

26th January 2026

REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam at the planning inspectorate,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed National Grid pylon route between Norwich and Tilbury, which directly crosses my farm and involves the construction of two pylons on productive agricultural land.

The scale of land loss and restriction is significant. Approximately one third of the farm would fall within the pylon corridor, resulting in substantial disruption during construction and permanent limitations on land use thereafter. This will severely affect the onward farming of the land, as manoeuvring machinery and managing crops around large permanent structures will be considerably more difficult.

The construction process itself will damage soils, crops, and existing infrastructure. Access to fields for routine crop maintenance will be restricted, leading to lost yields and revenue on a farm already operating under financial pressure. There is no clear right of way provided to access three affected fields, which further compromises their viability. As a mixed farm, this also removes the ability to grow straw for the dairy operation, directly affecting the economics of livestock production by increasing reliance on purchased feed and bedding. An additional cost which is currently not needed.

The fields contain established land drainage systems. Any damage to these during construction risks rendering drainage ineffective on either side of the pylons, with long-term consequences for soil quality, crop productivity, and farm viability.

There are also serious environmental and ecological concerns. The proposed route follows a known ancient deer corridor between Gipping and Thornham Woods and passes through an area supporting buzzards, red kites, and owls. In addition, several mature oak trees present since at least 1885 and historically significant enough to be recorded on early maps are threatened by the development.

Public access will be adversely affected. The farm contains a number of well-used public footpaths, and their closure or diversion during construction will disrupt walkers and the local community for an extended period, reducing opportunities for outdoor exercise and negatively affecting the physical health and mental wellbeing of those who rely on these routes.

The financial compensation proposed does not reflect the reality of the losses incurred. A one-off payment of approximately £8,000 per pylon does not correspond to the lifetime loss of productive farmland, reduced flexibility, and ongoing operational costs imposed on the business.

Beyond the farm itself, the visual impact of the pylons is severe and will negatively affect the rural landscape, local house prices, and quality of life. There are also ongoing concerns within the community regarding potential health impacts of living near high-voltage infrastructure.

The route further affects local transport, as it crosses key routes used by residents to access doctors, services, and amenities, creating additional disruption during construction.

Finally, communication around this project has been poor. Engagement has focused narrowly on seeking consent rather than transparently explaining the wider impacts, timelines, and long-term consequences for those affected.

Taken together, these issues represent a substantial and lasting negative impact on the farm, the environment, and the wider community. I respectfully ask that these concerns are given serious consideration and that alternative routing or solutions are explored.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian Knock