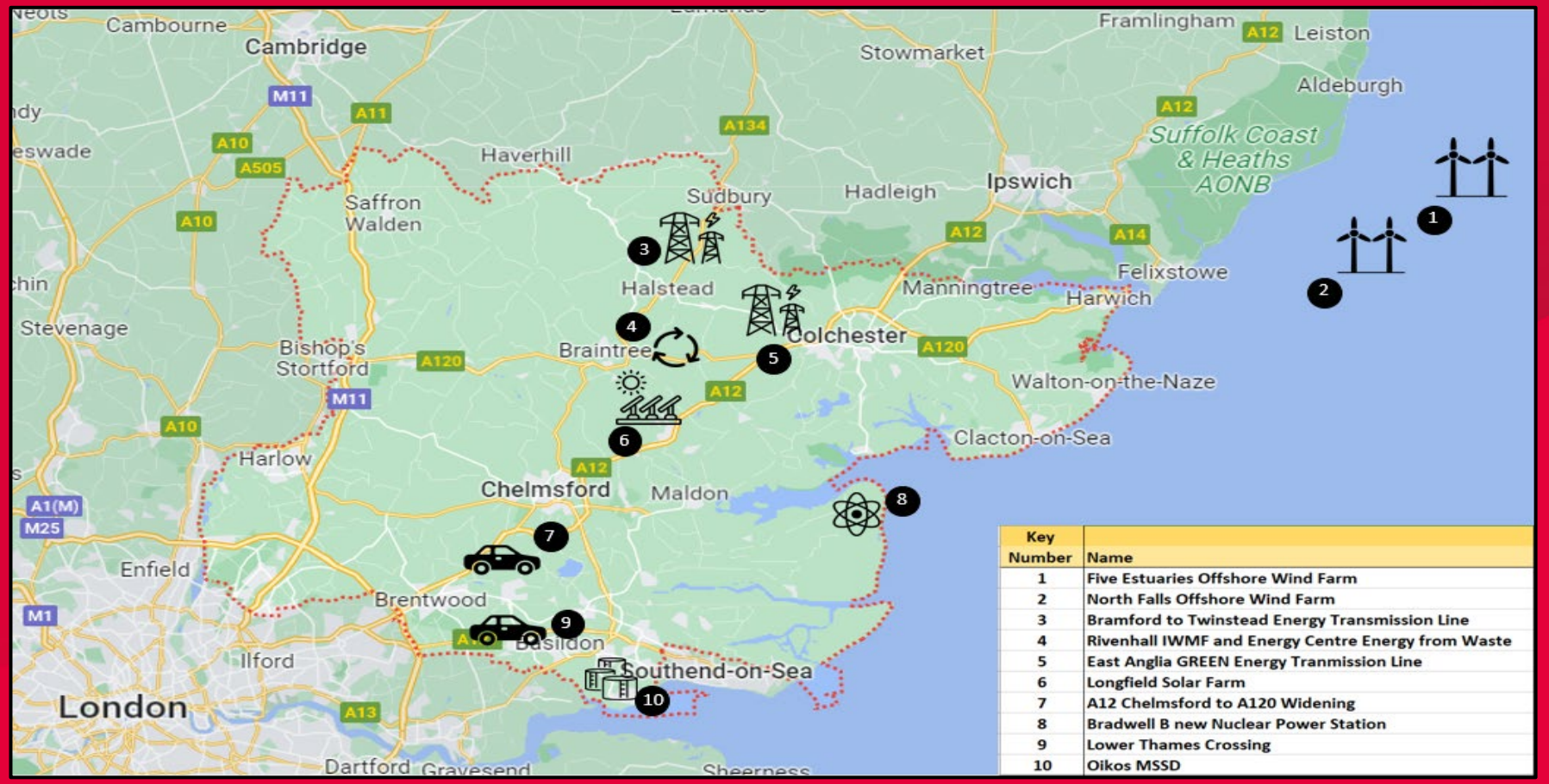
Essex County Council

September 2023

Introduction to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)



Key Number	Name
1	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
2	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
3	Bramford to Twinstead Energy Transmission Line
4	Rivenhall IWMF and Energy Centre Energy from Waste
5	East Anglia GREEN Energy Tranmission Line
6	Longfield Solar Farm
7	A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening
8	Bradwell B new Nuclear Power Station
9	Lower Thames Crossing
10	Oikos MSSD

Agenda

1 What is an NSIP?

2 Timesframes & Stages of DCO process

3 North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

4 Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

5 Norwich to Tilbury

6 Net zero, NSIPs and Essex County Council

7 Community Benefits

8 The NSIP Team

9 Q&A

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What is an NSIP?

Energy

Energy transmission

Transport

Waste water

Waste

Business & Commercial

- Planning Act 2008 – established a bespoke planning regime for infrastructure of a size and scale to be of "*national significance*".
- Intended to streamline and speed up the decision making process.
- An application is made for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate who act on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- Presumption in favour of an NSIP that accords with the relevant National Policy Statement.
- ECC is not the decision maker but a statutory consultee.
- Moving towards net zero which is a Central Govt target by 2030.

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Timeframes & stages in the DCO process

Stage	Pre-application	Acceptance	Pre-examination	Examination	Recommendation	Decision
Purpose	Prepare application transparently and in line with statutory requirements	Planning Inspectorate decides if statutory requirements met & suitability for examination	Interested parties register Examining Inspectors appointed Timetable prepared	Evidence submitted Application tested	Examining Inspectors prepare recommendation report	Secretary of State makes decision
Timescale	1 year +	28 days max	3-4 months approximately	6 months statutory maximum	3 months statutory maximum	3 months statutory maximum

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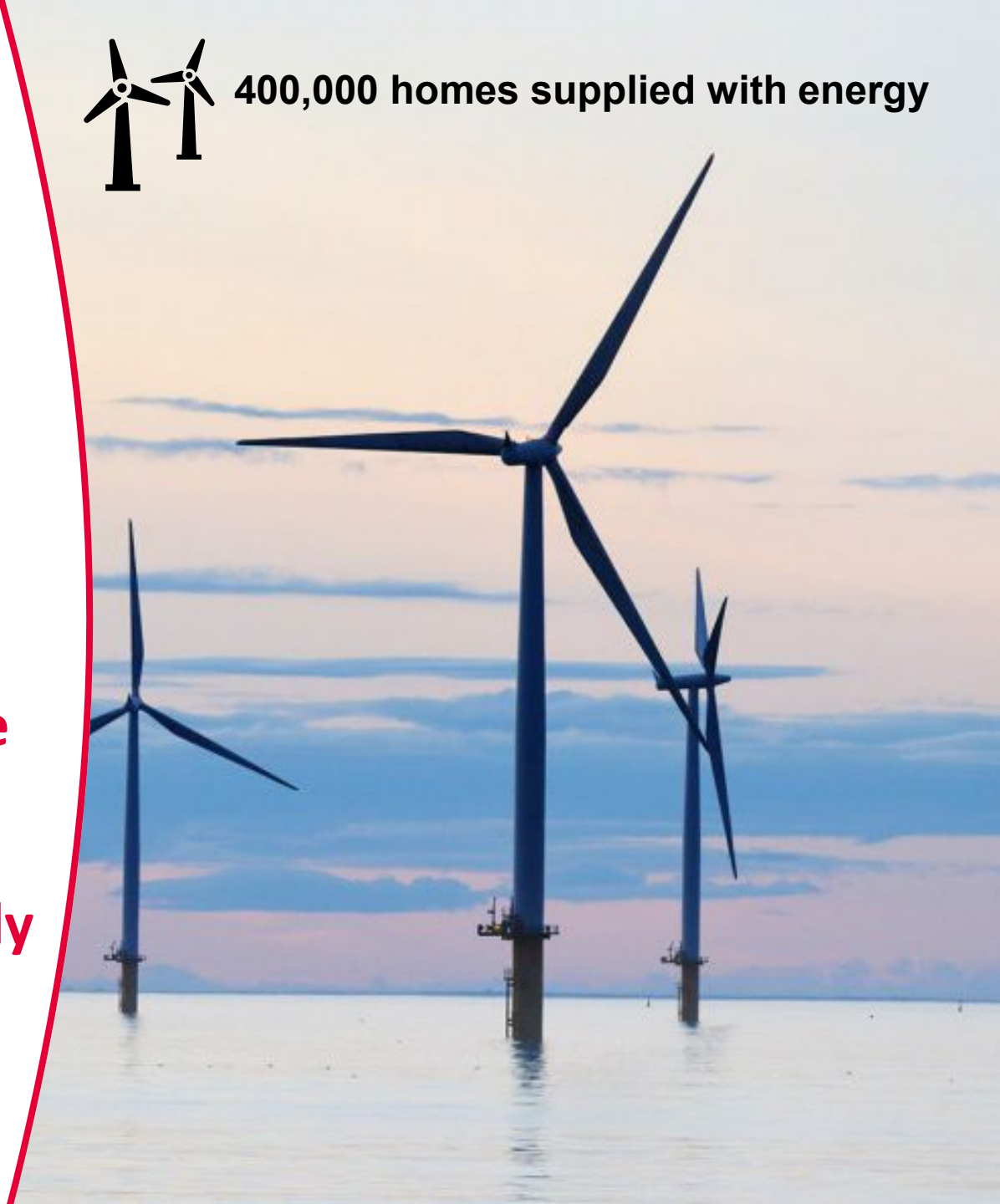
North Falls Offshore Wind Farm NSIP

- 16 May 2023 - statutory consultation launched. ECC to make a joint response with Tendring District Council
- Q2 2024 - application for development consent expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS)
- Additional stakeholder engagement likely following submission of ECC's consultation response



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Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm NSIP

- DCO submission has been scoped
- April 2023 - Statutory consultation took place including public consultation
- 12th May 2023 - Consultation responded to jointly with Tendring Council.
- Engagement likely again before submission of the DCO in Q1 2024 anticipated.

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Norwich to Tilbury – energy transmission NSIP

- 2nd round of non statutory 'public' consultation launched on 27 June 2023
- Consultation relates to revisions to the preferred route alignment
- Engage without prejudice
- Part of the Great Grid Upgrade

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Net zero, NSIPs and Essex County Council

9 proposed NSIPs

1 consented NSIP

Source: The Planner 2023

Approx total value of NSIPs £40.64B

900% increase in NSIPs (2017 – 2023)

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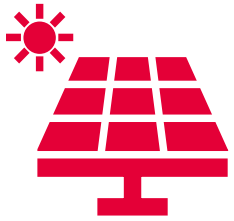
Community Benefits

Key priority is to seek to ensure that communities engage as we seek to establish works to mitigate against impact

What does the community want to benefit from the NSIP proposals?



Longfield Solar Farm – £5.72 million community benefits package agreed in Q1 2023

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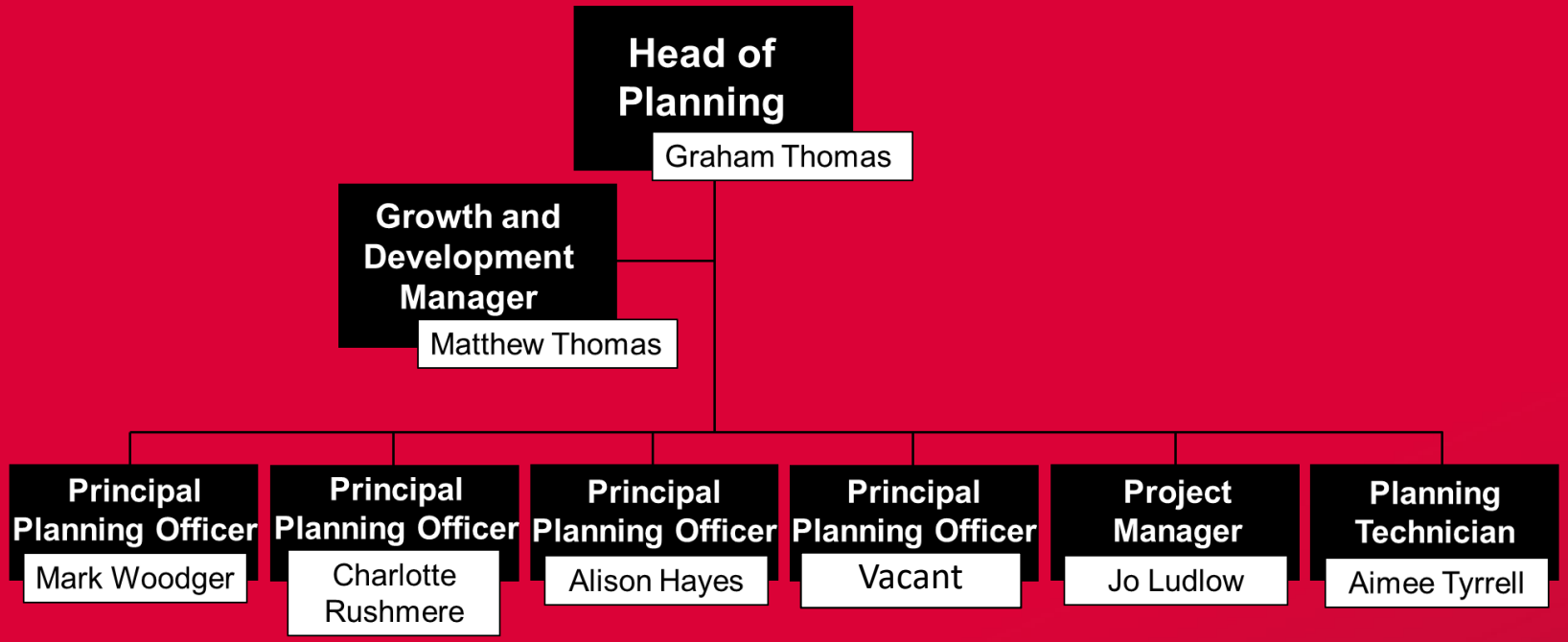
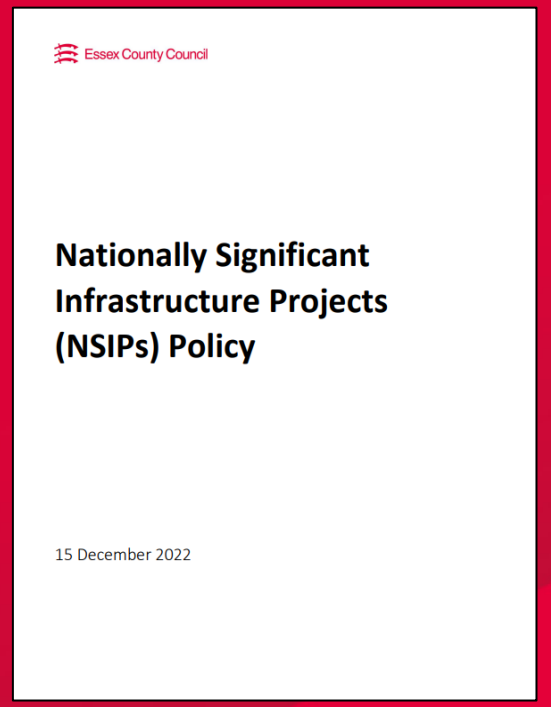
The NSIP team

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Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) Policy

15 December 2022

"ECC will only support NSIPs that create resilience in Essex and not those that exacerbate existing or create new vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to our commitment to deliver sustainable communities that level up the economy, environment and health and wellbeing across the county. "

ECC NSIP Policy (2022)

Essex County Council

Q&A

NSIP Inbox: growthanddevelopment@essex.gov.uk

NSIP Policy: NSIP_ Policy.pdf (essex.gov.uk)

Graham Thomas, Head of Planning, graham.thomas@essex.gov.uk

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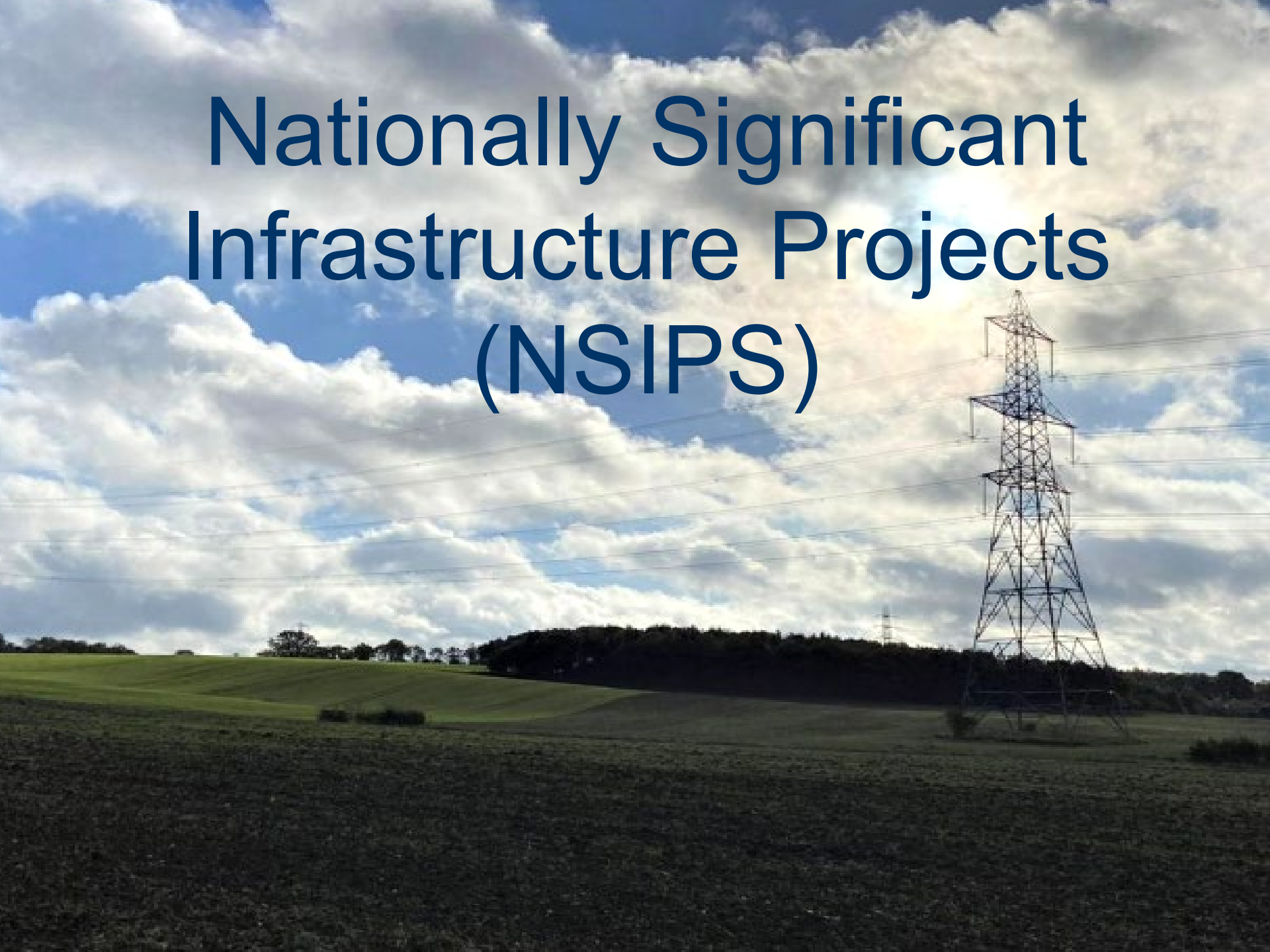
Charlotte Rushmere, Principal Planning Officer National Infrastructure, charlotte.rushmere@essex.gov.uk

Alison Hayes, Principal Planning Officer National Infrastructure, alison.hayes@essex.gov.uk

Matt Jericho, Spatial Planning and Local Plan Manager, matthew.jericho@essex.gov.uk

Jo Ludlow, Project Manager, Joanna.Ludlow@essex.gov.uk

Aimee Tyrrell, Planning Technician, aimee.tyrrell@essex.gov.uk



Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS)

Tendring District Council

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS)

East Anglia Green (Norwich to Tilbury)

North Falls

Five Estuaries

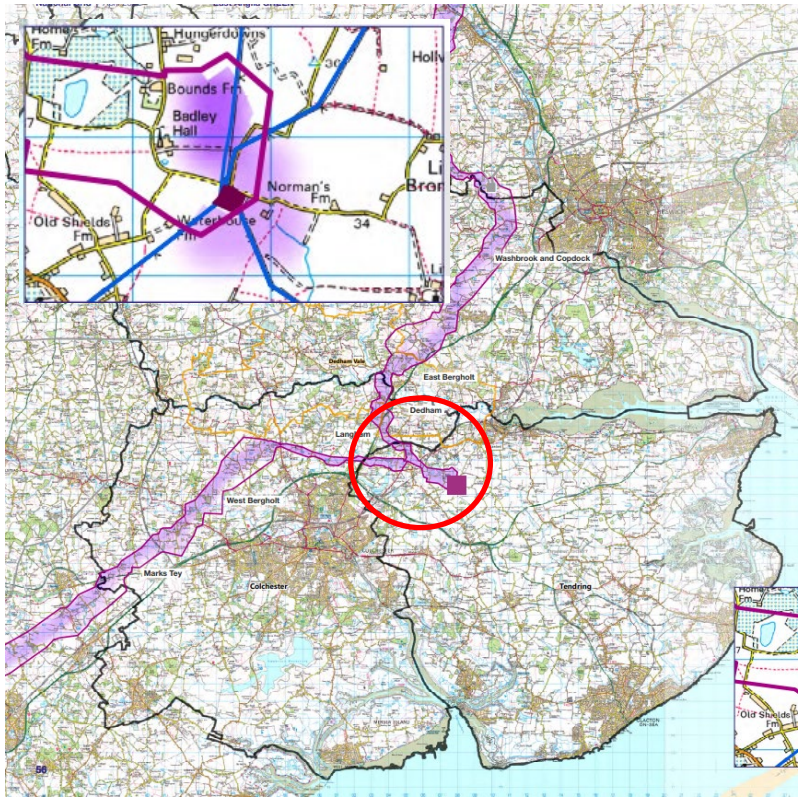
The District Council perspective

Gary Guiver: Director of Planning - Tendring District Council

Tendring District Council's role

- Tendring District Council, like Essex County Council, is not the decision maker on NSIPs – it is a consultee.
- Tendring DC has worked alongside Essex CC in responding to statutory and non-statutory consultation.
- Essex CC leading on technical input, Tendring DC representing local community concerns.

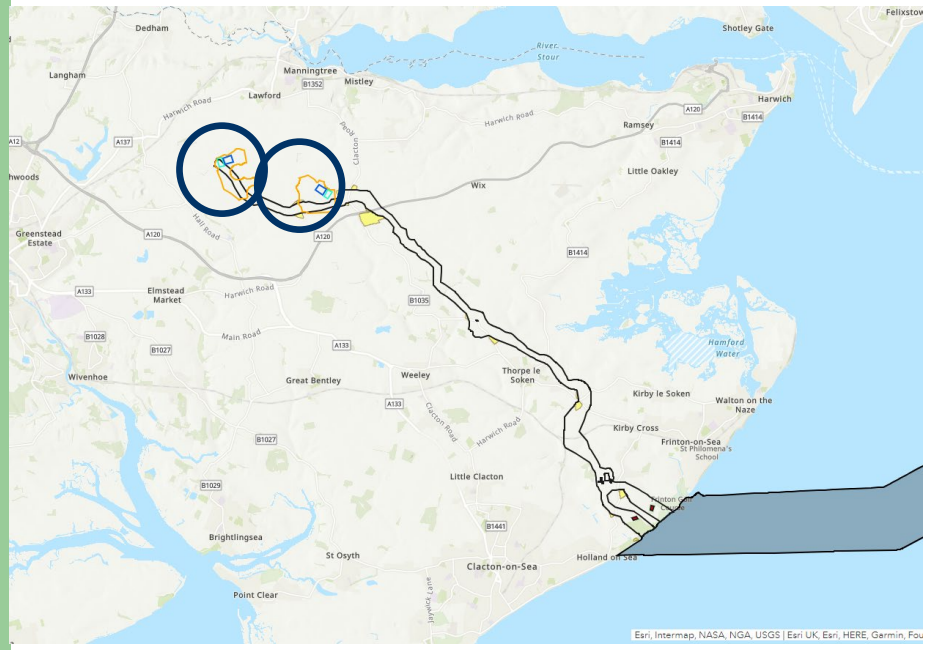
Tendring
District Council



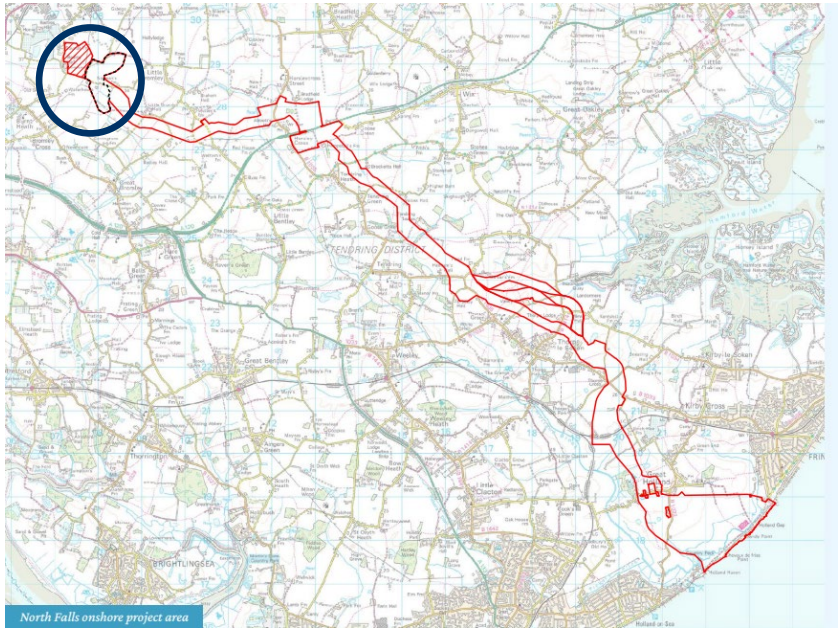
Norwich to Tilbury

Five Estuaries and North Falls

Tendring District Council



Five Estuaries on-shore route/substation locations



North Falls on-shore route/substation locations

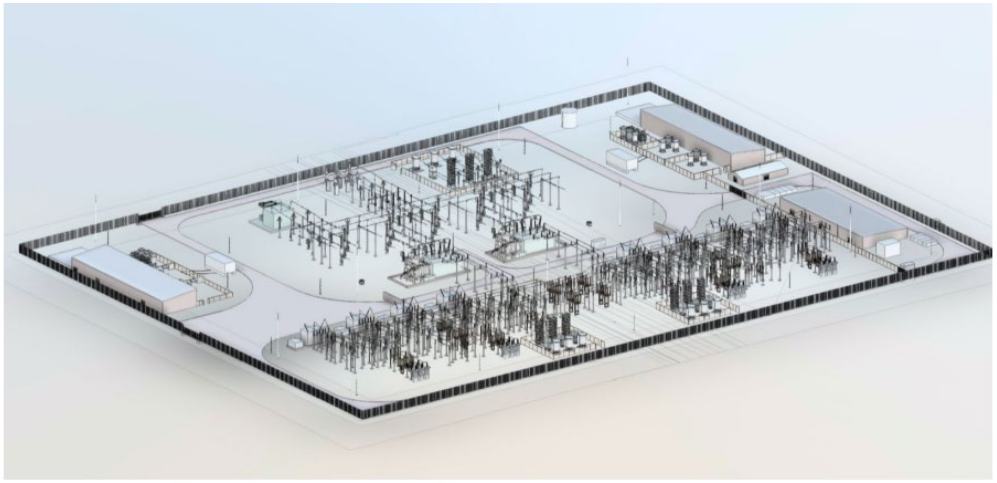


Figure 1.15: Indicative view of an AIS Substation

Taken from Five Estuaries Project Description 2023

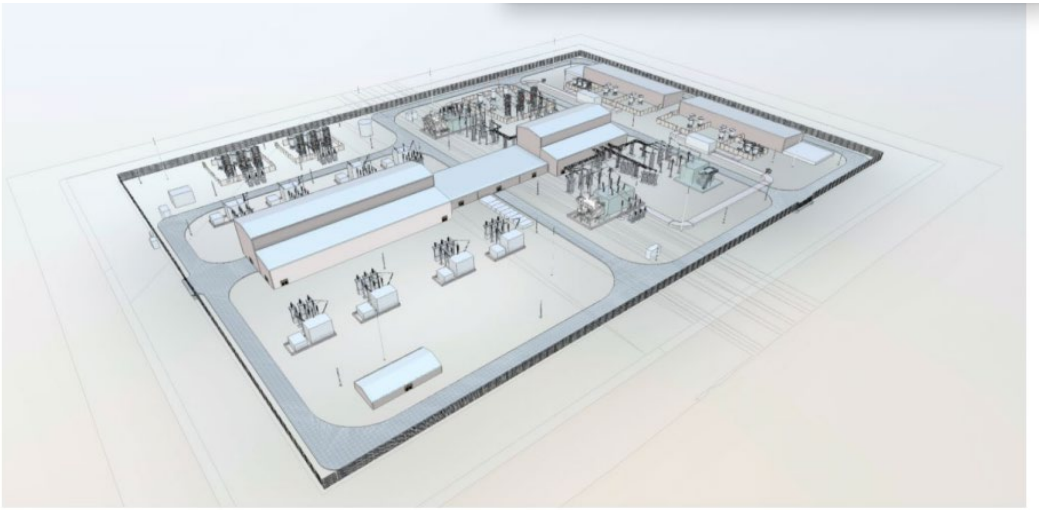


Figure 1.16: Indicative view of a GIS Substation

Tendring District Council's position

- Tendring District Council, like others, has declared a **CLIMATE EMERGENCY** and supports efforts to address climate change.
- **SUPPORTS** off-shore electricity generation – Harwich has a role in the manufacturing, servicing and maintenance of wind farms now and in the future.
- **OBJECTS** to Norwich to Tilbury powerline/substation proposal.
- **OBJECTS** to the on-shore elements of Five Estuaries and North Falls proposals.

Tendring District Council's representations

- TDC has **objected** both jointly with ECC and separately to all statutory and non-statutory consultations for Norwich to Tilbury, Five Estuaries and North Falls.

- Previous Leader of Tendring District Council lead a formal objection to Norwich to Tilbury on behalf of **all Leaders and Chief Executives of Essex authorities**.

- TDC maintains its position following local elections.

Tendring District Council

Grounds of objection: process/prematurity

- Alternative options to Norwich to Tilbury route have not been properly and fully considered – including seabed/off-shore options that minimise/avoid negative on-shore impacts.

- The Five Estuaries and North Falls proposals are premature – being predicated on Norwich to Tilbury proceeding as planned.

Tendring District Council

Grounds of objection: negative impacts

- Visual amenity of pylons in and around the AONB
- Disruption to the tourism industry during the construction phase
- The cumulative carbon footprint of all 3 developments, construction and operational phases
- Pylons are an outdated technology for transmission of electricity, inefficient and not future proof with rising temperatures
- High levels of anxiety caused to the community may undermine the support for renewable energies
- Physical health risks posed to residents who live nearby the pylons and substations
- Environmental impacts on ecology and habitats during construction and operational phases
- Impact on bird population, high voltage lines cause fatalities

Tendring District Council

Grounds of objection: negative impacts

- Norwich to Tilbury route deviates into Tendring, move substation and keep the route direct
- Poor landowner engagement, particularly on land surveys
- Poor farming community engagement
- Scale of the substation / s the land take as well as their height
- Impact on the single lane roads that provide the only access to the substation site, who will be responsible for ‘making good’
- Lack of co-ordination between all 3 projects given their cumulative impacts
- Is capacity still required given the loss of Vattenfall Windfarm
- Legacy impact of underground electricity transmission on soil quality
- Legacy impact on well water and drainage

Tendring District Council

Local benefits – the Council's dilemma

- The NSIP/DCO process is designed to promote Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and give them a smooth route through the planning process.
- 95% of DCO applications receive approval.
- TDC objects to Norwich to Tilbury, Five Estuaries and North Falls – but **what if** they do proceed as planned, and do receive government approval?

Tendring District Council

Local benefits – the Council's dilemma

OBJECTION

Maintaining our principal objections.

Defending our reasons for objecting.

Representing the concerns of our communities in the best way we can in our role as a consultee.

MITIGATION

What if the government does decide to approve (against our wishes)?

What measures could put in place to keep the negative impacts to a minimum?

Councils need to engage constructively and responsibly in these discussions without prejudice to their principal objections.

BENEFITS

What if the government does decide to approve (against our wishes)?

What's in it for us?

How do we ensure we get the best deal for the communities affected?

Councils need to engage positively early on or risk losing the opportunity to secure positive benefits.

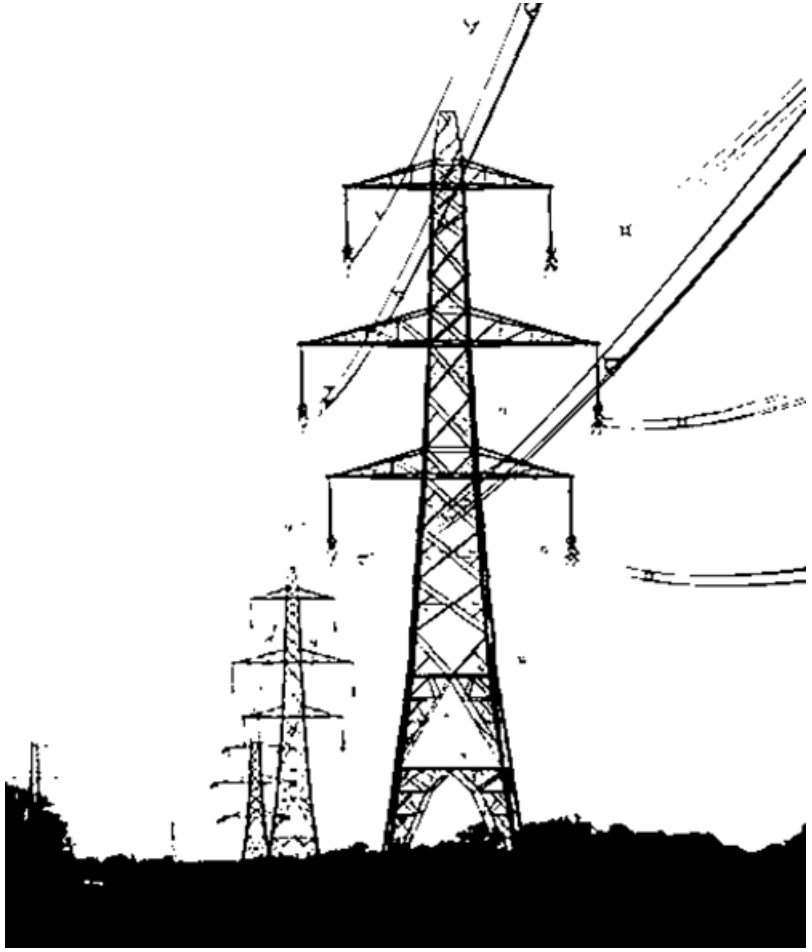
OFFSHORE GRID:
BETTER, CHEAPER, FASTER

Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons

www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk
Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons
pylons@mail.com

Ardleigh Public Meeting 15 September 2023
Rosie Pearson

What's next for the campaign?



P – Planning process

Y – Yes to an offshore grid

L - Lobbying

O – Ofgem

N – National Grid

Planning process

When	What
2023	Second non statutory consultation, ended
2024	Statutory consultation
2025	Development Consent Order (DCO) application submission
	Possibility of rejection by planning inspector
2025/26	DCO Examination and decision
	Judicial Review?
2027	Build
2031	Operational

We need money for legal advice!
https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/fundraising/

Planning process (2)

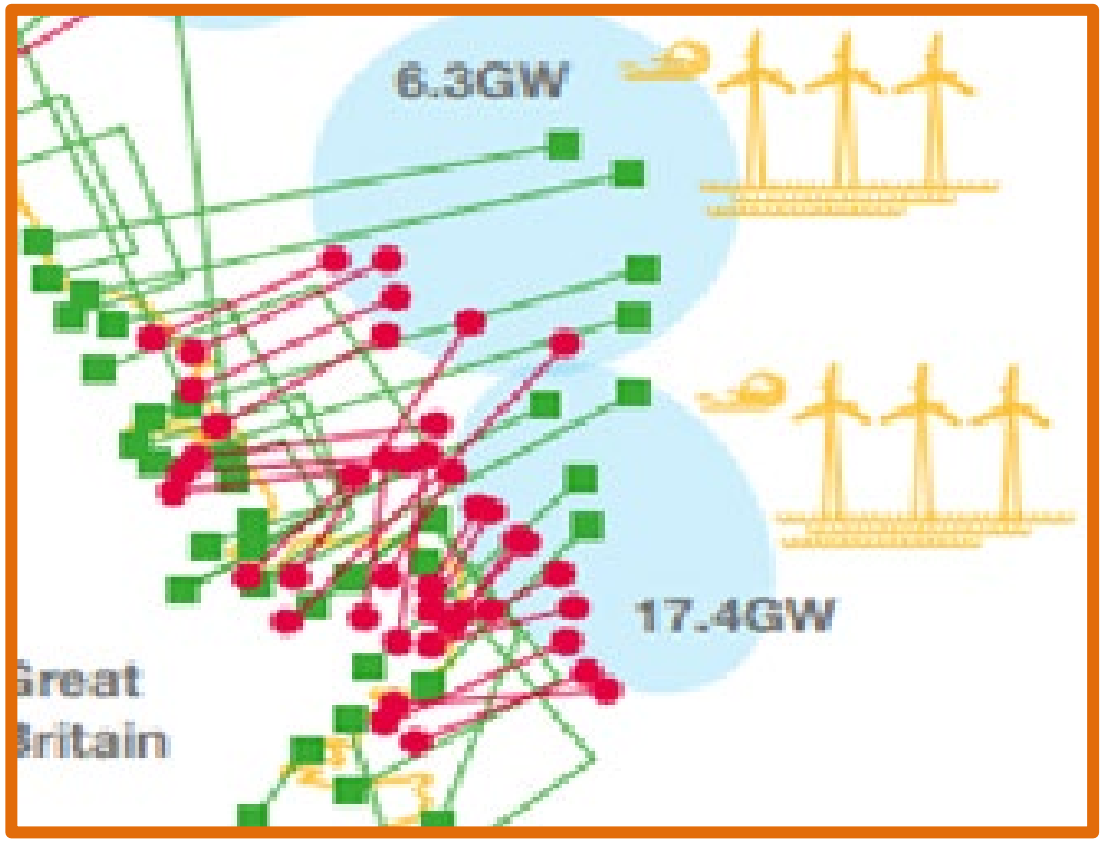
Habitats, trees and species
-Bioblitz
-Tree Protection Orders
-Ancient Tree Inventory
-Priority Habitat

Landscapes

Heritage

Yes to an offshore grid

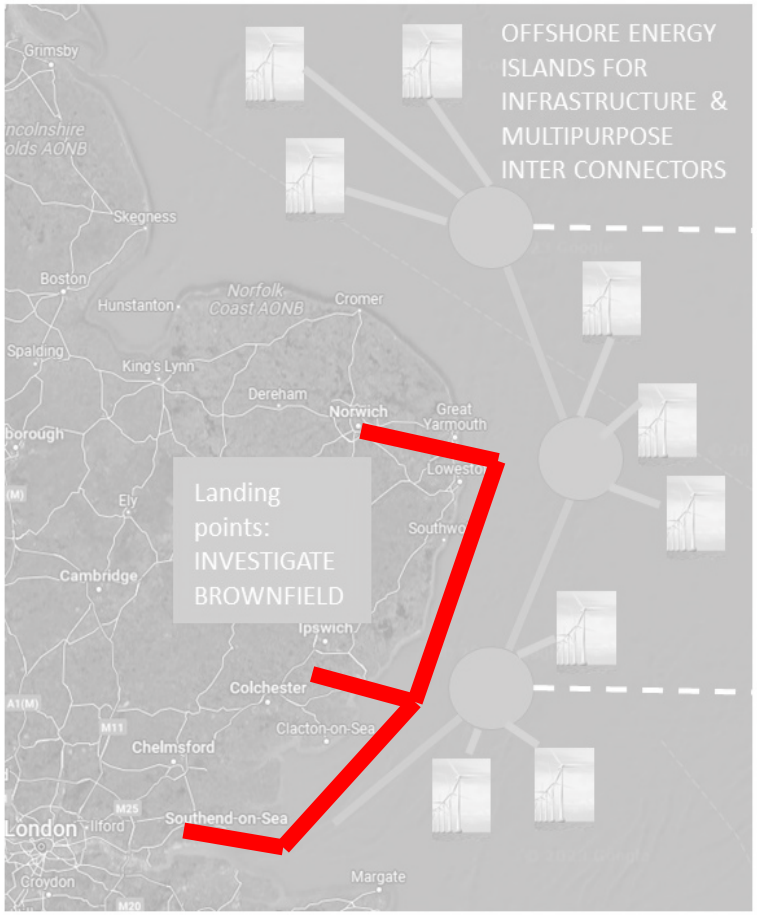
Current approach:
Unplanned,
piecemeal & pylons



Cost £7billion

What National Grid calls the offshore option.

It’s not!

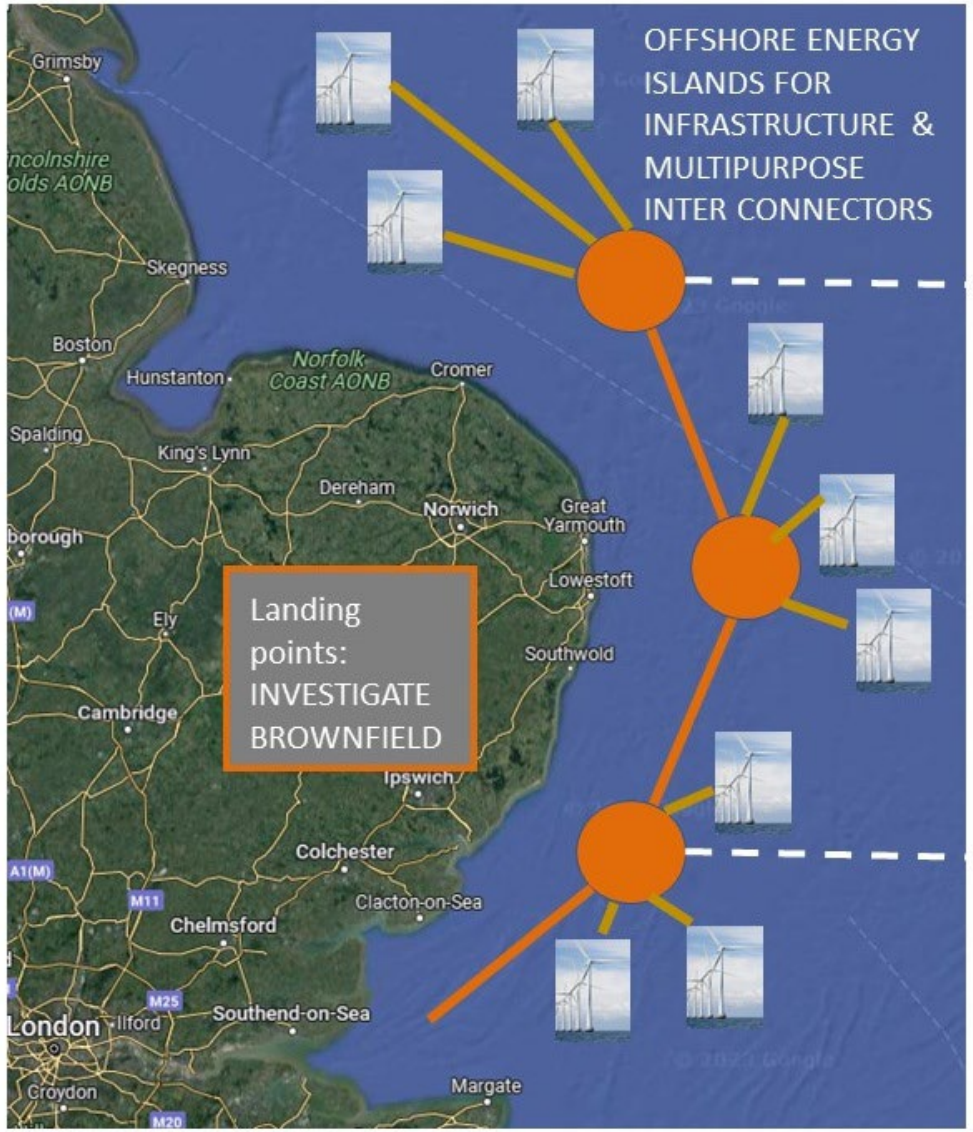


Cost £2.5-5billion (but only one part of the picture

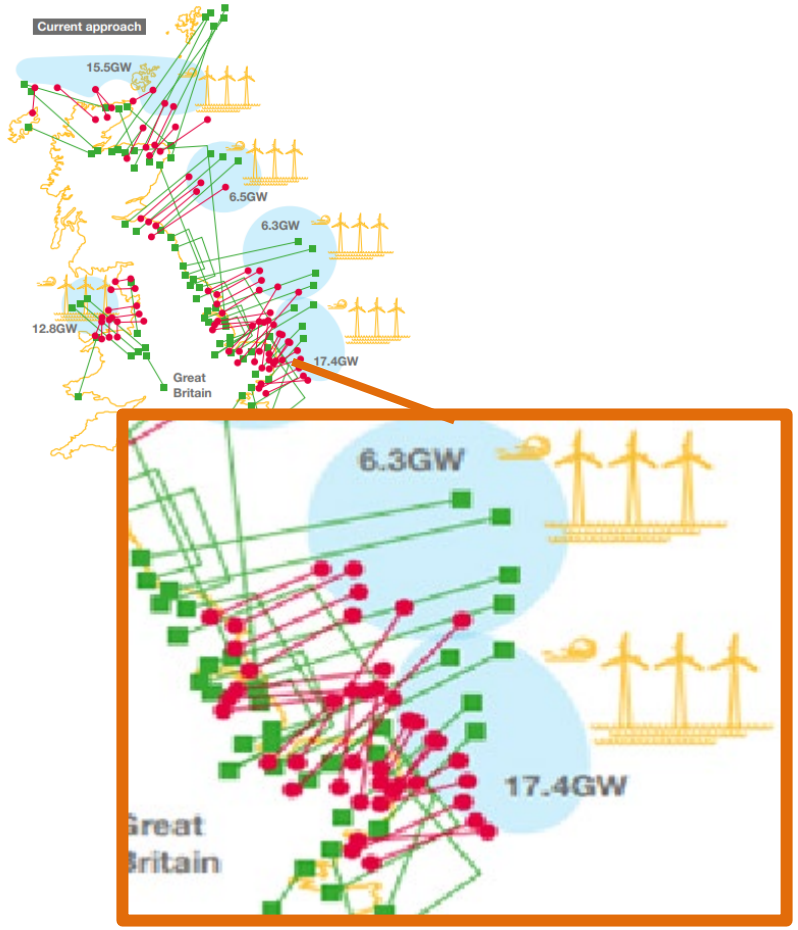
An integrated offshore grid is best!

- ✓ 50% less infrastructure
- ✓ £2bn cheaper than current approach
- ✓ Best for the environment
- ✓ Best for communities
- ✓ Best for the network

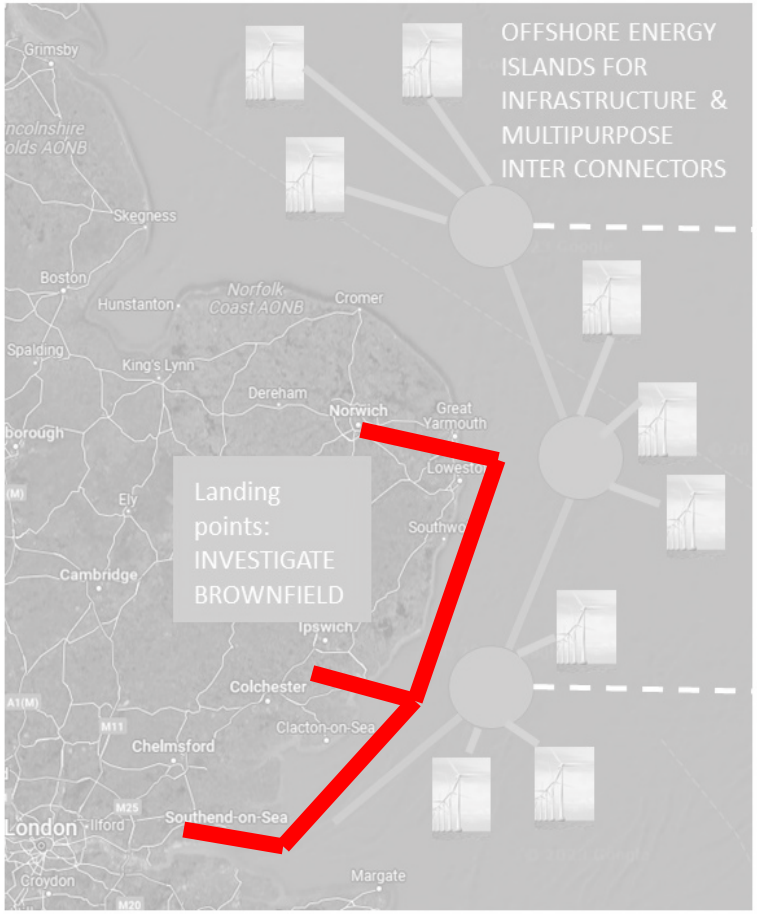
Cost £5billion
(versus £7bn for the current approach)



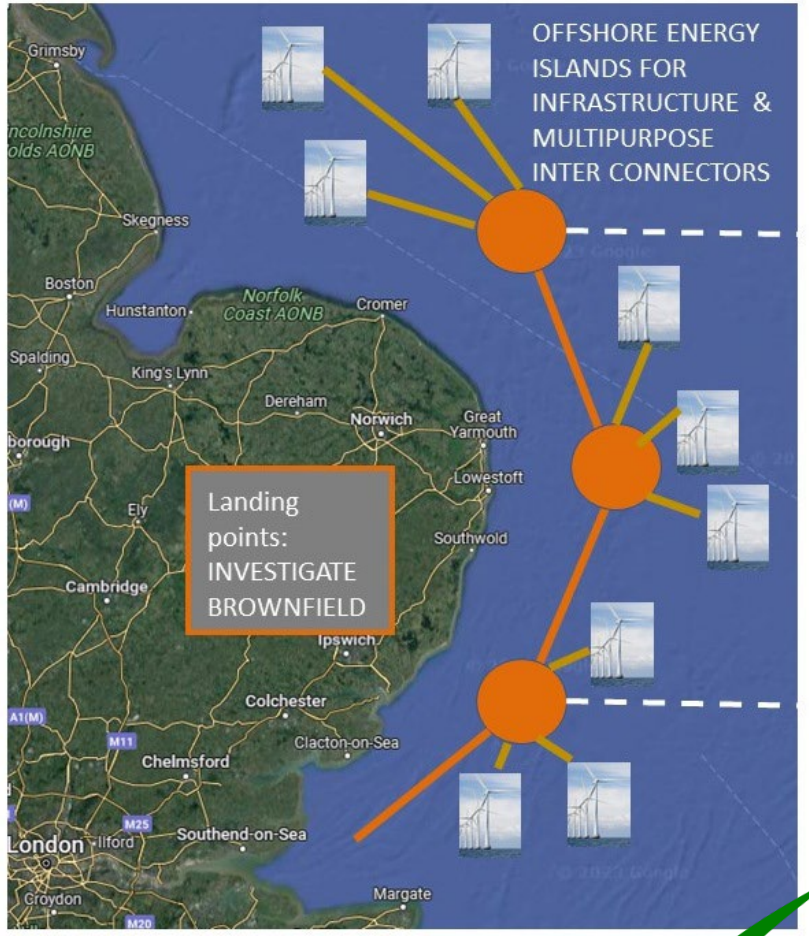
Yes to an offshore grid: SUMMARY



Cost £7billion



Cost £2.5-5billion (but only one part of the picture



Cost £5billion

Lobbying

- Government
  - **Offshore grid for East of England**
  - Remove '*Critical National Priority*' (set out in Energy consultation)
  - Remove '*presumption in favour of overhead lines*' from draft NPS: instead say '*use Treasury Green book appraisal to determine best outcome.*'
  - *Compensation* before community benefits
- National Grid ESO review
- Insist that Ofgem requires Treasury Green Book appraisal

Ofgem

- Insist that Ofgem requires Treasury Green Book appraisal

National Grid

Open letter to National Grid's CEO

www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions

OFFSHORE GRID:

BETTER,

CHEAPER,

FASTER

Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons

Thank you for your support

www.pylonseastanglia.co.uk

pylons@mail.com

Background facts

For reference only

Supporters of a coordinated offshore grid

- **National Grid ESO in 2020**, £6bn UK saving. Coordinated grid for East of England saves £2bn.
- **Integrated Offshore Transmission Project (IOTP) in 2015**: £5.6 billion cost-saving. *"In no circumstance does the radial-connection design offer economic advantage, even when coupled with an £870m onshore reinforcement package."* No technical barriers to an offshore transmission network. Integrated Offshore Transmission Project (IOTP) in 2015
- **Offshore Future Transmission Network System (OFTNS) report 2011:** Cost savings of £3.5 billion from an integrated solution.
- *"This coordinated approach is likely to provide the highest degree of consumer, environmental, and community benefits."* **Government, in its Draft National Policy Statement EN-1**
- Recommendation that the UK develops a strategy to coordinate interconnectors and offshore networks for wind farms and their connections to the onshore network. **The Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget, 2020**
- *"As offshore wind continues to grow, more coordination is needed."* Daniel De Wijze, Policy Analyst at **Renewable UK** in a blog, 2021
- *"Recommendation 1.4. Develop an offshore ring main for offshore wind farms."* **1922 Backbench Committee on Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy**, January 2023

…more supporters of an offshore grid

- **Integrated Offshore Transmission Project (IOTP) in 2015**: £5.6 billion cost-saving. *"In no circumstance does the radial-connection design offer*
- **Ben Wilson the President of National Grid Ventures**, **2022**: *"Connecting wind farms to multiple markets simultaneously is a game changer for energy infrastructure and brings us one step closer to realising the enormous green energy potential of the North Sea. Not only can we deploy every spare electron where it is needed most, we can help to reduce the impact of infrastructure on coastal communities. We now need the right political, legal and regulatory framework to make it happen and establish a mutually beneficial North Sea grid to deliver a cleaner, fairer, more secure and more affordable energy future for British and European consumers"*. Press release for LionLink*
- **Lord Deben, ex, Chairman of the Committee on Climate Change,2022**: *"Will she also accept that we ought to have a ring main so that we can bring the offshore wind onshore, and not put vast quantities of pylons across some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain?"* Hansard - North Sea Oil and Gas Producers: Investment Allowances, Volume 822: debated on Tuesday 7 June 2022
- **Dieter Helm**, the Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford and Fellow in Economics at New College, Oxford, 2023**: "*There needs to be an offshore grid, interconnected fully with the onshore grid, including Hinkley and Sizewell new nuclear connections*".

- *https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-of-its-kind-power-line-to-deliver-clean-power-to-18m-uk-homes-and-boost-energy-security
- **https://dieterhelm.co.uk/publications/net-zero-electricity-the-uk-2035-target/

Fact check

Myth	Busted!
National Grid is required to build pylons	• **National Policy Statements say: <u>starting point</u>.** • **Sea Link / Scotland offshore**
It is more expensive to go offshore	• **Not if you coordinate! £2bn cheaper to coordinate off the East of England**
Pylons are green	• **Habitats destroyed** • **ESNP bird strikes report** • **Access roads, concrete bases**
Sub-sea not technically possible	• **NG ESO 2020 'no showstoppers';** • **Lion Link multi-purpose interconnector*;** • **Sea Link** • **New MPI legislation forthcoming**
Contracts make a grid impossible	• **Not true: ESNP legal opinion May 2023**

*https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-and-tennet-collaborate-proposed-first-kind-anglo-dutch-electricity-link

Scenario 11: Sea Link offshore island (NF, 5E, Nautilus & Eurolink connect to Sea Link at offshore island)

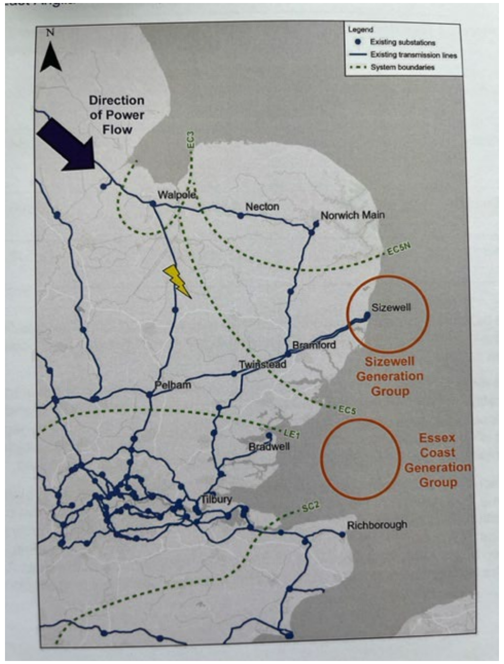
Areas	Output	RAG Status
Contracts and Offer process	• Minimal changes required • Bespoke clauses required for bilateral agreements reflecting arrangements	
Charging	• Assume principles remain the same and funded through the existing needs case, needs some level of consultation	
User commitment	• Able to accommodate under existing arrangements	
Technical obligations and compliance	• Potentially multiple material challenges to be considered e.g. reduced system capability through Sea Link (5.1GW injection onto 2GW Sea Link), generator connection through HVDC untested, risk of loss of infeed • New technology and need for new requirements	
System operability	• Reduction of options for network management as a result of the reduced system capability through Sea Link • Potentially novel / complex control system required (Four/Five ended HVDC) • Fault ride through and inertia / Grid Forming at the Interface Point	
Codes and Standards	• Loss of infeed in progress	

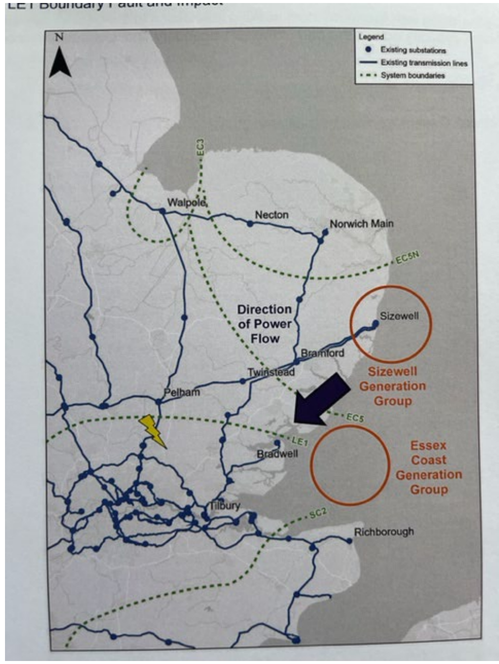
Where is the power going?

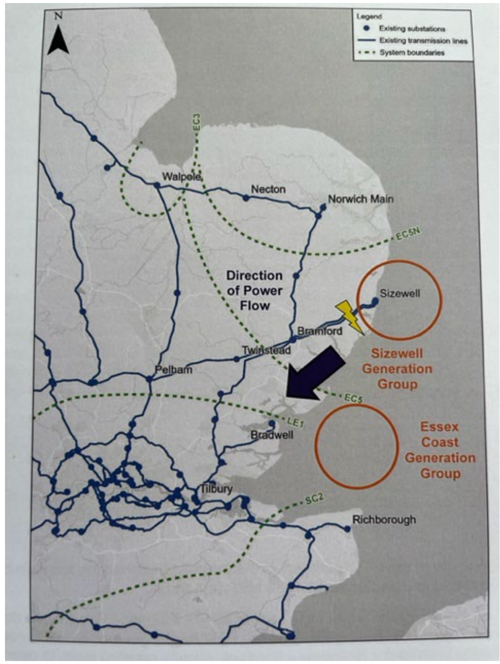
Only 8% of peak energy generated in our region is used in our region.
(Source: National Grid ET's most recent consultation documentation)

Power transfer to London & SE England is a problem.
(Source: Electricty Ten Year Statement 2021)

Look at NG's most recent maps: power from our region travels SOUTH, not WEST.

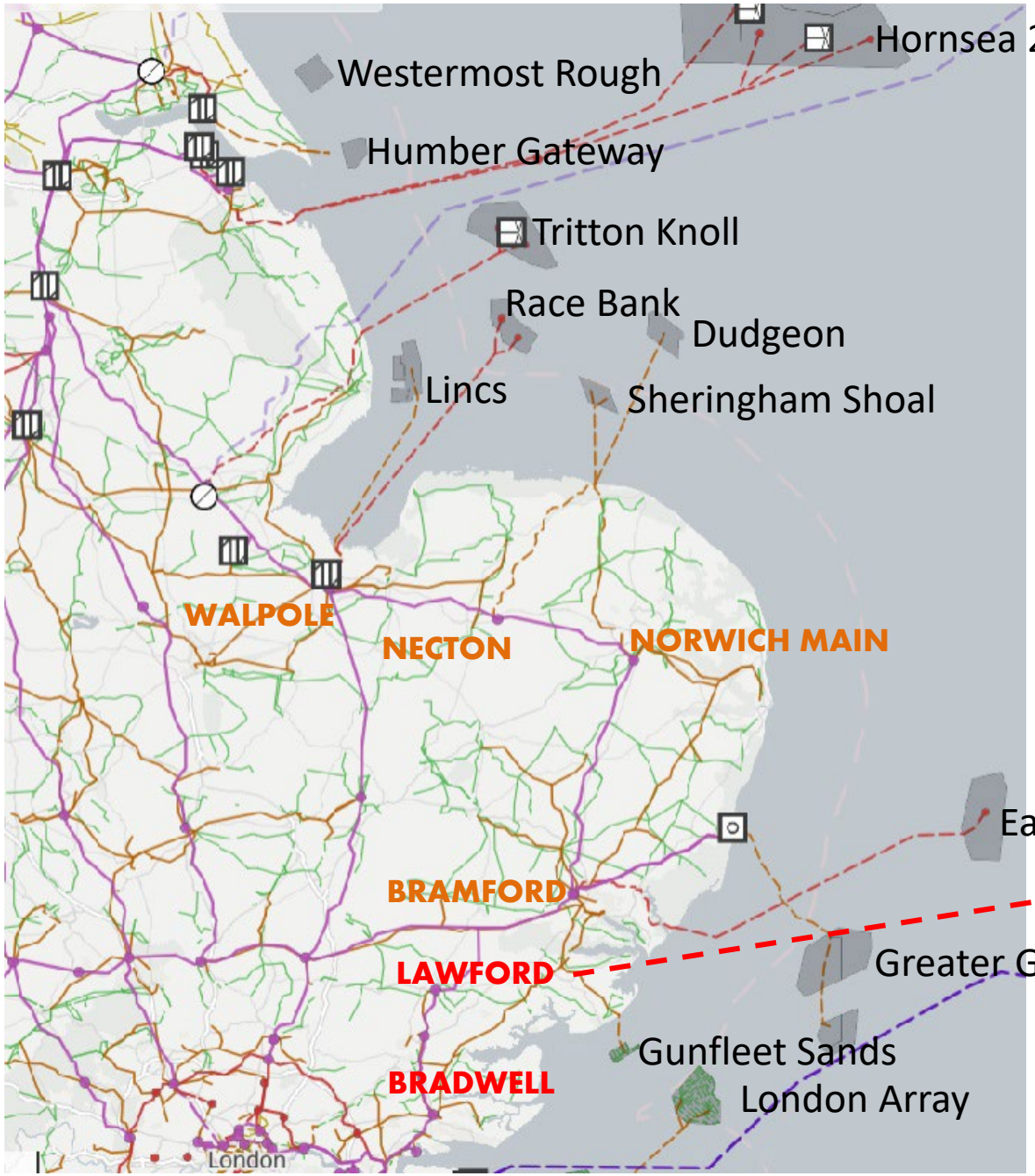






An integrated offshore grid continues to remain the best solution. Power generated offshore – keep it offshore.

VS



Planned windfarms grouped by substation

2030 Race Bank Extension — Walpole

Cancelled 2019 but on NG's 2023 Norwich Tilbury list

2025	Vanguard	Necton 400
2026	Norfolk Boreas	Necton 400
2027	Vanguard East 1	Necton 400
2028	Vanguard East 2	Necton 400

Liam Walker confirmed network can cope until 2026 with existing upgrades, including Vanguard and Boreas (in construction/starting soon)

2026	Hornsea Power Station 3 Stg 1	Norwich 400
2027	Equinor	Norwich 400
2028	Hornsea Power Station 3 Stg 2	Norwich 400

NOT on NG's 2023 Norwich Tilbury list:

Sheringham Shoal & Dudgeon extensions Norwich 400

(Norfolk Parishes Movement arguing for Walpole)

2025	East Anglia Two	Bramford 400
2026	East Anglia One North	Bramford 400
2026	East Anglia Three	Bramford 400

NOT on NG's 2023 GENERATION list (Lawford):

- Five Estuaries
- North Falls
- Tarchon Interconnector

(But yet NEED case for Norwich to Tilbury is based on these, with Lawford substation)

(Plus Sizewell C. NG says online by 2029, 2030. EDF's lawyers currently say 2034 (March 2023). 1670MW x 2