

Sherston Parish Council is objecting to part of the Change Application submitted on 24 June 2026.

Change 3: Update to the Works Plans to allow more flexibility in the detailed design of the interconnecting underground cable alignment.

We urge the examining authority not to accept this change .

The change document submitted by the applicant is characteristically vague but effectively asks for blanket approval to put cabling of 132kV anywhere in the zone to the south of Commonwood Lane. This is an extremely large area very close to the heart of Sherston. The applicant is demanding more freedom and less accountability through the changes it proposes. The land in question contains many used and loved footpaths and bridleways. Unless the applicant is made to give details of its routing, it is impossible to judge the impact of these changes. There is an obvious danger that a change in the routing of such large cables through this area could cause even more disruption and long term damage than originally indicated, and would bring the noise and disruption from the work closer to the heart of Sherston village. Such changes could cause irrevocable harm to the footpaths and bridleways and overall quality of the land affected.

In previous communications with Sherston PC, the IGP stated, "The proposed change does not represent an increase in the amount of 132kV cabling proposed as part of the Scheme, nor does it increase the assessed effects of the development. Rather, the change provides additional flexibility within the Order Limits for the routing and installation of both interconnecting cables up to 132kV and lower voltage onsite cabling."

This might well be true but it is impossible to verify unless IGP is forced to give concrete details of the changed route it wishes to use. Before any change is accepted by the examining authority, such details should be put forward. Their original plans were obviously flawed, and the question should be asked as to how such a company can be trusted to comply with the requirements that are made if they continue to redefine their proposal.

It seems to be a recurring pattern of the applicant that they bombard the examining authority with demands of changes to their plan which give them increasingly more freedom and residents and the examining authority increasingly less oversight. This is surely not the right approach and is certainly not in the interest of the countryside around Sherston nor its residents.