



FREEPOST East Anglia GREEN

EastAngliaGREEN@nationalgrid.com

Our ref: East Anglia GREEN
Response

Date: 14 June 2022

Please ask for: Naomi Goold

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Dear Sir/Madam,

National Grid Electricity Transmission – East Anglia GREEN – Non-Statutory Public Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the East Anglia GREEN non-statutory public consultation, launched 21 April 2022.

East Suffolk Council (ESC) is a neighbouring authority to the proposed 400kV electricity reinforcement between Norwich to Bramford, and Bramford to Tilbury. As set out in the Public Consultation Strategy, National Grid intends to undertake consultation with local authorities within the Primary Consultation Zone (within 1km of the edge of the preferred Option Corridor), and the Secondary Consultation Zone (within 4km of the edge of the preferred Option Corridor), neither of which cover the administrative district of East Suffolk.

For this reason, ESC will confine its comments to the matter of alternatives, cumulative effects, and community impacts. ESC considers that the host authorities and County Councils along the proposed route are best placed to provide comments on site specific matters within their geographical jurisdictions.

Alternatives

ESC recognises that the East Anglia GREEN project is as presented within the consultation material, but it is noted that within the frequently asked questions ([East Anglia GREEN frequently asked questions | National Grid ET](#)) published on the National Grid's website, that an alternative offshore solution has been considered and discounted.

A subsea connection would have a third of the capacity of the proposed overhead connection and therefore to transfer the anticipated levels of power generation, three subsea connections would be required including associated infrastructure such as convertor stations. This would make the

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connection significantly costlier to energy bill payers.

In addition, an offshore option would still require development of onshore infrastructure. This would include onshore connections from Norwich, Bramford, and Tilbury respectively to the coast. The onshore work is required to reinforce the existing onshore transmission network and ensure that we can continue to operate the transmission network safely and securely with the increase of generation connecting into the East Anglia area.

The above extract identifies that not only would an offshore solution of equivalent capacity require three subsea connections and associated onshore infrastructure, but it would also require onshore infrastructure from Bramford to the coast and Norwich to the coast.

ESC continues to promote the need for a coordinated solution to deliver the renewable and low carbon generation and associated transmission infrastructure needed to meet the Net Zero and decarbonisation targets. This is essential to minimise the extent and scale of the impacts of onshore infrastructure, particularly in East Suffolk. This remains our position. ESC would therefore not be supportive of an alternative solution which would cause significant additional onshore infrastructure within East Suffolk, such as the alternative subsea solution described above.

Cumulative Impacts

The East Anglia GREEN project is expected to start construction from 2027 and be fully operational from 2030. There are several Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within East Suffolk whose construction phases have the potential to overlap with the construction phase of the East Anglia GREEN project and potentially result in cumulative effects; including the East Anglia One North and Two offshore wind farms, and if consented, the Sizewell C project. This is in addition to the Sea Link, Nautilus, and Eurolink projects which are within pre-application phases. The full cumulative effects of the East Anglia GREEN project in combination with other NSIPs must be fully and robustly assessed. All opportunities to minimise the adverse impacts should be explored and where appropriate, sufficient mitigation and compensation provided. The applicant should also take every opportunity to secure the maximisation of any benefits.

Sizewell C is a NSIP of significant scale and the construction phase will take between 9-12 years, commencing, if consented, at the earliest in 2023. The construction phase of the East Anglia GREEN project would therefore overlap with the anticipated construction phase of the Sizewell C project. The construction workforce (at peak) in relation to the main development site and associated development sites is 8500 workers who are expected to travel from a 90-minute radius of the site. Materials are expected to travel to the site by various means including road, from all over the country. There would therefore be a temporal and spatial overlap between the extent of the potential effects of the East Anglia GREEN construction phase with the Sizewell C construction

phase. The cumulative traffic and transport and socio-economic effects of this need to be fully and appropriately considered.

Community Benefit

ESC acknowledges that upgrading the existing electricity transmission network will play an important part in enabling the development of renewable and low carbon energy generation and contributing to the government's ambition to meet Net Zero by 2050. However, consideration must be given to the potential impacts this proposal, and other proposed projects, may have on the landscape, natural environment, and local communities set to host such development.

ESC wishes to emphasise the importance of minimising adverse impacts on the environment and local communities, who are set to shoulder a substantial proportion of the onshore infrastructure required to facilitate the electricity network reinforcements and generation. The benefits of low carbon energy production and distribution are felt nationally, but the potential adverse environmental, social, and cumulative effects are felt at a local scale, by host and neighbouring communities. This is particularly relevant given the ongoing energy crisis in the UK as the cost of electricity continues to increase, putting increasing numbers of households at or below the fuel poverty line.

ESC would encourage National Grid to maximise the potential benefits of the project by seeking to provide a community benefit scheme to deliver benefits for affected communities along the proposed route.

Other Comments

ESC would also support and request the full exploration of additional benefits that could be achieved through the rationalisation of the existing 132kV network as part of the project. This could enable potential improvements in terms of connections of other projects to the electricity network, as well as create landscape improvements through the removal of existing overhead lines. ESC would support the removal of existing lines which could be replaced by overhead lines provided in the East Anglia GREEN project.

If you would like to discuss any of the comments made in this response further, please do not hesitate to contact ESC using the above contact details.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Ridley', with a long, sweeping underline.

Philip Ridley BSc (Hons) MRTPI
Head of Planning and Coastal Management
East Suffolk Council