

# Impact of the outcome of the Early Opportunities workstream on investment needs in East Anglia

## Impacts of Early Opportunities on transmission reinforcements

Following the conclusion of the Early Opportunities workstream (and finalisation of associated decisions around connection of the relevant offshore windfarms), the ESO will undertake an analysis of the implications for the transmission system in East Anglia and beyond.

Proposals for transmission reinforcements in East Anglia currently include:

- upgrading of the existing circuits;
- a new circuit from Bramford to Twinstead (under construction);
- planned HVDC offshore link from Sizewell to Richborough (SeaLink); and
- a new circuit from Norwich to Tilbury, via a new substation at Clacton (East Anglia Green).

The Early Opportunities workstream is considering the interaction of connections for two Offshore Windfarms (Five Estuaries and North Falls), two interconnectors (Eurolink and Nautilus), and the planned SeaLink transmission network reinforcement. The outcome of the Early Opportunities workstream therefore may have implications for the requirement for, or design of, the other three transmission reinforcements listed above.

### Outline Scope

The analysis will:

- Examine if the changes in connections alter the requirements for any of the planned reinforcements
- Identify other options that could address these changed requirements including consideration of offshore routes
- Assess the relative merits of the options
- Benchmark the costs of options against those in other projects across Britain and internationally

### Methodology

The assessment of the options / alternatives will use the same criteria as utilised in the Holistic Network Design which includes cost to consumers; deliverability and operability; impact on the environment and impact on local communities.

The alternative transmission reinforcement options will be developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (provision of designs, costs and timelines) and will include onshore and offshore options that meet the required network need.

### Timeline

We expect to have preliminary results from our analysis after approximately three months.