

Guide for Ardleigh and Little Bromley Residents

How to respond to the Planning Inspectorate

National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury proposal

Background to the Planning Application process; why it is important to Ardleigh & Lt Bromley:

The process for national infrastructure projects is to decide if a Development Consent Order (DCO) can be granted. A DCO is a legal document that allows an applicant to build their proposed project. The applicant submits an application for a proposed development to the Planning Inspectorate. A panel of independent inspectors (the Examining Authority) look at the project and start the examination of the application. They make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State about whether the project should go ahead.

As part of this process, anyone can have their say about the project and tell us why they think it should or should not go ahead.

- NG's DCO (Development Consent Order) application was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 26 September 2025. They are now looking at the Planning Application submitted by National Grid.

What does this mean to us and our community?

- Project is now in the Pre-Examination phase — public registration to participate closes 27 November 2025. This is the link to register <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>
- Parish councils and residents can register as Interested Parties to submit written or verbal representations during the Examination. (You do not have to appear in person)
- Residents are encouraged to respond. You are the expert to explain issues that affect you and your family. This is for the Examining panel to see. If NG have ignored you in the past, repeat your concerns.

Key planning objections

Key planning objections residents can make include:

The project's conflict with local plans, (including the Ardleigh Neighbourhood plan), negative impacts on the local environment and landscape, harm to residential amenities like increased noise and visual intrusion. Other valid points of objection are the potential for traffic and access issues during construction, the impact on local heritage and listed buildings, and the argument that alternative solutions like cable [undergrounding](#), brownfield sites, undersea grid connections have not been adequately considered.

How to object effectively

- **Be specific:** Focus on "material considerations" and avoid vague statements.
- **Be factual:** Ensure your objections are factual and supported by evidence where possible.
- **Be clear about your objection:** Provide detailed, specific information rather than general comments.
- **Be Specific About Location**
 - Mention exact locations affected (e.g. "the proposed pylon corridor just south of Little Bromley Road" or "the Group TPO Trees on south side of Wick Lane, approximately 200m east of the Old Ipswich Road junction")
 - Describe how the project enters, exits, or passes through your area of the parish – your local knowledge is a big asset!!

Use Evidence

- Refer to maps, surveys, photos, or local data.
- Quote relevant planning policies
- If possible, include links or attach supporting documents.

Writing a response

Be Clear and Structured

- Use headings or bullet points to organise your concerns.
- Keep it a short, targeted and as impactful as possible - clarity is key.
- State:
 - who you are,
 - your connection to the area, and
 - why you're affected.

Focus on Material Planning Impacts

- Emotional appeals are less likely to be successful
- keep it factual, for example your concerns about:

Environmental, landscape & Ecological impact: can include points such as:

- wildlife,
- habitats for many species,
- landscape impacts and design,
- noise,
- Pollution
- Ancient hedgerows or trees that will be removed
- Traffic issues - nasty junction, particularly narrow lane, particularly stupid choice of access route etc
- Birds that you know fly regularly across the proposed route e.g geese/swans
- Heritage asset/historic buildings affected
- Archaeology
- Bat roosts - species names if known

Local heritage & Community impact:

- Health & wellbeing
- Noise, dust, air quality
- disruption to daily life,
- heritage
- property prices
- proximity to listed buildings

Impact on Businesses and Agriculture

- Businesses affected, i.e. vineyards, outdoor & leisure activities
- Loss of the Best & most versatile farming land

Traffic & construction Infrastructure strain:

- cumulative effect of multiple projects/infrastructure,
- pressure on roads,
- possible disruption to utilities

Policy conflict:

- local plans (including the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan)
- national policy statements,
- open countryside /
- national landscape protections

[EN020027-000552-2 Norwich to Tilbury Examination Library PDF .pdf](#) for access to NG application documents