

This was the speech given at the Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) . [REDACTED]

*Good afternoon,
My name is Sue Laws, and I live in Great Moulton.*

Five years ago, we moved to Norfolk and invested our life savings on our property and were looking forward to retirement surrounded by the quiet, beautiful countryside.

Instead, we now find ourselves potentially sitting amongst acres of solar panels, battery storage sites, and right on the boundary of the proposed National Grid Sub Station. (Site 1)

Today I'd like to talk about a cost that cannot be measured on a spreadsheet: that is the severe toll this project is having on our mental health and wellbeing.

For months, we have lived under a cloud of uncertainty. The retirement we saved for, and the home we love, have been transformed into a source of constant anxiety.

We are not just facing the loss of countryside and prime agricultural land; we are facing the loss of our peace of mind.

Living with the threat of this massive industrial development right on our doorstep has caused widespread distress.

Many of us are experiencing [REDACTED], sleep loss, and a deep sense of dread regarding years of disruptive construction traffic, noise, and dust.

Our countryside is not just empty space. It is our sanctuary. For me personally, horse riding through these quiet country lanes is exactly how I find peace and manage my well-being.

But if this project goes ahead, horse riding here will become completely unsafe. Heavy construction vehicles, industrial noise, and high security fencing will turn our peaceful hacking routes into a high-risk environment. Horses are flight animals; forcing them onto roads shared with industrial traffic is an accident waiting to happen.

The applicants look at these maps and see a money-making project.

We look at these maps and see the destruction of our countryside. The mental health suffering in this community is real, it is happening right now, and it will only worsen if this is scheme is approved.

I urge the Inspectorate to look beyond the steel and solar panels, and remember to consider and protect the safety, well-being, and minds of the people who actually live here.

I would also request that the planning inspectorate visit our property to see the reality of the siting of the substation, rather than just looking at a jigsaw of maps.

Thank you.

Action from that OFH1,

1. I request a site visit so that the Inspectorate can see in person just how close the nation grid sub-station will sit in relation to our property and the proximity to byways, footpaths etc.
2. I attach a map of the roads and byways that are regularly ridden on my horse.

In addition, I would like to refer the inspectorate to Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, NGED has a duty, when formulating relevant proposals to install overhead and underground electricity line and to undertake works on the operation and maintenance of the electricity distribution system, to:

- have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty;
 - conserve flora, fauna, and geological or physiographical features of special interest;
 - protect sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest.
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- NGED recognise that climate change and biodiversity loss are interconnected and as such we are developing a Biodiversity Strategy that aims for No Net Loss in biodiversity for all large capital projects consented from 2024 onwards, and Biodiversity Net Gain from 2026 onwards.

If the Electricity act 1989 is to be followed then the proposed National Grid sub-station would never be approved at site 1 Great Moulton as there will be no conserve of any of the things mentioned above.



PROPOSED
NATIONAL GRID STATION.