

## Community Update

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### Bramford to Twinstead

*Dear Resident*

*This news sheet is intended to give you a short update on developments with the Bramford to Twinstead connection project and to provide a look ahead to our plans for 2011.*

*We have been working very hard since our last update in October, reviewing all of the feedback received from Stage 1 of the consultation. We are committed to ensuring that we choose the most appropriate corridor for the connection and as such, our analysis of the feedback has taken longer than we expected. We hope to be in a position to announce the preferred route corridor in spring 2011. The announcement will be accompanied by a Preferred Connection Report and a Feedback Report, both of which will be published on the project website.*

*On behalf of the project team I would like to wish you a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you during Stage 2 of the consultation.*

**Martin Davies**  
National Grid Project Manager



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### Bramford to Twinstead

#### Undergrounding Consultation



When planning new transmission connections National Grid is often asked to consider building underground cables rather than overhead lines to protect views of local landscapes. There are many considerations involved with undergrounding owing to its cost, environmental impacts and technical considerations and, therefore, National Grid has decided to carry out a public consultation into its approach to undergrounding.

Hector Pearson, National Grid stakeholder and policy manager, said: "We last reviewed our undergrounding approach in the early 1990s. With a significant amount of new power generation needing to connect to our network in the coming

years, including low carbon generators, we believe now is a good time to review our approach.

"We need to comply with statutory duties such as building a network that is efficient, coordinated and economic. However, we also need to consider the impact on the local landscape and communities of what we build.

"We are very keen to hear people's views. Their opinions will play an important part in shaping our approach."

The consultation will run until 16 March 2011 and National Grid will publish its revised approach to undergrounding in April.

If you would like to contribute, complete the questionnaire on [www.nationalgridundergrounding.com](http://www.nationalgridundergrounding.com).

**For further information on the undergrounding consultation please contact National Grid by:**

- Phone: 0800 319 6175
- Email: [info@undergroundingconsultation.com](mailto:info@undergroundingconsultation.com)
- Writing to: National Grid Undergrounding Consultation, Freepost NAT3717, London SE1 2BR

## What to Expect in Stage 2

Stage 2 will begin with the announcement of the preferred route corridor, which will be followed by a period of detailed public consultation. The aim of this stage is to establish a detailed connection design; in other words, to decide the most appropriate method for the connection and the route it will take along the corridor.

Stage 2 is expected to run for 12 months and will consist of a detailed programme of public consultation and information events along the chosen corridor. Members of the public will be invited to attend these events and your feedback will be taken into account when developing the proposals.

Another activity in Stage 2 will be to establish a number of Community Forums along the chosen corridor. Community Forums will be an important way for local people to actively participate in the consultation. We expect to establish up to four Community Forums, each led by an independent Chair. Members of Community Forums will be asked for their views on the key areas of consultation and will be able to challenge and review decisions made by National Grid.



'Thematic Groups' will also be set up to discuss the approach to the environmental impact assessment (how we evaluate the effects of our proposals on the environment). Experts from statutory organisations such as the Environment Agency and Natural England will look to agree the process for identifying and evaluating environmental information such as cultural heritage, biodiversity, ecology and landscape.

Throughout Stage 2, the latest Community Forum and public consultation information will be available on the project website. Consultees will also be able to use the website to submit feedback on both issue-specific consultations and the consultation in general.

Further details about how you can get involved in Stage 2 will be available when we announce the preferred route corridor. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our community relations team, using the details below.

When Stage 2 is completed and a detailed connection design has been established, we will enter the final round of consultation. This is known as Stage 3 and is expected to start in 2012. During Stage 3 National Grid will set out and receive formal feedback on the final connection design. Once again, members of the public will be encouraged to comment on the proposals and any feedback will be taken into account before we submit our final proposals – known as the development consent order - to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) in January 2013.



Throughout the pre-application consultation we will try to provide clear and concise information about the project to help you provide feedback and enable constructive debate.

### **Project Contact Details:**

**National Grid Community Relations Team**

**Tel: 0800 377 7340**

**Email: [bramford-twinstead@uk.ngrid.com](mailto:bramford-twinstead@uk.ngrid.com)**

**Information can be supplied on request in alternative formats – for example Braille, audio, large print, community languages – by calling 0800 377 7340.**