824788

### About National Grid

National Grid sits at the heart of Britain's energy system. The individual companies in our group run the networks and infrastructure that connect millions of people to the electricity they use every day.

Our regulated businesses own and develop the high voltage **electricity transmission** (ET) network in England and Wales, and the **electricity distribution** (ED) network in the Midlands, South West England and South Wales. The **electricity system operator** (ESO) is the legally separate (and in the process of becoming fully independent) arm of our group which manages supply and demand on Britain's electricity transmission networks. Operating separately from these core regulated units, **National Grid Ventures** (NGV) focusses on competitive markets, investing in energy projects, technologies and partnerships such as electricity interconnectors.

We bring energy to life, with an ambition to serve our customers well, support the communities in which we operate, and make possible a clean, affordable and resilient energy network of the future.

#### Facts about our networks in England and Wales

- Our transmission network takes electricity generated from different power sources and carries it at high voltage via our 4,500 miles of overhead line, 1,500 miles of underground cable and 350 substations.
- Our distribution network delivers electricity at lower voltage from our transmission network to where it's needed in the regions we serve, via 60,000 miles of overhead line and 83,900 miles of underground cable.
- Find out more on our website about the [difference between our networks](#).

### Background

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.

**nationalgrid**

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 transmission infrastructure from Norwich to Tilbury.

## 6.4 Feedback form



### Overview

**We are seeking your views on our 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 feedback we receive at this consultation will help inform our plans before we submit our planning applications to Thurrock and Gravesham councils in winter 2023. The deadline for submitting your response to our consultation is Sunday 29 October 2023.

### How to provide your feedback

We'd like to know if there are any other issues you think are important that we should consider. You are welcome to answer all or only some of the questions in this feedback form, depending on the issues that are most important to you.

All feedback received will be considered as we develop our proposals further. So that we can make the most of your feedback, please give as much detail as possible in your response.

You can share your feedback with us by:

- completing and returning a feedback form at one of our consultation events
- completing a feedback form online at [nationalgrid.com/graintotilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/graintotilbury)
- emailing us your completed feedback form at [contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com)
- returning this feedback form using the freepost envelope provided at a consultation event, or by writing **FREEPOST GRAIN TO TILBURY PROJECT** on any envelope and posting it free of charge.

### Grain to Tilbury proposals

1. Our proposals will reinforce the electricity network and aid our transition to net zero. To what extent do you support our plans to upgrade the electricity infrastructure between Grain and Tilbury, via the construction of a new tunnel, the installation of new cabling, and the construction of two headhouses at either end of the tunnel?

Please select one option

- Strongly support  Support  Unsure  Oppose  Strongly oppose

2

2. During construction we intend to move as much of the rock, soil and debris offsite as possible via barges on the Thames. Where this isn't possible, we will use HGVs to move materials as described in our construction management plan which will be submitted as part of the application. To what extent do you support this plan for our construction process?

Please select one option

- Strongly support  Support  Unsure  Oppose  Strongly oppose

Add your comments here:

3. We have been undertaking an extensive range of ecological and environmental surveys to reduce the impact of our works on the local area. Our planning application will set out these plans in detail.

Are there any further environmental issues you would like to make us aware of?

Add your comments here:

3

4. Are there any local groups or community organisations that you believe should be engaged with as part of our proposals or who may benefit from National Grid's local incentives?

Add your comments here:

5. Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?

Add your comments here:

4

### About you

#### Your contact details

We will only use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section if you'd rather we didn't contact you.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation/group (if responding on behalf of an organisation): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick here if you would like us to keep you updated about our proposals

How would you describe your interest in Grain to Tilbury?

Local resident

Local representative (e.g. parish councillor)

Potentially affected landowner or occupier - please insert your landowner reference number if known \_\_\_\_\_

Local business owner or supplier/contractor

Regular visitor

Local interest group member (please specify in the text box below)

Other (please specify in the text box below)

5

## 6.5 Post-consultation stakeholder letter



XX November 2023

Dear Councillor,

### The Great Grid Upgrade: Grain to Tilbury

As the new project manager for the Grain to Tilbury project, I would like to update you on our proposals following our recent public consultation, which concluded at the end of October.

As you may recall from previous letters, this project, which will upgrade the local network, is being brought forward to reinforce the wider network as part of The Great Grid Upgrade – the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. This is essential to support the connection of more sustainable sources of energy, such as offshore wind, as part of the Government's plan to power all homes with renewable energy by 2030.

Our proposals comprise a new high-voltage electricity cable between Tilbury and Gravesend under the river Thames, replacing the existing cable tunnel which is at the end of its useful life. Our proposals also include the construction of two headhouses – one at Tilbury and the other at Gravesend. An existing overhead line will also need to be refurbished between Tilbury, Kingsnorth, and the Isle of Grain however, this phase of works is not planned until 2028.

We contacted over 10,000 homes and businesses in Gravesend and Tilbury, inviting them to attend our consultation events, which included a mix of online and in-person exhibitions, where locals could find out about our plans and speak to the project team. We also briefed members of Thurrock Council and local charity, bug life, who were particularly interested in our biodiversity measures.

Following the consultation, we are now carefully considering local feedback before we submit our planning application to Thurrock and Gravesham Councils at the end of this year. The response from residents is largely positive, with many recognising the need for the project.

Some concerns were raised about the environmental impact of the scheme however, we have carried out extensive surveys, including a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, habitat surveys and protected species surveys, to ensure suitable mitigations are put in place to protect the local environment and species.

Ahead of our submission, I would like to offer you a briefing about our proposals if you would like to meet, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,

Lee Driscoll  
Project Manager  
National Grid

## 6.6 Exhibition boards



**The Grain to Tilbury project is a proposed electricity infrastructure upgrade, involving the replacement of the existing 1960s Thames Cable Tunnel, beneath the Thames, between Tilbury in Thurrock and Gravesend in Gravesham. A headhouse is also needed at both ends of the tunnel.**

We are sharing information about this essential project with you today and we would value your feedback to help inform our proposals.

Please review the exhibition boards and speak with the team if you have any questions. You can provide feedback either by completing a feedback form, by posting one to us later via the **FREEPOST** envelopes provided, or by going online at [nationalgrid.com/graintotilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/graintotilbury)

This project will be a vital upgrade of the electricity transmission system in Kent and Essex and forms part of the Great Grid Upgrade. The Great Grid Upgrade, which is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations, 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.

**The project consists of the replacement of the existing Thames Cable Tunnel between Tilbury and Gravesend and the construction of two new headhouses – one at either end of the tunnel. Headhouses are needed to connect the tunnel and act as access points. The tunnel and the headhouses will require planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act.**

An existing overhead line between Tilbury, Kingsnorth, and the Isle of Grain in Kent, will also need refurbishing however, this is not planned until 2028 and does not form part of this consultation.



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Grain to Tilbury

**nationalgrid**

# 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.**

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

We bring energy to life – in the heat, light and power we bring to our customers' homes and businesses; in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world.

**National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** owns, builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. It is **NGET** that is developing plans for Grain to Tilbury.





## The Great Grid Upgrade

Grain to Tilbury

nationalgrid

# Moving to net zero

## The decisions we take now to make our energy system cleaner, directly impact the future of our planet.

National Grid has a critical role to play in the acceleration towards a cleaner future. Our businesses lie at the heart of the energy system connecting millions of people to the energy they use.



### Cleaner energy

The UK has set a world-leading target to tackle the defining challenge of this generation: climate change. The UK is aiming to be powered by clean electricity by 2035 and achieve net zero by 2050.



### Energy security

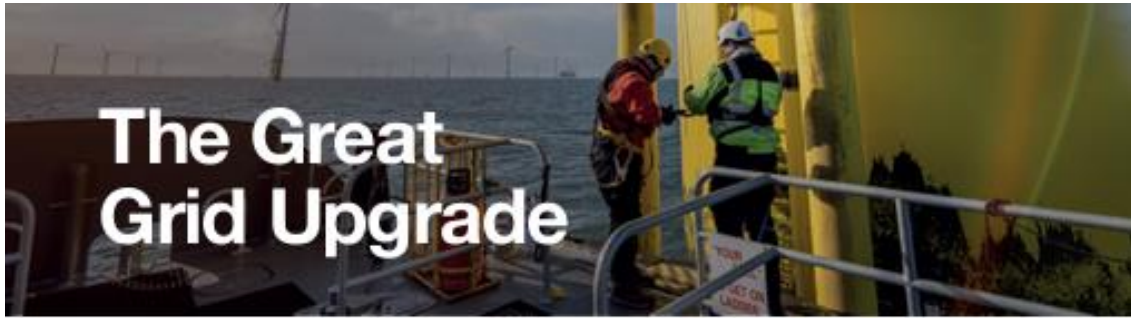
The Government's British Energy Security Strategy aims to connect up to 50 gigawatts (GW) of homegrown offshore wind by 2030 – enough to power every home in the UK.



### Costs to consumers

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) works with government, industry and consumer groups to deliver a net zero economy, at the lowest cost to consumers.





**To help achieve net zero National Grid is embarking on The Great Grid Upgrade, which will play a big part in the UK government's plan to boost homegrown power.**

The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. Our infrastructure projects across England and Wales are helping to connect more renewable energy to your homes and businesses.

Grain to Tilbury is one of many projects across the country that will see electricity infrastructure upgraded and will support the low carbon energy needs of tomorrow.



**Find out more about The Great Grid Upgrade here:**



Grain to Tilbury also forms part of the **Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment**, a programme targeted at unlocking the government's 2030 50 GW offshore wind target.

These are key projects, approved by Ofgem, which have been identified and brought forward to deliver on National Grid's net zero commitments.

# Why we need to upgrade Grain to Tilbury

## The Thames Cable Tunnel is an existing high-voltage electricity cable beneath the Thames between Tilbury and Gravesend.

It was built in the 1960s and houses 400 kilovolt (kV) transmission cables between Tilbury and Gravesend as part of National Grid's high voltage transmission network.

Therefore, the proposed new tunnel will replace this and help reinforce the network, aiding our transition to net zero.



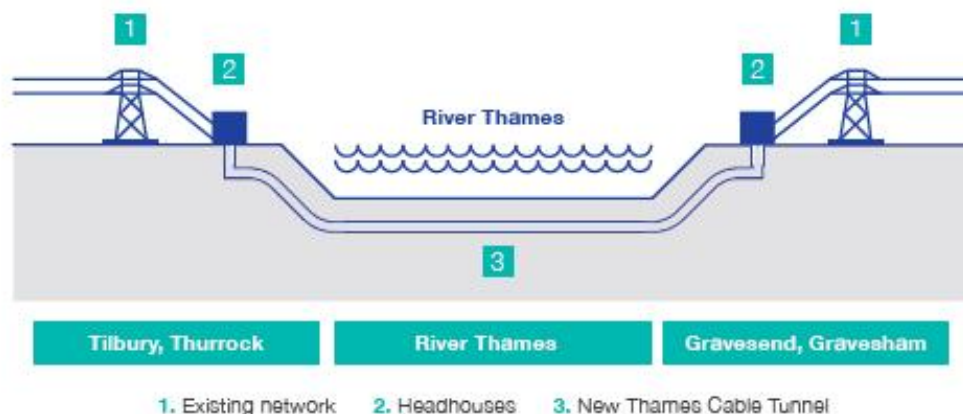
## A new tunnel is the most effective way to deliver a long-term upgrade to the local network.

A number of options were considered as an alternative to building a new tunnel. These included maintaining the existing tunnel, or replacing it with a crossing tower and overhead line over the Thames.

Both options present challenges, including impacts on important and sensitive bird habitats, and a lengthy consenting process required to secure the works, particularly with the existing overhead line which would require a development consent order (DCO). The outages needed to facilitate the refurbishment of the existing tunnel also mean that it would take a considerable amount of time to deliver.

Therefore, a new tunnel is being developed as this is considered to be the most effective and safest option. The tunnel will help to ensure a continued safe and reliable supply of electricity to the area.

### Grain to Tilbury project: Cross-section



# Our proposals

**Grain to Tilbury involves the replacement of the existing Thames Cable Tunnel between Tilbury, Thurrock, and Gravesend, Gravesham, as well as the delivery of associated infrastructure to support the new connection.**

National Grid will be required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to demonstrate the works will not adversely impact the local environment.

## Tunnel replacement

The tunnel will be 2.3 kilometres in length and will run beneath the Thames between Tilbury and Gravesend. This will require planning permission, along with the headhouses and overhead line alterations, to be granted under the Town and Country Planning Act by Gravesham and Thurrock Council.

## Headhouses and cable sealing ends

Two headhouses, and sealing end compounds, will be required as part of the development, at either end of the tunnel at Gravesend and Tilbury. This infrastructure is required to connect the existing overhead line route to the new cable in the tunnel, to the rest of the electricity network, and act as access points. It will also be necessary that we later deliver and install a new pylon at both the Gravesend and Tilbury headhouse sites and remove three existing pylons at Tilbury. This is planned for 2027/2028.

## Overhead line refurbishment

The scheme also includes the full refurbishment of the existing overhead line between Tilbury, Kingsnorth, and the Isle of Grain. As this is existing infrastructure, it is not included as part of this Town and Country Planning Act application, and further engagement will take place when this work is being prepared.



# Our proposals in Tilbury

## The construction site for the Tilbury section of this project is located within an industrial area to the east of the Tilbury2 port.

The new headhouse building is expected to be a similar size to the existing headhouse to the south of the site and will be eight metres high. This building will connect the cable through the new Thames tunnel to a new pylon which will then connect to the existing electricity network in Essex. The pylon will be of a similar height and scale to the existing overhead pylons in the area and will be 45 metres high.

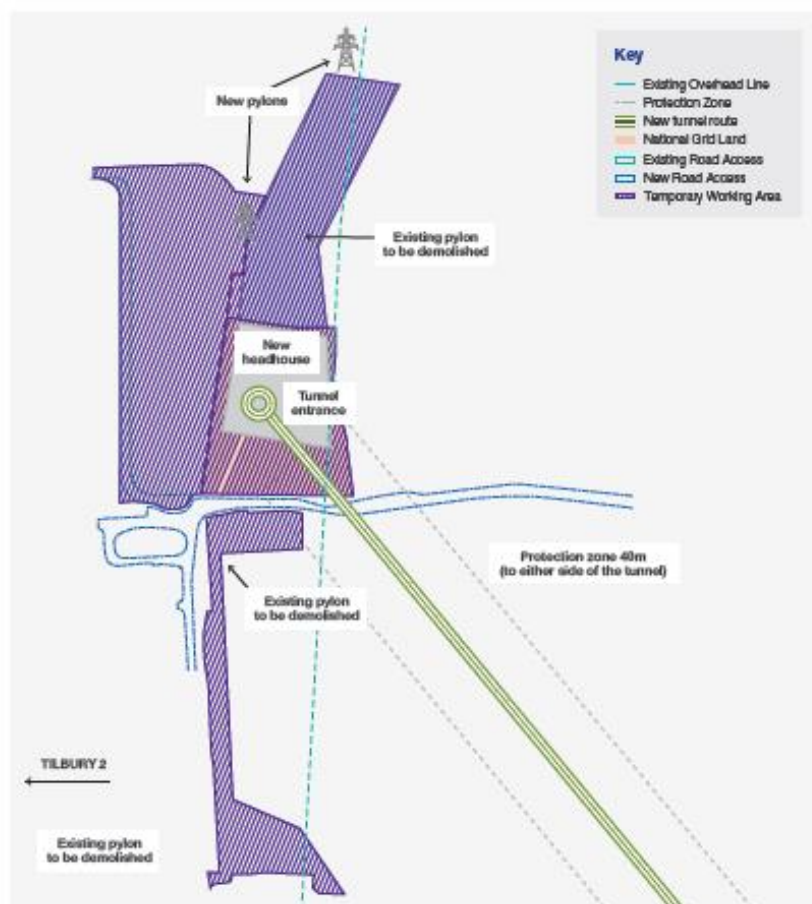
### Construction

The majority of soil, rock and debris during construction of the site will be taken away via barge as set out in more detail on the 'construction' board. A small number of HGVs will be required to transport spoil from the Tilbury site to a jetty to the east of the site, where a conveyor will be used to load the barges to take the spoil away on the Thames.

This will be set out in detail in our planning application documents, but as a rough guide, around three to four daily HGV journeys to each site and a total of around 80 barge movements will be needed over the four-year life of the project to facilitate construction and move this spoil away from the area.

### Next steps

In order to progress our plans we will be submitting a planning application to Thurrock Council. Our application will set out the proposals for these construction works and detail mitigation measures which will reduce the impact of our works on the local area and wildlife.



# Our proposals in Gravesend

## The site for the new Gravesend headhouse is located to the east of the Metropolitan police training building.

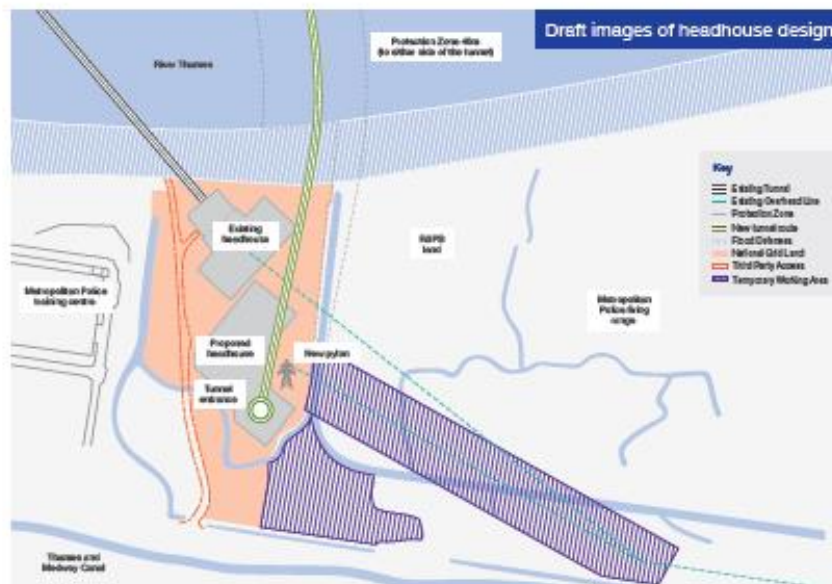
The new headhouse will be 7.8 metres high, so it will be a similar height to the buildings around it. The headhouse will connect the cable through the new Thames tunnel to a new terminal pylon just to the south of the headhouse, which will then connect to the existing electricity network in Kent. This new terminal pylon will be of a similar height and scale to the existing overhead pylons in the area and will be 45 metres high.

### Construction

Construction vehicle movements into the site will be safely managed, to take account of the existing towpath and the cycle path.

### Next steps

We are currently undertaking surveys to support the planning application for the site. We will submit the application to Gravesend Council at the same time that we submit an application to Thurrock Council.





**To support our planning applications, we will prepare a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This will set out the good practice measures we propose to carry out in order to minimise, where possible, the impact of our vital works locally.**

Our priority is to move spoil from our construction sites via the Thames to reduce our impact on the road network, and plans for this are being progressed. However, please note some construction movements will need to take place via HGV movements.

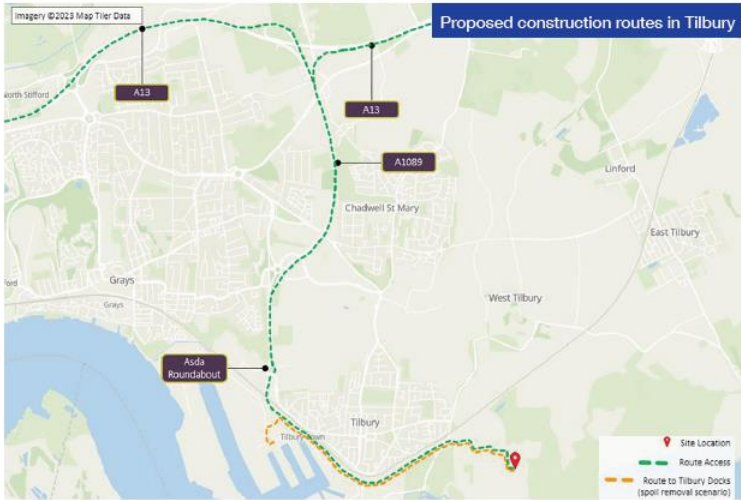
The Construction Traffic Management Plan will include information on signage to make sure our construction traffic uses the agreed routes. Construction workers will also use public transport and car share where practicable to come to and from work. Our workers will also be briefed regularly to make sure they are aware of, and comply with, speed limits on site and locally.

The duration of the entire construction programme is approximately 46 months, commencing in **summer 2024**.

The tunnel construction activities are expected to last approximately 17 months commencing in **spring 2026**, with the tunnel construction works lasting around eight months between **summer 2026** and **spring 2027**.

The below maps set out the routes that we are currently considering for our construction traffic in Tilbury and Gravesend.

We would welcome your feedback on these proposed routes.



# Environmental protection

## We will always consider the potential environmental impacts of our projects.

This section of the Thames is rich in wildlife and biodiversity, and contains a number of protected wildlife areas. This includes the Canal and Grazing Marsh Higham Local Wildlife Site at Gravesend; the nearby Thames Estuary & Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site; and the Local Nature Reserve on the Tilbury banks of the Thames.

As part of the planning process, we have been carrying out environmental surveys, including a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), habitat surveys and protected species surveys. The results of this work will help inform the design and decision-making process as we finalise our plans.

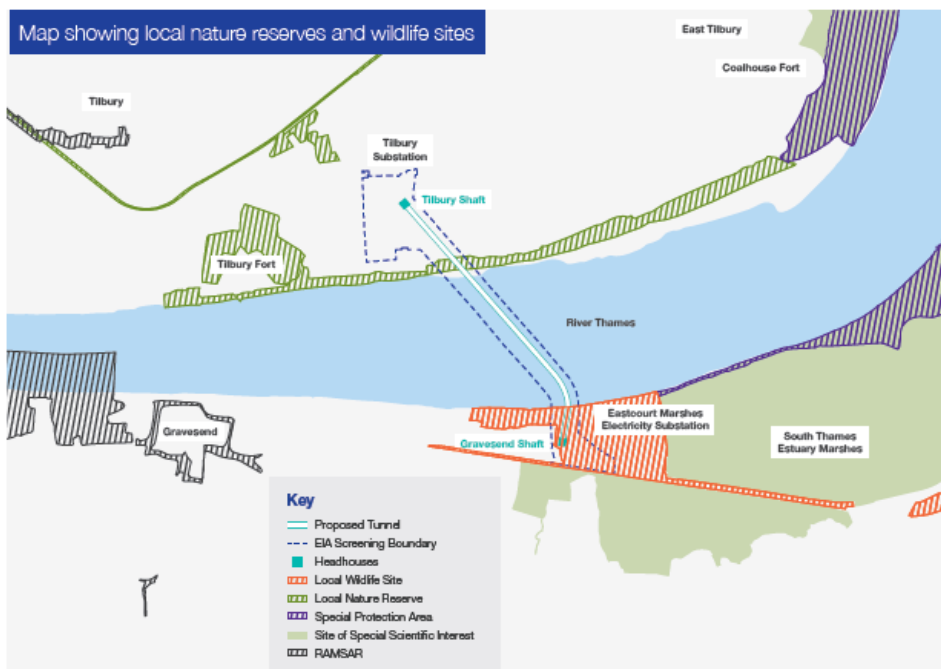
The new headhouses at Tilbury and Gravesend will have biodiverse roofs to support biodiversity net gain and provide a rainwater buffer. We will also be planting native vegetation around both sites to further encourage local wildlife and habitat creation. We are also reaching out to Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England, and county biodiversity officers to further develop our environment protection measures.

## Extensive surveys are currently being carried out to establish the baseline for the Environmental Statement and ensure we design the most suitable mitigation against any potential impact on local wildlife.

### These surveys include:

- wintering, breeding and intertidal bird surveys
- botanical surveys
- invertebrate surveys
- reptile and great crested newt surveys
- bats, badger and water vole surveys

Our planning applications will include a detailed EIA. This will set out the finding of our survey works and the mitigations we plan to put in place during construction to help minimise the impact of our works. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be submitted detailing any mitigation measures required.





# Investing in communities

## **We are committed to investing and leaving a positive legacy in areas where we are carrying out essential works to upgrade the network.**

This includes using local suppliers and creating job opportunities where possible. We also work with local schools to promote science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and career opportunities in the energy industry.

## **Leaving a positive legacy for the community**

The new tunnel, headhouses and overhead line are a key part of our nation-wide upgrade of the grid network to meet future demand.

However, we understand the concerns of the local community and are committed to leaving a positive legacy.

### **How do we aim to achieve this?**

We believe businesses have a duty to contribute to society and the communities they serve and we look to support communities impacted by our vital infrastructure in a variety of ways.

For communities affected by construction works we also run a Community Grant Programme aimed at community organisations and charities.

This supports groups and initiative across a range of areas, from those that provide social, economic and educational benefits, to environmental and conservation projects.

Communities impacted by construction work, such as the proposals for Grain to Tilbury, can apply for grants of up to £20,000. More details on how to apply are available on our website at [nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme](https://nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme), or please speak to a member of our team at a consultation event or via the contact details provided.



# Feedback and next steps

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.

The deadline for consultation responses is **Sunday 29 October 2023**.

## How do I find out more about your proposals?



Online: view all information  
on our project website:  
[nationalgrid.com/GrainToTilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/GrainToTilbury)

## 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

## Register online to join one of our webinars:

- **Gravesham webinar** - Wednesday 18 October
- **Thurrock webinar** - Thursday 19 October

## How do I respond to the consultation?

- 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)
- Calling us on 020 3398 1599

Should you wish to receive hard copies of our materials,  
please contact our project team via phone or email.

## 6.7 Feedback form



### Overview

**We are seeking your views on our 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 feedback we receive at this consultation will help inform our plans before we submit our planning applications to Thurrock and Gravesham councils in winter 2023. The deadline for submitting your response to our consultation is Sunday 29 October 2023.

### How to provide your feedback

We'd like to know if there are any other issues you think are important that we should consider. You are welcome to answer all or only some of the questions in this feedback form, depending on the issues that are most important to you.

All feedback received will be considered as we develop our proposals further. So that we can make the most of your feedback, please give as much detail as possible in your response.

You can share your feedback with us by:

- completing and returning a feedback form at one of our consultation events
- completing a feedback form online at [nationalgrid.com/graintotilbury](https://nationalgrid.com/graintotilbury)
- emailing us your completed feedback form at [contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com)
- returning this feedback form using the freepost envelope provided at a consultation event, or by writing **FREEPOST GRAIN TO TILBURY PROJECT** on any envelope and posting it free of charge.

### Grain to Tilbury proposals

1. Our proposals will reinforce the electricity network and aid our transition to net zero. To what extent do you support our plans to upgrade the electricity infrastructure between Grain and Tilbury, via the construction of a new tunnel, the installation of new cabling, and the construction of two headhouses at either end of the tunnel?

Please select one option

- Strongly support
- Support
- Unsure
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

2

2. During construction we intend to move as much of the rock, soil and debris offsite as possible via barges on the Thames. Where this isn't possible, we will use HGVs to move materials as described in our construction management plan which will be submitted as part of the application. To what extent do you support this plan for our construction process?

Please select one option

- Strongly support
- Support
- Unsure
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

Add your comments here:

3. We have been undertaking an extensive range of ecological and environmental surveys to reduce the impact of our works on the local area. Our planning application will set out these plans in detail.

Are there any further environmental issues you would like to make us aware of?

Add your comments here:

3

4. Are there any local groups or community organisations that you believe should be engaged with as part of our proposals or who may benefit from National Grid's local incentives?

Add your comments here:

5. Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?

Add your comments here:

4

### About you

#### Your contact details

We will only use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section if you'd rather we didn't contact you.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation/group (if responding on behalf of an organisation): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick here if you would like us to keep you updated about our proposals

How would you describe your interest in Grain to Tilbury?

Local resident

Local representative (e.g. parish councillor)

Potentially affected landowner or occupier – please insert your landowner reference number if known \_\_\_\_\_

Local business owner or supplier/contractor

Regular visitor

Local interest group member (please specify in the text box below)

Other (please specify in the text box below)

5

National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

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No. 4031152  
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