

News Release

12 July 2011

National Grid announces preferred option for Bramford-Twinstead Tee power connection

National Grid is today (12 July) announcing its preferred corridor for a proposed 400,000 volt power connection between Bramford, near Ipswich, and Twinstead Tee, south of Sudbury, and explaining how local people can have their say during the next phase of consultation.

Following extensive consultation, the company is proposing to build a new overhead line in Corridor 2 and will be giving detailed consideration to areas where placing cables underground would be appropriate during the next phase of consultation.

The majority of Corridor 2 runs alongside an existing 400,000 volt National Grid overhead line and contains a UK Power Networks 132,000 volt line. Under this option National Grid would take down the 132,000 volt line from Burstall Bridge to Twinstead Tee and build a new 400,000 volt overhead line. A new substation will be needed west of Twinstead Tee to secure power supplies to the UK Power Networks system.

David Mercer, Construction Manager – Major Works, for National Grid, said: “We had a very good response to our consultation and we would like to thank everyone who gave us their comments. We considered carefully all the issues raised and these have been important in helping us decide which corridor to choose.

“We will shortly be starting the next stage of public consultation when we will be asking people to help us identify a detailed alignment for the connection and for their views on the location for the new substation. We want to work with local communities to minimise the impact of any new infrastructure and we will consider areas where mitigation measures such as woodland planting, shorter pylons or placing cables underground may be appropriate.

“The Bramford-Twinstead Tee connection is needed to connect new power generators to the East Anglian system. With a significant amount of generation due to close over the next decade, continued electricity demand and Britain’s challenge to reduce greenhouse gases, these generators will play an important role in helping to meet the country’s energy needs.”

More . . .

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During the summer the company will be holding six public information events to explain how it reached its decision and how people can get involved in the next stage of consultation, starting on Monday (18 July) at Hadleigh Town Hall, from 3pm to 8.30pm, and Tuesday (19 July) at Wickham St Paul Village Hall, from 3pm to 8.30pm.

National Grid reached its decision after consultation began in October 2009 with residents, local authorities, environmental bodies, and statutory and non-statutory organisations, on four route corridors. The company received more than 3,000 pieces of feedback.

Mr Mercer said: "Many of the responses to our consultation raised concerns about the potential impact a new connection would have on landscapes where there are no pylons. This was considered against the impact on the landscape with existing pylons, part of which is designated for its natural beauty.

"Taking account of all feedback, along with our statutory duties, planning policy and environmental constraints, we believe Corridor 2 would have less impact than building in the other corridors."

The next stage of consultation – Stage 2 - is due to start in the autumn and is expected to take a year. Local people will be able to participate in a variety of ways including independently-chaired community forums and public consultation events. National Grid will also be talking to people with an interest in the land, local authorities, environmental bodies and other organisations.

Site specific public consultations will also be under way. These will include considering the alignment of the connection at the eastern end of the corridor, where it could run north or south of Hintlesham, and the location for the substation, where three possible sites have been identified between Twinstead Tee and Castle Hedingham.

Following final (Stage 3) consultation on a proposed detailed connection design, National Grid would expect to apply for consent to the Infrastructure Planning Commission or its successor in 2013.

People can find out more information about the project by attending any of the forthcoming public information events (detailed below). They can also visit the project website:

www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-tinstead; email bramford-tinstead@uk.ngrid.com; call the freephone 0800 377 7340 or write to the freepost address at Freepost National Grid Connections.

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Date	Time	Location
Monday 18 July	3pm-8.30pm	Hadleigh Town Hall, The Guildhall, IP7 5DN
Tuesday 19 July	3pm-8.30pm	Wickham St Paul Village Hall, The Green, Wickham St Paul CO9 2PT
Wednesday 10 August	3pm-8.30pm	Hadleigh Town Hall, The Guildhall, IP7 5DN
Friday 12 August	3pm-8.30pm	Polstead Village Hall, Polstead Green, CO6 5AL
Monday 15 August	3pm-8.30pm	Twinstead Village Hall, Church Road, Twinstead CO10 7NA
Thursday 18 August	3pm-8.30pm	Hintlesham and Chattisham Village Hall, George Street, Hintlesham IP8 3NH

Ends

For further media information only, please contact Sara Wilcox, National Grid Media Relations, on 01926 655271 or 07899 983792.

Notes to Editors:

National Grid

National Grid is an international electricity and gas company and one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We play a vital role in delivering gas and electricity to millions of people across Great Britain and northeastern US in an efficient, reliable and safe manner. We believe the power of action can play a major role in safeguarding our global environment for future generations and tackling the effects of climate change, providing all our customers with the highest standards of service through network investment and through our talented, diverse workforce.

National Grid owns the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales and operates the system across Great Britain. It also owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain and its distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses.

National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service freephone line 0800 111 999*.

***All calls are recorded and may be monitored.**

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