



Bulmer Parish Council

Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)
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Report from a meeting of Bulmer Parish Councillors with National Grid representatives, held on Monday 29th March 2021 at 4pm via Microsoft Teams

Please note – to be read in conjunction with copies of the accompanying slide presentation by National Grid

Present: Cllrs Crawshay Crome, Nichols,

Clerk: Claire Waters

National Grid: Steve Knight-Gregson, John Bevan, Dona Burnell, Sarah Wardle

Background:

The Government target is to be net carbon zero by 2050. The Offshore wind sector and Energy White Paper have been recently published in December 2020. Current capacity is 10GW, the aim is to produce 40GW by 2030 building to 100-140GW by 2050. Existing regulation is laid out in the Electricity Act 1989. As part of this there is a rolling cycle of forward planning by National Grid in order to assess how targets will be met. As part of that forward planning it has been determined this year that the Bramford to Twinstead Tee connection is “critical”.

Local Consultation and timescale:

Q2 2021: (now) Non-statutory consultation with local communities. Full details of plans have yet to be finalised

Q1 2022: Statutory consultation (although aim is for this to be at the end of 2021)

Q2 2025 to Q2 2028: Construction phase

- 400Kv pylons are planned from Bramford to Twinstead Tee and then on to Tilbury (phase 2?)
- Two sections, Dedham Vale & Stour Valley AONB, are planned to be underground
- Existing UKPN 132Kv lines are planned to be removed
- A UKPN substation is planned for Twinstead, between Butlers Wood and Waldegrave Wood
- A western cable sealing end compound is planned

It was stressed that National Grid are extremely keen to have feedback from individuals and organisations. Everyone located within 1km of any part of the proposed route will be contacted directly for feedback. Everyone located within 5km of any part of the proposed route will see awareness raising material. Libraries will hold copies of documents and assistance is being sought to contact hard to reach groups.

Environmental information and firmer proposals about the details of the scheme will be available during the statutory consultation at the end of 2021.

Twinstead Substation: The current proposal is to site this between Butlers Wood and Waldegrave Wood so no trees are removed. Full design available later in the year. Technical discussions with UKPN are taking place, this is to mitigate for the removal of their 132Kv line. Photo montages will be prepared for the statutory consultation. National Grid will develop plans in consultation with the local authority. The aim is to create a biodiversity net gain with trees, ponds etc. created and the substation will be set back from the A131.

Questions and answers:

1. Why can cables not be run under the sea along the coast?

Offshore co-ordination is outlined in the December 2020 White paper. The Bramford to Twinstead Tee section is a critical bottleneck which needs to be fixed by 2028. Viable offshore solutions will not change onshore requirements

2. What will be the noise emission from the substation?

Noise modelling will be carried out. The location has taken “sensitive receptors” into account (e.g. residential properties).

3. What will be the impact of traffic during the building phase?

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<https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/>



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A transport assessment will be carried out. Mitigation measures will be considered including routes, avoiding busy times etc.

4. What about the health impact of overhead pylons?

All National Grid work is subject to an electromagnetic field compliance assessment and employs an EMF Scientific Adviser. There is also a Frequently Asked Questions section on the website with a range of information, and webinar sessions will be available.

5. What about the call by MPs reported in the press to suspend the consultation until the whole scheme is ready and put all proposals on the table?

The Bramford to Twinstead Tee proposals are critical and cannot wait. Additional reinforcements have different timescales, there is still work to do on these. Phase 2 will be developed next year as separate options and have regard to the cumulative effects of the whole scheme.

6. Might the phase 2 options have an impact on Butlers Wood substation, e.g. placing a demand for it to be increased in size?

We don't know for sure, but we are not expecting any need for further development at Butlers Wood in the future. But please include these concerns in your consultation feedback.

The meeting closed at 5.04pm