

Attention: Caroline Hopewell
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Sent via email

17th February 2021

Dear Caroline,

Bramford to Twinstead Network Reinforcement: Confirmation of Re-commencement

I am writing to follow up our recent meeting. It was requested at that meeting that I write to you to confirm that National Grid Electricity Transmission is re-commencing work on the proposed Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement.

By way of background we set out at the meeting that National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) own the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. We are a legally separate company from National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO). To make sure that the country can accommodate the increasing amount of zero-carbon generation needed to achieve net-zero by 2050, the ESO need to make sure the existing transmission network capability is future proofed by proposing reinforcements.

The ESO publishes each year Future Energy Scenarios, an Electricity Ten Year Statement, and a Network Options Assessment (NOA) report. The final document identifies schemes that the ESO recommends NGET, brings forward in England and Wales.

The 2020 NOA recommended proceeding with the reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead to relieve circuit overloads and utilise spare capacity in routes beyond Twinstead. Since our meeting the 2021 NOA has been published. This again identified the need for the project as a critical option in all scenarios in the south and east of England. The reinforcement is needed by 2028.

Given the critical need, and the date of the need, it is now necessary to recommence the project we paused in 2013. In 2020 we undertook some preliminary work on this, we spent some time reviewing and re-examining previous work and assumptions.

We have decided that given the length of time since the previous scoping option was given by the Inspectorate, and also the changes to the EIA Regulations since that previous opinion that we should seek a second scoping opinion and we aim to submit this to you in late Spring 2021.

We have begun contacting landowners in the area to confirm land ownership information and request access for environmental surveys.

We are also conscious that residents of the area may have changed since our last consultation and we intend to undertake a further non-statutory public consultation at the end of March 2021. We will provide information on the project design as it was in 2013 along with any updates and seek feedback on these proposals.

Should you have any queries please contact my colleague Sebastian Stevens, consents officer or Ian Fletcher, DCO lead from Jacobs.

Yours sincerely,

John Bevan

Lead Project Manager

Capital Delivery