

Public

Ref: FOI/25/299

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Dear requester

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information which was received by NESO on 25 February 2026.

You asked us to consider your information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The exemption at Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) covers information that a public body is obliged to consider under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). The information you have requested meets the definition of environmental information at Regulation 2(1)(c) of the EIR, and your request has therefore been considered under the EIR.

Request

You asked us:

This is a Freedom of Information Act request. Could you please send us the GIS files for the Norwich to Tilbury transmission line that is the subject of the NSIP app by NGET found here: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>.

We already have the pdf map of the route and DCO area but need the GIS files. These can be in whatever file format you have, e.g. SHP, KML, KMZ.

We are looking for both

- 1. the route of the overhead line, cables and substations, and*
- 2. the DCO area.*

Our response

NESO does not hold a GIS file for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury line, nor do we hold a GIS file for the Development Consent Order (DCO) area.

The EIR only apply to information held by the public authority at the time that the request for information is received (Regulation 3). Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR allows a public authority to refuse a request if it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received. All EIR exceptions are subject to public interest test (PIT), however the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) recognises that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful PIT where information is not held.

This concludes our response to your request.

Further information, and advice and assistance

We advise that you request this information from National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), as the Transmission Owner (TOs) for this proposed infrastructure project. The TOs are also subject to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and specific design questions should be directed to NGET: [Environmental Information Regulations \("EIR"\) 2004 | National Grid](#).

We have provided below further information on NESO's role in the energy system which you may find helpful.

NESO is an independent, public corporation responsible for planning Great Britain's electricity and gas networks, operating the electricity system and creating insights and recommendations for the future whole energy system. NESO is responsible for strategic network planning, identifying whole energy system needs and ensuring that the system can be designed and built accordingly.

You can find more information about NESO here: [What we do | National Energy System Operator](#).

NESO does not own or operate the electricity network infrastructure but moves high voltage electricity from where it is generated through the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) using the infrastructure owned by the Transmission Owners (TOs) - National Grid Electricity Transmission, Scottish Power Transmission and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Transmission.

This high voltage electricity is passed onto the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) which own the local networks and maintain the infrastructure connecting homes and businesses to the transmission network. There are also several offshore developers that own the assets that connect offshore wind farms to the transmission or distribution network.

One of NESO's key responsibilities is [Strategic Planning](#) i.e., assessing Great Britain's future electricity supply and demand needs and designing a high-level coordinated network to meet those needs in a safe, efficient, and affordable way.

Strategic Network Planning involves assessing a range of different network options to ensure electricity can get to where it is needed, when it is needed. NESO provides recommendations on which network reinforcement projects should receive investment, and when. We are not responsible for making the final decision on what, where, and when to invest, and are not responsible for obtaining planning approval for the network infrastructure or reinforcement.

The TOs create proposed solutions to meet the identified needs. This might include refurbishing, upgrading or building new essential infrastructure or accelerating grid connections. For each project, transmission owners are expected to:

- progress the detailed design of the physical components used in the infrastructure
- engage with local affected communities before applying and getting planning approval from the relevant planning authorities
- work with relevant stakeholders as part of the project development

The [Electricity Ten Year Statement 2024](#) represents NESO's perspective on future transmission requirements and the capabilities of Great Britain's NETS based on our latest Future Energy Scenarios (FES). The ETYS 2024 enables us to understand the investment and development required to maintain a safe and reliable operational network, while achieving our zero-carbon ambition. Appendix A provides schematics and geographic layouts of the current NETS. Further information is available here: [Electricity Ten Year Statement \(ETYS\) | National Energy System Operator](#).

Further information on strategic network planning can be found in the following links:

- [Transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan \(tCSNP\) | National Energy System Operator](#) - the section on what the tCSNP can and cannot do is helpful in explaining NESO's role.
- [Centralised Strategic Network Plan \(CSNP\) | National Energy System Operator](#)

The [Beyond 2030 report](#) (referred to in the tCSNP link above) suggests network recommendations throughout the 2030s. The report recommends around £58 billion in direct investment for offshore and onshore network upgrades. These upgrades will help connect an additional 21GW of offshore wind power, along with various other low carbon energy sources across Great Britain. The regional blueprint chapters each focus on a different region or country, showing the background behind the current electricity network in that area, how it fits into the national picture, and the required infrastructure we have identified.

NESO's web map showcases our network recommendations for Great Britain's electricity transmission system, reflecting the latest insights from [Beyond 2030](#) (the second tCSNP). The map is for illustrative purposes only, highlighting identified needs to transmit energy from point A to point B. It does not represent specific transmission routes and does not include updates related to the progression of customer connections.

- [Web map | National Energy System Operator](#)

Alongside the CSNP, NESO is also developing other energy transition programmes:

- [Strategic Spatial Energy Planning](#)
- [Regional Energy Strategic Planning](#)

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with our handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days and quote the reference number at the top of this letter. You can find our procedure here: [Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations | National Energy System Operator](#). The ICO's website also provides guidance on the internal review process: [What to do if you are dissatisfied with the response | ICO](#).

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints. Alternatively, they can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the National Energy System Operator (NESO).

Regards,

The Information Rights Team, National Energy System Operator (NESO)

