

Sir Bernard Jenkin
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Monday 12 June 2023

Dear Sir Bernard

Thank you for your recent letter dated 8 June which has been passed to me by John Pettigrew to respond.

Public consultation summer 2023

While we are still at an early stage of developing our proposals, we have made good progress since our consultation last year and we are planning a second stage of public consultation to help reduce uncertainty for local communities.

We will publish our proposed preferred draft alignment, which will show potential positions for overhead lines and underground cables. We will also publish a Strategic Options Backcheck and Review which considers both offshore and onshore options that would meet the system need while balancing cost, technical performance and environmental and socio-economic effects. The consultation will provide an opportunity for local communities to comment on our proposals in more detail and we will be able to explain how feedback from last year has influenced our work. As you have raised, the Electricity Systems Operator (ESO) recently announced that it would launch a 'Study' to assess objectively the options for Norwich to Tilbury and other proposed network reinforcements across East Anglia. We understand the Study will consider the costs and deliverability of the different options.

I want to reassure you that, in this second stage of consultation, we are not pre-empting the outcome of the ESO Study. This stage of consultation is both necessary and important so that we can continue to hear local views whilst we work to an ambitious programme to deliver this new connection by the end of this decade, in line with the Government's commitment to connect up to 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030. If the recommendations from the ESO Study should indicate alternative infrastructure options, we will of course review and engage with the impacted communities appropriately. However, to delay consultation on the proposed option now would jeopardise the optimum 2030 delivery date we have been tasked with, regardless of the outcome of the Study.

After this stage of consultation and following the completion of the ESO Study there will be a further stage of consultation next year, where we hope to show finalised proposals informed by both local feedback and the outcomes of the Study.

Project name change

To make it clear that this work is part of [The Great Grid Upgrade](#), we are changing the project name from 'East Anglia GREEN' to 'Norwich to Tilbury'. All National Grid projects that are part of The Great Grid Upgrade will include specific locations in their names to make it easier for people to understand where we are proposing to build new grid infrastructure.

Norwich to Tilbury is one of a number of projects being developed as part of The Great Grid Upgrade – the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.

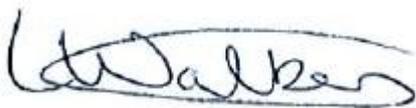
We appreciate this project is of considerable interest to your constituents and we will shortly write to local residents along the route with more information and to invite them to attend one of our public events and webinars.

Before we start the consultation, however, we would really value meeting with you to discuss our plans. We will contact your office to find a convenient time in your diary.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about Norwich to Tilbury please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Liam Walker
Project Director
Norwich to Tilbury

Cc:

Minister Bowie
James Cartlidge MP
Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP
George Freeman MP
Jerome Mayhew MP
Duncan Baker MP,
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