

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement (Case Reference: EN020002)

Examination Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection 3 (USI3) undertaken on 13 September 2023

Two members of the Examining Authority (ExA) (Jason Rowlands and John McEvoy) undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI3) on 13 September 2023 to support the examination of the application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc for the proposed Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement project. The inspections were generally made from public roads by car. Some locations included additional inspections on foot, as indicated on Table 1.

The route for USI3 was planned with regard to the Procedural Deadline A (PDA) submission from Suffolk County Council [PDA-007], and it focussed on the highway structure locations on the abnormal indivisible load routes from Ipswich (paragraph 7.8). The route and order of visits taken is shown in Figure 1 and Table 1. For the avoidance of doubt, the ExA did not travel on any routes between the Port of Ipswich and Bramford substation.

The weather was dry with clear skies. Visibility at all locations was very good.




It is anticipated that further unaccompanied site inspections will be undertaken by members of the ExA during its examination of the Application. A summary note will be published following any inspection.


Figure 1 Unaccompanied Site Inspection route driven by the ExA on the 13 September 2023 (USI3)



Image © Mapbox © Crown copyright and database rights 2023

Table 1 Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on the 13 September 2023 (USI3)

Ref	Location	Note	Images taken by ExA on 13 September 2023
USI3-1	Gipping Road, Great Blakenham, Ipswich	Site visit undertaken on foot using the highway pedestrian pavement and a public right of way. No vehicle weight restriction signage was observed on the single carriageway route over the River Gipping.	
USI3-2	B 1113 Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Ipswich	The ExA observed the location of the road-over-river bridge. No vehicle weight restriction signage was apparent on the B1113 dual carriageway over the River Gipping.	
USI3-3	B 1113 Bramford Road, Great Blakenham, Ipswich	The ExA observed the location of the road-over-rail bridge. No vehicle weight restriction signage was seen on the B1113 dual carriageway over the dual branch line.	

Ref	Location	Note	Images taken by the ExA on 13 September 2023
USI3-4	A1214, between the A14 Junction 55 and the Tesco Superstore roundabout	The ExA observed the A1214 dual carriageway route. No vehicle weight restriction signage was noted on this section of the A1214.	-
USI3-5	A137 Wherstead Road, Ipswich	Site visit of the road-over-river bridge undertaken on foot. No vehicle weight restriction signage was observed on the dual carriageway route between the A137/ B1456 roundabout and the entrance to the Port of Ipswich.	
USI3-6	A14 Orwell Bridge	The ExA viewed the A14 dual carriageway route over the River Orwell. No vehicle weight restriction signage was observed on the A14 over the River Orwell.	