



25th September 2025

Addressed to: to Planning Inspectorate (NorwichToTilbury@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

To Whom it may concern,

Boxted Parish Council (BPC) are writing to express our concern at deficiencies in the consultation process for the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon project and the subsequent submission of the associated Development Consent Order (DCO).

Boxted, as a parish is entirely bisected by the proposed transmission route, with pylons projected to cross open and exposed agricultural land, blighting views on multiple routes into and from the village. This damage is made worse by the fact that either side of our parish the route is underground. It is an insult to injury for the parish that the line should “pop up” above ground just to cross our parish (and Langham) before heading back underground. There is also the additional blight of infrastructure related to a cable-end sealing compound.

Boxted parish borders and in places includes the Dedham Vale National Landscape (DVNL), we are very proud to be associated with this area of natural beauty and feel responsible to protect it. We therefore have strongly objected to any development that threatens this sensitive space. Regardless of whether the cables are strung up on pylons, or underground, the impact on the DVNL is unacceptable and a route that crosses such an area of special designation should never have even been considered, let alone committed to paper. The construction and existence of any transmission line through this landscape will cause material harm that cannot be fully mitigated and that will scar this landscape long beyond the usable life of this infrastructure. The consultation in this case offered no alternative as this route had already been preferred by the applicant due to the predetermined site of the Ardleigh substations and interconnector.

The primary purpose of this letter is to attest that the process conducted by National Grid fell far short of a valid consultation and has clearly failed to meet the standards set out in the Gunning Principles. Legitimacy and transparency have been lacking, as there was no consultation at the formative stage, and no evidence of the consideration of any material concerns about the overall scheme and its justification. Small amendments and deviations were considered and applied between different stages, but the applicant has stuck firmly to their first route offering and not considered any alternative technologies that could mitigate concerns. Lack of engagement in non-statutory consultations was misrepresented as support for the scheme, when all that it evidenced was the applicant’s inability to sufficiently publicise and make available the consultation to all members of the affected communities. The locations and times of all consultation events (both non- and statutory) were highly unsuitable for most residents of working age or with families, and concerns were raised about the accessibility of several sites for those with specific mobility requirements.

For these reasons and many others, this project has failed to meet the adequacy of consultation test under the Planning Act 2008. Because both the Gunning Principles and the Planning Act test are part of the same standard, acceptance of the project in its current form would undermine both statutory requirements and the fundamental principles of public participation in the planning process.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Jonathan Hunt
On behalf of Boxted Parish Council