

# The Great Grid Upgrade

Grimsby to Walpole

## Community update

Winter 2024

In early 2024 we introduced our proposals for new electricity infrastructure between Grimsby, in Lincolnshire, and Walpole, in Norfolk. Our Stage 1 consultation ran for eight weeks, from 18 January to 13 March 2024.

### Our Stage 1 consultation

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend our public consultation events and those who provided feedback on our proposals for Grimsby to Walpole. We continue to carefully consider all the feedback received.

At the next stage of consultation, which is planned for 2025, we will explain how your feedback has informed our proposals.

### Stage 1 consultation in numbers



**2,976 people** attended our in-person events and **175 people** attended our virtual events.



Our social media advertising across Facebook generated **1,922,587 impressions** reaching a total audience of **1,434,643**.



**7,384 responses** were received from stakeholders and members of the local community.



Copies of the consultation documents were available in **11 public** information locations across Lincolnshire and Norfolk and the information continues to be available on our website at [nationalgrid.com/g-w](https://nationalgrid.com/g-w).



# Feedback from the consultation

The most common themes from the consultation are highlighted below. At our Stage 2 consultation, we will be detailing how all the feedback received has been taken into consideration when further refining the project's design.



## Climate change

46% of people said they were concerned or very concerned about the effect of climate change on their lives and 52% were concerned about the impact on the lives of future generations.



## Net zero

36% of respondents said that it was important to them for the UK to meet its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. 52% expressed neutral views and 13% disagreed.



## Landscape and heritage

People asked us to ensure a new overhead line would not spoil rural landscapes. Several comments were received about potential negative impacts regarding local landmarks and cultural heritage assets.



## Visual impact

The visual impact of the proposed overhead line was a common concern. Some respondents noted they would like new overhead lines to be built close to existing overhead lines and away from villages and houses. Others were concerned about the visual impact of adding another overhead line close to the existing overhead lines.



## Overhead lines

Feedback included requests to use or upgrade existing overhead lines as much as possible and to bury the new line underground in places.

The summary of these issues above and all the feedback received has been considered in the development of our proposals and you will be able to comment on the outcomes at the next stage of consultation in 2025.



# Frequently asked questions

## Q: Why can't you underground the whole route or place the wires out at sea?

**A:** When we are developing new electricity infrastructure projects, we consider all technology options.

The network and improvements to it such as the Grimsby to Walpole project are ultimately paid for by electricity bill payers. The Government and our regulator, Ofgem, require us to assess our proposals against a range of factors, including value for money to bill payers as well as impact on the community and environment, to ensure they are in line with current planning policy.

Our Grimsby to Walpole Strategic Options Report and addendum (available on our website) explain how we have considered all available options, including underground and offshore alternatives.

At approximately £4.2 billion for an onshore high voltage direct current underground cable alternative, £6.5 billion for an onshore high voltage alternating current cable and £4.3 billion for an offshore subsea cable, all these alternative options would come with a significantly greater cost than the approximate £1 billion cost of the onshore option we are proposing.

National policy recognises that overhead lines are often appropriate, except in particularly sensitive locations such as National Landscapes.

## Q: What community benefits will you be providing?

**A:** Communities play a vital role in the transition to cleaner sources of energy and achieving net zero. We want to ensure that the communities hosting energy infrastructure benefit from doing so.

National Grid has a community grant programme aimed at community organisations and charities in areas affected by our work. We want to leave a lasting positive legacy across host communities and regions. We will work with communities to understand their priorities and endeavour to deliver initiatives that support them. You can find out more about our community grant programme at [nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme](https://nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme).

## Q: Why not build an offshore grid?

**A:** There is no fully offshore solution to connect offshore wind to the grid. We have to bring the power onshore somewhere. Our job is to carefully consider the most feasible options and present for public consultation proposals which go as far as possible to address impacts on local communities and the environment, and also deliver value for money for electricity consumers. The existing electricity grid, built in the 1960s, wasn't designed to transport renewable energy generated offshore from different sources, so it has to be upgraded. We continue to consult with local communities and will always endeavour to reduce impacts as much as possible so that we can deliver this vital infrastructure, which is essential for the whole country. The Great Grid Upgrade, including the Grimsby to Walpole proposals, will bring long-term benefits for consumers, including access to more affordable low carbon power and energy security for Britain.

To find out more, please see the FAQ section of our website at [nationalgrid.com/g-w](https://nationalgrid.com/g-w).



## Environmental survey access

As we develop our project proposals, we are carrying out several surveys. They help us to better understand the local environment and any potential effects our project could have. They also help inform the routing of the project and feed into the development of more detailed proposals for the next stage of public consultation.

Our land agents, Dalcour Maclaren, are currently requesting survey licences from the landowners and occupiers within the route corridor to carry out surveys over private land.

We recognise the importance of working with landowners respectfully and always aim to work constructively to agree access arrangements.

If you have received a letter about a survey licence or have any questions about access to land, please contact our land agents, Dalcour Maclaren, at: [g-w@dalcourmaclaren.com](mailto:g-w@dalcourmaclaren.com) or **0333 034 7961**.

## The Great Grid Upgrade

The UK Government has committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. This means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. Decarbonising

the energy system is vital to achieving net zero. At National Grid Electricity Transmission, we're investing around £1.3 billion each year to adapt and develop our network of pylons, overhead electricity lines, cables and substations, to connect new sources of low carbon energy to homes and businesses. We're investing for the future and playing a crucial role in turning the UK's net zero ambitions into reality.

Our Grimsby to Walpole project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean green energy to be carried on the network.

These proposals form part of The Great Grid Upgrade, which is the largest overhaul of the grid in generations. The Great Grid Upgrade will play a big part in the UK government's plan to boost homegrown power. It will help to make sure our electricity network is fit for the future, carrying more clean, secure energy from where it is generated to where it is needed.

More information on The Great Grid Upgrade can be found at: [nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade](https://nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade).

## Next steps

The Grimsby to Walpole team is currently reviewing all the feedback we received during the consultation period and continuing to carry out environmental surveys and assessments. We are preparing for our Stage 2 consultation in 2025 which will outline more detailed plans and include preliminary information about environmental considerations

in the areas where our proposals are located. Feedback from that stage of public consultation will also inform further work on our proposals ahead of submission of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). A DCO is the Government approval needed for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.



**2025**

Stage 2 public consultation



**2027**

DCO application submission



**2029**

Construction starts



**From 2033**

Fully operational

## Contact us

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(no stamp or further address details are required).



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