

Norwich to Tilbury – Proposed Pylon Route  
(Application EN020027)

Register of interest - [REDACTED]

Notes for Speech at Open Forum in Norwich  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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## Bullet Points

### Set Parameters:-

- North of Roydon to 1.5 miles due south
- Not comment on UG or US but both better 21<sup>st</sup> C solution than this 1950's one
- Not comment on the devastation of zigzag route through Waveney Valley destroying flora, fauna etc. and creating visual pollution
- Will leave that to others more qualified/knowledgeable than I but will concentrate on physical and mental health of Roydon residents (2500+)

### Sticky Particles:-

- Corona Ions created by pylons can create particles in the air “sticky”
- Particles more prevalent on busy roads such as A1066 going through Roydon
- These particles are inhaled or stuck to skin can be carcinogenic
- The theory proposed by many universities and research bodies is that this can explain the cancer clusters observed on pylon routes and the increase in childhood leukaemia of 69%
- Theory around for 25+ years (Professor Henshaw of Bristol U and many others internationally)
- Theory challenged by NG (of course) and other Uni's (sponsored by NG and other HV transmission companies).
- They say it is only a theory – which is true and it does divide the academic community but it does explain observed effects the same as the theory of relativity explains space/time and the theory of evolution explains how we got here.
- Sticky particles have been found 600m away from pylons (some say 2k+)
- However, this is at right angles to the pylons but in Roydon they will be concentrated up the line of pylons and blown over Roydon by prevailing winds.
- Further concentrated by the fact that Roydon is surrounded on 3 sides.
- NG say it is safe but CEO, Chair and Proj Dir refuse to sign a declaration saying so (no caveats)

### EHS

- Electrical Hyper Sensitivity affects 10% to 20% of population
- NG states it is not a recognised condition but WHO lists symptoms.
- Headaches, nausea, migraines etc
- Makes sufferers depressed, depressed very depressed and very depressed suicidal.

### Process:-

- No direct detailed answers given – only generalities.
- Asked for minutes of when decisions made and by whom and why – no response
- Why original blue corridor changed to surround Roydon on 3 sides?
- Why WVA withdrawn?

- It took 2 years to find another 3 sides at Maltby. But arms are longer, further away from residences and prevailing winds blow particles away from town and not onto it
- Many objections put in writing at “consultation” events as no one would give a direct answer. I have proposed so many options but not answered with any detail or proof
- NG do not come and visit – using “best map data”
- Proposed WVA to go underground for approx. 2k (1 mile) but then withdrew.
- NG state “they protect the countryside” – no evidence of it here!
- NG do not care for the people impact just their owners such as Blackrock Inc, Lazard Asset Management, Vanguard Group and all that giddyup

#### **Other approaches**

- Netherlands – since 2010 cap on overhead. For each km new replace 1km old
- Germany prioritises UG over OH to reduce environmental impact
- Switzerland like Holland utilizes UG for aesthetic, environmental and health grounds
- Italy – quality target for OH near residences is 3 micro T and not 100 micro T in UK and EU
- Anzac reviewing policies due to health concerns and California has UG policy near residential homes.
- More cautious approach needed here particularly when surrounding Roydon so tightly on 3 sides. Reimplement the WVA as a minimum.
- Implementing WVA would cost 24p on the annual bill for residential users for one year only or 2.4p over a 10 year period. Less than one days spend for housing illegal immigrants

**Over 600 people turned up at one residents home to protest and walk this 2 km route which included 3 mp’s many local parish, district and county councillors all expressing their disgust with this proposed route to surround Roydon on three sides. No-one from NG!! Save the health and well being of Roydon residents by going UG (WVA) or moving route back to blue corridor or somewhere else. This is not NIMBY but not in my backyard, side garden and front door.**

**As ordinary individuals we cannot afford a KC to represent us nor slick PR professionals to go in front of media to give prepared answers to known questions. It is time for CEO, Chairman and Project Director to stop hiding behind their desks and face peoples questions directly with detailed answers to be minuted.**

**The full cost of this pylon route should include land purchases and property devaluations to compare with Underground and Undersea. Should also include whole life costs inc. withdrawal from service.**

## Fuller Text

I am going to key on a particular area of the route and that is namely the area around Roydon in the Waveney Valley. Specifically, from around 1 mile North to 1.5 miles South of Roydon.

I will leave others that are more competent and knowledgeable than myself to speak as to why this whole route is not undersea rather than this 1950's approach to energy transmission but I will just say that it beggars belief that serious consideration is being given to creating an undersea cable to connect solar and wind farms in Morocco to the UK which is well over a thousand miles yet we cannot put in place a mere 100 mile cable to link Norwich and Tilbury. If cable were ordered in 2021 then it would not be delivered until 2030 so is this the reason for the 1950's pylon solution?

I will also let more knowledgeable and professional people comment on the damage to the flora and fauna that this proposal will cause through the Waveney Valley, not least of which is the destruction of some of the most beautiful views with these 50m high pylons that will dwarf every dwelling and our Grade listed church. Roydon Parish Council recently published a map of Roydon and where all the views of outstanding beauty could be seen. Every single one of those will now see pylons front and centre as they zig-zag their way through the Valley and surround Roydon on three sides. NG have found a 50m wide gap between Roydon Fen to the East (an area which has many rare and endangered species) and Wortham Ling to the west (a site of special scientific interest SSSI).

No, I shall concentrate on the dangers to the physical and mental health of the residents of Roydon and its surrounds. These 400kv pylons create electromagnetic fields and these create "Corona Ions". There is compelling evidence that these ions can make particles in the air "sticky". These "sticky" particles can be absorbed by our bodies through inhalation and through contact with the skin. There have been many articles written on this subject and the link to cancers. Professor Henshaw of Bristol University has done much work on this over the last 25 years and more, as have Universities in Canada, California and others. NG will state that there is no proof of this and their research, and other's shows no link. The truth of the matter is that the argument of these particles does explain the observed "cancer clusters" such as a 69% increase in childhood cancers. This is similar to Einsteins theory of relativity being just a theory but does explain the universe or Darwins theory of evolution to explain how the flora and fauna of the earth developed. NG will get all technical and talk about how the risk diminishes over distance and cite the government recommendation of 50metres. The government recommendation of 50m is based upon NG and other Electricity transmitters own research or those "scientists" that have a personal stake or are sponsored by network operators. Again, the truth of the matter is that the scientific community is divided on this issue and much more research over a longer period is needed.

But, back to these "sticky" particles. They are much more prevalent in areas of high traffic such as the A1066 which passes through Roydon with many heavy articulated lorries and heavy machinery from farm traffic. These particles have been found up to 2km and more away from HV transmission lines. That means at right angles to the transmission lines! In the Roydon and Waveney Valley area these particles will be inline with transmission lines and coupled with the effect that the prevailing winds will carry them all over Roydon. Add to that that Roydon is surrounded on three sides by these 50m tall, 400KV pylons then there is very deep concern by the residents for this part of the proposed route. NG will say there is no proof but my answer to that is "show me the proof that there is no danger whatsoever". I have repeatedly asked the Chairperson, CEO and Project Director of NG to put in writing that there is no hazard (without any caveats) and sign it – they have refused so far.

I will be fair and state again that there are varying opinions in the scientific community as to whether living close to High Voltage power lines causes detrimental effects to humans. This can be likened to the same sort of differing opinions in the past on (say) asbestos exposure and smoking. Ancient Egyptians first recorded a high number of deaths in mining asbestos several thousands of years ago as did the Romans around first century AD. In 1920 our scientists in the UK first noted higher death rates when people handled asbestos but this was not acted upon as the effects usually became significant in much later life and asbestos was a cheap fireproof building material. It was only in the 1970's that first "blue" asbestos was recognised as a hazard and then "white" asbestos". Asbestos is now banned. Smoking harm was also recognised anecdotally many decades ago but scientific evidence was hard to obtain mainly because most "research" was undertaken by tobacco companies. As late as the 1960's cigarettes were deemed "healthy". I remember in the mid 1960's that my aunt Peggy had a chesty cough and the doctor said she should smoke menthol cigarettes as they would kill infection and soothe her throat. She died of lung cancer some years later.

Are we in the same position regarding HV power lines? There were not that many about a few decades ago so there is no real empirical data available from those who live long term close to 400kV power lines. Scientific experiments are typically conducted within a limited timeframe. These studies focus solely on single straight-line power sources, and there is no evidence of experiments considering the effects of closely surrounding homes on three sides. Scientists (usually those in the NG or in some way sponsored by them) are very quick to point out that it is the magnetic waves and not the electric ones that can form most damage. They state that the background magnetic force felt by the earth's magnetic poles is 50 micro-Teslas whereas the magnetic force from power lines is only 40 micro Teslas. However, what they fail to mention is that it is the varying frequency of HV power that induces changes in the electric in the brain and rest of the body. These pylons will be with us for many decades so measurements over a relatively short period of time make no sense whatsoever.

There is a 69% risk increase of development of childhood leukaemia when living up to 600metres away. The situation is made even worse because Roydon will be surrounded on three sides. All experimentation and research have taken place using only single, straight-line cables and no experiments on effects of surrounding on three sides. What is the effect in Roydon? Triple? More? I asked NG for 2 years to provide me with a residential area that is surrounded on three sides such as they propose here. Finally, they gave a single example of Maltby in West Yorkshire. Yes, it is surrounded on three sides by pylons but each "leg" of the surround is miles long and over a greater area than the concentrated "tighter fit" around Roydon. Also, the closest building seem to be metal framed and clad industrial buildings effectively protecting those inside with a "Faraday Screen".

Health risks are not only cancers but also include Electro Hypersensitivity Syndrome (EHS). Now NG will argue that EHS is not a recognised illness (yet) but the World Health Organisation (WHO) have written several papers on it. Affects include nausea, sickness, headaches, migraines etc and can make people depressed, depressed people very depressed and very depressed people suicidal. The National Library for Medicine (NIH) state in their review Jan-Mar 2010 state "while there is strong evidence for an association between leukaemia and residential ...exposure to ELF EMFs for many years, the standards in existence are not sufficiently stringent to protect from an increased risk of cancer". They go onto say "While there are many unanswered questions, the cost of doing nothing will result in an increasing number of people, many of them young, developing cancer.

The proposed route will come from the South of Roydon through the aforementioned gap up the Waveney Valley to surround Roydon on three sides. Was it the strength of feeling by Roydon and Waveney Valley residents that made NG put forward an underground "Waveney Valley Alternative" (WVA) proposal? I would like to think so and that reason prevailed in this are of approx. Just over 1 mile. However, NG withdrew this alternative solution giving us no reason why – certainly not in any detail. Their whole approach to this current proposal has been an utter joke. The so called

“consultation process” is laughable. I, and many other, thought there would be open meetings where the public would ask questions directly to the decision makers of NG. Not so. Many thousands of people turned up to these “events” giving their objections but there was no-one in authority from NG there. We were told to put our objections in writing and they would be considered. This we did and just got generic responses. No detail has ever been given. I have repeatedly asked for more information including minutes of meetings where key decisions are made and who made them using what criteria (such as why move from the original “blue” corridor proposed to the west of Roydon?). Never had a reply. They only give me set standard answers with no real content time after time.

What do other countries do?

Netherlands, Leaders in this area. Since 2010 have implemented a cap on the length of their overhead grid. For every km of new overhead line a corresponding length of existing overhead is to be put underground.

Germany, has extensive use of underground cables and prioritises undergrounding over new aerial lines to reduce environmental impact – even though it is more expensive

Switzerland, like Netherlands it heavily utilizes underground for aesthetic, environmental and health grounds

Norway, partial ban and debates continuing over use of land for overhead cables

Italy, their quality target for new overhead lines near residential dwellings is 3microTeslas and not the 100micro Teslas used in EU and UK

Australia and NZ are reviewing their approaches to use of HV power lines. California has a policy to underground near residential homes.

People elsewhere are taking a much more cautious approach than in this instance around Roydon until the science catches up with observed impacts. We should do the same here instead of trying to save every farthing by zigzagging our way through one of the most beautiful areas of Norfolk/ Suffolk and surrounding Roydon on three sides. I did ask an NG person at one of the “consultations” as to why we need yet another HV linkage between Norwich and Ipswich as there is already one to the East of Diss/Roydon so could we not simply parallel up as has happened elsewhere. He replied, “we wanted to share the pain”. NG do not “protect the countryside” as they state in their literature and certainly not the local citizens, rate payers and general electorate. They only represent their investor “masters such as Black Rock inc, The Vanguard Group, Lazard Asset Mgt LLC and the rest. They have taken a “penny pinching approach” and discarded many alternative changes to the route. When I asked whether anyone in authority as a decision maker had visited this part of the route I was told “they were using best map data available”. As we say in Norfolk “they are so mean they would scrap a farthing from a turd and run a mile to wash it.

In conclusion, let me say how utterly fed up the citizens of Royden are. They have demonstrated in their many hundreds at an event hosted by a local lady in her back garden. Over 600 people turned up including many councillors of varying hue, 3 MP’s and a soon to be MP (no-one from NG though). People now just believe that NG will do as they wish and they are probably right. I notice that in the Examination Panels letter to me in bold writing they state that they will not make the decision on this route, that it is the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero that make the final decision. In which case, everyone in Roydon and beyond had better pray that the PM does not appoint some lunatic zealot to the role. A large windfarm off the coast of Norfolk has been cancelled and the take up of electric vehicles is below the predictive curve so should we no pause for a bit and consider what is best for the long-term future for the country. When considering just costs, should we not include whole life costs including maintenance and withdrawal from service (ie. How much to dismantle this

network of pylons and cables when it is obsolete)? Also, the true cost of this pylon route MUST include the cost of procurement of land and the devaluation of properties near pylons. Only then can a true comparison be made between this proposed route and alternatives.

I am not anti-pylon – I recognise they can be a part of the transmission network. It is not a question of not in my backyard but not in my backyard, side garden and front door. I encourage the panel to read the document I put on their website with the same rigour they read NG proposal including the references I made, pictures as well as the link to the video I made.

## ANNEX A

References for content of speech.

1. Document submitted to register on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025 by Michael Arthur Bertie Juby which includes references to supporting evidence of health issues surrounding “sticky” particles, and reference 10 in that document links to a video made to give evidence of the impact of proposed route.
2. [Ref 1]above also includes references for other supporting evidence - Appendix A “why was this zigzag route chosen over original “blue corridor”” – Appendix B “strength of fields affecting Roydon residents, - Appendix C “cost of providing WVA” – Appendix D “showing lack of proper consultation and showing how National Grids own words do not tell the whole truth” – Appendix E email challenging National Grids reply to me taking each of their paragraphs point by point and highlighting inaccuracies and Appendix H showing alternative route for which NG have not replied nor to any other route alternatives proposed. Appendix J was email to NG senior managers giving examples of other countries different approaches due to health concerns of pylons near residential homes; asking (yet again) for minutes of meetings to show who is making decisions and also highlighting the Morocco undersea link proposal but why not Norwich to Tilbury – no reply to this either.
3. EPRS 2016 – Journalism for the energy transmission, 10/06/21, Kirstin Appun and Ruby Russell,(Germany’s power grid) “ In response to public protests against overland power lines and pylons new legislation has given priority to underground cables.”
4. <https://www.tenet.eu/grid-reconstruction> - Netherlands decision to cap pylons and for every new pylon they will withdraw an old one and put underground
5. Key Aspects of Italian EMF limits (DPCM 08/07/2003) – “3 microtesla limit applies to all new power lines in areas where people live, go to school or spend 4 or more hours per day”