

News Release

National Grid selects substation location for new power connection

- National Grid chooses 'well screened' site south of Sudbury for proposed substation
- Local opinions played 'important part' in decision
- Further opportunities to comment when we consult formally on the wider project

National Grid has announced a site south of Sudbury on the A131 as the preferred location for a new electricity substation.

Following public consultation earlier this year, the company is proposing to site the new substation on a field with an existing 400,000 volt overhead line running through it, between Butler's Wood and Waldegrave Wood, off the A131.

Listening to local views has played an important part in choosing the site. Brian Smethurst, senior project manager for National Grid, said: "We've been very keen to listen to the feedback from local people, and it has helped us shape our proposals. We have consulted extensively with residents and specialist bodies, and have listened to their concerns on a wide range of issues from the landscape and ecology to heritage and transport.

"Having carefully reviewed all the options and potential locations, we believe this is the best option. The site is already well screened by two large areas of woodland, with scope for more landscaping, and there is good access from the A131.

"The substation is part of a wider overhead line and underground cable connection project in Suffolk and Essex and there will be another opportunity to comment on both the substation proposals and all the other aspects of the new connection when we consult formally on the wider project."

The substation is needed as part of a proposed 400,000 volt overhead line and underground cable connection between Bramford, near Ipswich, and north Essex. The project will connect new, low carbon power sources in East Anglia, helping to keep the country's lights on in the future.

The substation would allow National Grid to take down more than 25 km of an existing lower voltage line, including 83 smaller pylons, to help reduce the visual impact of the proposed new higher voltage overhead line. The substation would ensure electricity supplies to north Essex were maintained once the existing lower voltage line is removed.

National Grid consulted residents on three possible locations for a new substation – land north of Colne Valley Farm Park, land at Delyvn's Lane (both near Castle Hedingham) and the site off the A131.

As a result of the consultation, National Grid also agreed to review alternatives to a new substation including an underground cable to National Grid's existing substation near Braintree. National Grid carefully considered this option; however due to significant high costs and likely impacts on archaeology and biodiversity it was discounted.

More information can be found on the project website, including the consultation feedback report explaining the decisions made, www.nationalgrid.com/bramford-tinstead or by contacting the project team directly by email bramford-tinstead@nationalgrid.com; Freephone 0800 377 7340 or write to FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID CONNECTIONS

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Notes to Editors:

The substation would take up 2.5 acres of land, with a further 3.5 acres dedicated to tree-planting and landscaping.

Extensive consultation over the last three-and-a-half years has influenced key aspects of the project. Following public consultation last year, National Grid decided to place eight kilometres of the proposed line underground, including in the Stour Valley, which crosses the Essex and Suffolk border. This also allows the company to remove three existing pylons in Essex, between Twinstead and Alphamstone.

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In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the north-eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain.
- We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses.
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering.
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid and it undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island.
- We manage the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), and own over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers.
- We are the largest distributor of natural gas in north-eastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

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