

I have submitted my objections and I am horrified that the landowners are not listened to. Licences Agreements signed with National Grid have not been observed and no one wants to take responsibility. Ecologists and surveyors have not completed their work satisfactorily and their reports have not been handed to the landowner as per the Licence agreements. There will be devastation of veteran trees on our property, some of which were not even acknowledged by the surveyors. Please read all my attachments and see what is in peril with the proposal.

**NOTES FROM WALK AROUND WITH RICHARD FROST, SUFFOLK TREE WARDENS ON 12.07.25
OF TREES UNDER THREAT OF DESTRUCTION FROM NG NORWICH TO TILBURY PYLON LINE
AT HILL FARM, LOWER SOMERSHAM, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK. IP8 4PU**



I invited [REDACTED] to visit the farm, and look at the following trees, which we consider are all of significance and are irreplaceable. They will be recorded as part of the Ancient Tree Inventory. Their significance is that they are established mature healthy old trees, with several displaying veteran features, including insect bore holes, hollowing in trunks and the beginning stages of canopy



retrenchment, adding to the biodiversity of the area.

All these trees are threatened by a bulldozer or like to make way for the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Line.

Tree numbers 1 – 6 all make up a traditional tree lined woodland

track leading to the Cottage Barn. At the end of the avenue of trees, as illustrated above there is an owl box which is in use and situated in an old twin ash tree.

Tree 1 – Pollarded Oak

References 52.095914 1.015503

3.1m circumference.

No signs of fungi or bore holes.

Evidence of die back – retrenchment – a natural way for the tree to regenerate.

Traditionally oak trees have been pollarded for management of the tree and their timber, which has been used in the construction of buildings and ships. The Grade II farm house and farm buildings all have oak timbers, which could have been from this very tree. These trees are a part of rural history.





Tree 2 –
Pollarded Oak
with broken
branches due to
die back.
References
52.095947
1.015150
4.5 m
circumference.
Phoenix oaks
can be seen
growing from
fallen branches.
Bore holes are
signs of beetle
activity.
This tree was
used for bat
surveys by the
NG ecologists,
but no one was



able to confirm whether there had been any bat activity. Bats are a regular sight on the farm feeding off the insects at dusk.



Tree 3 – Maiden
Oak and
hollowed.
References
52.095882
1.014941
4.2m
circumference.

Over the years,
this hollow has
been used by
foxes and their
young.

On the trunk
moss and lichen
can be seen
growing. There
are also bore
holes showing
invertebrate
activity.



Tree 4 – Twin Ash - References 52.095859 1.015188
3.65m circumference.
Moss and lichen on the base and bore holes.



Tree 5 – Oak - References 52.096004 1.014883
3m circumference. Retrenchment mid canopy.
Many magnificent burrs can be seen.



Tree 6 – Tri-Oak
References 52.095972 1.014469
4.20m circumference at forks.
Bore holes, with ivy growing along with mosses and lichen.

The ivy is a favourite for the bees and other pollinating insects to enjoy during late summer. There are several bee hives on the farm, managed by the young farmer and his friend.

Whilst we were surveying the track we disturbed a colony of wasps.

This track has been left to grow wild, or “regenerate” to support the diverse natural habitat. Something, as a farming family, we have been proud to do for the benefit of future generations, as we are only custodians of this green and pleasant land.



This tree line will also disappear under the bulldozers to make way for the pylons, along with the beautifully natural shaped oak that is in the distance. Here are included tree numbers 7 and 8.



Tree 7 – Pollarded Oak
 References 52.097442 1.012418
 2.55m circumference.
 This has been home to a goose that has nested there for several years.

Tree 8 – Forked Ash
 References 52.097468 1.012412
 3.66m circumference at forks.
 Bore holes.

All the trees, numbers 1 to 8, above provide a valuable habitat for the wildlife and will be lost forever.

There is also a traditional thick hedge, seen below. It is approximately 2.5 m high and a metre deep, with a diverse range of species such as field maple, blackthorn, oaks, dog rose and old apple trees that will also be lost. The headland has been left for natural regeneration, seeing wildflowers grow, again supporting insects and butterflies. Along side this is an area of wild bird cover, to encourage and promote the flora and fauna on the farm. The wild bird cover will be destroyed and replaced with a ?50m pylon. In the fields are skylark plots, which has successfully seen an increase of this species. Close by is a pond containing great crested newts. Hares take advantage of these fields. Badgers also enjoy feeding off the apples, as well as the corn and whatever else they can scavenge.

The other side of the hedge is an old meadow. In this field there are anthills which are an important indicator of biodiversity, as they show that the land hasn't been tilled or disturbed for many decades. They make it difficult for machinery though, so are normally only seen in grazed orchards and meadows. The life cycle of the chalk hill blue butterfly depends on the ants that make these mounds.



I shall apply to have Tree Preservation Orders placed on the above trees, along with a request to Natural England for the track leading to Cottage Barn be designated as a Priority Habitat Inventory.

How can veteran, healthy oak trees, some showing ancient tree characteristics: hollowing; retrenchment and invertebrate bore holes be replaced? Their unique gene pool is under threat, unless I can gather acorns and try to grow trees from these.

We are lucky to have healthy mature ash trees, that seem to be resistant to the ash dieback disease which has devastated ash trees in the country. The loss of these resistant ash trees may reduce the chances of a healthy ash population regenerating in the locality.

Thick hedgerows take decades to grow and develop as a habitat for countless flora and fauna. These traditional hedgerows, once common place are now a rarity in the countryside.

Replanting 8 trees and a few hedging plants, which may not be at the optimum time of year, that will then need maintaining will in no way begin to replace the generations of natural history, resulting in the ongoing and increasing maturity of biodiverse fauna and flora, all that are illustrated here and could be annihilated in seconds. I consider it to be an insult! This threat of damage to the farm, it's treescape and biodiversity is a long term and damaging traumatic experience for the family, which is now in it's third generation, this proposal has already caused considerable anxiety. It has taken centuries of careful and sympathetic farming practices to create this level of biodiversity.

I was very grateful to [REDACTED], a Suffolk Tree Warden visiting, witnessing and understanding the effects of the proposed pylon installation on existing trees, hedgerows and the wider diversity, including soils and life below and above ground, the landscape and impact on residents. Sharing his knowledge with my son and I has been invaluable in understanding the greater implications on nature of this proposed development.

Sarah Beevers

[REDACTED]

July 2025

HILL FARM, LOWER SOMERSHAM – SIGHTS



Hill Farm

Lower Somersham, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Telephone No: 01 473 658 662

Owned by:



***Information for Educational Groups
Secondary, Post Compulsory and Leisure Learning***

CONTENTS

	Page
Section A – Introduction	1
The Farm & CSS	2
Section B – Hill Farm Site Map	3
The Orchards	4
Section C – Site History	5
Section D – Landscape specific activities	7
Section E – Things to remember when visiting the Countryside	13
Section F - General countryside activities	15
Section G – Teacher resources	17
Appendix 1 – References	19
Appendix 2 – Booking Form	20
Appendix 3 – Evaluation Form	21



SECTION A - INTRODUCTION

Background information

This educational pack has been written to:

- Aid and encourage educational access on Hill Farm.
- Promote the use of the countryside as an area of enjoyment and study for all to appreciate.

There is considerable support available from a number of organizations to help link education with the countryside.

“The Growing Schools Programme was launched by Catherine Ashton, Minister for Schools, in September 2001 and is supported by a £500,000 fund from the Department of Education and Skills (DfES). The initiative aims to increase pupils’ interest and involvement in outdoor education using farms and growing as a resource.” (<http://www.schoolsgarden.org.uk/growingschools> 15.04.02)

In a National Farmers’ Union (NFU) Press Release dated 09.07.01 *“Farming and Countryside Education – FACE aims to raise students’ agricultural awareness by turning the countryside into a classroom. It was welcomed by Lord Whitty, Minister for food and farming for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs...”* (<http://www.nfu.org.uk/pr/4019959> 22.04.02)

In Section G – Teacher resources, there is an extensive list of organizations that provide learning packs, information, competitions and projects to create a better understanding of the agricultural industry and the countryside. Contained in this pack are a few examples of materials available.

In some cases there is financial assistance in the form of grants available. For example visits arranged through the Suffolk Farms Link Project can apply for funding from the Chadacre Trust for help with transport costs.

The farm

Hill Farm is owned by [REDACTED] and has been in the family for thirty years. The farm is 80 acres (32.37 hectares), of which 60 acres (24.28 hectares) is arable and 20 acres (8.09 hectares) is a mixture of pasture and orchards.

Hill Farm is located approximately 7 miles north west of Ipswich in the village of Lower Somersham on the road to Elmsett, close to the towns of Hadleigh and Needham Market. Grid Reference TL067485

The arable land is farmed on a contract farming agreement with a neighbouring farmer. The farm grows combinable crops such as winter wheat (for premium biscuit flour) and oilseed rape (for margarine oil).

The grassland and two old farmhouse orchards are used for sheep pasture and conservation of the natural habitat.

[REDACTED] is from a long established farming family and is very keen to conserve the countryside for future generations to enjoy. Hence the desire to join the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS), which is managed by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)

In 1991 the Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency) introduced the CSS as a pilot scheme. The aim was to ascertain whether a system of discretionary payments could achieve a broad range of environmental objectives. The scheme was a success and in April 1996 it was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (now DEFRA). Further information about the scheme is available from DEFRA.

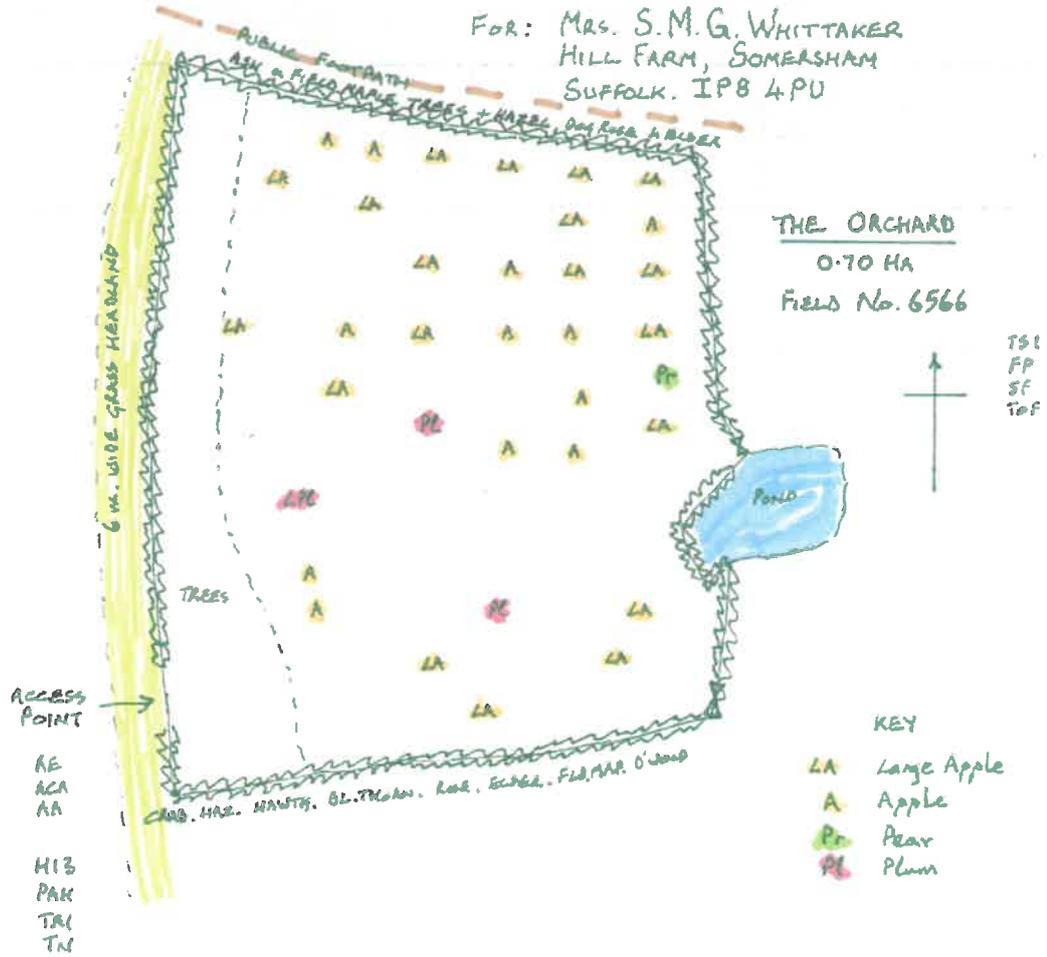
NFU (National Farmers Union) Deputy President [REDACTED] in a Press Release dated 18.04.02 said at the 10th Anniversary of the CSS *"The scheme responds to farmers instinctive concern to care for and improve the countryside in which they live and work."* (<http://www.nfu.org.uk/pr/4025647> 22.04.02)

Educational Access is just one part of this scheme that Hill Farm is involved in. See Section G for further information about DEFRA and NFU.

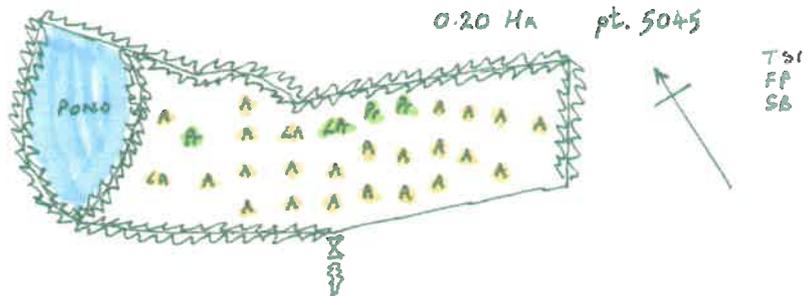
The Orchards

PLANS OF TWO ORCHARDS INCLUDED IN AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID WITHIN THE COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME.

FOR: MRS. S.M.G. WHITTAKER
HILL FARM, SOMERSHAM
SUFFOLK. IP8 4PU



COTTAGE BARN ORCHARD
0.20 HA pt. 5045



SCALE $\frac{1}{10}$ = 2m.





SECTION C - SITE HISTORY

For centuries the area both on and around the farm, has been a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland areas.

There is evidence that there were both Iron Age and Roman activities in this area. Pre-Roman and Roman artefacts have been found on the farm as well as pottery. The remains have been given to the Ipswich Museum.

The village next to Somersham is Offton and according to legend is named after Offa, King of Mercia. There is a footpath leading from Hill Farm to Offton Castle Farm, which was the site of Offa's castle. Unfortunately all that remains of the castle is the mound. The footpath then links to the road and can be made into a very nice circular walk of the area, stopping off at a local pub for refreshment depending on timing.

In the middle ages there was wide spread felling of woodland, to make way for fields to grow food to support the ever growing population.

In Offton there is an old disused lime quarry and kiln. Lime was extracted from the ground, then heated in a kiln to change its composition so that it could be used as a combining agent in mortar and plaster. This was probably used in the buildings at Hill Farm.

The Monks of Thetford owned part of the farm and Bishop Andrew's Charity owned two of the fields until 1921, these were sold to [REDACTED] who then handed the farm over to his daughter, who sold up in 1972 to [REDACTED]

Hill Farm is quite unusual in that it has survived with just 80 acres. Finances did necessitate odd fields to be sold by the previous owners. Interestingly the field sizes have all remained the same size, with their original hedges attracting the wildlife. These fields are considerably smaller than the neighbours' fields, in actual fact one neighbouring field is larger than all of Hill Farm! A major change to the farm was allowing the farm house at Cottage Farm to fall into disrepair and fall down over a hundred years ago, hence there is an orchard and pond there.

Over the last hundred years many of the neighbouring small farms have been purchased by the larger concerns, mostly family farmers. In the 1970s a farm management company moved to the neighbouring

village of Willisham, and was encouraging investment companies to buy up land in vast quantities.

Between 1972 and 1989 when Mr. Whittaker was alive Hill Farm was a very active typical mixed family farm equally split between arable and pasture.

A pedigree Hereford herd of cattle was established on the farm. Cattle were taken to the local agricultural shows and sold at Ipswich Livestock Market. The arable crops were far more varied, with feed crops for the cattle grown on the farm, such as barley and oats and put through the grinding mill in the granary building. Turnips and kale were also grown for animal feed and for cropping rotation. There was a “house cow”, no it did not live in the house, but was a phrase given to a cow whose milk was used for the household. This was hand milked twice a day and the family enjoyed the dairy products of cream and butter. Other livestock on the farm included turkeys and chickens raised for the Christmas market. It was a family job to prepare these birds. Chickens were also kept for their eggs, with a surplus being sold to locals.

Mr. Whittaker did all the arable work with the exception of the combine harvesting that was carried out by a local contractor. Surplus grain was sold to the local mill in Elmsett, W. Ladbrook & Son, a family concern since the 1800s that unfortunately was no longer viable and sold five years ago. The grain would be stored in the granary and then delivered to the mill during the winter.

The farming industry is going through major changes. Although Hill Farm is a very small farm in the terms of holding size, it is very typical of the problems facing many farms, in that as a stand alone business working the land it could not survive, even if Mr. Whittaker was still alive and able to carry out much of the work himself. DEFRA have released figures showing that many farmers have to survive on incomes below the minimum wage. In a NFU press release “... *a further 7,800 farmers and farm workers lost their jobs in the year to June 2001 in England. This means that the recession has claimed nearly 64,000 jobs in England since 1997.*” (<http://www.nfu.org.uk/pr/4022888/pr03.05.02>) Many farmers are reconsidering the way their business is to continue, some have decided to sell up, whilst others are restructuring. For Hill Farm this meant keeping the farm but farming it through a contract farming agreement. See Section D.



SECTION F - LANDSCAPE SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Introduction

Hill Farm is located in a secluded part of rural Suffolk, perched on a hill looking across to the county town of Ipswich. The farm is approached from the road via a concrete driveway, from which can be viewed a long hawthorn hedge bordering one of the meadows. May is the best month to view the spectacular blossom, particularly the hawthorn. As seen on the map the farmhouse and buildings are central to the land.

Hill Farm Domestic Orchards

There are two traditional domestic orchards at Hill Farm, typical of the old-fashioned 'farmhouse orchards' with widely spaced trees - once very common to see, but unfortunately now are quite a rarity. See the site map for locations. Many of the trees are in excess of seventy years old and have been neglected over the years. The hurricane of 1988 caused devastation in these orchards, which comprise of apple, pear and plum trees, with varieties such as Bramley, Beauty of Bath, Lord Lambourne and Tydeman's Late Orange.

██████████ MIHort.
ANC(Cons) MRAC has prepared a plan for restoring the orchards that can be made available for interested parties.



Identification, restoration, pruning and replanting are all scheduled works for these orchards. Opportunities exist for supervised educational groups to gain practical experience in these areas.

The orchards attract flora and fauna, with a number of wild flowers growing, birds nesting in the trees and the insects enjoying the pollen. There are many species of butterfly that frequent the fruit trees and wild flowers.

Hedgerow Restoration

There are boundary hedges of crab apple, hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, elder and many more, which need to be restored. Around the

meadows are some fine examples of oak and ash trees. Unfortunately, the many elm trees were lost to “Dutch Elm Disease” two decades ago.



Farm Access

The farm has entered into six metre arable margins adjoining established footpaths. These areas will encourage the wildlife and also create further areas for public enjoyment and countryside discovery. A variety of birds can be found on the farm nesting and singing their songs.



The photograph is of pheasant eggs.

The ducks that enjoy living on the ponds close to the house, where they are found enjoying a few extras from [REDACTED] to feed off, encourage the wild pheasants, partridges and pigeons in for a feed, as well as the resident flock of doves.

Buildings

Hill Farm house dates back to the 1600s. It is painted in the traditional “Suffolk Pink” colour. According to folklore this was ox blood mixed with lime wash, painted onto houses to ward off evil spirits. Originally the house was thatched, but now there are slates on one side and pan tiles on the other, a rather unusual feature. At the front of the house there is a beautiful walled garden containing a magnificent copper beech tree and at the back there is a pond with a fine example of a monkey puzzle tree standing proud, this adjoins one of the orchards.

The brick and flint stone barn illustrated below can be made available for students to shelter from adverse weather and/or eat lunches etc. Educational material will also be made available in the barn. Once again the roof of the barn was thatched, until a fire destroyed the roof and



timbers, leaving just the brick walls. Fortunately the timbers and roof were replaced.

There is also a granary that has been converted to a house (picture opposite). There are photographs available depicting how the granary was once used as a grain store, then illustrating the story of how the redundant farm building became a dwelling.



Ponds



variety of fish – mirror carp, crucian carp, tench, rud and roach.

There are eight ponds on the farm that have been left to nature. Consequently there is a good opportunity to make pond life studies. The main pond beside the drive contains a

A local heron enjoys visiting the ponds, although it is good to see the heron, the fish do not look forward to these visits as they become a meal for the heron!

Traditional Avenue of Trees

Under the CSS scheme provision has been made to plant an avenue of trees that will consist of native varieties, such as oak, elm and ash. These will be planted beside the drive.

Lowland Grassland Management

Also under the CSS scheme the pastures will be managed in line with the “Lowland Grassland Management” scheme. This means that the grassland is managed extensively, with fewer sheep grazing, allowing the grass to become longer and untidier, which is great for the wildlife.



Wool production was once a prime industry in the area, with Lavenham and Kersey being major centres for wool. Today the fleeces (wool) are virtually worthless.

Gundogs



There is a kennel of gundogs living at the farm. It would be possible for talks or working demonstrations to be given. These dogs illustrated are three generations of Flatcoated retrievers – mother, daughter and grand daughter.

Local History

The possibilities for studying rural history, not only about Hill Farm, but on a county and national level exist. As already mentioned artefacts from through the ages have been found on the farm. There is also the link to King Offa and his castle.

Farming through a Contract Farming Agreement

As already mentioned, many farmers have found it increasingly difficult to farm their land profitably - this is becoming an ever increasing

problem. If a farmer wishes to still maintain ownership of the land, there are two possibilities: one is to have a tenant farming the land; two is to farm the land through a contract farming agreement. It is the latter that [REDACTED] has chosen to use, whereby a separate bank account has been set up for this, with the farmer providing the land and supplies the variable costs of seeds, fertilisers and sprays and the contract farmer, in this case a neighbouring farmer, receives a set fee for his services. At the end of the year there is hopefully a surplus (profit) that is divided between the two parties.

The cropping is discussed between the farmer and the contractor. However, in this case it is kept simple with wheat and oilseed rape being grown. These two crops compliment each other and provide a good rotation for the land. Oilseed rape, is the brilliant yellow crop that flowers late April/early May it is one of our healthiest edible oils, but also has considerably more uses ranging from suntan oil to industrial lubricants. The wheat from Hill Farm will be used in the production of bread and biscuits.

The arts

Hill Farm is in a very picturesque setting and there is ample opportunity to paint, draw, sketch or photograph the landscape, flora and fauna.



Summary of educational possibilities

- Connections between social issues and the environment.
- Links between local and global environment.
- Conservation in action.
- Active learning - developing new skills in the field as opposed to the classroom i.e. tree pruning and planting.
- Grants, competitions and awards are available to support Education for Sustainable Development. (Information from CEE)
- Writing business plans based on this farm e.g. diversification
- Links to rural history i.e. the orchards, the Monks owning the land, the Lime kiln, the changes in farming.
- Links to international history i.e. King Offa.
- Diversification i.e. granary barn conversion, contract farming and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme
- Barn to meet in to discuss the events of the day or just to have lunch in.
- Leisure activities of painting, photography, drawing and sketching are widely available.
- Pond dipping
- Fruit tree identification
- Enjoying the ambience of the countryside, taking in the opportunity to observe and identify the wild life and flowers.





SECTION E - THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN VISITING THE COUNTRYSIDE

Facilities

There is a toilet and hand washing facilities available.

A large barn is available for use as a classroom, shelter from bad weather and/or meeting place.

Health and Safety

A farm is a potentially dangerous place. Large machinery, chemicals, unpredictable animals, ponds and old buildings all pose a threat, but only if people in the group split off, and therefore can not be kept away from danger by a supervisor. It is the responsibility of every individual to ensure they act in a responsible manner.

It is recommended that group leaders refer to health and safety guidelines such as the following:

- “Preventing accidents to children on farms” published by the H.S.E.
- The H.S.E. Information Sheet No. 23 “Avoiding ill health at open farms – advice to teachers”.
- The DfES are working on a revised paper “Supplement to Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits: A Good Practice Guide (HASPEV) DfES 1998. Reprinted 2001.

These publications are readily available see Section G for contact details.

General behaviour in the countryside

We ask students to have a respect for the countryside and use common sense when it comes to simple things like closing gates behind themselves and taking all litter home with them. Remembering that litter can turn into a killer for animals.

The “Countryside Code” published by the Countryside Agency should be adhered to at all times. One is contained in this pack in the form of a bookmark.

Appropriate clothing and footwear

Most of the visit will be outdoors so warm, waterproof clothing may be necessary, depending on the weather and time of year. The terrain could be rough and a little muddy, so appropriate sturdy, waterproof footwear is advisable.





SECTION F - GENERAL COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES

The countryside offers many new and exciting educational opportunities and challenges for all ages to explore the open spaces and the general environment.

General Field Study

Students will have the chance of using skills such as observation, recording by writing, drawing or photographing and specifies identification of wildlife. Listening to the bird and animal calls. Observing wildflowers and plants.

Walks and Trails

The six metre arable margins for the CSS, as well as existing footpaths give considerable areas for students to explore, whether on a guided walk or following a trail of discovery.

Sketching and Photography

The contrast of the countryside provides a stimulus for drawing, painting and photography from a butterfly sitting on blossom to the rolling landscape.

Mapwork

The countryside provides opportunities for new skills of mapping. Perhaps these could be in the form of drawing a site map or locating the farm on a national map using grid references.

Taking time to simply “be”

Time to sit down, look and listen and enjoy the ambience of the countryside. This might be the opportunity of hearing a cuckoo for the first time, or seeing a roe deer.

Livestock

Livestock provide an opportunity to see the life cycle of nature at first hand. Contact with animals also gives students an introduction to

nurturing and caring. An appreciation of where the produce comes from, such as the bread and milk that find their way onto the kitchen table.

Buildings

Most sites will have buildings from a range of different periods, comparing modern with the old. Perhaps even looking at how old buildings have been modernised, together with the variety of building materials, such as flint stones in walls. There might be a chance to see what can become of redundant farm buildings, perhaps a conversion into a dwelling, farm office or holiday accommodation.

Picnics in the countryside

There is an opportunity to eat in the tranquil setting of the countryside amongst the flora and fauna. With permission of the land owner it might be possible to sample some of the farm produce.





SECTION G - TEACHER RESOURCES

CEE (Council for Environmental Education)

94 London Street, Reading RG1 4SJ

Telephone: 0118 950 2550 <http://www.cee.org.uk>

Provides a national focus for those committed to education for sustainable development.

CFE (The Countryside Foundation for Education)

PO Box 8, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5YJ

Telephone: 01 422 885 566 <http://www.countrysidefoundation.org.uk>

Provide teaching materials for schools that inform and encourage debate about the countryside, and also provide training for teachers about how to use the countryside.

Countryside Agency

John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL50 3RA

Telephone: 01 242 521 381 <http://www.countryside.gov.uk>

Responsible for advising government and taking action on issues relating to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the English countryside.

DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)

Regional Development Services – East, Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2BD

Telephone: 01 284 750 102 <http://www.defra.gov.uk>

DEFRA's aims are *“A better environment at home and internationally, and sustainable use of natural resources; Economic prosperity through sustainable farming, fishing, food, water and other industries that meet consumers' requirements; thriving economies and communities in rural areas and a countryside for all to enjoy.”* DEFRA PB 6239 2001

FACE (Farming and Countryside Education)

National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ

Telephone: 024 7625 2861 <http://www.face-online.org.uk>

Promotes understanding of food and farming in a sustainable countryside, offering help to teachers and farmers/growers through curriculum resources. FACE has available a directory of Learning Resources, which has been an invaluable research tool for this pack.

FCFCG (Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens)

Green House, Hereford Street, Bristol BS3 4NA

<http://farmgarden.org.uk>

The Growing Schools Garden (in conjunction with the FCFCG)

Gardening Which?, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF

Telephone: 020 7770 7335 <http://schoolgarden.org.uk>

Farms for Teachers

<http://farmsforteachers.org.uk>

HSE (Health & Safety Executive) Book Department

PO Box 1919, Sudbury, Suffolk

Telephone: 01 787 881 165 <http://hse.gov.uk>

Provides health and safety leaflets and information

LTL (Learning Through Landscapes)

3rd Floor, Southside Offices, The Law Courts, Winchester SO23 9DL

Telephone: 01 962 846 258 <http://www.ltl.org.uk>

NFU (National Farmers' Union)

Agriculture House, 164 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 8HL

Telephone: 020 7331 7200 <http://nfu.org.uk>

Promotes the interests of those agricultural and horticultural businesses producing high quality food, drink and crop products for customers both at home and abroad.

<http://www.friendlyfarmclub.com>

An interactive web site for students and teachers.

Soil Association

Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6BY

Telephone: 0117 929 0661 <http://soilassociation.org>

Suffolk Farm Fair

(Annual event aimed at primary school at this stage)

[REDACTED] C/O Suffolk Agricultural Association, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Suffolk Farms Link Project (run by the Suffolk Agricultural Association and Suffolk County Council)

[REDACTED] C/O Suffolk Agricultural Association, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk

Telephone: [REDACTED]

APPENDIX 1 - REFERENCES

DEFRA's Aim and Objectives PB6239 DEFRA 2001

NFU Press Release dated 09.07.01 New Education Service will link countryside to classroom. <http://www.nfu.org.uk/pr/4019959> (accessed 22.04.02)

NFU Press Release dated 18.04.02 NFU Deputy President Celebrates 'Country Stewards' <http://www.nfu.org.uk/pr/4025647> (accessed 22.04.02)

NFU Press Release dated 29.01.01 Farm Incomes Bottom Out Despite a Dire 12 months. <http://www.nfu.org.uk/pr/4022888/pr> (accessed 03.05.02)

School Gardens

www.schoolsgarden.org.uk/growingschools (accessed 15.04.02)

A. COPPING
THE NOOK, SWAMP LANE
ROYDON, DISS
NORFOLK
IP22 5FY
TEL: (01379) 642109

June 3rd 2003

Dear Mrs Whittaker,
I enclose the plant list from yesterday's visit to Hill Farm by [redacted] and myself. It isn't complete of course (such lists never are) and an August visit would provide many additional taxa. Nevertheless 107 is a goodly total.

I haven't included the most interesting find, the grass I thought was darnel (Lolium temulentum) growing in the grassy area to which you led us at the beginning of our recording. When I examined the specimens last evening here using Stace I preferred Lolium remotum, a similar but smaller species. As I've never seen it before I've sent the material to Kew for confirmation. If confirmed the record will probably be the first for Suffolk and there appear to be no Norfolk records. Unfortunately the grass is a casual, usually coming in as a seed impurity, and is unlikely to persist. When I hear from Kew I'll let you know their verdict.

Best Wishes, Yours sincerely, [redacted]

VASCULAR PLANTS RECORDED AT HILL FARM, LOWER SOMERSHAM, IPSWICH ON 02/06/03
(TETRAD TM 06/48)

<u>LATIN NAME</u>	<u>ENGLISH NAME</u>
ACER CAMPESTRE	Field Maple
ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM	Yarrow
AESCULUS CARNEA	Red Horse-chestnut
AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM	Horse-chestnut
ALLIARIA PETIOLATA	Garlic Mustard
ALOPECURUS MYOSUROIDES	Black-grass
ALOPECURUS PRATENSIS	Meadow Foxtail
ANISANTHA DIANDRA	Great Brome
ANISANTHA STERILIS	Barren Brome
ANTHOXANTHUM ODORATUM	Sweet Vernal-grass
ANTHRISCUS SYLVESTRIS	Cow Parsley
ARRHENATHERUM ELATIUS	False Oat-grass
AVENA FATUA	Wild-oat
BALLOTA NIGRA ssp. MERIDIONALIS	Black Horehound
BARBAREA VULGARIS	Winter-cress

BELLIS PERENNIS

Daisy

BRACHYPODIUM SYLVATICUM

False Brome

BROMUS HORDEACEUS ssp. HORDEACEUS

Soft-brome

CAPSELLA BURSA - PASTORIS

Shepherd's - purse

CERASTIUM FONTANUM ssp. VULGARE

Common Mouse - ear

CHAEROPHYLLUM TEMULUM

Rough Chervil

CHENOPODIUM FICIFOLIUM

Fig - leaved Goosefoot

CIRSIUM ARVENSE

Creeping Thistle

CIRSIUM VULGARE

Spear Thistle

CLEMATIS VITALBA

Traveller's - joy

CONVOLVULUS ARVENSIS

Field Bindweed

CORNUS SANGUINEA

Dogwood

CORONOPUS SQUAMATUS

Swine - cress

CORYLUS AVELLANA

Hazel

CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA ssp. NORDICA

Hawthorn

CREPIS VESICARIA ssp. TARAXACIFOLIA

Beaked Hawk's - beard

CYNOSURUS CRISTATUS

Crested Dog's - tail

DACTYLIS GLOMERATA

Cock's - foot

DIPSACUS FULLONUM	Wild Teasel
EPILOBIUM HIRSUTUM	Great Willowherb
EVONYMUS EUROPAEUS	Spindle
FESTUCA PRATENSIS	Meadow Fescue
FESTUCA RUBRA ssp. RUBRA	Red Fescue
FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR	Ash
GALIUM APARINE	Cleavers
GALIUM MOLLUGO s.l.	Hedge Bedstraw
GERANIUM DISSECTUM	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
GERANIUM ROBERTIANUM	Herb-Robert
GLECHOMA HEDERACEA	Ground-ivy
HEDERA HELIX ssp. HELIX	Common Ivy
HERACLEUM SPHONDYLIIUM ssp. SPHONDYLIIUM	Hogweed
HOLCUS LANATUS	Yorkshire-fog
HORDEUM MURINUM ssp. MURINUM	Wall Barley
ILEX AQUIFOLIUM	Holly
IRIS PSEUDACORUS	Yellow Iris

JUNCUS INFLEXUS

Hard Rush

LAMIUM ALBUM

White Dead-nettle

LAMIUM PURPUREUM

Red Dead-nettle

LAPSANA COMMUNIS ssp. COMMUNIS

Nipplewort

LEUCANTHEMUM VULGARE

Oxeye Daisy

LOLIUM x BOUCHEANUM

LOLIUM MULTIFLORUM

Italian Rye-grass

LOLIUM PERENNE (including 1 plant
with awned lemmas)

Perennial Rye-grass

MATRICARIA DISCOIDEA

Pineappleweed

MEDICAGO LUPULINA

Black Medick

MERCURIALIS PERENNIS

Dog's Mercury

MYOSOTIS ARVENSIS

Field Forget-me-not

NUPHAR LUTEA

Yellow Water-lily

PAPAVER RHOEAS

Common Poppy

PICRIS ECHIOIDES

Bristly Ox-tongue

PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA

Ribwort Plantain

PLANTAGO MAJOR ssp. MAJOR

Greater Plantain

POA ANNUA	Annual Meadow -grass
POA PRATENSIS	Smooth Meadow -grass
POA TRIVIALIS	Rough Meadow -grass
POTENTILLA ANSERINA	Silverweed
POTENTILLA REPTANS	Creeping Cinquefoil
PRIMULA VERIS	Cowslip
PRUNUS AVIUM	Wild Cherry
PRUNUS SPINOSA	Blackthorn
QUERCUS ROBUR	Pedunculate Oak
RANUNCULUS ACRIS	Meadow Buttercup
RANUNCULUS REPENS	Creeping Buttercup
ROSA CANINA s.l.	Dog-rose
RUBUS FRUTICOSUS agg.	Bramble
RUMEX ACETOSA ssp. ACETOSA	Common Sorrel
RUMEX CRISPUS ssp. CRISPUS	Curled Dock
RUMEX OBTUSIFOLIUS	Broad-leaved Dock
SALIX CINEREA ssp. CINEREA	Grey Willow

SAMBUCUS NIGRA

Elder

SENECIO VULGARIS

Groundsel

SILENE LATIFOLIA SSP. ALBA

White Campion

SINAPIS ARVENSIS

Charlock

SISYMBRIUM OFFICINALE

Hedge Mustard

SONCHUS ASPER

Prickly Sow-thistle

SPARGANIUM ERECTUM s.l.

Branched Bur-reed

STACHYS SYLVATICA

Hedge Woundwort

STELLARIA HOLOSTEA

Greater Stitchwort

STELLARIA MEDIA

Common Chickweed

TAMUS COMMUNIS

Black Bryony

TARAXACUM agg.

Dandelion

TRIFOLIUM DUBIUM

Lesser Trefoil

TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE

Red Clover

TRIFOLIUM REPENS

White Clover

TRisetum FLAVESCENS

Yellow Oat-grass

TYPHA LATIFOLIA

Bulrush

ULMUS MINOR agg.	Elm
URTICA DIOICA	Common Nettle
VERONICA CHAMAEDRY S	Germander Speedwell
VERONICA PERSICA	Common Field-Speedwell
VIOLA ARVENSIS	Field Pansy
VIOLA ODORATA	Sweet Violet

(107 TAXA)

Note: a plant of what appeared to be LOLIUM REMOTUM close to the barn was sent to Dr T.A. Cope at Kew for confirmation. If he agrees it will need to be added to the catalogue.

Copies to [redacted] and to [redacted], Hill Farm, Lower Somersham, IPSWICH IP8 4PU.

[redacted]
THE NOOK, SWAMP LANE
ROYDON, DISS
NORFOLK
IP22 5EY
TEL: [redacted]

SARAH BEEVERS & [REDACTED]
LANDOWNERS AT HILL FARM GRANARY, [REDACTED]

19th August 2023

Please accept this as my objections to the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury 180km Pylon line. These are listed in no particular order.

GENERAL OPPOSITION:

1. Offshore options

Subsea link between East Anglia & Kent – why not Norwich to Tilbury or

...

The argument put forward, as I understand it, is capacity and cost, yet we have power coming under the sea from Norway to the UK – this presumably is cost effective with a viable capacity.

Please invest in this option.

Offshore has minimal environmental impact and has 50% less infrastructure as noted by NG ESO.

2. Environmentally destructive path using the pylons

As I understand it there is a Treasury Green Book that has been abandoned in favour of the Planning Act 2008.

East Anglia is often referred to as “Britain’s Breadbasket” – why take prime arable land out of production for this project, some for 2 – 3 years and leave 20m² bases for pylons in these fields?

The world is already facing food shortages and this project will only compound those shortages.

This line will rip out established trees and hedges, along with the species relying on this habit, the very thing that farmers have been encouraged to promote and invest in.

3. Carbon Footprint

What is the carbon footprint involved in building and maintenance of this project?

4. Health Impacts

Mental health implications of all the residents trying to live through these dreadful proposals.

I have spent hours trying to understand the proposals and fight for “our corner.”

The Quality of life of my family has already suffered because of this proposal, along with that of the 50,000 households along the line.

There have been many studies and concerns raised over the links of increased cancer risks and the pylons – how safe are these new ones? 3 out of 4 members of my family have already had cancer diagnosis’ – I am sure National Grid would say this is coincidence, but we do live close to existing powerlines.

We had a lightning storm and lost 6 cattle under the existing powerlines – we were told to accept it was just a coincidence that 6 animals decided to die one night during the thunder and lightning and they just happened to be under the lines.

5. Aircraft – Apaches from RAF Wattisham & Light aircraft from Elmsett

We have aircraft from RAF Wattisham and Elmsett Airfield using our house as a navigational aid. There is considerable air traffic from both of the aforementioned, plus the farm is in the Stanstead airport flight path. Has consideration been made to: Policy EN, National Planning Policy Framework “... It is essential that the safety of UK aerodromes, aircraft and airspace is not adversely affected by new energy infrastructure ...” And CAA regulatory guidance CAP 738 which all appears to have been ignored.

6. Gas and fuel pipelines

Will be crossed by the pylons – what provision is being made if there is an explosion either from the pipelines or the powerlines – the affects could be catastrophic to those living in close proximity.

7. Construction traffic

The increase in construction traffic would endanger humans and the biodiversity of the area, on roads that were built for a horse cart and certainly not lorries and construction vehicles.

8. Ongoing Servicing the pylons

Once the pylons are built they will need to be serviced, which sadly would entail further devastation of the agriculture land and environment. I understand 60 tonne cranes have to access and service the pylons.

9. Ancient sites and heritage

Whilst I accept that some ancient sites are being given a wide berth, there are artefacts to be found in the surrounding / adjoining fields that will be disturbed by the construction work. i.e. Offton Castle Mound, dating back to 796 and King Offa. Also considerable Roman activity in this area.

10. Non-invasive surveys

On our farm we have already been subjected to the non-invasive surveys – probably 6 so far, where the surveyors always arrive in pairs to do one

survey, they are unable to survey more than one environmental / ecological concern. Not one has had any identification, just a general National Grid card. Some have been sent in from India, York, Cardiff and then need to be put up in a hotel – the expense of this? They are employed by National Grid and seem quite happy to just go through the motions of surveying and “ticking boxes” to comply with regulations. I have asked several of them which is more important the environment that they are being entrusted to look at or their paymaster? There have been some sheepish looks. One example was – archaeological surveyors not prepared to look at large stones / small boulders on a hedgerow that I directed them to, as I suspected that they were part of King Offa’s castle at Offton – a heritage site. They admitted they didn’t look for these as the hedgerow was so overgrown. This brings me to another point of timing. Why send surveyors out in July / August whilst there is still standing corn and in our case the permanent grassland has not been cut due to the weather?

MY MAJOR CONCERN IS “WHAT IS BEING MISSED AND/OR OVERLOOKED BY THESE SO CALLED ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYORS?”

There is an inconsistency with the maps the surveyors have, such as ponds being missed off, when a pylon is planned to be 50 – 100 m from it. In my opinion this is not good enough and only doing a half-hearted job.

I have signed a license agreement stating that I would like a copy of the reports, yet the surveyors have said “... They are confidential ...” or “..You will be able to view them at the time of the DCO...” I would like and feel that I am entitled to farm specific reports? How can something be put in the public domain without me seeing it first? Data protection?

11. The cost to the consumer / general public

The visual pollution of the pylons will ruin this beautiful landscape and environment where people live, work and visit affecting:

Tourism

House prices

Land values and taking huge swathes out of production some for 2 – 3 years other areas indefinitely.

Flora and fauna – not only enjoyed by “the circle of life” of nature, but of millions of people enjoying walks in the countryside.

Health impacts as already stated.

The financial cost of all these consultations – surveyors; land agents etc.

The only people benefiting / profiteering are the land agents and surveyors.

The general public / consumer will have to pay for all this, as I am sure the costs will be added to the price of electricity.

I shall pay twice for these pylons: once as a landowner and then again as a consumer.

The impact on local business, communities and the environment is immense and I have hardly touched on it here. It will have a knock on effect for all those trying to exist in and around the line of the pylons.

12. Physical concerns of the pylons:

Terrorism / warfare

Lightning strikes

Light aircraft and drones

Wildlife flying into the pylons or wires/cables, which already happens.

Health as already stated.

HILL FARM SPECIFIC CONCERNS:

1. Access via one track country lanes with passing places

The access to our farm is via single lane roads with passing places, with a warning of "unsuitable for HGVs". Please see attached "Hill Farm Access"

2. Haul road potentially dividing our farm into 2

I understand a haul road would be an alternative to using the public highway. This access road would be 4 – 6 m wide.

This would potentially carve up our farm and make it into 2. It is unlikely that we would be able to access all of the farm which is only 80 acres. There would be the possibility of compensation on the inaccessible land, but that will not compensate the wildlife that will fall victim to it, even if it compensated the farmers. It could make the farm uneconomical to continue the business.

Arable land being subjected to hardcore or whatever put down for the haul road – compaction, removal and replacement of top soil.

3. My email to [REDACTED] at Fisher German dated 15.06.22

My concerns in that email were never replied to and still stand.

My husband is a radio amateur, he would no longer be able to pursue his hobby as there is already "noise / electrical interference" from the existing pylon line along with the proposed one which would make our home sandwiched between the pylon lines.

I enjoy walking my dogs on our farm, which I would not be able to do with it becoming a construction site.

4. Ancient Trees under threat

There are ancient trees, which will be subject to Tree Preservation Orders that are in the line of the pylons, with the potential of a haul road these would probably be destroyed.

5. Gas pipe servicing RAF Wattisham

Dissects our farm and has the potential to be crossed by the pylons. As the plans stand at present they run parallel across our farm.

6. Countryside Stewardship Schemes

The farm has entered into a number of countryside stewardship schemes as can be seen on the attached map.

GS2 Permanent Grassland

AB12 & AB9 Winter bird food cover and feeding of wild birds

SW3 In-field grass strips

SW1 4-6m buffer strips on cultivated land

WT2 Buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land

AB1 Nectar flower mixtures sown to enhance flora and fauna

If the pylons go through our farm then we will be subjected to financial penalties for non-compliance of the above and yet more bureaucracy in trying to find a way forward.

7. Skylark Mitigation – 10 year agreement

Skylark plots are a minimum of 16m² where bare patches are left in winter cereal fields, designed to help skylarks forage. These plots are proven to help improve productivity for skylarks, we have seen numbers increase around the farm, since creating the plots. This agreement will be in jeopardy with the proposed pylons. Again, it would be subject to major financial penalties for non-compliance. There are strict rules on where and when these plots can be assigned.

8. Direct Level Licensing Project – Great Crested Newts x 4 ponds

This was arranged with Natural England with assistance from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who have helped to improve the ponds for nature, in particular the great crested newts and we have then further enhanced this with stewardship schemes. Please see attached reports by Sam Hawks in June 2021 and Juliet Hawkins eDNA survey June 2023.

9. Bees

We have bee hives with colonies that thrive on the wildflowers and the environmental enhancements through the stewardship schemes. I understand that bees do not like to cross roads, therefore I am concerned for their survival if a haul road is to divide our farm. I am sure that I don't need to reiterate the importance that bees help to preserve the ecological balance and biodiversity of nature, on which

we all depend for our survival. Honey bees are the world's most important single species of pollinator in natural ecosystems and it those that we have encouraged and established with the hives on our farm. My son has already purchased more bee hives with the intent of increasing the bee numbers on the farm.

10. Badger setts on the farm

There is extensive badger activity on the farm, with several setts. Again I am concerned for their safety and existence with the possibility of a haul road dividing the farm and construction traffic. Again none of the surveyors have been interested in these. Between Gunns Farm and Caley Green Farm at Cherry Cottage that have created an observation area to feed and promote the badgers in the area.

11. Turtle Doves, Buzzards, swallows, owls, dragon flies & water voles

These are just a few characters that enjoy life at Hill Farm, whose existence could be jeopardised by the pylons, along with many other species.

Each spring we have a goose that nests in one of the old oak trees, a picture of this can be seen in the attached "Hill Farm Sights".

12. Priority Habitat Inventory – Traditional Orchard

We have a traditional orchard on the farm, adjoining the Grade II listed farm house, which is marked on "Magic Maps", but so far none of the surveyors have bothered to look and see what flora and fauna is supported in this orchard. Again a very disappointing observation.

13. Farm Surveys by independent surveyors

Over the years we have had a number of surveys carried out on the farm. I am attaching the most significant ones and it will be interesting to see how these compare to the NG surveys.

a) Vascular Plant Survey in June 2003, by [REDACTED], detailing in excess of 100 species, including rare specimens sent to Kew for verification.

In the accompanying letter it is interesting to note the comment "..an August visit would provide many additional taxa .."

This reiterates my comment about timing of the surveys and that an independent surveyor wanted to do at least 2 surveys: one in June and one in August.

- b) Suffolk Wildlife Trust Pond Report June 2021 by Sam Hanks evaluating future pond restoration.
- c) Pond eDNA survey June 2023 by [REDACTED] on behalf of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, also listing wildlife at the Great Crested Newt ponds.

14. Ecological investment in the farm

As farmers we have invested in the land through ditching and coppicing work, for which we have received no grants for, but done in an effort to improve the ecology of the farm. Again much of this work will be under threat with the construction of the powerlines.

15. Grade II listed farmhouse – Hill Farm House

Hill Farm house is a traditional Suffolk farmhouse and of historic interest, hence the Grade II listing! We are very worried about the impact that the construction of the pylons will have on this structure and it's place in the environment. Together with it's value should we have to sell up, due to the farm no longer being sustainable.

16. Hill Farm History

The farm and it's buildings had been owned and farmed by the monks of Thetford and Bishop Andrew's Charity, dating back to 1626 until the turn of the 20th century. The field sizes are small and still unchanged from those days. Neighbouring farmers have fields in excess of 80 acres which is the total size of Hill Farm!

17. Why is Hill Farm unique?

This is a small family farm, which has been in our family for nearly 60 years. I fear it will not be able to continue with years of construction work destroying the environmental benefits that we have created over the years and splitting the farm into 2 with a haul road.

Furthermore, the arable land is farmed on a contract farming basis that would be put in jeopardy by this proposal.

Over the years our family has worked hard to conserve and enhance what the farm has. Twenty years ago we entered into Countryside Stewardship schemes and made the farm accessible for the general public and as an educational asset. Please see the attached educational pack.

It is heart breaking to consider that our environmental work could be annihilated and that we could have to sell up, as the farm may not be economically viable with the implications, as outlined above, of the powerlines.

Furthermore, the impact on the quality of our lives has already taken its toll, but may just be too much to witness the destruction of all that we have created. Our family farm to become a “Pylon sandwich” is already an unbearable thought, let alone a reality.

I have produced a map, showing the farm boundary, the various stewardship schemes and points of interest along with a “rough” line of where I think the pylons will go. As the Fisher German surveyor who kindly came to visit us said “... well between 50 and 100 metres of that point ...” A comment that did not instil confidence in the agents or the project, but hopefully “My Map” will give an indication of all that is at stake here at Hill Farm.

I hope that someone with some “clout” will have read and absorbed the above, which I like to think of as a series of “molotov cocktails”! Singularly the points raised I fear are not enough to halt the proposal, but hopefully the points collectively mean there is a lot to deal with on 80 acres, which will cause hassle to resolve, so why not move the line?

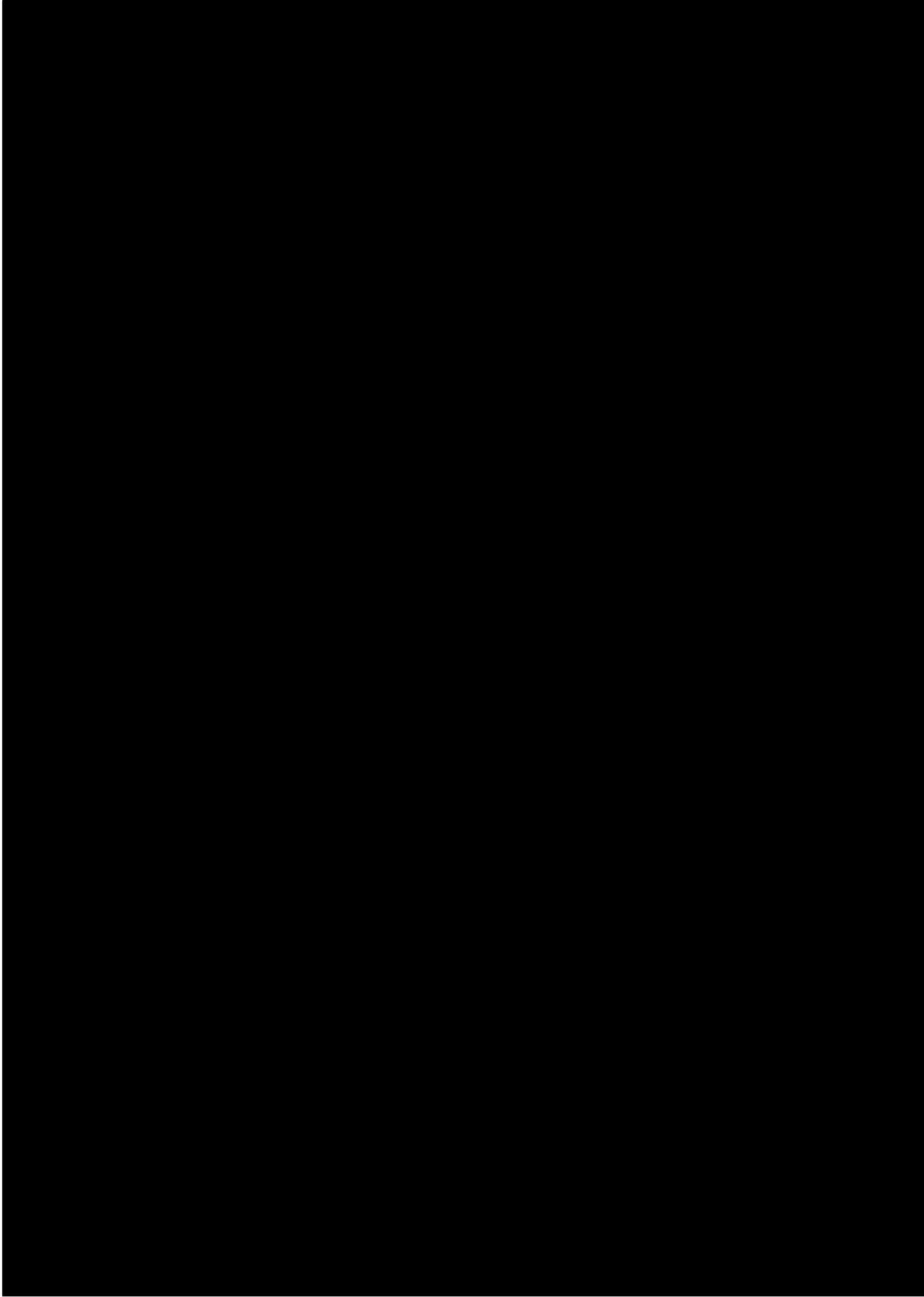
I trust you will understand why we are against this pylon line dissecting our family farm and have stated our objections, which en masse will be sufficient for National Grid to reconsider the project, or failing that the route.

Thank you for reading this.

Sarah Beevers and Suzanne Whittaker
Joint farmers of Hill Farm, Lower Somersham.

Attachments / Enclosures

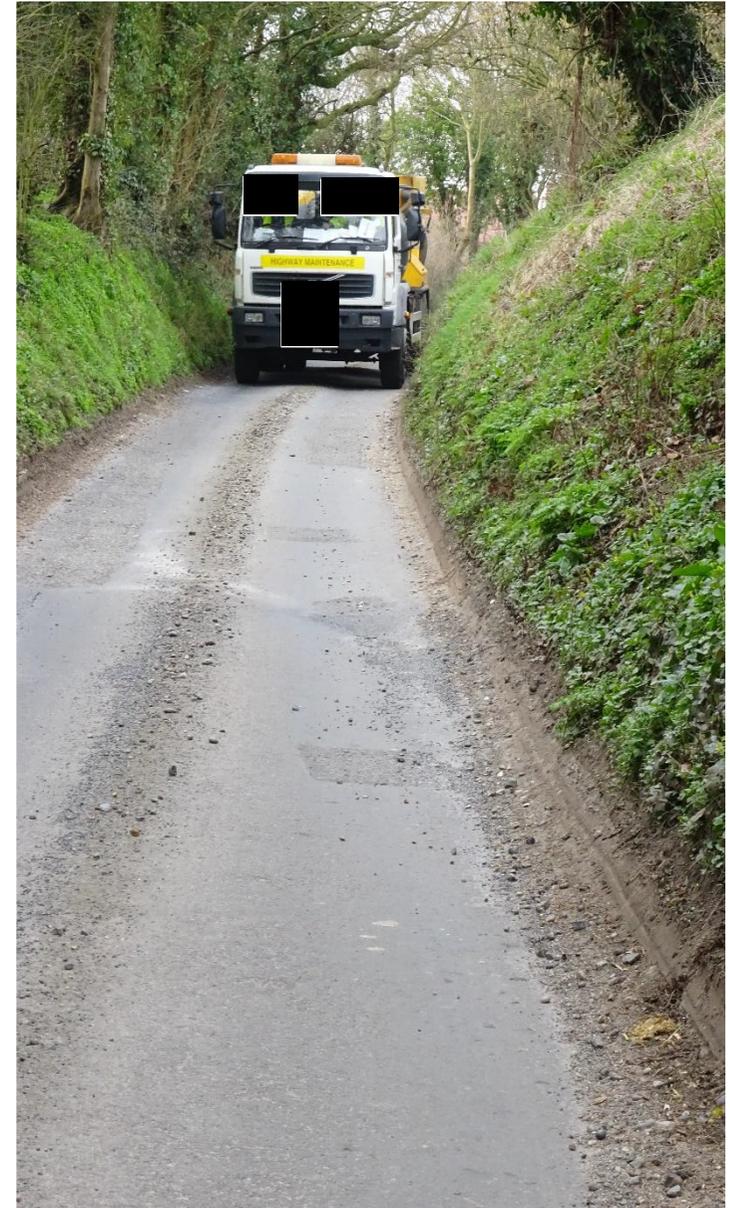
1. Access to Hill Farm
2. Hill Farm Sights
3. My email to National Grid 15.06.22
4. Vascular Plant Survey in June 2003, by [REDACTED]
5. Suffolk Wildlife Trust Pond Report June 2021 by [REDACTED]
6. Pond eDNA survey June 2023 by [REDACTED]
7. My map showing the farm boundary, stewardship and various points of interest and the pylon line
8. Hill Farm Information for Educational Groups



ACCESS TO HILL FARM, [REDACTED]

Below the main road – Somersham to Willisham road, showing the sign “unsuitable for HGVs” which is the road on the right showing a lorry coming down the lane.

Where are pedestrians, cyclists or another vehicle to go?



Hill Farm Skylark plot areas



Scale: 1:4500



The Cottage Barn Orchard at Hill Farm, [REDACTED]

This old historic orchard is under threat from the National Grid Pylon line from Norwich to Tilbury. It is shown on the maps on 1884, when the farm was owned by the Bishop Andrews Charity, who may well have been responsible for planting the orchard. I would guess the orchard would be seen on much earlier maps, if only I could find them!



The [REDACTED], orchard and ponds have provided what has been an idyllic sanctuary to numerous species of flora and fauna, including great crested newts, as recorded by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in the pond at [REDACTED]. Bats are also seen flying around at dusk. There is an owl box, used by a barn owl at the end of the orchard. It is home to many nesting birds, so careful consideration will need to be given regarding the timing of destroying this habitat. Although the orchard is overgrown, it is home to at least **two rare varieties of pear**, as identified by **Paul Read of the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group**.

The Fondant d'Automne is an old French variety of dessert eating pear, originating in 1825. It is rarely seen in Suffolk. The approximate reference is 52.096296 1.013327
Circumference 1.170 m

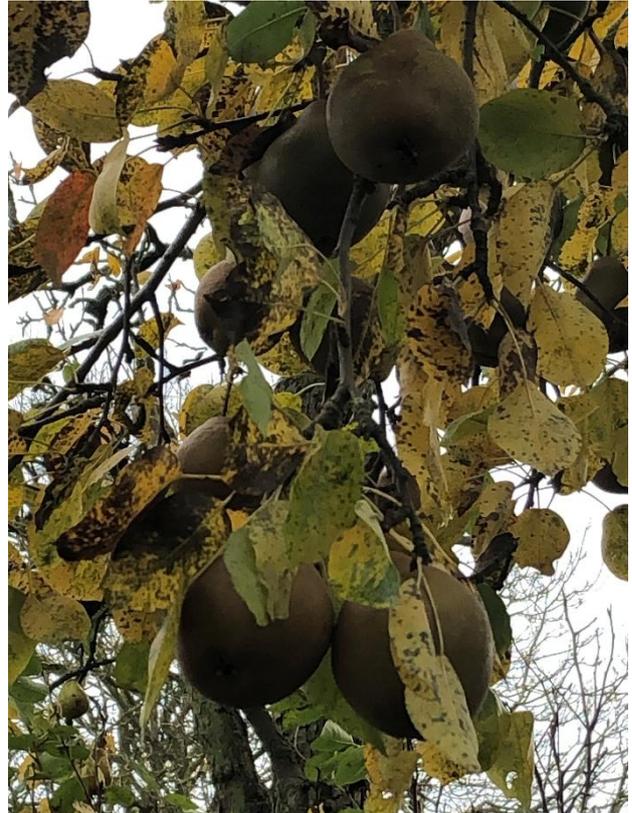


The Black Worcester Pear is thought to have been brought to these shores by the Romans, making it the oldest variety of pear still being used in baking and cooking today. I have roasted them and they are delicious! **This is only the second tree identified in Suffolk!** Therefore, it is extremely unusual in this area.

Another claim to fame is that it was added to the Worcester Coat of Arms, after a visit from Queen Elizabeth I in August in 1575. Worcestershire County Cricket Club are known as “the pears” and have them on their club badge!

The approximate reference is 52.096389 1.013218

Circumference: 1.80 m

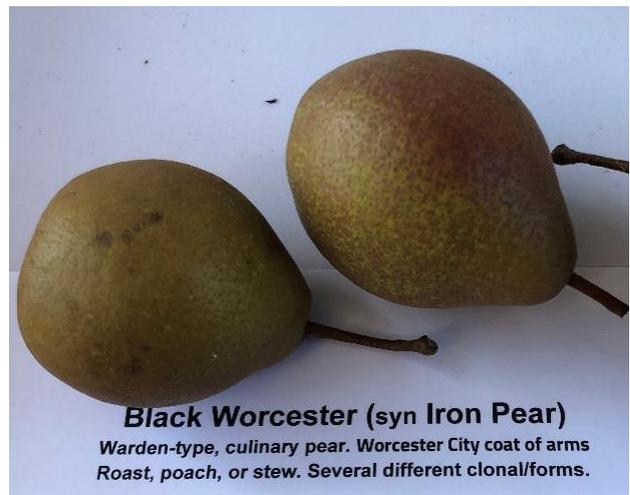


These healthy established trees and the orchard will be lost along with the genetic gene pool of these old trees.

There are more fruit trees in the orchard that have not been identified, so who knows what else will be lost forever.

Planting new trees will never replace these historic trees.

Sarah Beevers (landowner)
12th November 2025



Black Worcester (syn Iron Pear)

*Warden-type, culinary pear. Worcester City coat of arms
Roast, poach, or stew. Several different clonal/forms.*

Feedback on ponds surveyed 7th June at Hill Farm, Somersham, IP8 4PU

I last visited this farm to look at four ponds in 2008 (none of which I surveyed this time) which were either heavily affected by duck or fish or both and to offer some Countryside Stewardship advice!

Somersham is a low pond area with 5.7 pond/km² so high value ponds here are important habitat and pond creation is very useful for wildlife.

Q1-070 Arable Field Pond (newly created 14/9/2021) TM0645348824

This shallow, isolated, newly created pond (on former wet area in field but not indicated as a pond on old map) is developing really well with good, gently shelving banks and a good bed of submerged Common Stonewort and some floating Curled Pondweed in clean, algae free water. There is no scrub as it is in an arable field but there is really very little rough habitat surrounding it so that does limit its connectivity to the hedge and other pond habitat where mobile species such as newts would use as a corridor to colonise from. It may well be vulnerable to regular drying out but ponds that do dry out are still valuable for wildlife. However, they can also be vulnerable to invasive species taking over. A swallow was collecting mud and broad-bodied chaser dragonfly was prospecting.

Recommendations

- Keep sunny and open but establish some rough grassland around the pond to link to the hedgerow.
- Avoid spray or fertiliser drift getting into the pond.
- In several years' time, review invasive species and patch-scrape if necessary, taking out small areas of dominant vegetation.



Q1-071 Low Barn Pond TM0648548478

This pretty linear pond backs onto an old brick barn and would undoubtedly have been used for watering livestock or as a Suffolk 'bumbay' or slurry pit in ancient times which would have been periodically cleaned out and put on the fields from the most evident end access point (northernmost). The pond is currently rather steep sided and scrub edges the field side meaning quite a lot of shade is cast and will increase if the scrub is not flailed regularly or removed. The pond's clean water was supporting several aquatic plant. Limited access due to brick wall and vertical sides of pond. On-ditch pond next to arable field.



Recommendations

- Coppice back field side shrubs which have regenerated or remove completely.
- Ideally re-profile the northern end to remove some scrub and to make the gradient much gentler.
- Buffer the pond with a grass margin along the arable edge.

Q1-072 – Low Barn Meadow ponds

Restoration and management of the two ownership boundary ponds in Low Barn meadow is problematic as heavy shade is cast by hedges with nice mature oak trees to the south and south-west so unless they were significantly enlarged, they will always be vulnerable to shade, leaf litter and organic matter build up. These ancient ponds with historic value may have originated as clay or marl pits but then subsequently would have been used for watering livestock with considerably gentler access gradients on some or all margins than they have today. Livestock would have kept them open, sunny and relatively free of scrub and with invasive vegetation kept more in check, allowing a greater diversity of plants to flourish. In the absence of livestock accessing ponds, they quickly scrub up, cast shade and leaf litter and the pond reverts to being a shaded pond full of organic matter and of relatively low wildlife value.

The ponds have been partially restored in that organic matter has been removed but the ponds remain very heavily shaded from the south and east/west.

TM0642948272

Three large oaks shade the majority of this pond for much of the day limiting vegetation growth in the pond. The steep bank on the meadow side would probably have been more gentle allowing livestock access to the pond but it is now almost vertical. On ditch but dry. One smooth newt egg was found on the only willowherb plant that had flopped into the water.

Recommendation

- Regularly flail field side ash coppice regrowth to keep pond sunny and open, or, ideally, remove and re-grade meadow pond edge to create gentle slope.



TM06364833

This pond is shaded despite a slight trim of the shading hedge – there is a lovely oak pollard which should definitely be retained. The brown water is devoid of plants. The banks are full of rabbit holes and the spoil from the pond has not really been spread back from the area meaning there is a slope up to, and then vertical drop down to, the water's edge.

- Coppice the neighbour's hedge to let in more light if possible.
- Re-grade the spoil to create a really low gradient access/bank on the meadow side. Aim to keep as open and sunny as possible.



Wildlife recorded 7th June 2023 by Juliet Hawkins

Species	Common name	Species group	Map ref.	Date
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg.	Watercress	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> agg.	Water crowfoot	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Callitriche aggregate</i>	Water starwort	flowering plant	TM06484847	07/06/2023
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	Smooth Newt	amphibian	TM06424827	07/06/2023
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser	insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	TM06454882	07/06/2023
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	flowering plant	TM06454882	07/06/2023
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush	flowering plant	TM06454882	07/06/2023
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush	flowering plant	TM06454882	07/06/2023
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> agg.	Water crowfoot	flowering plant	TM06454882	07/06/2023
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curled Pondweed	flowering plant	TM06454882	07/06/2023
<i>Chara vulgaris</i>	Common Stonewort	stonewort	TM06454882	07/06/2023

Dear Sarah,

Please find set out herein recommendations for the management of your farmland ponds following our visit and walk over survey on 14th June 2021. I have set out recommendations to meet the best wildlife interest for each pond as well as identify suitable funding pathways for achieving the recommendations made, either Countryside Stewardship options or through District Level Licencing restoration.

I note from our records that [REDACTED] paid you a visit to survey for great crested newt in 2005, found none and made recommendations for management. I certainly concur with her observations of the general state of habitat being highly suitable for GCN and think that when progressing ponds for restoration in the near future we will need to be mindful of the areas likely to support hibernating newts (such as under old barn).

I hope you find this useful in determining your CS application over the next few weeks and I look forward to working with you further on pond restorations in the near future.

Very best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

Pond 1:

Pond 1 is a farmhouse pond associated with the original building, the pond appears on historical maps for at least the last 100 years and is therefore likely to have been built at the same time as the farm. Original usage of the pond is likely to have been for drinking water (people and animals) and or for fish stock. Historical maps (older than 1900) may indicate original pond names that can be informative here.

At the time of visiting in June the pond had a low



water level and was dominated with blanketweed. Recent work to reduce the leylandii to the northern edge of the pond should be positive for water quality. It was noted that the pond is now stocked with fish, which will reduce its ultimate value for other wildlife, especially amphibians. The blanketweed dominance is indicative of a high level of nutrient in the water, this can be caused by numerous factors, including accumulated organic matter, activity of fish (stirring sediment), feeding of fish or duck and runoff from the concrete yards. It is likely here that a combination of all these factors is affecting the water quality here. Restoration is likely to be rather complicated, and if fish stocking is to continue here the benefits to wildlife potentially somewhat limited. Two sets of recommendations are made below, simple easy to do steps that may make some improvement to the wildlife value of this pond, and secondly full restoration process.

Note: it would be entirely historically accurate for this to have been a fish stocked pond, if this is the management ambition, then please seek further advice from someone skilled in fisheries management.

Wildlife Improvement recommendations for Pond 1:

- Complete the removal of leylandii to the north of the pond, replace with native shrubs (hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, elder) to create in time a nice terrestrial habitat link to the water and adjacent orchard.
- If pond completely dries, ensure fish are removed (if managing for wildlife)

Restoration recommendations for Pond 1:

- During low water period, or if completely dry, desilt the entire pond to original base (taking care with historic features, and house foundation) best carried out September – November, the chances of encountering protected species here are low.
- Remove sediment to arable stubbles and spread thinly as soil improver, no special permissions would be required for this.
- Allow to naturally refill with rainwater, do not introduce plants or fish, artificially fill or feed duck.

Suitability for CS Options WN5 and WN6:

This pond would be suitable for funding in CS options, at 310m² the funding rate would be in the region of a £500 as a one-off capital payment. It is unlikely therefore that this pond would be sufficiently restored under this scheme (expect costs to exceed £2500 if using a contractor) in addition, listed building consent will be required to progress this work.

Pond 2:

Pond 2 is a track side pond adjacent to the farm drive. The pond was devoid of aquatic plants at the time of visiting, and the water appeared very turbid. Again, the action of fish and duck are likely to be the main drivers of this state. In addition, the pond has many trees around its edge and is consequently in shade most of the day, reducing the opportunities for the plants vital to a successful wildlife pond.

It is understood that this pond is of some significant historical interest, with a set stone base which would have been used to allow access for working animals and carts in former times. It is less likely that this pond would have been deliberately fish stocked in the past, historical names would give a good indication.



Possibility for restoration is somewhat better here (due to good access) and the first steps here would be to reduce shading influence of the

weeping willow to the south and east through coppicing and regular re-coppicing. This pond has been dredged partially in the past and completing this work would be of value if possible – although again, limited benefit will be realised if fish are to remain.

Recommendations:

- Coppice weeping willow to southeast, keep on short rotation coppice cycle thereafter. Manage other surrounding trees to aim for around 20-30% dappled shade across pond surface, scrub to the south and southwest is good habitat and should be managed infrequently on rotation, the pond is big enough to cope with the lower growth here.
- Finalise desilting of pond, dewater and remove organic matter (and fish) to arable land nearby. September – November would be the best timing.
- Establish tussocky grass margin if possible – avoid mowing to the edge all the way around.

If fish are important and the visual aspect of the weeping willows would be missed, leave pond as is and concentrate on better wildlife priorities.

Suitability for CS funding:

This pond at 400m² would be funded at around £700 for the CS capital elements, again this is unlikely to be sufficient to get far enough through the works required to make a significant improvement, although may make this possible if carrying out the works in house.

Pond 3:

Pond three is open, sunny and well vegetated, it is rather steep sided on most sides and has some fantastic scrub habitat to the north along with a few bankside trees. The pond is dominated with flag iris and other dominant plant species typical of fluctuating water/water's edge, indicating the pond is shallow. The pond would benefit from partial desilting management to re-set the successional clock, create areas of open water and allow early successional pond plants to establish and grow.

It is understood again that some fish may be present in this pond, and care should be taken in management not to create excessive open water that is then later kept turbid through the action of the fish. Ideally keeping this pond fish free would be the best route for wildlife. The wildlife value is currently higher than the first two ponds, and therefore management needs to be timed appropriately, ideally between November and February.

Recommendations:

- Partially desilt pond in winter, November – February, spreading arising material on arable land, or storing with other muck for spreading in future season. Aim to create around 30-50% open sunny water and leave the remaining area untouched, target work at shallowest sloping banks for best effect.
- If the pond dries out in summer completely, this work could be completed then – but note, any water in the pond could hold protected species until end of October.
- Positively discourage fish stocking, or duck.
- Avoid disturbing nice bankside trees or scrub to the north.

Suitability for CS funding:

At around 800m² this pond would attract funding of around £1360 which would go a significant way towards delivery of the above-described works. Highly suitable for the funding.



Ponds 4 (2 considered together):

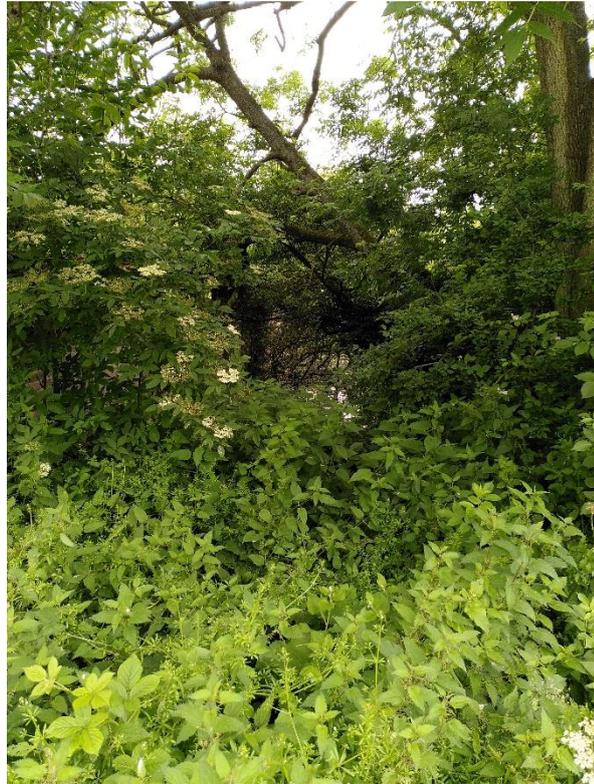
Two ponds within hedgerow boundary to southwestern edge of farm. These two field edge ponds on the farm boundary are completely shaded and silted with no aquatic plant life. Considered together they form a good prospect for restoration within the District Level Licencing scheme, which would fully fund this.

Complete restoration will involve coppicing of hedgerow trees to the south and east of these ponds (whilst retaining wherever possible any feature trees) complete desilting and spreading of the arising material to arable land. Suggested timing of the works would be September.



Pond 5:

Old Barn Pond, another very overgrown pond with good restoration potential. This pond sits adjacent to defunct building which gives useful opportunity for over-wintering pond life (including possibly GCN in the future) the pond is currently unlikely to support priority species as it is very shaded and has little in the way of aquatic vegetation. It would be a pond that can be progressed through the District level Licencing fund, however the possible complication of rubbish within the pond leads to a question around the costs. I suggest therefore that some further investigation is undertaken when restoring ponds 4 and 7 to determine the feasibility of progressing this pond restoration. If restoration is progressed with DLL money, likely to be November due to the adjacent terrestrial habitat having a significant chance of supporting GCN.,



Pond 6:

Field edge pond between arable blocks and adjacent to old orchard. With fish, limiting scope to improve for other wildlife. General principles of opening up and desilting would be good here, coppicing the southern half of the marginal vegetation would be a good start. Likely that there are high volumes of material in this 244m² pond. If it is feasible to desilt this pond, recommend doing this in a future year as leaving some undisturbed in each year is beneficial.



Recommendation:

If fish to remain (and be managed as fishpond) suggest some light coppicing of southern margin and some desilting beneficial, full scale restoration probably not useful.

If fish can be removed, then fuller restoration with near complete desilting would be positive, however, this should be done in a staggered way, not in same year as other restorations.

Suitability for CS funding:

At 244m² this pond would attract around £400 in CS capital funding, likely enough to progress coppicing of shading trees, but unlikely to fund significant desilting works.

Pond 7:

In field pond depression, uncropped and recorded as pond in RPA mapping. Opportunity to dig out and create good wildlife pond here, in association with CS pond margin option. Connecting the pond to the field's hedgerows will be important so this should only really be progressed if the margin option is feasible. Material from the excavation should be spread thinly on the land taken for the margin (it will have little agricultural benefit) or used to create some topography including south facing banks in this area. This is a project suitable for DLL funding, and work can be progressed whenever suitable access is available after harvest.



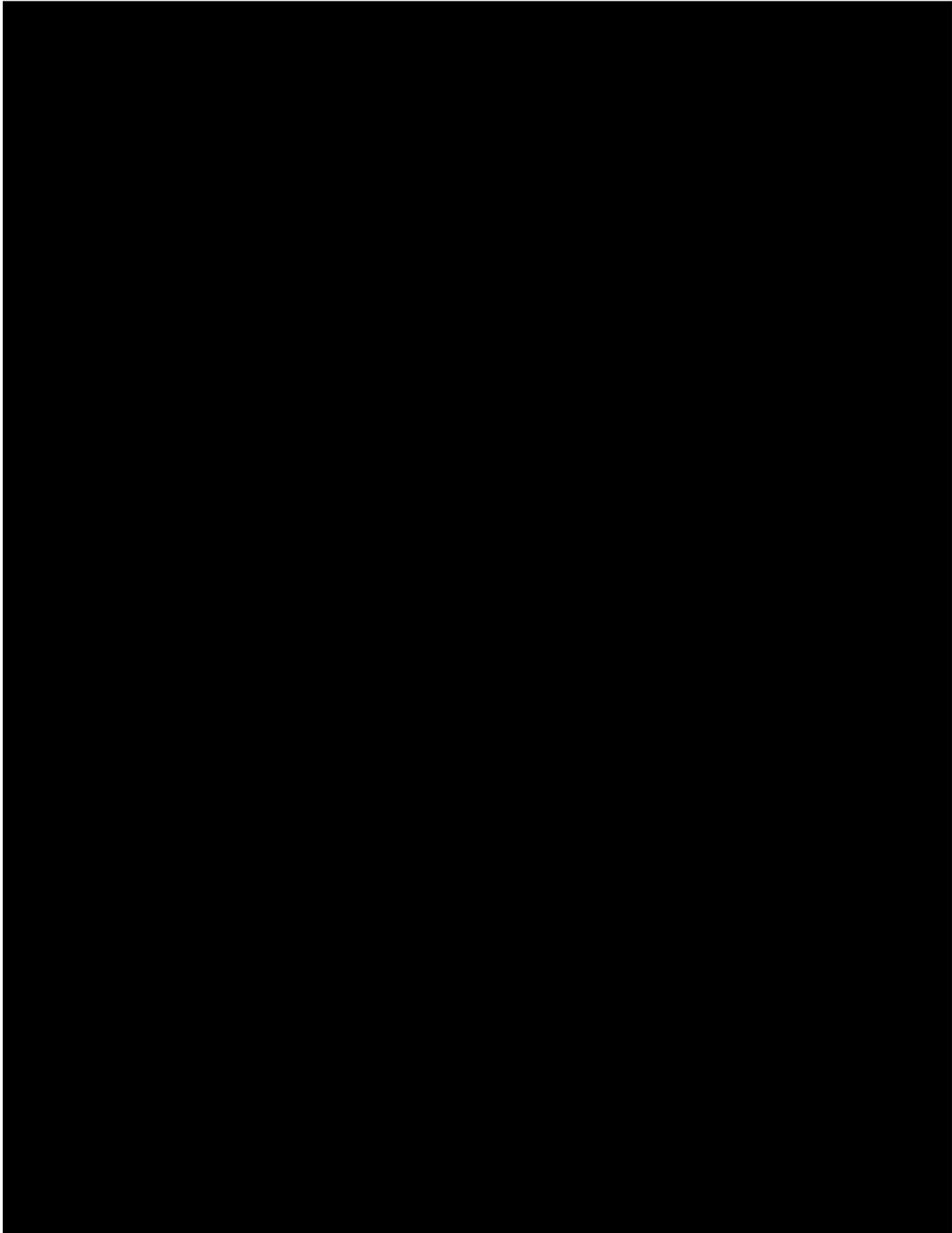
Soil cores taken from the pond site show clay to a depth of at least 1.2m, although an increasing amount of sediment was noted at the base of the profile, therefore a test pit should be dug before finalising the design of the pond.

Summary:

Pond Number	Area m ²	Management needed?	Desilting	Coppice margins	Best funding source?	Recommendation
1	310	Yes	Yes	No	CS £500	Consider carefully likely outcomes and difficulties before commencing.
2	400	Yes – depending on ambition for this pond	Yes,	Yes	CS £700	Consider balance between wildlife need and aesthetics here.
3	800	Yes	Yes	No	CS £1300	patch management very likely to be beneficial – manage in winter (Nov – Feb)
4	160 combined	Yes	Yes	Yes	DLL	DLL restoration in September
5	170	Yes	Yes	Yes	DLL	Manage if further investigations suggest feasible, same time as other DLL options
6	244	In future years	Yes	Yes, if not keeping fish	CS £400	Margin coppicing is priority here, desilting limited if using as fishery.
7	260	Yes	Yes	No	DLL	Creation of pond here, needs to be associated with margin habitat creation in CS.

N.B CS funding is not appropriate if fish keeping is to form an aspect of the ponds use in the future, as introducing species is not permitted under the scheme rules.

Map:



National Grid - East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (Green) project

Sarah Whittaker [REDACTED]@googlemail.com>
To [REDACTED]@fishergerman.co.uk, eastangliagreen@fishergerman.co.uk

Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 9:21 AM

Dear [REDACTED]

We met at the Needham Market consultation on 27th May, but I was only one of hundreds that you met that day!

Firstly, I would like to comment that neither my mother, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] nor myself, [REDACTED] were informed of this proposal by yourselves. We only heard about it via neighbours and social networks. This is very upsetting as the entire 80 acre family farm is encompassed by your proposed route. Therefore, please can I have an assurance from yourself that we will be included in all further communications regarding this project?

As you may remember, I am wholeheartedly against this project. Here are some of my reasons:

General Opposition

1. I understand you want to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but what impact will the above project have on current greenhouse emissions, with concrete being laid, heavy construction traffic etc? i.e. **Carbon footprint?**
2. East Anglia is often referred to as "**Britain's Breadbasket**". With the current situation in Ukraine, it is well reported that their grain exports will be reduced and who knows what to, if anything. Can we really ethically justify taking prime arable land out of production to facilitate the construction of this network? This would compound the problems of world food shortages and high prices in the UK of the basics such as bread. The government has asked that we grow our own fruit and vegetables. This will be virtually impossible on our farm with all the construction traffic. Also the compaction of soil during construction.
3. This part of England is very green energy aware, producing a high percentage of "green energy" which I am delighted by, but not at the cost to the rural landscape and livelihoods.
4. **RAF Wattisham** - fly **helicopters** very low over the area.
5. There is also a small **airstrip** at **Elmsett** with planes taking off and landing directly over the proposed area.
6. **Gas and Fuel pipe lines** - again cross the path of the proposal. These supply RAF Wattisham.
7. **Offton Castle Mound** - is listed as an **ancient heritage site by English Heritage**. How can the pylons go near this? The land around this would probably contain a number of artefacts from King Offa, dating back to 796 and earlier.
8. I understand that each pylon will have a 20 square meter footprint - this will have a devastating impact on the surrounding countryside and for landowners to manage the areas around these.
9. I understand that bringing the cable via the sea, I think called Subsea, is being used to bring power from Norway, so why not here? I understand part of the argument is cost. However, there are not only financial but **environmental costs** to be considered as well.
10. The visual impact on the landscape of these 50m pylons would be horrendous. They would surely have repercussions on the **tourism industry** which is a vital part of the economy here, not only in money generated, but providing jobs for the locals.
11. Increased traffic for the construction - endangering humans and the biodiversity of the area.
12. Servicing of the pylons - I understand 60t cranes to do this, further compaction of the soil structure.

Business / Personal Opposition

1. My understanding is that when the new "Green" network line crosses the already established pylons and cables, then the latter will be put underground, causing further misery to the countryside, this would actually happen on our 80 acre farm. Thereby making virtually the whole farm into a construction site.

2. **Poor access** - The access routes to our farm are single lane roads with passing places, in actual fact our lane has a warning of "**unsuitable for HGVs**". This impact of construction traffic would endanger the lives of local inhabitants: both human, animals and flora.

3. As landowners we have worked hard in enhancing the green credentials of the farm entering into:

- **Countryside Stewardship Schemes**

- **Suffolk Wildlife Trust schemes**

- **Direct Level Licensing project for the Great Crested Newts**

- **Skylark Mitigation with Suffolk Wildlife Trust** - a 10 year agreement.

The above would all be put into jeopardy if your project goes ahead. Not only would it cause devastation to our environmental work but there would also be financial implications, having agreed to enter into the above schemes that we would be unable to fulfill due to the construction traffic.

4. Numerous **historic footpaths cross** the farm and are enjoyed regularly by locals and visitors, appreciating the natural wonders and beauties of the landscape.

5. The farm has also established bee colonies that again would be endangered by this project.

6. Some of the other species that would also be endangered

- Numerous **badger setts** on the property, who enjoy the use of the 9 ponds as water holes along with the flora and fauna for feeding. As I understand it, you would need to obtain licenses if working in close proximity of these setts, then only having limited time margins in which to work. [REDACTED]

- **Turtle doves** - is the UK's fastest declining bird species and is on the brink of extinction. We have these on the farm, enjoying the habitat and nesting. Can you justify endangering these?

- We have created and enhanced habitats for the **great crested newts** which again will be endangered by your proposals.

- **Skylarks** can be heard singing their song on the farm. As I understand it "The Skylark is a fully protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981" again this proposal would endanger this protected species.

- **Buzzards** currently enjoy living on the farm. I understand they are a protected bird of prey, again their habitat would be endangered.

- **Water voles** enjoy the ponds and again I understand they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

- **Swallows** come back to the farm year after year and enjoy nesting and raising their young here.
- **Owls** enjoy the farm for nesting and feeding.

I am sure I do not need to list all the species that are rich on our farm that would, in my humble opinion, be endangered by this project. Hopefully the above has given you an idea of the diversity of nature that abounds on our 80 acres. We have worked hard to establish this for the next generation and it is heartbreaking to read your proposals that could potentially jeopardise this and more.

7. The grass margin and wild flower margins, along with bird feed mixes all go to encourage, feed and enhance this diversity of nature here.

8. There is also a **traditional orchard**, which I understand is considered a "**priority habitat**" which also supports the flora and fauna. There are **ancient trees** in excess of **150 years old** that might fall victim to this development.

9. If the project should go ahead, the natural habitat that we have worked so hard to encourage and preserve on our farm would all be endangered. The **farm would become a construction site** with the new line roughly traversing north to south, with established pylons and lines going roughly east to west so I fear there would not be a field left untouched.

10. Our **quality of life** would be impacted by this scheme: My husband who is a radio amateur would no longer be able to pursue his hobby and I would struggle to be able to walk my dogs on our farm especially during the construction phase, these are just two of the personal hardships that we would face.

11. Years ago when we had a pedigree herd of cattle on the farm, we had 6 cattle struck by lightning or ... during a thunderstorm when they were underneath the existing pylons and cables, thereby endangering the lives of humans and animals.

12. **Hill Farm** house is **Grade II listed** - what provisions will be made for this?

I shall look forward to hearing your comments on all of this and please pass this on to any one with an interest in the dreadful development.

Yours sincerely
Sarah Beevers

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a smaller black rectangular redaction box below it.

Parcel ID 6799. NG Pylon RG194

7 messages

Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>
 To: [redacted]@fishergerman.co.uk, contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com
 Cc: [redacted]@whirledgeandnott.co.uk>
 Bcc: [redacted]@hotmail.com>

Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 10:39 AM

Dear [redacted] and anyone at National Grid

Further to my email of yesterday, regarding copies of surveys, please could I have a response as soon as possible.

I have asked Fisher German and National Grid on numerous occasions for copies of the ecological surveys on our farm, which have allegedly been used by NG in their research. I signed a licence agreement to allow these surveys on our land, with an understanding that these reports would be shared with us, but I have seen nothing. There was a tree and hedgerow ecology survey on 07.06.23. Then a tree and drainage survey on 23.08.23. I would like to know who the ecologists were for these and see their reports as a matter of urgency. Plus the names and reports of any other ecologists performing tree surveys.

I would like to know how National Grid defines a "veteran tree"?

I find myself in a very grave situation, where I have been told that we have veteran trees on the farm that have not been identified accordingly by the ecologists reporting to Fisher German and the National Grid mapping. If this is the case, these ecologists need to be held responsible to their governing body.

I did contact one of the ecology firms, responsible for sending out ecologists, only to be told that the ecologists reported directly to Fisher German using ipads and that they did not have copies of the reports either.

If my findings are correct, then surely it means that all other maps and information provided by National Grid for this project has to be questioned in greater detail??

I shall look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Regards

[redacted]

N-T Surveys <N-Tsurveys@fishergerman.co.uk>

To: Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>, "contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com" <contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com>

Cc: [redacted]@whirledgeandnott.co.uk>

Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 11:5

Good Morning Sarah,

Thank you for your emails.

I have raised the request again to NG regarding survey results and what can be shared specific to your property, noting the specific surveys you have quoted below. Once details regarding these surveys are provided I will forward on directly to you and Grace. Regarding the veteran trees you have found. Any specific details you can provide regarding these, if not already provided in your consultation responses, please do so for me to forward onto NG and their internal team.

For clarity, the ecology surveyors and their results are handled directly between their respective companies and latterly feed back to NG for their consideration. Fisher German are instructed only to facilitate access for the surveys required.

Regarding some of the other queries raised on previous emails. From the most recent consultation we had in the summer, the route has not been amended further in this section and the design is still in line with the plans issued at that point. No withstanding the comments and representations you made during the consultations, impact wise we are looking at the same as before which we discussed during our 1 meeting. In summary, we are proposing the following:

- 1 new permanent pylon (RG194) to be located on the South West boundary of the property.
- A temporary haul road to be installed for the construction period. In a worst case scenario this could be for the full 3-year construction period of the property.
- Complete removal of the existing UKPN overhead powerlines located to the North of Hill farm. These are being rerouted North through a new undergrounding swathe.
- Use of a portion of the farm track and Eastern field to access and remove the UKPN pylon PI27.
- A proposed permanent access route along the farm track and field boundaries to access RG194 for future maintenance. This will not be a physical track or road across the land but the path represent type of right of way for National Grid to access their assets. Equally, this not be used at all for the construction of the new pylon.

The below link will refer you to the planning Inspectorate's website where the DCO application was submitted. <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents>

This contains all documents submitted to the inspectorate for their consideration. This is a large document library for review, referencing various points across the route. Relating to your previous representations and why they have / have not been accepted, when not reference in the DDR, some feedback is referenced in the feedback report. An extract from that relating to your section states as follows:

11-4.38	Suggest that the Project at Pylon RG194 is re-routed west of Cottage Barn (e.g. to mitigate impact on 400 year old oak trees, great crested newts identified in the pond at cottage barn, skylark plots, other protected species, owl boxes, respondents driveway which is unsuitable and is not strong enough for heavy vehicles, and market garden) / Suggest that the Project is re[1]routed west of Cottage Barn (e.g. to mitigate impact on residents, farm, flora and fauna)	<p>While the mature tree line to the north of Cottage Barn offers ecological value, arboricultural surveys have not identified these trees as veteran trees. However, impacts on the tree band have been minimised as far as practicable with the majority of trees likely retained. While there will be no direct loss of the pond at Cottage Barn, the potential temporary impact on Great Crested Newt (GCN) terrestrial habitat is acknowledged. It has been agreed with Natural England that a GCN District Level License (DLL) will be obtained for the full extent of the Project. This DLL will cover all potential impacts on GCN including those associated the pond at Cottage Barn. An alternative route to the west of Cottage Barn would not change the potential impacts on GCN. Ecological surveys have been undertaken for a range of other protected species including barn owl and farmland birds. The proposed alternative alignment to the west would not change the potential impact on these protected species.</p> <p>Full details can be found within Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity (document reference 6.8) and Appendices 8.1 to 8.16 (document reference 6.8.A1-6.8.A16) of the Environmental Statement (ES). The alternative route suggested has the potential to reduce some effects however it transfers and increases effects by moving the alignment closer to two grade II listed properties and increasing effects at a residential property to the north east of Gunn's Farm by passing within around 60m. Effects on the market garden are reduced by restriction to oversail with the haul road repositioned to the northern edge. On this basis no change is proposed as any benefits are transferred and also increased for others. Noted regards the strength of the driveway, no physical works are proposed to this access route, alternative deconstruction methods exist if driveway deemed impractical for mobile crane. Both the current and alternative route suggested may cause disruption to farm operations during construction, but any disturbance would be mitigated by maintaining access to affected land, or providing alternative access arrangements, as stated in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (document reference 7.2). Disturbance to agricultural operations during the construction phase are assessed in full in Chapter 6: Agriculture and Soils (document reference 6.6) of the ES. By the end of construction, all land required temporarily would be reinstated.</p>
---------	--	--

The link for the feedback report is [EN020027-000159-5.1 Consultation Report.pdf](#). The document can be found in the Norwich to Tilbury Document Library on the government Planning Inspectorate website as well as in the Document Library - [Documents | Norwich to Tilbury](#).

If you have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

Kind regards,



Regarding the documents being available at Stowmarket Library on Milton road, these should be available for electronic inspection through the Library's computer system rather than a physical copy presented.

Norwich to Tilbury Surveys

For and on Behalf of Fisher German LLP

0808 1753314

This e-mail message is confidential and for the use of the addressee only. If the message is received by anyone other than the addressee it must be deleted.

Internet e-mails are not secure as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, arrive late or incomplete and may contain viruses.

Fisher German accepts no liability for viruses contained in this e-mail or changes made to the message. Fisher German LLP is a limited liability partnership, registered number: OC317554.

A list of members' names is available for inspection at the registered office, The Head Office, Ivanhoe Office Park, Ivanhoe Park Way, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2AB.

SAVE PAPER - Please do not print this e-mail unless absolutely necessary.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 9

Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>
To: N-T Surveys <N-Tsurveys@fishergerman.co.uk>, [redacted]@fishergerman.co.uk
Cc: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com, [redacted]@whirledgeandnott.co.uk>

Dear [redacted]

Many thanks for your informative email. I have copied your comments in blue with my understanding of the reality and enormity of this project.

1 new permanent pylon (RG194) to be located on the South West boundary of the property.

CORRECTION - RG194 IS NOT ON OUR BOUNDARY BUT IN A FIELD.

A temporary haul road to be installed for the construction period. In a worst case scenario this could be for the full 3-year construction period of the property.
THIS COULD MEAN THAT 25% OF OUR FARM WILL BE INACCESSIBLE WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BUSINESS AND WELL BEING.

Complete removal of the existing UKPN overhead powerlines located to the North of Hill farm. These are being rerouted North through a new undergrounding swathe.
**I AM DELIGHTED THAT THESE EXISTING UKPN PYLONS WILL BE COMPLETELY REMOVED - THANK YOU! A SILVER LINING TO THE NG CLOUD! BUT NOT THE PROCESS OF ACCESSING T
PYLON ACROSS MY LAND.**

Use of a portion of the farm track and Eastern field to access and remove the UKPN pylon P127.

*A proposed permanent access route along the farm track and field boundaries to access RG194 for future maintenance. This will not be a physical track or road across the land but the path represent a type
right of way for National Grid to access their assets. Equally, this not be used at all for the construction of the new pylon.*

**HOWEVER, I AM NOT HAPPY THAT A PORTION OF FARM TRACK, WHICH IS ACTUALLY A 50+ YEAR OLD CONCRETE DRIVE, WILL BE USED AND PROBABLY DESTROY THE CONCRETE. AS
HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY THESE EXISTING PYLONS ARE NOT EVEN ON OUR LAND AND CAN BE ACCESSED FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS LAND AT CASTLE FARM AND HEADLAND TRACK
AROUND THEIR FIELD. I NOTE THAT POINT 11-4.65 DOES REFERENCE THIS, BUT WITHOUT CHANGE FOR US.**

BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE CONFUSION THAT OUR CONCRETE DRIVE IS MARKED WITH THE RED LINES WHICH I UNDERSTAND TO BE FOR PERMANENT ACCESS FOR TWO PURPOSES

1. TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO SERVICE AND MAINTAIN RG194 AND

**2. TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DEMOLISH / TAKE DOWN P127 WHICH SURELY WILL ONLY BE TEMPORARY AS ONCE THE P127 IS TAKEN DOWN, IT WILL REQUIRE NO FURTHER ACCESS? MY
CONCERN IS THAT VEHICLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE DOWN P127 AND OUR CONCRETE DRIVE WILL NOT TAKE THE WEIGHT. WE HAVE A SMALLER REFUSE LORRY TO EMPTY OUR
WHEELIE BINS.**

THEREFORE, I QUESTION THE COMMENTS IN 11-4.65 FROM NG STATING:

...THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AND AGREE PERMANENT ACCESS ROUTES... - WILL THERE???????

.... NO PHYSICAL WORKS ARE REQUIRED FOR THESE PERMANENT ACCESS ROUTES AS PART OF THE PROJECT... THEN HOW WILL THE WORKS VEHICLES GET TO UKPN P127?????

WHILST IN 11.4.38 IT DOES STATE FROM THE NG "...NOTED REGARDS THE STRENGTH OF THE DRIVEWAY..."

**ONCE AGAIN I AM LEFT IN A STATE OF CONFUSION AS TO WHAT NATIONAL GRID DO WANT? OR IS THIS DELIBERATELY LEFT AMBIGUOUS SO THAT NG CAN PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH
RESPONSE TO ACTUALLY USE??**

Regarding Point 11-4.38

I presume that the definition of a "veteran" as per my question to you, is defined by the arboriculturists reports and surveys to NG, which I have already requested.

**I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE GRID REFERENCE OF THE ONE VETERAN TREE MARKED AT [redacted] THAT IS "VETERAN TREE AFFECTED MANAGED"? IF IT IS THE TREE I THINK IT
THEN THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THAT TREE IS 4.2m, WHILST THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE TWO TREES MARKED WITH A RED DOT "TREE REMOVED" HAVE CIRCUMFERENCES OF 4.5m
4.2m - PLEASE CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN THIS?**

The orchard at Cottage Barn is now designated as a PHI. Priority Habitat Inventory, confirmed by [redacted] of the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species and Habits. This orchard also contains two rare pe
trees: the Fondant D'Automne with a circumference of 1.170m and The Black Worcester Pear with a circumference of 1.80m and only the second known tree of this variety in Suffolk. I believe that the size of the
Black Worcester would make it a "veteran" tree? The area appears beige on the map, which makes it "potentially affected", although there is a white chunk in the middle which once again is confusing. I am
attaching a report that I have compiled about the Cottage Barn Orchard.

I have signed two license agreements, the latest one in March 2024, ref NG/FG/N to T/10700 where it clearly states under point, 5.13 "provide the Licensor upon reasonable request all survey information relating
land in either its ownership or occupation which has been gathered during a survey permitted by this License and is to be used in connection with the Project being developed by the Licensee within 14 days of the
Licensee being in receipt of such survey information."

I even queried this at the time of signing the License and made it known that despite asking for copies of the surveys, they have not been forthcoming. Clearly some information, if not all, has been received by the
Licensee and yet there seems a refusal to release the information as per the License, which I can only take as a deliberate with holding of information by National Grid. Surely that can not be the case?? Then it
makes me question whether an agreement with National Grid is worth the paper it is written on??

As I said previously, in my email of 18th November

"I find myself in a very grave situation, where I have been told that we have veteran trees on the farm that have not been identified accordingly by the ecologists reporting to Fisher German and the National Grid
mapping. If this is the case, these ecologists need to be held responsible to their governing body.

I did contact one of the ecology firms, responsible for sending out ecologists, only to be told that the ecologists reported directly to Fisher German using ipads and that they did not have copies of the reports either

If my findings are correct, then surely it means that all other maps and information provided by National Grid for this project has to be questioned in greater detail??"

I appreciate you raising my comments for the surveys to be released from NG. I do note that my request has been acknowledged under 11-4.69 but I am sad to see that National Grid's response is left blank! The
certainly exceeds the 14 days that they signed to agree to release the reports.

I am horrified to see that the "Book of Reference" contains names, addresses, mortgage details and title deeds all published by National Grid in the DCO application, can this even be legal in these days of GDPR

I note in 11-44.55 there is mention of well being and mental health. This project has had a detrimental effect on my family. My mother who owns some of the farm has suffered a recurrence of her [redacted]
have had [redacted] to treat [redacted] whilst my husband suffered a [redacted]. I consider these conditions to be exasperated by the stress involved in this project,
especially as simple requests for information are ignored.

In 11-44.69 it states "... overall positive mitigation solution for GCN..." will this happen in the same location where their ponds have been destroyed? I fear the words "overall positive mitigation" will mean that the
will be enhanced habitat elsewhere for the great crested newt, which we have worked hard to secure and enrich for their survival here, not 10 miles down the road! Likewise the skylark plots that we have create
here, I presume will have the same treatment?

As I have already stated, I am not well and to go through the thousands of DCO application pages is not achievable for me, but I have viewed some and feel devastated that I have on the whole been ignored. I a
amazed that today there seems to be yet more documents just submitted by National Grid. Looking at these there is reference to "Bat Static detector survey locations" but how can these be referenced back to
specific locations on our farm? Again I would like copies of those surveys.

Please do forward the information regarding the [redacted] to National Grid, along with my comments above to anyone with some clout at National Grid or

Once again **PLEASE MAY I HAVE COPIES OF THE SURVEYS REGARDING OUR FARM, BUT AS A MATTER OF URGENCY EVERY SURVEY WITH A MENTION OF OUR TREES**, which I have been
commenting about from Day 1 of my meetings with Fisher German?

I really hope that some of these issues can be address, if not all of them.

Yours sincerely
Sarah Beevers

On Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 11:50 AM N-T Surveys <N-Tsurveys@fishergerman.co.uk> wrote:

Good Morning Sarah,

Thank you for your emails.

I have raised the request again to NG regarding survey results and what can be shared specific to your property, noting the specific surveys you have quoted below. Once details regarding these surveys are provided I will forward on directly to you and Grace. Regarding the veteran trees you have found. Any specific details you can provide regarding these, if not already provided in your consultation response please do so for me to forward onto NG and their internal team.

For clarity, the ecology surveyors and their results are handled directly between their respective companies and latterly feed back to NG for their consideration. Fisher German are instructed only to facilitate access for the surveys required.

Regarding some of the other queries raised on previous emails. From the most recent consultation we had in the summer, the route has not been amended further in this section and the design is still in line with the plans issued at that point. No withstanding the comments and representations you made during the consultations, impact wise we are looking at the same as before which we discussed during our meeting. In summary, we are proposing the following:

- 1 new permanent pylon (RG194) to be located on the South West boundary of the property.
- A temporary haul road to be installed for the construction period. In a worst case scenario this could be for the full 3-year construction period of the property.
- Complete removal of the existing UKPN overhead powerlines located to the North of Hill farm. These are being rerouted North through a new undergrounding swathe.
- Use of a portion of the farm track and Eastern field to access and remove the UKPN pylon PI27.
- A proposed permanent access route along the farm track and field boundaries to access RG194 for future maintenance. This will not be a physical track or road across the land but the path represents type of right of way for National Grid to access their assets. Equally, this not be used at all for the construction of the new pylon.

The below link will refer you to the planning Inspectorate's website where the DCO application was submitted. <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents>

This contains all documents submitted to the inspectorate for their consideration. This is a large document library for review, referencing various points across the route. Relating to your previous representations and why they have / have not been accepted, when not reference in the DDR, some feedback is referenced in the feedback report. An extract from that relating to your section states as follows:

11-4.38	Suggest that the Project at Pylon RG194 is re-routed west of [redacted] (e.g. to mitigate impact on 400 year old oak trees, great crested newts identified in the pond at cottage barn, skylark plots, other protected species, owl boxes, respondents driveway which is unsuitable and is not strong enough for heavy vehicles, and market garden) / Suggest that the Project is re[1]routed west of [redacted] (e.g. to mitigate impact on residents, farm, flora and fauna)	While the mature tree line to the north of [redacted] offers ecological value, arboricultural surveys have not identified these trees as veteran trees. However, impacts on the tree band have been minimised as far as practicable with the majority of trees likely retained. While there will be no direct loss of the pond at [redacted], the potential temporary impact on Great Crested Newt (GCN) terrestrial habitat is acknowledged. It has been agreed with Natural England that a GCN District Level License (DLL) will be obtained for the full extent of the Project. This DLL will cover all potential impacts on GCN including those associated the pond at [redacted]. An alternative route to the west of [redacted] would not change the potential impacts on GCN. Ecological surveys have been undertaken for a range of other protected species including barn owl and farmland birds. The proposed alternative alignment to the west would not change the potential impact on these protected species. Full details can be found within Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity (document reference 6.8) and Appendices 8.1 to 8.16 (document reference 6.8.A1-6.8.A16) of the Environmental Statement (ES). The alternative route suggested has the potential to reduce some effects however it transfers and increases effects by moving the alignment closer to two grade II listed properties and increasing effects at a residential property to the north east of Gunn's Farm by passing within around 60m. Effects on the market garden are reduced by restriction to oversail with the haul road repositioned to the northern edge. On this basis no change is proposed as any benefits are transferred and also increased for others. Noted regards the strength of the driveway, no physical works are proposed to this access route, alternative deconstruction methods exist if driveway deemed impractical for mobile crane. Both the current and alternative route suggested may cause disruption to farm operations during construction but any disturbance would be mitigated by maintaining access to affected land, or providing alternative access arrangements, as stated in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (document reference 7.2). Disturbance to agricultural operations during the construction phase are assessed in full in Chapter 6: Agriculture and Soils (document reference 6.6) of the ES. By the end of construction, all land required temporarily would be reinstated.
---------	--	--

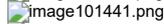
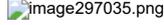
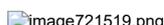
The link for the feedback report is EN020027-000159-5.1 Consultation Report.pdf. The document can be found in the Norwich to Tilbury Document Library on the government Planning Inspectorate website as - Documents | Norwich to Tilbury.

If you have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Regarding the documents being available at Stowmarket Library on Milton road, these should be available for electronic inspection through the Library's computer system rather than a physical copy present

This e-mail message is confidential and for the use of the addressee only. If the message is received by anyone other than the addressee it must be deleted.
Internet e-mails are not secure as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, arrive late or incomplete and may contain viruses.
Fisher German accepts no liability for viruses contained in this e-mail or changes made to the message. Fisher German LLP is a limited liability partnership, registered number: OC317554.
A list of members' names is available for inspection at the registered office, The Head Office, Ivanhoe Office Park, Ivanhoe Park Way, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2AB.
SAVE PAPER - Please do not print this e-mail unless absolutely necessary.
[Quoted text hidden]

 840K

Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>
To: [redacted]@hotmail.com>

Tue, Nov 25, 2025 at 8:07 AM

Morning [redacted]

I sent this off last night. Is the way that I have referenced the DCO points OK, or do I need to be more specific?

Hopefully I will do it all today and submit - that is the plan!

Thanks Sarah
[Quoted text hidden]

 840K

Jane Lushington [redacted]@hotmail.com>
To: Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>

Tue, Nov 25, 2025 at 8:21 AM

Morning Sarah

Thank you.

The detail is useful as an example of deficient consultation, failure to comply with license etc. At least the FG person has responded.

Am meeting with Parish Councilors this evening to finalise its response. Can I include your detailed email as a specific example of lack of feedback, failure to provide surveys on request ?.

Let me have your ref no. When you have registered.

Regards
[redacted]

Sent from my Galaxy
[Quoted text hidden]

Tue, Nov 25, 2025 at 8:24 AM

Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>
To: [redacted]@hotmail.com>

Yes of course [redacted] Please use anything from my Fisher German emails.

I thought about putting something about the landowner Licence agreements on the fb page, as I am sure that applies to all landowners. I do appreciate that different land agents may have agreed a slightly different agreement.

Good luck tonight.
Sarah
[Quoted text hidden]

Tue, Nov 25, 2025 at 2:39 PM

[redacted]@whirledgeandnott.co.uk>
To: Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>

Hi Sarah,

These are all valid and important points. I wanted to check you are also submitting these comments direct to the planning inspectorate?

If you do not register with the planning inspectorate by **Thursday 27th November**, then you will not be able to participate in the rest of the planning process and examination.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] BSc (Hons) MRICS FAAV

Chartered Surveyor

Tel: [redacted]

Whirledge &Nott

RAYLEIGH OFFICE

The Black Barn, Lubards Farm, Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh, Essex S56 9QG

Phone 01268 783377 Website www.whirledgeandnott.co.uk Twitter [wnottsurveyors](https://twitter.com/wnottsurveyors)



Whirledge & Nott is the trading name of Whirledge & Nott Limited. Registered in England No. 07891217

Registered Office The Black Barn, Lubards Farm, Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh, Essex S56 9QG

Privacy Our updated privacy policy reflects the changes in UK data privacy law. To view our privacy policy [click here](#).



From: Sarah Whittaker [redacted]@googlemail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 9:06 PM

To: N-T Surveys <N-Tsurveys@fishergerman.co.uk>; [redacted]@fishergerman.co.uk
Cc: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com; [redacted]@whirledgeandnott.co.uk
Subject: Re: Parcel ID 6799. NG Pylon RG194

Dear [redacted]

Many thanks for your informative email. I have copied your comments in blue with my understanding of the reality and enormity of this project.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



This e-mail message is confidential and for the use of the addressee only. If the message is received by anyone other than the addressee it must be deleted. Internet e-mails are not secure as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, arrive late or incomplete and may contain viruses. Fisher German accepts no liability for viruses contained in this e-mail or changes made to the message. Fisher German LLP is a limited liability partnership, registered number: OC317554. A list of members' names is available for inspection at the registered office, The Head Office, Ivanhoe Office Park, Ivanhoe Park Way, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2AB. SAVE PAPER - Please do not print this e-mail unless absolutely necessary.

[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



image002.jpg
4K



image004.png
2K



image006.jpg
4K



The Cottage Barn Orchard Pears.pdf
840K

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE NATIONAL GRID NORWICH TO TILBURY PYLON LINE.

I urge the Planning Inspectorate to reject the proposal for the overhead pylons and insist less damaging solutions will be looked into, that will protect our natural heritage.

I fully understand that the Grid needs to be upgraded and accept that it is in our best interests, nationally, for this to be done, but not at the cost of the countryside and the residents, both human and wild animals, flora and fauna.

I do not feel that National Grid have listened to my requests for information and / or suggestions of alternative routes, or ways of transporting the power. There are more suitable and environmentally responsible options available, including the use of HVDC underground cables, offshore coordination, and upgrading the existing grid with the latest technology. These alternatives avoid the blight of pylons on our precious countryside and minimize environmental disruption and destruction.

I fully endorse all the work done by the Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Pylon Action Group. The large overhead pylons through our countryside will cause significant and irreversible harm to the natural environment and landscape, damaging the rural character and beauty of the affected area.

**RE: PARCEL NO 6799, NATIONAL GRID PYLON RG194 AND UKPN EXISTING PYLON NO P127
ALL AT HILL FARM, [REDACTED]
including [REDACTED] close to RG194 and Hill Farm Granary.**

Background / Heritage

Hill Farm is a small 80 acre Suffolk family farm, with a Grade II listed farmhouse at the centre of the land. The farm was owned by Bishop Andrews Charity and is very close to Offton Castle. There is considerable history on the farm and we are forever finding evidence of Roman occupation.

There is an existing UKPN pylon line with P127 being on our north eastern boundary, the new Norwich to Tilbury pylon line will intersect the farm to the south, probably making 25% of the farm inaccessible and unfarmable. We have existing telegraph poles with wires taking electricity to and from our neighbours. This new pylon line will mean our little piece of Suffolk will have three areas of construction / destruction traffic for the 3 lines.

Over the years we have tried to work with conservation policies making the farm environmentally friendly to encourage and enhance nature, the flora and fauna, generally trying to make the most of what we have.

I am concerned that the listed farmhouse, where my aged and terminally ill mother lives and my home will be separated by a track, with another track going around my property, Hill Farm Granary making our home into an island.

An old barn, pond and traditional orchard are at [REDACTED] which is under threat of a bulldozer.

There is a lack of transparency as can be seen from below:

The text in blue are comments from Fisher German in an email of 18th November 2025 trying to clarify the NG plans, but as you can see from my comments, they just added more confusion and questions:

1 new permanent pylon (RG194) to be located on the South West boundary of the property.

CORRECTION - RG194 IS NOT ON OUR BOUNDARY BUT IN A FIELD.

A temporary haul road to be installed for the construction period. In a worst case scenario this could be for the full 3-year construction period of the property.

THIS COULD MEAN THAT 25% OF OUR FARM WILL BE INACCESSIBLE WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BUSINESS AND WELL BEING.

Complete removal of the existing UKPN overhead powerlines located to the North of Hill farm. These are being rerouted North through a new undergrounding swathe.

I AM DELIGHTED THAT THESE EXISTING UKPN PYLONS WILL BE COMPLETELY REMOVED - THANK YOU! A SILVER LINING TO THE NG CLOUD! BUT NOT THE PROCESS OF ACCESSING THE PYLON ACROSS MY LAND.

Use of a portion of the farm track and Eastern field to access and remove the UKPN pylon P127. A proposed permanent access route along the farm track and field boundaries to access RG194 for future maintenance. This will not be a physical track or road across the land but the path represent a type of right of way for National Grid to access their assets. Equally, this not be used at all for the construction of the new pylon.

HOWEVER, I AM NOT HAPPY THAT A PORTION OF FARM TRACK, WHICH IS ACTUALLY A 50+ YEAR OLD CONCRETE DRIVE, WILL BE USED AND PROBABLY DESTROY THE CONCRETE. AS I HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY THESE EXISTING PYLONS ARE NOT EVEN ON OUR LAND AND CAN BE ACCESSED FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS LAND AT CASTLE FARM USING A HEADLAND TRACK AROUND THEIR FIELD. I NOTE THAT POINT 11-4.65 DOES REFERENCE THIS, BUT WITHOUT CHANGE FOR US.

BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE CONFUSION THAT OUR CONCRETE DRIVE IS MARKED WITH THE RED LINES WHICH I UNDERSTAND TO BE FOR PERMANENT ACCESS FOR TWO PURPOSES:

- 1. TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO SERVICE AND MAINTAIN RG194 AND**
- 2. TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DEMOLISH / TAKE DOWN P127 WHICH SURELY WILL ONLY BE TEMPORARY AS ONCE THE P127 IS TAKEN DOWN, IT WILL REQUIRE NO FURTHER ACCESS? MY CONCERN IS THAT VEHICLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE DOWN P127 AND OUR CONCRETE DRIVE WILL NOT TAKE THE WEIGHT. WE HAVE A SMALLER REFUSE LORRY TO EMPTY OUR WHEELIE BINS.**

THEREFORE, I QUESTION THE COMMENTS IN 11-4.65 FROM NG STATING:

...THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AND AGREE PERMANENT ACCESS ROUTES... - WILL THERE???????

.... NO PHYSICAL WORKS ARE REQUIRED FOR THESE PERMANENT ACCESS ROUTES AS PART OF THE PROJECT.... THEN HOW WILL THE WORKS VEHICLES GET TO UKPN P127????? WHILST IN 11.4.38 IT DOES STATE FROM THE NG "...NOTED REGARDS THE STRENGTH OF THE DRIVEWAY..."

ONCE AGAIN I AM LEFT IN A STATE OF CONFUSION AS TO WHAT NATIONAL GRID DO WANT? OR IS THIS DELIBERATELY LEFT AMBIGUOUS SO THAT NG CAN PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH RESPONSE TO ACTUALLY USE??

Regarding Point **11-4.38**

I presume that the definition of a "veteran" as per my question to you, is defined by the arboriculturists reports and surveys to NG, which I have already requested.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE GRID REFERENCE OF THE ONE VETERAN TREE MARKED AT COTTAGE BARN THAT IS "VETERAN TREE AFFECTED MANAGED"? IF IT IS THE TREE I THINK IT IS, THEN THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THAT TREE IS 4.2m, WHILST THE

CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE TWO TREES MARKED WITH A RED DOT "TREE REMOVED" HAVE CIRCUMFERENCES OF 4.5m and 4.2m - PLEASE CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN THIS?

The orchard at [REDACTED] is now designated as a PHI, Priority Habitat Inventory, confirmed by [REDACTED] of the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species and Habits. This orchard also contains two rare pear trees: the Fondant D'Automne with a circumference of 1.170m and The Black Worcester Pear with a circumference of 1.80m and only the second known tree of this variety in Suffolk. I believe that the size of the Black Worcester would make it a "veteran" tree? The area appears beige on the map, which makes it "potentially affected", although there is a white chunk in the middle which once again is confusing. I am hoping to forward by email a report that I have compiled about the [REDACTED].

Refusal to hand over information

I have signed two license agreements, the latest one in March 2024, ref NG/FG/N to T/10700 where it clearly states under point, 5.13 *"provide the Licensor upon reasonable request all survey information relating to land in either its ownership or occupation which has been gathered during a survey permitted by this License and is to be used in connection with the Project being developed by the Licensee within 14 days of the Licensee being in receipt of such survey information;"*

I even queried this at the time of signing the License and made it known that despite asking for copies of the surveys, they have not been forthcoming. Clearly some information, if not all, has been received by the Licensee and yet there seems a refusal to release the information as per the License, which I can only take as a deliberate withholding of information by National Grid. Surely that can not be the case?? Then it also makes me question whether an agreement with National Grid is worth the paper it is written on??

As I said previously, in my email of 18th November to Fisher German

"I find myself in a very grave situation, where I have been told that we have veteran trees on the farm that have not been identified accordingly by the ecologists reporting to Fisher German and the National Grid mapping. If this is the case, these ecologists need to be held responsible to their governing body.

I did contact one of the ecology firms, responsible for sending out ecologists, only to be told that the ecologists reported directly to Fisher German using ipads and that they did not have copies of the reports either.

If my findings are correct, then surely it means that all other maps and information provided by National Grid for this project has to be questioned in greater detail??"

I do note that my request has been acknowledged under **11-4.69** but I am sad to see that National Grid's response is left blank! That certainly exceeds the 14 days that they signed to agree to release the reports. This just infuriates me more! How can this be allowed?

Personal cost / impact

I note in **11-44.55** there is mention of well being and mental health. This project has had a detrimental effect on my family. My mother who owns most of the farm has suffered a recurrence of her [REDACTED] I too have had [REDACTED] to treat [REDACTED] whilst my husband suffered a [REDACTED], all in the last three years whilst dealing with the constant interruptions, of meetings and emails to try to resolve issues

around this project. I consider these medical conditions to be exasperated by the stress involved in this project, especially when simple requests for information are ignored. This project has already impacted on our family life, as well as our business as farmers. I have spent hours sending emails and trying to speak with people at Fisher German, with best response “I will look into it”. Agreements with NG seem to be worthless documents, as they are allowed to do whatever they want.

The ecologists and / or surveyors when they came out were not interested in what they were supposed to be looking at, I felt it was just a “ticking boxes” day out for them, as illustrated above.

I am horrified to see that the "Book of Reference" contains names, addresses, mortgage details and title deeds all published by National Grid in the DCO application, can this even be legal in these days of GDPR? I feel this is an invasion of my privacy. Although the document is dated August 2025 it is not up to date, as the property is listed with the Land Registry, something the “Book of Reference” does not state.

Devaluation of property

Our neighbour has not been able to sell a field due to the Pylon project.

The main farmhouse, Grade II listed will be devalued and may be physically impacted by the construction traffic, as will my home, Hill Farm Granary, which will have destruction vehicles commuting to P127.

With the farm owner, my mother, [REDACTED] there is the added worry and stress that there could be an Inheritance Tax bill to pay in the foreseeable future, with property that can not be sold due to the Pylons.

I find myself in a farcical situation that I have to seek planning permission to change a downstairs toilet into a wet room for my mother, yet I have to endure all this destruction of what was once a “green and pleasant” land, with a total disregard for rules and compliance by the National Grid, as I have already mentioned above. Where is the logic and reasoning?

I have had to engage a Land Agent to act for us, which all adds to the costs.

It is horrible to be in a situation where one is so overwhelmed and helpless, not listened to by National Grid.

Information overload from National Grid, lack of accessibility.

As I have already stated, I am not well to go through the thousands of DCO application pages, is not achievable for me, but I have viewed some and feel devastated that I have on the whole been ignored. I am amazed that yesterday there seems to be yet more documents just submitted by National Grid, how are we supposed to read and digest that extra information in just 3 days?

I am a “visual person” so went to view the documents and maps at our local library, but they had not been delivered. There are so many documents that are then cross referenced. I would have liked to have seen one map, showing all that was going to happen on our property instead I have to refer to many maps, plus our property is on the edge of two maps which doubles up the referencing. In the main text of the application, likewise reference is made to our track, which is actually our concrete drive and the only way to come and go from the farm. The text refers to various sections of the application, but it is impossible for me to read through all of it, trying to find some relevant to our farm. It did ask Fisher German to highlight where we had a mention in the application, but they came up with just one section.

Nature under threat

Wild Bird food covers and supplementary winter feeding of wild birds, plus in field grass strips, buffering in-field ponds and ditches, along with old established meadows rich in vegetation and even ant hills, which are evidence of the long established grasslands.

We have entered into Agreements with the RPA to provide these, many of which will be in the path of the pylons and lost. Further work to negotiate amendments with the RPA and then start a fresh when the Pylons have been erected.

Rare Pear Trees as per my report “ [REDACTED] Pears” to be emailed to you and detailed above.

I am horrified these were seemingly ignored by the ecologists.

Ash Trees

We are lucky to have a number of healthy ash trees, that are ash die back disease resistant trees, but they will be lost to this project.

Oak Trees

We have a number of 400 year old oak trees, as per my report which have now been marked as “tree removed”, although they have a circumference of 4.5m and have been designated by non NG ecologists to be worthy of inclusion in the “Ancient Tree Inventory” as per my report “Tree Survey 120725” which I hope to email to you.

There are traditional old hedges that have been managed to support nature for over 50 years, these too will be lost.

Great Crest Newts

In **11-44.69** it states "... overall positive mitigation solution for GCN..." will this happen in the same location where their ponds have been destroyed? I fear the words "overall positive mitigation" will mean that it will be an enhanced habitat **elsewhere** for the great crested newt, which we have worked hard to secure and enrich for their survival here, not 10 miles down the road!

We have an agreement under the Direct Level Licensing Project – Great Crested Newts for 4 ponds.

Skylarks

Likewise the skylark plots that we have created here, I presume will have the same treatment? We entered a 10 year agreement for Skylark mitigation, with amazing results of encouraging a skylark population on the farm, it is so joyful to hear the skylarks, but sadly these plots will be in the line of the pylons.

Bats

There is reference to "Bat Static detector survey locations" but how can these be referenced back to specific locations on our farm? Again I have requested copies of those surveys. I regularly see bats flying around the old oak trees and [REDACTED], but I don't know if the NG surveyors monitored them??

Barn Owls

We installed an owl box on a twin ash tree, which has successfully been a home to the owls. A picture of this was submitted with my previous consultation documents, Tree Survey 120725. I have photos of the owls in the box.

Badgers

There is a badger sett at the [REDACTED]. NG give evidence of badgers existing, without location, so how am I supposed to know if they have located the ones I know of? Again I asked for copies of these surveys on our land, but nothing.

Bees

We have an apiary here and the bees enjoy feeding off the meadow flowers and the ivy on the oak trees singled out for destruction.

Invertebrates

The old oak and ash trees are a haven for the invertebrates, along with the overgrown [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Butterflies

Dragonflies

Crickets

Grasshoppers

Newts

Turtle doves

Swallows that return annually to the farm and nest, rearing sometimes up to 3 broods of chicks.

Many species of plants as documented in the Vascular Plant Survey, which I will forward.

Lizards are just some of the residents on the farm.

In Summary, I consider this to be a deficient consultation:

1. NG have not complied with License Agreements. Why is this allowed?
2. There has been a lack of transparency, when attending consultation meetings. I feel it has been easier to fob me off, rather than look into what is actually planned.
3. Access - These are very narrow country lanes with passing places, some having weight restrictions and yet still it is thought that they can accommodate the destruction and construction traffic? Please see my report Hill Farm Access.
4. Road closures can make what would have been a 5 minute journey into a 25 minute challenge, which if humans or animals are seeking urgent medical treatment could be the difference between life and death. Would NG compensate me for that?
5. How can protected species and their habitats be destroyed? i.e. Great Crest Newts, badgers, water voles, butterflies, grasshoppers, crickets, newts, lizards, skylarks, many of these are under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As "Jo Public" it is a criminal offence to touch any of these habitats, let alone the species, yet NG seem to be able to get out of that too.
6. The creation of new habits will not replace those lost, at best mitigate the damage – yes a step in the right direction, but better to leave the countryside alone.
7. How can NG replace a 400 year old tree, disease resistant ash tree or traditional thick old hedges. They will probably be replaced by a few saplings, planted when it is convenient for the contractor which may or may not be optimum planting season.
8. I question whether the ecologists and surveyors have done a full and thorough job, as copies of their reports have not been provided. I asked for these from Day 1 of hearing that there would be surveys and signing the first License Agreement. Furthermore, I have had independent farm surveyors/ecologists here who have questioned the facts presented by NG from their "experts". Please see my list of attachments to be sent via email.
9. I am left questioning anything NG states, as it is not always backed up by actual evidence to the general public that is location specific.
10. I struggle to understand the NG proposals as there are so many maps and documents that one needs to cross reference to.
11. Fisher German have ignored questions, I am still awaiting a response from Sam Parton at FG from an email dated 15.06.22?
12. We have two Priority Habitat Inventories on the farm, one is under threat and the other one will be implicated. Is this not important?
13. I believe this project is classified as "green". Yet we have had surveyors fly in from India, drive up from Cornwall and down from York, to then stay in hotels in the area. They have visited in pairs, usually in separate cars, although setting off and returning to the same places. What has this cost the environment and the tax payer?
Where will the workers come from for the destruction of the UKPN pylons and the construction of the NG pylons and the undergrounding of the domestic electricity poles and wires? I bet they will not be local? Perhaps I should open up my house as a B & B to accommodate a few?

14. I am concerned about Health and Safety with the construction of these pylons.
 - a. The pylon line crossing an underground gas pipe.
 - b. The pylon line crossing a fuel line taking fuel to RAF Wattisham
 - c. Pylons icing over and ice falling
 - d. The risk of terrorism
 - e. The risk of anything living walking under the wires if there is lightening, as we lost several cattle under the existing pylon line when there was a severe lightening storm, so I am not convinced they are that safe.
15. I understand that the compensation landowners will be offered for having a pylon is at a rate not reviewed for over 10 years. It would be nice to think there has been zero inflation over the last 10 years. How can a one of payment be fair? At least with the UKPN poles there is the chance of regular compensation and rental. This needs to be reviewed.
16. Notices notifying landowners of the works, have not been erected in the correct locations. The latest one was put in the gateway of a neighbours field, which had the road and another field before our property and the notice?

I would like to submit the following documents via email attachments at a later date:

1. Hill Farm - Pylon opposition Aug 2023
2. Hill Farm - Access
3. Hill Farm - sights
4. My email to [REDACTED] re National Grid 15.06.22 which is still unanswered.
5. Vascular Plant Survey in June 2003, [REDACTED]
6. Suffolk Wildlife Trust Pond Report June 2021 by [REDACTED]
7. Pond eDNA survey June 2023 by [REDACTED]
8. My map showing the farm boundary, stewardship and various points of interest and the pylon line.
9. Hill Farm Skylark Plots Map
10. Hill Farm information for Educational Groups
11. The [REDACTED] Pears
12. Tree Survey 120725
13. Fisher German email 18th November.

Thank you for reading this. I hope you will have some idea of my heart break at this pylon project. For over 50 years I have spent making something of our farm to help the natural world. We are but custodians of this planet and surely we have a responsibility to the next generation to pass on a countryside that is richer and more bountiful for our children?

Sarah Beevers of Hill Farm Granary, [REDACTED]
25.11.2025

Your registration identification number is: [REDACTED]

MOST IMPORTANTLY I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST AN IN PERSON VISIT BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE TO OUR PROPERTY.

Where they will be able to see the impact on our small family 80 acre farm:

3 AREAS OF LAND WILL BE IMPACTED:

- National Grid plans indicate that UKPN will use our existing 50+ year old concrete driveway to access pylons for removal. The driveway is not suitable for heavy vehicles and must remain accessible at all times. Current plans show UKPN accessing the field to the east by entering the field directly; this would be better routed along the pre-existing headland track rather than encroaching approximately 5m into the field, to enable them to destruct the existing UKPN line (for which we still have no information as to how this will be achieved, just speculation by NG on how it might be dealt with.)
- Undergrounding of the existing domestic wooden pole power line.
- I believe the above all has to be agreed and completed before the new NG pylon line with it's haul road can be started. Then leaving a pylon in the middle of a field, for farm machinery to try to go around and a new way of life for humans and nature to come to terms with, minus the hundreds year old trees and established hedges and ecology of the terrain. Let me be clear, these are 3 separate areas where our farm and lives will be disrupted. Potentially isolating parts of the farm.

FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL HARDSHIP

- A Total nightmare to access our homes with an [REDACTED]
- During the destruction and construction processes the farm will become unviable for commercial and agricultural use.
- I understand that we shall receive compensation, but that needs to be at least yearly. Financially we can not exist waiting years for the project to be completed before receiving any remuneration. If that is the case, then we will be bankrupt and out of business. No one seems to be able to answer the question regarding timing of compensation?
- The green and pleasant land that we currently enjoy will be blighted for future generations and uses / possible diversification projects.
- National Grid have already failed to honour licence agreements, in which NG were to share survey reports. Despite this, I have repeatedly asked to see survey reports and nothing has been forthcoming. Seemingly, the plans do acknowledge some survey content, but this is only in a general area, without pinpoint accuracy. Why have I had to go to the Freedom of Information Act to try to obtain copies? This adds further unnecessary work for me, emphasizing the lack of transparency from National Grid. Furthermore, the surveyors have been told that they can not share any information with the landowners. It seems that many of the surveys have just been a "tick box" exercise. Only today I heard to another local landowner having mouse boxes put on his land, we have had nothing of the sort??
- Everything in the planning application is made difficult for the landowner. No one seems to want to take responsibility for any of the actions. Even completing this form, why on the previous page could there not have been a tick box for "landowners"? Instead 14 circles to pick "which item would you like to submit against for this deadline?" Surely the landowners will be suffering the most and need to have answers? Please very nicely could this process be made more user friendly?
- The one off payment for having the unsightly and inconvenient obstruction of a pylon in the field is an insult. The rates have not been reviewed for over a decade. At least with the UKPN wooden poles, we receive a rental, compensation and / or lease payment once a year, which is surely a fairer way to deal with it? With ongoing acknowledgement and reimbursements for future land owners to receive.
- I have spent many hours researching, collating and corresponding with National Grid, Fisher German and employing an agent to help. Frustratingly, with very few questions being answered. Why will no one take responsibility for this and answer questions?

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

- The devastation of the wildlife that we have actively supported through Stewardship schemes, Great Crested Newt licence agreements and skylark mitigation agreements.
- The destruction of healthy ancient, veteran and rare trees. The plans show these to be removed, but the justification is unclear, especially when one tree can be saved with those either side of it being destroyed. There is a lack of rhyme or reason to this. I have asked for explanations, but again nothing.
- Specific concern regarding ancient pear orchard trees, a PHI habitat, which are rare and irreplaceable; clarification needed on mitigation and reinstatement.
- A discussion has been requested with the National Grid officer responsible for preparing the tree plan to understand whether alternatives have been considered, but I have heard nothing.
- Clarification is required on the meaning of the different colours shown on the tree plan, as there seems to be an additional colour not listed on the colour coded key, again this has been requested from Fisher German and National Grid, but again I have heard nothing.
- More details of specific ecological impact can be read in the attached documents.

I am attaching documents as evidence to my many concerns regarding this National Grid Pylon Plan.

1. Hill Farm - Pylon opposition Aug 2023
2. Hill Farm - Access
3. Hill Farm - sights
4. My email to [REDACTED] re National Grid 15.06.22 which is still unanswered.
5. Vascular Plant Survey in June 2003, [REDACTED]
6. Suffolk Wildlife Trust Pond Report June 2021 by [REDACTED]
7. Pond eDNA survey June 2023 by [REDACTED]
8. My map showing the farm boundary, stewardship and various points of interest and the pylon line.
9. Hill Farm Skylark Plots Map
10. Hill Farm information for Educational Groups
11. The Cottage Barn Orchard Pears

12. Tree Survey 120725

13. Fisher German email 18th November 2025

14. SB DCO Objection 25.11.25

Thank you for reading this and please can the Planning Inspectorate come and visit our property?

Sarah Bevers

26.02.2026

MOST IMPORTANTLY I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST AN IN PERSON VISIT BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE TO OUR PROPERTY.

Where they will be able to see the impact on our small family 80 acre farm:

3 AREAS OF LAND WILL BE IMPACTED:

- National Grid plans indicate that UKPN will use our existing 50+ year old concrete driveway to access pylons for removal. The driveway is not suitable for heavy vehicles and must remain accessible at all times. Current plans show UKPN accessing the field to the east by entering the field directly; this would be better routed along the pre-existing headland track rather than encroaching approximately 5m into the field, to enable them to destruct the existing UKPN line (for which we still have no information as to how this will be achieved, just speculation by NG on how it might be dealt with.)
- Undergrounding of the existing domestic wooden pole power line.
- I believe the above all has to be agreed and completed before the new NG pylon line with it's haul road can be started. Then leaving a pylon in the middle of a field, for farm machinery to try to go around and a new way of life for humans and nature to come to terms with, minus the hundreds year old trees and established hedges and ecology of the terrain.

Let me be clear, these are 3 separate areas where our farm and lives will be disrupted. Potentially isolating parts of the farm.

FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL HARDSHIP

- A Total nightmare to access our homes with an [REDACTED]
- During the destruction and construction processes the farm will become unviable for commercial and agricultural use.
- I understand that we shall receive compensation, but that needs to be at least yearly. Financially we can not exist waiting years for the project to be completed before receiving any remuneration. If that is the case, then we will be bankrupt and out of business. No one seems to be able to answer the question regarding timing of compensation?
- The green and pleasant land that we currently enjoy will be blighted for future generations and uses / possible diversification projects.
- National Grid have already failed to honour licence agreements, in which NG were to share survey reports. Despite this, I have repeatedly asked to see survey reports and nothing has been forthcoming. Seemingly, the plans do acknowledge some survey content, but this is only in a general area, without pinpoint accuracy. Why have I had to go to the Freedom of Information Act to try to obtain copies? This adds further unnecessary work for me, emphasizing the lack of transparency from National Grid. Furthermore, the surveyors have been told that they can not share any information with the landowners. It seems that many of the surveys have just been a "tick box" exercise. Only today I heard to another local landowner having mouse boxes put on his land, we have had nothing of the sort??

- Everything in the planning application is made difficult for the landowner. No one seems to want to take responsibility for any of the actions. Even completing this form, why on the previous page could there not have been a tick box for “landowners”? Instead 14 circles to pick “which item would you like to submit against for this deadline?” Surely the landowners will be suffering the most and need to have answers? Please very nicely could this process be made more user friendly?
- The one off payment for having the unsightly and inconvenient obstruction of a pylon in the field is an insult. The rates have not been reviewed for over a decade. At least with the UKPN wooden poles, we receive a rental, compensation and / or lease payment once a year, which is surely a fairer way to deal with it? With ongoing acknowledgement and reimbursements for future land owners to receive.
- I have spent many hours researching, collating and corresponding with National Grid, Fisher German and employing an agent to help. Frustratingly, with very few questions being answered. Why will no one take responsibility for this and answer questions?

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

- The devastation of the wildlife that we have actively supported through Stewardship schemes, Great Crested Newt licence agreements and skylark mitigation agreements.
- The destruction of healthy ancient, veteran and rare trees. The plans show these to be removed, but the justification is unclear, especially when one tree can be saved with those either side of it being destroyed. There is a lack of rhyme or reason to this. I have asked for explanations, but again nothing.
- Specific concern regarding ancient pear orchard trees, a PHI habitat, which are rare and irreplaceable; clarification needed on mitigation and reinstatement.
- A discussion has been requested with the National Grid officer responsible for preparing the tree plan to understand whether alternatives have been considered, but I have heard nothing.
- Clarification is required on the meaning of the different colours shown on the tree plan, as there seems to be an additional colour not listed on the colour coded key, again this has been requested from Fisher German and National Grid, but again I have heard nothing.
- More details of specific ecological impact can be read in the attached documents.

I am attaching documents as evidence to my many concerns regarding this National Grid Pylon Plan.

1. Hill Farm - Pylon opposition Aug 2023
2. Hill Farm - Access
3. Hill Farm - sights
4. My email to [REDACTED] re National Grid 15.06.22 which is still unanswered.
5. Vascular Plant Survey in June 2003, [REDACTED]
6. Suffolk Wildlife Trust Pond Report June 2021 by [REDACTED]
7. Pond eDNA survey June 2023 by [REDACTED]
8. My map showing the farm boundary, stewardship and various points of interest and the pylon line.
9. Hill Farm Skylark Plots Map

10. Hill Farm information for Educational Groups
11. The [REDACTED] Pears
12. Tree Survey 120725
13. Fisher German email 18th November 2025
14. SB DCO Objection 25.11.25

Thank you for reading this and please can the Planning Inspectorate come and visit our property?

Sarah Beevers
26.02.2026