

August 2023 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

County Councils set out concerns as public consultation opens for Norwich to Tilbury proposals

National Grid has opened its consultation to anyone wishing to comment on its Norwich to Tilbury proposal, previously known as East Anglia Green. This is an eight-week non-statutory consultation period which closes on 21 August 2023. The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury, running a distance of 111 miles. It will be made up mostly of overhead lines and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation.

The new consultation reveals the route for the pylons, passing through Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It shows the line will run underground through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Essex-Suffolk border. The consultation is open to residents, landowners, businesses and any individuals or groups that may be interested in commenting on the revised proposals. Consultees can participate online or via face-to-face events. Essex County Council, Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are also being consulted on the proposals as statutory consultees. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year. We must be looking to a coordinated offshore centred approach to energy transmission in the UK. Given our long-term energy security goals and the infrastructure that will be required, simply installing more pylons, and digging trenches cannot be the only viable solution. We will continue to stand strong on behalf of all the communities who will be affected by these proposals. You can read more about the Norwich to Tilbury project and view a calendar of consultation events on the [National Grid website](#).

You can also comment on the proposals by:

completing National Grid's [online feedback form](#)

sending a completed paper feedback form to Freepost N TO T (no stamp or further address needed)

completing a paper feedback form at one of the [consultation events](#)

emailing your comments to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Norfolk and Suffolk councils given authority and funding to help nature's recovery

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have been formally appointed by Government as responsible authorities for preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their respective counties. This means that they will be working together to help improve wildlife habitats and reverse the decline of biodiversity across the region, working with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for their areas. They will also work with other local planning authorities, the Broads Authority, Natural England, and a wide range of stakeholders and partners, including farming and landowner groups. This is all part of Government's ambition to further drive nature recovery, with 48 individual local authorities across the country receiving allocations from a £14 million funding pot. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will receive £333,000 and £282,000 respectively over two years to fund this work. With the best ways to support nature recovery depending on local character and geography, Local Nature Recovery Strategies will help communities map out the action needed in their area to restore nature. The Norfolk and Suffolk councils have already been working closely with each other, jointly hosting the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership, and a host of other stakeholders and interested parties to prepare for this moment. The two authorities have pooled resources and expertise and to ensure that strategies effectively join up across the two counties to the wider benefit of nature and people. The Strategies will focus on how to improve habitats and protect the natural environment across the region, with local approaches tailored to the specific circumstances of each area. Norfolk and Suffolk are home to a variety of beautiful and unique landscapes, from the chalk streams of the Norfolk Coast to the Stour estuary at the southeast of Suffolk and across many habitats in between, and specific policies will be drawn up to best protect and nurture each location. Future plans will include working closely with other neighbouring counties, to identify and support opportunities for nature recovery at sufficient scale to really benefit wildlife. Protecting and enhancing the environment is one of our core priorities and we know how important it is to our residents. Nature is critical to everything we do and value – the air we

breathe, the water we drink, the soils we grow food on. It is essential to many of our businesses, attracts people and investment to the county and is vital to people's health and wellbeing. SCC has made ambitious commitments to restore nature across our estate and through services such as highways, and I welcome this opportunity for us to work with everyone else who cares about and can help nature recovery in Suffolk to develop an ambitious but achievable strategy to achieve that.

Domestic Abuse Commissioner praises Suffolk's Champions

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, Nicole Jacobs met with Suffolk's Domestic Abuse Champions Network. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner is an independent voice that speaks on behalf of victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Alongside Councillor Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, DA Commissioner Nicole Jacobs, met with Domestic Abuse Champions and representatives from Suffolk's commissioned Domestic Abuse Services. They presented certificates to Champions, who have gone above and beyond in their role by providing support or raising the profile of Domestic Abuse. The Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network aims to raise awareness about coercive control and increase confidence across the Suffolk community in order to provide consistent information, advice and support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse. The Champions are provided with free training to have the skills to spread awareness to other colleagues and act as the 'Go to Person' for Information between their own agency and local support services. The Network was launched in April 2019, and since then, the content of the training has evolved, and the delivery has developed to incorporate an online offer as well as face-to-face. Over 1,300 Champions have now taken the free training, including representatives from across the county and from a broad range of organisations including health, education, housing, recovery services, mental health support, adult and children's social care, police and more individuals, voluntary and community organisations. The Domestic Abuse Champions training offer is open to anyone living or working in Suffolk. The trainers welcome individuals or local businesses to come forward and take advantage of the free training and help keep Suffolk safe. To book the free training, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/suffolk-domestic-abuse-champions-network-369439>.

Suffolk's Champion Co-ordinators are also available to attend team meetings or deliver free bespoke sessions tailored to your organisation. Please contact dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk to find out more. To find out more about Suffolk's Domestic Abuse Champions, and listen to the latest in a series of podcasts, featuring interviews with specialist support services and survivors of domestic abuse, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence>

Waste transfer station fire sparks fresh warning over disposing of safe battery disposal

People are being reminded of the importance of disposing of waste batteries properly following a fire at a Suffolk waste transfer station. Operations were briefly disrupted at Haverhill waste transfer station after fire broke out amongst 50 tonnes of rubbish. Waste batteries should be disposed of properly and never thrown away with household rubbish. The waste transfer station takes refuse material collected locally and bulks it for onward reprocessing. The precise cause of the fire has not been determined but FCC Environment, which manages the 11 recycling centres and four transfer stations around the county on behalf of SCC said that when a fire starts in piles of waste it is usually caused by a battery that has managed to spark. This can happen if there is friction, such as when a waste pile is moved or crushed. All batteries should be disposed of either at recycling centres or in collection points at most large stores where they are sold.

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