

Submission ID: SC7FD569C

Comments for your consideration please:

We live in Rivenhall, Essex, in the shadow of the proposed route of the Norwich to Tilbury 50m pylons and cabling across our district to carry power from offshore windfarms in East Anglian to London and the south east.

This completely new pylon route will cause local harm to the landscape of Rivenhall and all villages along its route and will necessitate the removal of ancient trees, land and hedges all along its length including those very close to us. It will affect us and our home directly including its setting and future value.

National Grid Norwich to Tilbury

Written comments for Open Floor Hearings Feb 2026:

We live in Rivenhall, Essex at [REDACTED] – a mid-terrace cottage in a rural setting.

For us the field behind our property, is literally metres from our back door where we walk up and down beside every day to reach our garden and garage and look after our chickens. This field will be severely affected and is to become a storage area for construction equipment and access route for lorries and construction vehicles. All while the pylon in the next field is built and while our electricity supply is dug underground (it needs to be put underground where the two lines of power cross). During this time the field will be unusable for agriculture and our access will become hazardous – if it is even allowed? The lorries will leave the field only metres from our home to access the main road between the villages of Rivenhall and Silver End. This is a very busy road, and the field is on a dangerous 45 degree bend, this is going to be hazardous and mud will be a real issue on such a dangerous corner.

People living all around us are concerned, and are struggling to take in just what this means and the affect it will have on their homes. For most people their home represents their only investment for the future, which they are working hard to pay for in terms of loans for mortgages or rent. Some have been trying to sell, but nobody is buying around here – a factor must be because property searches show up the planned pylon route changing the outlook and setting of what are currently attractive places for our homes.

Picture : our cottage (see chimney) part of the field which will be used for road access and construction of the nearest pylon in the next field. This will be used for access to the main road. Note our existing power supply of electricity poles to the right of the picture, where trees will be removed and which will be dug up putting at risk the small area of untouched woodland lived in by owls, including Barn Owls, foxes, deer, bats and badgers to name just a few. We totally object to this part of the plan happening, if it must be placed underground it must emerge in front of the small copse and not be allowed to remove any trees there which will put it in danger.



We object to the disruption to the agricultural use of the fields around us and to the wildlife – we have a unique habitat here of farmland, lake, stream and woodland with a rich and diverse number of insects, birds and mammals. Wild birds are numerous over our cottages and the field – including Red Kite, Buzzards, flocks of gulls, Lapwings, Geese and Redwing.

We object to removing ancient trees, hedges and woodlands - just at a time when we need to preserve these if we are have a chance to meet our obligations regarding climate change. Planting new trees in no way replaces them, it literally takes years to catch up the carbon capture they represent.

The new pylon route will also affect the use of the countryside for activities affecting the local economy – as well as farming the airspace is used by light aircraft, balloon trips and the armed forces who use it for regular training missions – with low-flying aircraft fly coming over our home and fields.

After leaving the field next to our property the pylons and the cabling then cross the road shown above towards Rivenhall Thicks Woodland, which is the highest point of land for many miles around and will be seen from a long distance in all directions, including from Rivenhall Church (Grade 1 listed building) which is a short distance away in Rivenhall village and Rivenhall Place – these views will forever be harmed and their settings irrevocably changed.

This plan affects us directly – harming the rural setting and outlook of our home, affecting its value - if we can even sell it, and we therefore must object to it on the grounds of disruption to our lives while it is built, the affect it will have on us financially by devaluing our home (our only asset) and the stress of living here while all this goes on. The other affect it will have on us is that we will see this network daily from our home crossing the next field and the cabling will overshadow us and its buzzing noises will be heard in damp weather.

The National Grid costing of the project suggests any other option is too expensive – undergrounding or off-shore, but has this included the cost of compensation to the affected landowners and home-owners in the figures? It is unlikely homes will be compulsorily purchased if it can be avoided or a subsidy paid to make up for devaluing homes, let alone if homes are degraded by the work itself. Will there be compensation for people like us and what will that cost the project?

We also object because the cabling which is proposed to cross the stand of ancient trees, which include Oak, Beech, Elm and Ash of a good age which are visible from a long distance in all directions in the landscape, including Rivenhall Church (Grade 1 listed building). To remove any of these trees for this power network will be completely unnecessary and absolutely shocking to all who enjoy the countryside here, walking their dogs every day is a very popular pastime and people care about the wildlife in it.

According to the Holford rules, hedges and trees have to be avoided as much as possible, which especially applies to these trees because of their historical links to Rivenhall Place a grade II* listed building.



Picture 2. The beginning of the line of Trees once the boundary of Rivenhall Place, which may be removed further along the field west of Park Road, and may be removed for cabling,. These trees are home to owls, bats all sorts of wildlife and loved by the local people. We have three types of owl, Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Little

Owl and 7 species of bats have been recorded.

Picture 3. of Veteran Oak Tree ‘Henry’, loved by local people – the stones around the trunk were put there by children during lockdown walks:



This land leading up to Rivenhall Thicks and the Field behind our home at [REDACTED] is home to the Red Listed and protected Sky Lark which nest on the fields here beside our property. These fields are also home to Hares who need wide spaces and large ranges. We are very concerned that the wildlife surveys which have been made and quoted in the project have been carried out at the wrong time of year for these species to have been active and recorded accurately. This is also the case for other species such as the bats that regularly feed around the trees.

National Grid are constantly advertising how in other parts of the grid they are removing old pylons and cables from the British countryside. They are using new and using better undergrounding methods, or by going undersea on their other projects – but refuse to acknowledge why 1950s technology is the best choice for Norwich to Tilbury.

This new addition to the grid is to carry offshore generated power from windfarms off the coast of Norfolk and East Anglia and carry it down to Tilbury, Essex. It seems so much more sensible to go offshore where it is being made and for the grid to landfall using existing infrastructure no longer needed for Bradwell Power Station on the Dengie Peninsula, and feed it into the grid from there. This would be less harmful to a lot of the East Anglian Landscape and re-purpose an existing grid network. This is the off-shore grid suggested by Rosie Pearson of Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Group, but it is not the off-shore grid being costed for by National Grid – which is why the two costs don't match up.

We owe it to our children and future generations living in the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk countryside to ensure this is all carefully thought through and for best practice and technology available to be put into use. We don't want to install out of date old technology when we can do better because our children and grandchildren will have to live with the ugly mistakes for years to come, and not us. They will look at what we have agreed to do now to our countryside to feed our greed for electric cars and they will despair at the loss of ancient trees, hedges and woods which it is proposed to rip out in order to build the 50m pylons, dig underground cabling and build service roads.

Where we live in the Basin of the River Blackwater we have a lot of overdevelopment to bear already - local solar farms and their infrastructure, more and more housing not in keeping with the villages (especially developments at Silver End), encroachment of industrial estates from Witham into Rivenhall Parish, the Rivenhall Incinerator and now we have to add to this list 50m tall pylons with cabling and associated construction roads and infrastructure to build and maintain them.

Our home and lives are going to be devastated while all this construction goes on and nothing is going to give that back to us, unless we hear that this grid is fully researched and the costing comparisons made visible to us.

Yours sincerely,

Christine, Robert and JJ Hall

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[REDACTED]

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