

Thank you for your email and attached response dated 7 August 2023 from West Bergholt Parish Council, following publication of the Applicant's (National Grid Electricity Transmission) 'Norwich to Tilbury Project Background Document' (June 2023).

We note your letter refers to the statutory scoping consultation undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) in late 2022, to which we received West Bergholt Parish Council's response dated 21 November 2022 and included that response in the Scoping Opinion. The statutory deadline for responses to the scoping consultation closed in December 2022 and the Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate in December 2022, meaning we are not able to take the comments from your letter dated 7 August 2023 into account in the Scoping Opinion.

*The project is currently in the pre-application phase and the Planning Inspectorate is unable to consider representations about the merits of any application until it has been submitted and accepted for Examination. An Inspector (as part of the Examining Authority) is not appointed until an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) has been submitted and accepted for Examination. As the application has not yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, your first point of contact should be the Applicant and we would advise you to forward your letter to them if you have not already done so (contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com – noting that the Applicant's current public consultation is open until **Monday 21 August 2023**). It is important that the Applicant is made aware of any comments at the pre-application stage to enable them to consider the points raised before finalising their proposals and submitting the application.*

The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes that you may find useful, which are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website: [Advice notes | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-notes/). In particular, our Advice Note Seven provides information on the Scoping process. Advice Note Eight provides an overview of the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the various opportunities for you to participate in the process, including Advice Note 8.2 about how to register to participate in an Examination."

George Harrold | Case Manager - National Infrastructure
The Planning Inspectorate