

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Publication date:	3 February 2026
Contact:	Irina Dihanova
Team:	Major Projects – Large Transmission Project Delivery
Email:	MajorProjects.LTPD@ofgem.gov.uk

This document confirms our decision on the provision of Early Construction Funding (ECF) for the Norwich – Tilbury (AENC & ATNC) electricity transmission project. This decision is taken in line with National Grid Electricity Transmission’s (NGET) electricity transmission licence (the Licence), Special Condition (SpC) 3.41 ‘ Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable term (ASTIRt)’¹.

This document outlines our consultation position, the responses to the consultation, our view of the responses and our final position. This decision document and corresponding Statutory Decision Notice of Modification published alongside it confirms our decision to proceed to modify the SpC by adjusting the ASTIA term and allowances referenced in Appendix 1 of SpC 3.41.

¹ [NGET Electricity Transmission Licence Consolidated Special Conditions](#)

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

© Crown copyright 2026

The text of this document may be reproduced (excluding logos) under and in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence.

Without prejudice to the generality of the terms of the Open Government Licence, the material that is reproduced must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the document title of this document must be specified in that acknowledgement.

This publication is available at www.ofgem.gov.uk. Any enquiries regarding the use and re-use of this information resource should be sent to psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Contents

Executive summary.....	4
1. Context.....	6
2. Our assessment of NGET’s Early Construction Funding Request for Norwich to Tilbury	7
3. Consultation responses	14
4. Our decision	15

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Executive summary

In November 2025 we consulted on our minded-to position to adjust allowances (ASTIat) set out in the ASTI Confidential Annex that is referenced in Appendix 1 of Special Condition (SpC) 3.41 ‘ Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable term (ASTIRt)’².

The consultation was carried out under NGET’s electricity transmission licence (Part C: Early Construction Funding of SpC 3.41) to reflect the ECF request for the Norwich to Tilbury project (Network Options Assessment codes: AENC & ATNC). This project has been approved for inclusion in our ASTI framework because the network reinforcements it proposes are crucial for the safe, resilient and efficient transmission of electricity through the energy system. These reinforcements will also help alleviate constraint costs that fall on consumer energy bills. The needs case and benefits of these projects have been set out in NESO’s Network Options Assessment 2022³ and the Holistic Network Design⁴.

In our consultation we also included a statutory notice of our proposed modification to adjust the ASTIat term as referenced in Appendix 1 of SpC 3.41 to give effect to our minded-to position.

Decision

This document confirms our decision to adjust the allowances set out in Appendix 1 (ASTIat) of SpC 3.41 ‘ Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable term (ASTIat)’ in NGET’s electricity transmission licence to allow NGET’s ECF expenditure request. The term will have the value given in the corresponding updated version of the ASTI Confidential Annex issued to NGET.

As per Special Condition 3.41.8, the Authority hereby directs that the licence limitation for the ECF to not exceed 20% of the total forecast project cost listed in the ASTI Confidential Annex for Norwich - Tilbury project is not applicable for the reasons given in this licence modification decision.

We will also provide a summary of the views given within the responses to our consultation and our response to this feedback.

Next steps

In accordance with section 11A of the Electricity Act 1989, the licence modification will take effect 56 days after the publication of the decision to proceed with the modification. Based on our recent engagement with NGET, we expect an Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Project Assessment (ASTI PA) submission request in

² A copy of SpC 3.41 can be found in Annex II. We note that the number of the condition and relevant paragraphs may differ in the new price controls window starting 1 April 2026

³ [Network Options Assessment Refresh July 2022](#)

⁴ [A Holistic Network Design for Offshore Wind | National Energy System Operator](#)

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

2026. We will undertake a full cost assessment, including ECF costs, at the ASTI PA stage and will review the efficiency of ECF expenditure.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

1. Context

This document confirms our decision on NGET’s ECF request for the Norwich to Tilbury project. The consultation for this early construction funding was carried out in conjunction with consultations’ for NGET’s ECF request on projects with NOA code EDEU and the consolidated ECF request for projects with NOA codes GWNC, PTNO, PTC1, CGNC and EDN2. The licence changes set out in Annex II will also be reflective of all projects.

Chapter 2 includes a brief description of the project, NGET’s ECF application and our consultation minded-to position.

Chapter 3 summarises the responses to our consultation questions and our response to this feedback. We will also address the feedback that was out of scope of the consultation.

Chapter 4 sets out our decision following consideration of the consultation responses.

Alongside this decision, we are also publishing the amendments to SpC 3.41, which will give effect to our decision. In accordance with section 11A of the Electricity Act 1989, the licence modification will take effect 56 days after the publication of the decision to proceed with the modifications.

Related publications

NGET portfolio for six construction projects: Early Construction Funding Consultation (including Norwich to Tilbury): [NGET portfolio for six construction projects: Early Construction Funding | Ofgem](#)

Decision on accelerating onshore electricity transmission investment: [Decision on accelerating onshore electricity transmission investment | Ofgem](#)

Decision to modify the special licence conditions in the electricity transmission licences: Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment, Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submission Requirements Document: [Decision to modify the special licence conditions in the electricity transmission licences: Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment | Ofgem](#)

Decision-making stages

Stage 1 Consultation open:

Stage 2 Consultation closes. Deadline for responses:

Stage 3 Responses reviewed, and decision published: 03 February 2026

Stage 4 Licence modification takes effect 56 days after the publication of the licence modification decision

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

2. Our assessment of NGET’s Early Construction Funding Request for Norwich to Tilbury

The questions we consulted on were:

- Q1. Do you agree with our minded-to position set out in Chapter 3?
- Q2. Do you agree with our proposed modification to adjust ASTIAt in Appendix 1 of SpC 3.41?

Brief description of the project

- 2.1 The Norwich to Tilbury construction project is comprised of the Northeast Anglia (AENC) and Southeast Anglia (ATNC) reinforcements and was formerly progressed under the Large Onshore Transmission Investments (LOTI) re-opener. The project has been approved for inclusion in our ASTI framework because the network reinforcements it proposes are crucial for the safe, resilient, and efficient transmission of electricity through the energy system. These reinforcements will also help alleviate constraint costs that the consumer is currently billed for.
- 2.2 Norwich – Tilbury is part of a coordinated design of projects to create a regional solution to enable the efficient transmission of large volumes of power from the east of England. The needs case and benefits of both AENC and ATNC reinforcements have been set out in NESO’s Network Options Assessment 2021-22⁵ and the Holistic Network Design⁶. NESO’s Clean Power 2030 report⁷ further recommends that the Norwich - Tilbury project be accelerated in order to support Government targets of reaching clean power by 2030.
- 2.3 The Norwich to Tilbury project consists of the following:
- Approximately 180km of new 400kV electricity transmission connection from Norwich Main Substation to Tilbury Substation via Bramford Substation.
 - New East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) and Tilbury North 400kV Substations. The former is proposed to be an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation, and the latter to be a Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation.
 - Modification works to connect into the existing Norwich Main Substation and a substation extension at the existing Bramford Substation.
- 2.4 Approximately 159km of new overhead line (OHL) transported with approximately 509 pylons, which will either be standard steel lattice pylons, low height steel lattice pylons, or gantries.

⁵ [Network options assessment 2021-22](#)

⁶ [Holistic Network Design](#)

⁷ [NESO Clean Power 2030](#)

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

- Approximately 21km of 400kV underground cabling, partly located in the Dedham Vale National Landscape.
- Up to seven new Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) to connect the overhead lines to the underground cables.
- Modifications to the existing National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) OHL to facilitate the connection of the existing network into the new Tilbury North Substation in order to provide connection to the Tilbury Substation.

2.5 The project currently has an operational date of 2031, but the NOA identified its earliest in-service date as 2030⁸. NESO’s Clean Power 2030 report shows significant constraint costs in 2030 if the project is not accelerated⁹. NGET has committed to delivering the project as early as possible.

2.6 Our consultation noted that NGET had updated the cost estimate of the project and the new project forecast cost exceeds the original estimates from 2022. NGET has identified that this is due to inflationary and market constraint pressures as well as refining the detailed scope of the project since 2022. As the project has developed, NGET has adjusted the works required and the types of technology used to deliver its favoured solution. The efficiency of these costs will be tested at Project Assessment stage and was not within the scope of this consultation.

⁸ [Network Options Assessment Refresh 2021-22](#)

⁹ [NESO Clean Power 2030 Annex 2 - Networks, Connections and Network Access Analysis](#)

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

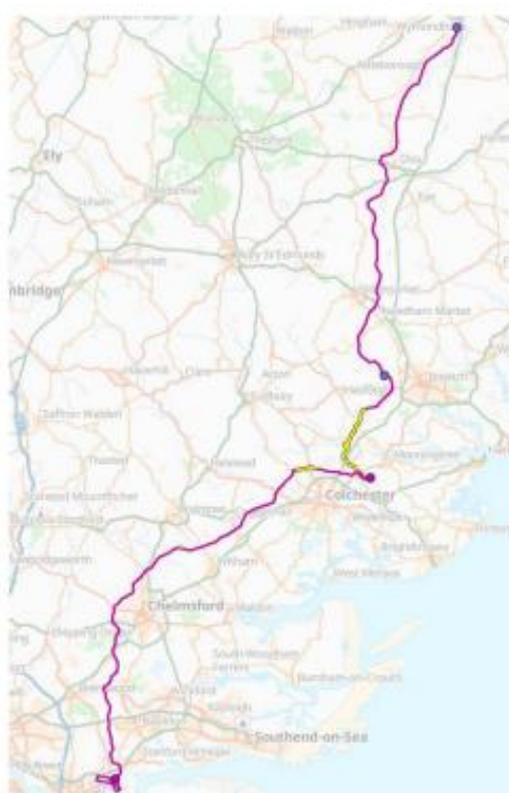


Figure 1: Proposed project route

ECF application

- 2.7 In September 2025, NGET made a consolidated application for ECF under Part C of SpC 3.41 of their licence to enable funding of early construction activities for the projects under NOA codes ATNC and AENC.
- 2.8 Ofgem has already approved ECF funding of up to 2.93% of the project cost as set out in NGET’s licence for the part of the project with the NOA code AENC¹⁰. No funding was previously granted for ATNC. The funding covered Front End Engineering Design (FEED), design and build works for the two new Norwich Tilbury bays to take advantage of synergies from interfacing customer connection works.
- 2.9 For the purposes of this ECF request, Ofgem has looked at the consolidated needs and associated costs for the full Norwich-Tilbury project, including both NOA codes. This is to help assess the need for these activities within the appropriate context and ensure that there is no duplication with previously

¹⁰ [Norwich Tilbury: Early Construction Funding decision | Ofgem](#)

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

awarded activities. Table 1 sets out the percentage requested for each NOA code and how this percentage would compare to the updated total project estimate.

Norwich Tilbury (AENC/ATNC)	Cumulative percentage of requested ECF, including previously approved ECF	Percentage requested in this ECF submission
Percentage of AENC against total project forecast cost as originally set out in the NGET licence	65.93%	63%
Percentage of ATNC against total project forecast cost as originally set out in the NGET licence	39%	39%
Percentage of the cumulative Norwich-Tilbury project against total project forecast cost as originally set out in the NGET licence	45.7%	45%
Percentage of the cumulative Norwich – Tilbury project based on updated cost estimates	23.2%	22.7%

Table 1: requested ECF percentage

2.10 In our consultation, we detailed the specific activities that NGET were requesting ECF funding to complete. These activities are:

Strategic land purchases

- Land purchase
- Easement and land options

Early Enabling Works

- Great Grid Partnership (GGP) early enabling works
- UK Power Network (UKPN) third-party utility diversions
- Openreach third-party utility diversions
- Road widening works

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

- Programme management resources
- Logistic and storage hubs

Early Procurement Commitments

- Haul road aggregate
- OHL structures, conductor and fittings
- Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)
- Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS)
- Protection and Control Systems
- Boundary Fencing
- HV Cable and Accessories

Other – costs associated with Biodiversity Net Gain requirement.

Consultation position

2.11 We consulted on our minded-to position to approve NGET’s full ECF application for the Norwich to Tilbury project.

2.12 The combined total ECF requested for Norwich-Tilbury following the present ECF request amounts to 45.7% of the total project cost as set out in NGET’s licence, which exceeds the ECF cap of 20%. When based on updated project estimates, the requested amount represents 23.2%. According to the ASTI Guidance, we may allow ECF in excess of 20% in exceptional circumstances where this is in the interest of the consumer and supports an accelerated delivery, and where there is evidence of sufficient consumer protections in place to minimise consumer exposure to non-recoverable costs.

2.13 We noted NGET’s explanation of the factors that have influenced the project’s total forecast cost since the projects’ inclusion in the ASTI framework. NGET has also advised that it has completed backchecks confirming similar or higher cost increases for strategic alternatives. We have not carried out efficiency checks to confirm the exact change in the project’s total cost – these will be carried out at PA stage.

2.14 Since the allowance requested exceeded the ECF cap, we considered whether it is appropriate to exceed the 20% allowance. We took into account the following factors:

- The percentage of the amount requested as based on the updated project forecast cost and the justification provided by NGET for the cost increase.
- The balance between the merits of carrying out the proposed activities early and the potential financial risk that the consumer would be taking.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

- The progress of the project to date and the level of certainty on design, route, etc.
- The strong needs case for the project and the significant savings in constraint payments that the consumer would gain if the project were accelerated to 2030.
- New legislative requirements, such as BNG, make it necessary to carry out additional activities early.
- Supply chain trends suggest more substantive payments may be required be made in advance relative to our expectations in 2022.

2.15 We also reviewed the activities requested for each category and arrived at the conclusion that all activities are eligible for the following reasons:

- **Strategic land purchase** – securing the land and the access to it early as per the DCO submission would provide cost certainty and the opportunity to reach voluntary agreements. This would prevent the need to re-design the project later on if the preferred sites were no longer available. NGET can therefore retain sufficient flexibility in finalising the design of the project and address relevant planning conditions that may come with the DCO decision. It would also allow NGET to access the sites and commence construction as soon as the relevant planning permissions are in place, potentially avoiding cost increases that might materialise as a result of delays.
- **Early Enabling Works** – the activities include surveys, design and early construction preparatory work that will allow NGET to mobilise for construction quickly if the project receives the relevant planning consents. These activities are essential for an efficient delivery schedule. Due to the scale and complexity of the project, NGET will need to coordinate with a great number of partners, contractors and third parties. ECF from this category will also be used to set up access routes and logistics and storage hubs, which would require separate planning permissions and will need to be functional before the main construction works can begin. All of these activities are expected to take a substantive amount of time and must begin early.
- **Early Procurement Commitments** – the items NGET intends to procure with funding from this category are in high demand globally and have long lead times. Procuring them early will be essential for the timely delivery of the project, ensuring the items are available when needed. It will also protect the consumer from price volatility or the need to pay a premium for orders to receive them quicker later on.
- **BNG-related costs under the “Other” category** - these relate to purchasing and setting up BNG units. These activities can help build a more efficient BNG strategy. Due to the scale of the BNG requirements associated with a project

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

as big as Norwich – Tilbury, we considered it beneficial for NGET to proactively take steps to address these requirements before competition for BNG units makes some options unavailable. Doing so can help accelerate the delivery of the project by enabling NGET to discharge relevant planning conditions quickly.

- The BNG-related activities are intended to support the set-up of an efficient holistic BNG strategy with multiple facets, so we considered it appropriate to authorise these costs under the category of “Other”.
- These types of activities were not anticipated at the time our ASTI Guidance was set up but where they can be beneficial for de-risking or accelerating project, we will consider their eligibility for early construction funding on a case-by-case basis for the respective category. We note we have approved BNG-related costs under “Early Enabling Works” for other projects where the specific activities proposed were more closely aligned with works that can enable the discharge of planning conditions. The more strategic approach to planning required for BNG related to Norwich – Tilbury meant it is more appropriate for BNG activities to be assessed in a separate category.

2.16 We also laid out the consumer protections that NGET has put in place for each activity as well as the rationale for carrying out these activities early and what the associated consumer benefits would be. NGET has committed to limiting consumer exposure to financial risk in the case of project cancellation by implementing the following:

- Re-sale of land or assets at market value
- Repurposing of agreements on land or assets for nearby projects
- Where re-sale or repurposing is not possible, NGET will seek to utilise structured instalment payments tied to milestones where payments can be stopped if the project is cancelled in order to minimise financial impact
- Where works have already been carried out, e.g. road widening, the cost may be partly recoverable from other projects

2.17 We stated our expectation that NGET would take reasonable steps to ensure timely and successful delivery of each project. Should any of the projects be cancelled, we expect NGET to ensure that consumer risks in every scenario are kept as low as practical, including through negotiations with its suppliers and strategic repurposing of assets and agreements to transfer those to other projects.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

3. Consultation responses

- 3.1 We received 3 consultation responses providing feedback relevant to all three consultations that were conducted concurrently. We welcome the diverse views expressed and thank respondents for their submissions and the time spent on them.
- 3.2 In the remainder of this section, we provide a summary of the responses and respond to views expressed in the submissions. No respondents have requested anonymity, and the responses are available on our website.
- 3.3 Safe Skies for Swans did not comment on the eligibility of the proposed activities for ECF funding but raised awareness on the potential impact of power lines on swans and other bird species. Their feedback proposed that all projects receiving early construction funding carry out an independent environmental impact assessment, which should feature an assessment of the skies as an environment. The response also proposed measures that National Grid should put in place to mitigate potential hazards to the health of swans and other birds resulting from contact with overhead lines.
- 3.4 We have shared this response with NGET and encouraged them to take this feedback and the accompanying briefing into account when considering the environmental impact of the project and the associated mitigating actions. NGET has informed us that their position on bird management is aligned to the protection of all wild bird species, their eggs and nests in law as per the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 3.5 The early construction funding mechanism has been set up to provide funding for permitted activities where these will be in the interest of the consumer, for example, by providing an opportunity for accelerated delivery. As an economic regulator, Ofgem would not be the appropriate authority to mandate or oversee specific requirements related to environmental impact. We can confirm that environmental surveys are considered an eligible activity for early construction funding under the Early Enabling Works category.
- 3.6 We received feedback from RWE, a generation developer, who supported Ofgem's minded-to-position to grant early construction funding. RWE highlighted the need for substantive expansion of the grid in order to facilitate the connection of renewable energy and agreed that early construction funding will be beneficial for the timely delivery of the projects under consultation. As a developer in related areas impacted by NGET's network enhancements, RWE provided a valuable insight about the projects' contribution to the wider energy system and confirmed that the activities NGET intends to carry out should be carried out early.
- 3.7 NGET also provided a response to our consultation and supported Ofgem's minded-to position. NGET confirmed its commitment to take all reasonable steps

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

to ensure timely and successful delivery of the project whilst keeping consumer risk as low as practicable.

4. Our decision

- 4.1 The capacity provided by the network upgrades proposed under the Norwich - Tilbury project will allow the system to operate in an economic and efficient manner. As identified in NESO's Network Options Assessment 2021-22¹¹ and the Holistic Network Design¹², Norwich - Tilbury is crucial for the safe, resilient, and efficient transmission of electricity through the energy system. These reinforcements will also help alleviate constraint costs that the consumer is currently billed for.
- 4.2 The importance of Norwich-Tilbury was further highlighted in NESO's CP2030 report¹³. NESO reported that accelerating the Norwich – Tilbury project up to 2030 would result in up to £2.8 billion in constraint cost savings for the consumer. The completion of the project will also contribute to achieving the government's net zero objectives. We therefore consider it to be in the consumers' interest for these reinforcements to progress at pace, subject to the relevant planning permissions being granted.
- 4.3 We maintain our consultation position that the activities identified by NGET fall within the ECF permitted activity categories as defined in our ASTI Guidance and NGET's licence.
- 4.4 We maintain our consultation position to approve ECF in excess of 20% ECF cap as set out in the ASTI Confidential licence. NGET's updated cost estimates for the project suggest that the level of ECF required to secure the supply chain would be likely to increase as well. In addition, NGET's more strategic approach to its BNG obligations have contributed to the higher ECF percentage due to the total cost of the activities that need to take place early in order to de-risk the project. We consider that the significant whole system impact of the project and the potential for substantial constraints savings if accelerated to 2030 indicate that it is in the consumers' interest to exceed the cap.
- 4.5 We are satisfied that NGET has put in place consumer protections for each activity and that consumer exposure to financial loss in the event of project cancellation would be minimised.
- 4.6 It is therefore our decision to approve NGET's full ECF request. Divided between the NOA codes, this will equate to amending the ECF allowance as follows:

¹¹ [Network options assessment 2021-22](#)

¹² [Holistic Network Design](#)

¹³ [NESO Clean Power 2030 Plan - Annex 2](#)

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

- 65.93% of the project value listed in the Confidential Annex for AENC
 - 39% of the project value listed in the Confidential Annex for ATNC
- 4.7 Taking into account previously approved ECF for Norwich – Tilbury, the combined ECF approved for the construction project will be 45.5% of the total AENC and ATNC value listed in the Confidential Annex. We note we expect this value to equate to 23.7% of the updated total project cost for Norwich - Tilbury.
- 4.8 Since the Norwich – Tilbury construction project is delivered under two NOA codes, that are captured separately with NGET’s licence, we expect NGET to allocate the appropriate portion of cost to each NOA code for activities that may serve both.
- 4.9 All costs will be subject to efficiency assessment at Project Assessment stage and only efficient costs will be considered recoverable. Any unspent allowance will be returned to the consumer.

Send us your feedback

We believe that consultation is at the heart of good policy development. We are keen to receive your comments about this decision. We would also like to get your answers to these questions:

- Do you have any comments about the quality of this document?
- Do you have any comments about its tone and content?
- Was it easy to read and understand? Or could it have been better written?
- Are its conclusions balanced?
- Did it make reasoned recommendations?
- Do you have any further comments?

Please send your feedback to stakeholders@ofgem.gov.uk.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Annex I: Notice of statutory consultation to modify SpC 3.41

To: National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc Electricity Act 1989 Section 11A(2)

Electricity Act 1989

Section 11A(1)(a)

Modification of the Special Condition (SpC) 3.41 of the electricity transmission licence held by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

1. National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc is the holder of an electricity transmission licence ('the Licence') granted or treated as granted under section 6(1)(b) of the Electricity Act 1989 ('the Act').
2. Under section 11A(2) of the Act, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority ('the Authority')^[1] gave notice on 14 November 2025 ('the Notice') that we propose to modify Special Condition (SpC) 3.41 'Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable term (ASTIRt)' of the Licence. We stated that any representations to the modification proposal must be made on or before 20 December 2025.
3. A copy of the Notice was sent to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 11A(4)(b) of the Act, and we have not received a direction that the change should not be made.
4. We received 3 responses to the Notice, which we carefully considered. We have published those on our website and addressed the feedback in our decision document.
5. We are making these licence change(s) because we are satisfied that NGET's Early Construction Funding (ECF) application:
 - a. has provided clear and convincing justification for exceeding the 20% threshold of total forecasted project cost as set by SpC 3.41.8 and have demonstrated the appropriate balance between assisting acceleration and protecting consumers from potentially excessive cost exposure in the unlikely event that the projects do not progress;
 - b. was pre-empted by a notice of NGET's intention to make the application under section 3.41.7 at least 8 weeks before NGET made the application; and
 - c. there is a clear justification for why it is in consumers' interests to provide funding for the proposed activities to take place ahead of our cost assessment as part of the Project Assessment (PA) process as the early construction activities will aid in accelerating project delivery and/or prevent potential cost increases.
7. The effect of the modification(s) will be to adjust the allowances contained in the ASTI Confidential Annex as referenced in Appendix 1 (ASTI Price Control

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Deliverable) of Special Condition 3.41 ‘ Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable term (ASTIAt)’ in NGET’s electricity transmission licence to allow NGET’s ECF expenditure application. The proposed modification will be reflected in what will become the latest version of the ASTI Confidential Annex.

8. For reasons of commercial sensitivity, details of the amended allowance are confidential but will be issued to NGET in the updated ASTI Confidential Annex. Therefore, with the exception of the ASTI Confidential Annex, a copy of the modification and other documents referred to in this notice have been published on our website (www.ofgem.gov.uk). Alternatively, they are available from information.rights@ofgem.gov.uk
9. Where an application for permission to appeal our decision is made to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) under section 11C of the Act, Rule 5.6 of the Energy Licence Modification Appeals: Competition and Markets Authority Rules ^[2] requires that the appellant must send to any relevant licence holders a non-sensitive notice setting out the matters required in Rule 5.2. The relevant licence holder in relation to this modification is National Grid Electricity Transmission. Section 11A(10) of the Act sets out the meaning of ‘relevant licence holder’.
10. As per Special Condition 3.41.8, the Authority hereby directs that the licence limitation for the ECF to not exceed 20% of the total forecast project cost listed in the ASTI Confidential Annex for the Norwich - Tilbury project (NOA codes AENC and ATNC) is not applicable for the reasons given in this licence modification decision.
11. Under the powers set out in section 11A(1)(a) of the Act, we hereby modify the Special Condition (SpC) 3.41 of the electricity transmission licence held by NGET in the manner specified below. This decision will take effect from 31 March 2026.
12. This document is notice of the reasons for the decision to modify the electricity transmission licence held by NGET as required by section 49A(2) of the Act.

Thomas Johns

Deputy Director of Major Projects Delivery

Duly authorised on behalf of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

3 February 2026

Annex II: Special Condition 3.41

Deletions are shown in strikethrough and new text is double underlined.

Special Condition 3.41 Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener and Price Control Deliverable term (ASTIR_t)

Introduction

- 3.41.1 The purpose of this condition is to specify the value of the term ASTIR_t (the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener term). This contributes to the calculation of the Totex Allowance.
- 3.41.2 The effect of this condition is to:
- (a) specify the ASTI Outputs, delivery dates and allowances for the Price Control Deliverable;
 - (b) establish a Re-opener for the licensee to apply for an adjustment to the ASTI Outputs, delivery dates and allowances in Appendix 1 and the Minimum circuit availability standard after delivery in Appendix 2;
 - (c) provide for an assessment of the Price Control Deliverable; and
 - (d) establish the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document.
- 3.41.3 This condition also sets out the process the Authority will follow when making changes to Appendix 1 as a result of the Re-opener.

Part A: Formula for calculating the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Re-opener term (ASTIR_t)

- 3.41.4 The value of ASTIR_t is derived in accordance with the following formula:

$$ASTIR_t = ASTIA_t - ASTIRA_t$$

where:

ASTIA_t means the allowances in Appendix 1; and

ASTIRA_t has the value zero unless otherwise directed by the Authority in accordance with Part G.

Part B: ASTI Outputs

- 3.41.5 The licensee must deliver the ASTI Outputs no later than 12 months after the delivery dates specified in Appendix 1.
- 3.41.6 After the ASTI Output has been delivered it must be operational and available for use by the ISOP for the period specified in Appendix 2 after application of the exclusions set out in Chapter 4 of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Part C: Early Construction Funding

- 3.41.7 The licensee may, in respect of any ASTI Output, apply for an Early Construction Funding decision to adjust $ASTIA_t$.
- 3.41.8 Unless the Authority directs otherwise, the aggregate allowances provided under paragraph 3.41.7 for any ASTI Output may not exceed 20% of the total forecast project cost listed in the ASTI Confidential Annex.
- 3.41.9 The licensee must notify the Authority in writing of its intention to make an application under 3.41.7 at least 8 weeks before making an application, unless the Authority directs otherwise.
- 3.41.10 A modification under this Part will be made under section 11A of the Act.

Part D: ASTI Project Assessment Decision

- 3.41.11 The licensee may, in respect of any ASTI, apply for an ASTI Project Assessment Decision and an associated modification of Appendices 1 and 2 to:
- (a) specify or amend an ASTI Output, a delivery date and associated allowances; and
 - (b) specify the minimum circuit availability standard after delivery for the relevant ASTI Output.
- 3.41.12 Unless the Authority otherwise directs, the licensee may only apply for an ASTI Project Assessment Decision after submission of all material planning consent applications.
- 3.41.13 A modification under this Part will be made under section 11A of the Act.

Part E: ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event

- 3.41.14 The licensee may apply for a modification to the ASTI Outputs and allowances in Appendix 1 where it considers that there has been one or more ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event.
- 3.41.15 The licensee may only apply under this Part to modify allowances in Appendix 1 where:
- (a) expenditure has been caused to increase or decrease by at least the percentage specified in, or in accordance with, paragraph 3.41.17, calculated before the application of the Totex Incentive Strength, relative to the relevant allowance in Appendix 1 by the event or if there has been more than one event:
 - i. by each event;
 - ii. if the Authority has directed that the events in relation to the relevant ASTI Output should count cumulatively towards the percentage threshold; and

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

- (b) the increase or decrease in expenditure is expected to be efficiently incurred or saved.
- 3.41.16 The licensee may apply under this Part to modify the ASTI Outputs in Appendix 1 only where there is a material change to the scope of the relevant ASTI project.
- 3.41.17 The percentage referred to in paragraph 3.41.15(a) is:
 - (a) 5%; or
 - (b) such other percentage as the Authority may specify by direction.
- 3.41.18 An application under this Part must be made in writing and must:
 - (a) include detailed supporting evidence that an ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event meeting the requirements set out in paragraphs 3.41.15, or where applicable 3.41.16, has occurred;
 - (b) set out the modifications requested to the ASTI Outputs or associated allowances in Appendix 1;
 - (c) explain the basis of the calculation for any proposed modification to the allowances in Appendix 1, which must be designed to keep, so far as is reasonably practicable, the financial position and performance of the licensee the same as if the ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event had not occurred; and
 - (d) include a statement from a technical adviser, who is external to and independent from the licensee, whether, considered in the context of the value of the ASTI Output, the proposed modification to the ASTI Output or associated allowances fairly reflects the effects of the ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event.
- 3.41.19 The Authority may make a modification under this Part where:
 - (a) there has been an application under this Part;
 - (b) there has been an ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event in relation to the relevant ASTI;
 - (c) the requirements of paragraphs 3.41.14 to 3.41.18, where applicable, have been met; and
 - (d) the proposed modifications to Appendix 1 have the effect so far as is reasonably practicable of keeping the financial position and performance of the licensee the same as if the ASTI Cost And Output Adjusting Event had not occurred.
- 3.41.20 A modification under this Part will be made under section 11A of the Act.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Part F: Modification of delivery date in Appendix 1 further to an ASTI ODI Penalty Exemption Period decision or ASTI ODI Target Date decision under Part B of Special Condition 4.9 (Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment output delivery incentive)

3.41.21 The Authority will modify the delivery dates in Appendix 1 where it decides under Part B of Special Condition 4.9 (Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment output delivery incentive) to make a modification to the ASTI ODI Penalty Exemption Period or ASTI ODI Target Date in Appendix 1 of Special Condition 4.9.

3.41.22 A modification under this Part will be made under section 11A of the Act.

Part G: Assessment of the Price Control Deliverable (ASTIR_t)

3.41.23 The Authority will, in accordance with the assessment principles set out in Part A of Special Condition 9.3 (Price Control Deliverable assessment principles and reporting requirements), consider directing a value for ASTIR_t where the licensee has not Fully Delivered an output in Appendix 1.

Part H: What process will the Authority follow in making a direction?

3.41.24 Before making a direction under Part G the Authority will publish on the Authority's Website:

- (a) the text of the proposed direction;
- (b) the reasons for the proposed direction; and
- (c) a period during which representations may be made on the proposed direction, which will not be less than 28 days.

3.41.25 A direction in respect of Part G will set out:

- (a) the delivery status of the ASTI Output that has not been Fully Delivered;
- (b) the value of the ASTIR_t term and the Regulatory Years to which that adjustment relates; and
- (c) the methodology and data that has been used to decide the delivery status and value of any adjustments to the ASTIR_t term.

Part I: Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document

3.41.26 The licensee must comply with the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document.

3.41.27 The Authority will issue and amend the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document by direction.

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

- 3.41.28 The Authority will publish the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document on the Authority's Website.
- 3.41.29 The Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document will make provision about the detailed requirements for Parts C, D, E and F.
- 3.41.30 The Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document will also make provision about the detailed requirements under Special Condition 3.40 (ASTI Pre-Construction Funding Re-opener, Price Control Deliverable and Use It Or Lose It Adjustment) and Special Condition 4.9 (ASTI output delivery incentive).
- 3.41.31 Before directing that the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document comes into effect, the Authority will publish on the Authority's Website:
- (a) the text of the proposed Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document;
 - (b) the date on which the Authority intends the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document to come into effect; and
 - (c) a period during which representations may be made on the text of the proposed Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document, which will not be less than 28 days.
- 3.41.32 Before directing an amendment to the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document, the Authority will publish on the Authority's Website:
- (a) the text of the amended Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document;
 - (b) the date on which the Authority intends the amended Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document to come into effect;
 - (c) the reasons for the amendments to the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document; and
 - (d) a period during which representations may be made on the amendments to the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment Guidance and Submissions Requirements Document, which will not be less than 28 days.

Appendix 1

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

ASTI Price Control Deliverable

ASTI Output	Delivery Date	Allowance (ASTIA_t, £m)	ECF/PA
New 400 kV double circuit in north East Anglia (NOA Code: AENC)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF
New 400 kV double circuit in south East Anglia (NOA Code: ATNC)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
New 400 kV double circuit between Bramford and Twinstead (NOA Code: BTNO)	31 December 2029	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	
New 400 kV double circuit between Creyke Beck and the south Humber (NOA Code: CGNC)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
Eastern subsea HVDC link from Torness to Hawthorn Pit (NOA Code: E2DC)	31 December 2028	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	
Eastern Scotland to England link: Peterhead to Drax offshore HVDC (NOA Code: E4D3)	31 December 2030	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF
Eastern Scotland to England 3rd link: Peterhead to the south Humber offshore HVDC (NOA Code: E4L5)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	PA

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

400 kV upgrade of Brinsworth to Chesterfield double circuit and Chesterfield to High Marnham double circuit. New High Marnham and Chesterfield 400 kV substations (NOA Code: EDEU)	31 December 2029	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
New Chesterfield to <u>Willington</u> Ratcliffe-on-Soar 400 kV double circuit (NOA Code: EDN2)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
New 400 kV double circuit between the south Humber and south Lincolnshire (NOA Code: GWNC)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
Uprate Hackney, Tottenham and Waltham Cross 275 kV to 400 kV (NOA Code: HWUP)	31 December 2028	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF
New 400 kV double circuit between the existing Norton to Osbaldwick circuit and Poppleton and relevant 275 kV upgrades (NOA Code: OPN2)	31 December 2028	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF
Pentir to Trawsfynydd cable replacement (NOA Code: PTC1)	31 December 2029	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
North Wales reinforcement (NOA Code: PTNO)	31 December 2030	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	<u>ECF</u>
New Offshore HVDC link between Suffolk and Kent option 1 (NOA Code: SCD1)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

Eastern subsea HVDC Link from east Scotland to south Humber area (NOA Code: TGDC)	31 December 2031	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF
Tilbury to Grain and Tilbury to Kingsnorth upgrade (NOA Code: TKRE)	31 December 2029	Have the values given in the ASTI Confidential Annex.	ECF

Appendix 2

ASTI Output availability standard

ASTI Output	0-6m	6-12m	12-24m
New 400 kV double circuit in north East Anglia (NOA Code: AENC)			
New 400 kV double circuit in south East Anglia (NOA Code: ATNC)			
New 400 kV double circuit between Bramford and Twinstead (NOA Code: BTNO)			
New 400 kV double circuit between Creyke Beck and the south Humber (NOA Code: CGNC)			
Eastern subsea HVDC link from Torness to Hawthorn Pit (NOA Code: E2DC)			
Eastern Scotland to England link: Peterhead to Drax offshore HVDC (NOA Code: E4D3)			
Eastern Scotland to England 3rd link: Peterhead to the south Humber offshore HVDC (NOA Code: E4L5)			
400 kV upgrade of Brinsworth to Chesterfield double circuit and Chesterfield to High Marnham double			

Norwich – Tilbury (AENC/ATNC) - Decision on Early Construction Funding and Modification to special conditions of the electricity transmission licence

<p>circuit. New High Marnham and Chesterfield 400 kV substations (NOA Code: EDEU)</p>			
<p>New Chesterfield to <u>Willington</u> Ratcliffe-on-Soar 400 kV double circuit (NOA Code: EDN2)</p>			
<p>New 400 kV double circuit between the south Humber and south Lincolnshire (NOA Code: GWNC)</p>			
<p>Uprate Hackney, Tottenham and Waltham Cross 275 kV to 400 kV (NOA Code: HWUP)</p>			
<p>New 400 kV double circuit between the existing Norton to Osbaldwick circuit and Poppleton and relevant 275 kV upgrades (NOA Code: OPN2)</p>			
<p>Pentir to Trawsfynydd cable replacement (NOA Code: PTC1)</p>			
<p>North Wales reinforcement (NOA Code: PTNO)</p>			
<p>New Offshore HVDC link between Suffolk and Kent option 1 (NOA Code: SCD1)</p>			
<p>Eastern subsea HVDC Link from east Scotland to south Humber area (NOA Code: TGDC)</p>			
<p>Tilbury to Grain and Tilbury to Kingsnorth upgrade (NOA Code: TKRE)</p>			

^[1] The terms “the Authority”, “we” and “us” are used interchangeably in this document.

^[2] CMA70 [Energy licence modification appeals rules: CMA70 - GOV.UK](#)