

THAMES CROSSING ACTION GROUP

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National Grid Great Grid Upgrade Norwich to Tilbury Consultation

Thames Crossing Action Group represents those who are opposed to the hugely destructive and harmful £10bn+++ proposed Lower Thames Crossing.

Our response reflects our work as a community action group representing those who oppose the proposed LTC, omission of us mentioning other areas or aspects of the impacts of this proposal should not be considered support of the project, simply that our comments will reflect issues we consider to be relevant to our position and work as a group representing those opposed to the proposed LTC.

We are responding to this consultation as we have concerns about the overlap between the National Grid Great Grid Upgrade Norwich to Tilbury proposals¹ with the Lower Thames Crossing proposals, and the impacts of both proposals.

We begin by noting that National Grid have changed the name of this proposal since the last consultation.

We believe the real reason for the change from East Anglia GREEN was because there is nothing green about the project and you realised that people were not falling for the greenwash attempt.

Now you have moved on to call it the Great Grid Upgrade. We wonder what you'll be coming up with next, as not only is there nothing green about this proposal, but also there is nothing great about it.

In response to the actual proposal we start by stating that we do not believe there is a genuine need for this destructive proposal. We believe there are other alternatives that have not been adequately considered and presented during consultation. There haven't actually been any real options during consultation at all, just details of what you want to inflict upon us without any alternatives.

We note the concerns of the host Local Authorities and others, and we believe this clearly shows that National Grid have got things very wrong.

We have been unable to locate a map that actually details the proposed LTC, which we consider to be an inadequacy of consultation consider the overlap and cumulative adverse impacts of the two proposals.

¹ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/public-consultation>

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However, with our knowledge of the proposed LTC we can see there would quite clearly be overlap and issues.

This would include, but not be limited to things such as the National Grid proposals needing to cross and pass through the proposed LTC route/Order Limits, this appears to include impacting land proposed for environmental mitigation for the proposed LTC.

We do not believe that cumulative impacts have yet been considered for this proposal, and feel this is something that is greatly lacking and inadequate.

We acknowledge that there has been a change to the alignment and also to the undergrounding of the proposed NH route since the previous consultation.

However, undergrounding is also destructive and harmful.

Wide working areas would be needed, and would destroy and impact everything in and around its path.

Not only that but even once the work has been carried out, if permission is granted, nothing can be planted back or near to the line of the undergrounding.

There would also be restrictions in regard to nearby hedgerows and fencing, as well as possible impacts to farming.

In regard to farming, at a time when food security is an important concern and issue, to be impacting our local agricultural land with this project is a concern.

There would need to be access routes and compounds to support the works, which would have added impacts, as well as the increase in traffic associated with the works.

We understand that there would also need to be ongoing management and maintenance of the undergrounding, which would result in the need for future excavations too.

Plus, there will need to be compounds at each end to make the ongoing connections to the grid, which would equally have a visual and environmental impact.

The area to the southern end of the proposal lies between the historic forts of Coalhouse Fort and Tilbury Fort, as well as being the location where Queen Elizabeth I gave her Great Speech in August 1588.

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Visually the section that then goes above ground would be impacting the visual landscape of the area.

There are also concerns about the impacts to health and wellbeing from the proposals.

The proposed timeline for this proposal also overlaps with the proposed timeline for the proposed LTC, if both were to go ahead.

Communities in the areas impacted by the proposal are also under threat from other projects, like the proposed LTC.

Such works, if the project goes ahead, along with impacts to public rights of way, and our ability to enjoy our open spaces and natural environment would be adversely impacted if this proposal goes ahead.

To conclude, we do not support this proposal. We have concerns that consultation has been inadequate, with no genuine consideration being given to alternatives, or any other real options to be consulted on. We are simply being told what NG want to inflict upon us.

There would be significant adverse impacts on local communities and the natural environment, if this proposal goes ahead. Cumulative impacts with other proposed development in the area has not been presented, and we are not even sure to what, if any, level it has been considered.

This cannot simply be a case of NG just pushing ahead with what they want to suit their own agenda, needs and wants. These are areas that are already under threat from various different projects, and we do not deserve to have our communities and quality of life levelled down in this way.

We are and remain opposed to the proposed not so Great Grid Upgrade Norwich to Tilbury.