



James Cartlidge MP
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

John Pettigrew - CEO
National Grid
1-3 Strand
London
WC2N 5EH

18th August 2023

Dear John,

RE: NORWICH TO TILBURY NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

I am writing to you regarding your Norwich to Tilbury proposals, and would be grateful if you could please take this letter and attached document as my official response to your current non-statutory consultation.

Firstly, I would like to re-submit my previous consultation response as I believe that little has changed since your last consultation on these proposals back in June 2022.

Whilst you may have included an offshore route, Offshore 1, in your Strategic Options Backcheck and Review, it is exactly what I predicted would happen last year, a 220km HVDC 'straw man' proposal from Norwich to Tilbury. The line connects onshore at Norwich, to then go offshore again at what appears to be a rather long and rounded trajectory to connect into Tilbury, rather than transporting the energy straight from the wind farms to come onshore closer to where it is needed e.g., connecting straight into the Isle of Grain or Tilbury.

This option is surely not the best nor cheapest way to transport the electricity offshore and is far from being a meshed offshore grid approach that we have all been calling for for many years. This is most frustrating as, yet again, communities will not be presented with alternative feasible options, which also was the case with last year's non-statutory consultation.

On a more positive note, and as you know, following months of campaigning alongside my East Anglian MP colleagues, we were delighted when ESO agreed to conduct a study to identify alternative options that could address the capacity issue - crucially agreeing to consider 'offshore routes' for electricity transmission in East Anglia, and to also benchmark costings against other projects elsewhere in the UK. Whilst this study is of course welcome, I would like to reiterate my disappointment that the timings could not be harmonized so that your next round of consultation would take place after the publication of the ESO's study. This delay could have provided greater transparency on different choices so that my constituents could at least compare and contrast.

To conclude, I stand by my previous response to your consultation. I believe that the development of an offshore grid is the best way to ensure our long-term energy security, whilst also potentially reducing the impact of unnecessary onshore electricity infrastructure on communities in South Suffolk.

Yours sincerely,

James Cartlidge MP

Telephone: 020 7219 4875

Email: james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.jamescartlidge.com