

Written Representation regarding the Norwich to Tilbury (EN020027) DCO Application

Interested Party Reference: [REDACTED]

Location: [REDACTED]

Date: February 18, 2026

1. Introduction and Personal Proximity

I am writing as a deeply concerned resident of Chignal Smealy. My property is situated within 50 metres of the proposed enabling works and less than 500 metres from the permanent pylon alignment. I am requesting that the Examining Authority (ExA) carries out a more rigorous examination of the localised impacts in West Chelmsford, as the current proposals represent an unacceptable burden on this community.

2. Extreme Visual Dominance and Scale (Pylons TB145–TB153)

The proposed route takes a "dogleg" shape to the East, South, and Southwest of my home. This configuration ensures that nine pylons (TB145, TB146, TB147, TB148, TB149, TB150, TB151, TB152, and TB153), each standing 50 metres tall, will be visible from my property.

Comparison of Scale: To put this in perspective for the ExA, the only significant vertical structure in West Chelmsford is Melbourne Flats, which stands at 46 metres. National Grid is proposing to install nine structures that are taller than the highest building in the area across an entirely flat, rural landscape.

Request for Action: I request that the ExA conducts an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) at Chignal Smealy to appreciate the sheer scale of these structures (TB145–153) relative to the low-lying residential dwellings and the flat topography.

3. Impact on the West Chelmsford "Green Lung"

The land to the West of Chelmsford is not "empty" land; it is a vital recreational asset.

Recreational Value: This stunning countryside is treasured by thousands of walkers and cyclists who use the Green Belt to escape the frantic pace of the City of Chelmsford.

Wider Visibility: Due to the flat nature of the terrain, an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 residents across West Chelmsford will have their views permanently industrialised. The peace and tranquillity of this Green Belt, which is fundamental to the local identity, will be destroyed.

4. Ecological Endangerment: Raptors and Owls

The Chignal Smealy area is a recognised breeding ground for raptors, owls, and falcons. These birds are highly vulnerable to the "strike risk" posed by high-voltage wires, particularly in a dogleg configuration which complicates flight paths.

The Request: I ask the ExA to demand a more granular ecological study. General mitigation is insufficient when dealing with a concentrated population of protected birds of prey in this specific flight corridor.

5. Socio-Economic Impact and Social Stagnation

The proximity of my home to the enabling works (50m) and the pylon run (500m) has created an immediate state of social stagnation.

Property Blight: Homeowners in this corridor are effectively 'held captive.' Potential buyers are understandably reluctant to purchase homes with a view of nine 50-metre pylons.

The Request: I request that the ExA examines the adequacy of the compensation framework, which currently fails to account for residents who are not physically displaced but whose quality of life and financial mobility are permanently destroyed by the proximity of TB145–TB153.

6. Conclusion

The proposed onshore pylon route through West Chelmsford is a disproportionate solution. The visual enclosure created by the dogleg of pylons TB145–153 will be catastrophic for Chignal Smealy and the wider city population.

I strongly urge the Examining Authority to recommend that National Grid pursues undergrounding for this specific stretch of the route to protect the Green Belt, the local wildlife, and the mental wellbeing of thousands of residents.

Yours faithfully, Adam Whipps