

Interested Party: [REDACTED] (David Burns)

In my previous submission I have highlighted that the course of pylons through north Colchester as well as the choice of location for the Western Sealing End Compound at Little Horkesley (Great Horkesley CSE - Tilbury Side in National Grids terminology but actually located in Little Horkesley) is far too close to the Dedham Vale and will cause great harm to it, as well as impacting on the setting of Grade II listed properties with historic uninterrupted views into the Dedham Vale, including but not limited to views into the Vale from my own 14/15th century Grade II listed farmhouse.

We had previously complained about the very poor choice of view point locations selected by National Grid, including one which was immediately behind a 2m high hedge (leading to the inaccurate conclusion of 'nothing to see here') or carefully selected viewpoints near to Wissington in places where pylon views are limited (which does not imply that they are not visible anywhere - even though National Grid have attempted to draw that inference).

Our own analysis had shown that impacts would be far more dramatic than claimed by National Grid.

In their new document pack National Grid have provided figure A13.5.3 which illustrates the 'Reverse Zone of Theoretical Visibility'.

This diagram very much reinforces our point but is barely mentioned in the text: the route selected for pylons emergent from Ardleigh and the location of the Western CSE in particular are extremely poor. The EACN is in a location where it will be visible over between 20% and 25% of the Dedham Vale, as are many of the pylons. All fall within the 10-15% category.

It must be remembered that these are **individual** point wise measurements, being a reverse view fall map and that, as a result, the full impact arising within the Vale from the presence of all of the pylons in the South will be **dramatically higher** than suggested.

Had the Western CSE at Little Horkesley (red circle in lower left of diagram) been moved only 500m (per National Grid, the additional underground distance is less than the absolute distance between the two sites as the underground route going in would be altered slightly) to the south near to their alternatively proposed site near to TB42 (pink circle at bottom of diagram) it would have fallen into a valley from which it would have been visible over less than 5% of the Dedham Vale and from which it would not have interrupted any views from **any** historic buildings into the Vale. Subsequent pylons would also have similarly far less visible.

National Grid have discounted that site at TB42 on the basis of (1) cost; (2) 'transfer of effects'.

The first of these (Cost) is not an argument which is admissible in the context of the impact to the Dedham Vale within the terms set out in NPS-EN5. Cost is admissible as an argument only when no part of the route crosses or impacts a National Landscape, which is manifestly NOT the case here.

The second of these (transfer of effects) is manifestly nonsense. The route planned by National Grid passes that site anyway and all properties there are already impacted by their proposals. The impact at those properties will be LESSEMED not increased, because there will be fewer pylons.

In the terms of NPS-EN5 this change is REQUIRED. Because National Grid themselves have already considered the alternative site near to TB42 there will be no loss of time or other delay resulting from the change,

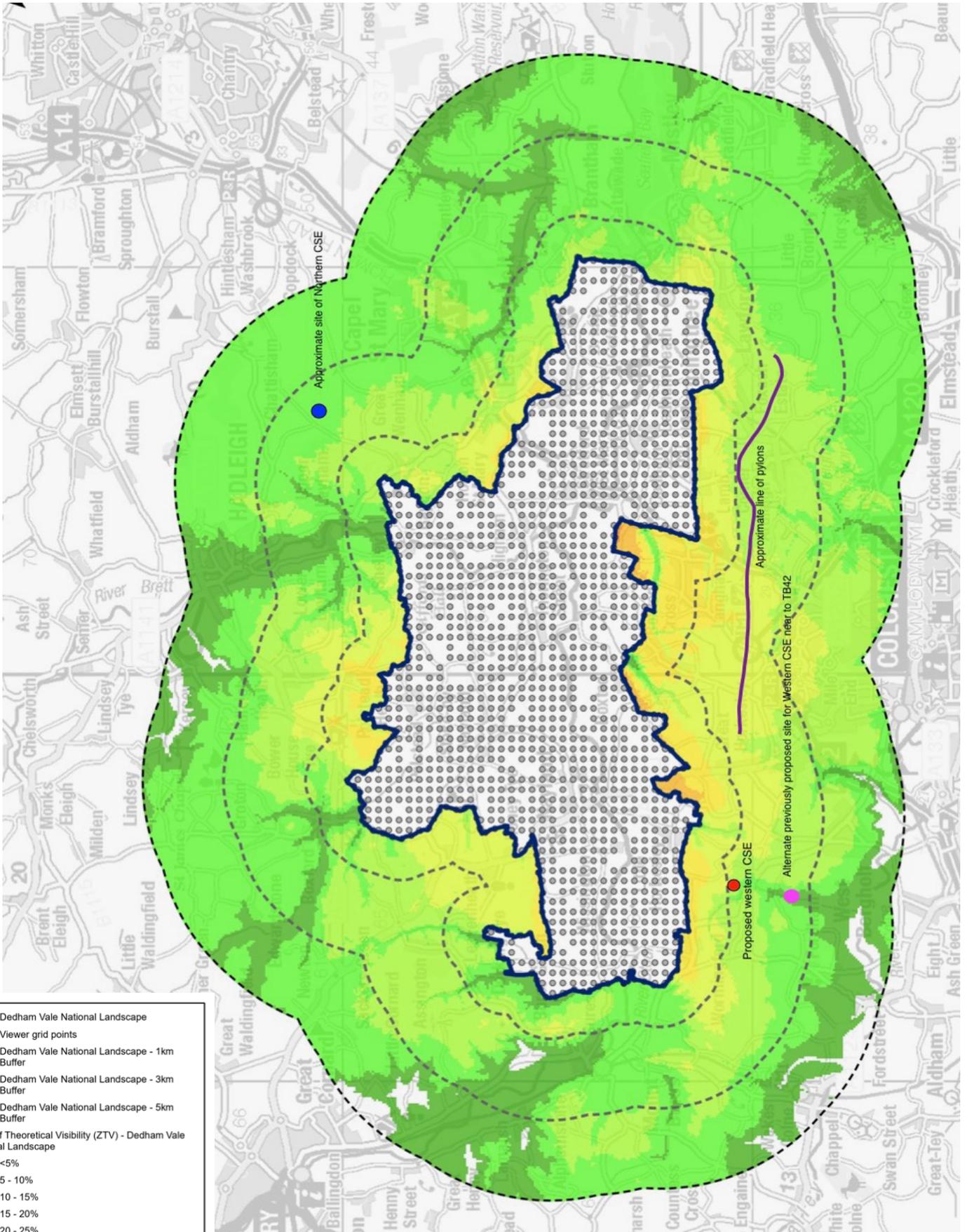
Interestingly, to the North of the Dedham Vale the site of the relevant Sealing End Compound there has been moved by National Grid even further North on the argument that visibility within the Vale needed to be reduced (Blue circle at top of diagram). The original choice of site was already **far less impactful** on the Dedham Vale than the one they are now defending at TB35/36 in Little Horkesley and they have reached the conclusion that it needed to be further away.

A second diagram provided by National Grid shows the positions from which a given number of pylons will be visible. This is diagram 6.13.f19 also included below. I have annotated the diagram to illustrate that whilst in the North of the Dedham vale there are few positions from which 37 - 52 pylons will be visible, in the South of the Dedham vale there is a huge area right on the border of the vale from which at least 37 will be visible. This is definitionally within the setting of the Vale. (Red open Circle on second diagram below). I have also added an open purple circle which illustrates the many areas within the vale, along the ridge to the northern side of the valley, where between 23 and 37 pylons will be visible. This is largely the result of the choice of location for the Western CSE at Little Horkesley combined with effects of the pylons emergent from Ardleigh. These impacts also would be dramatically reduced by moving the Western CSE at least as far as TB42 due to natural screening of land form.

National Grid are 'making up the rules' to suit themselves, are applying their made-up rules inconsistently, are failing to make relatively minor adjustments which would lead to dramatic reductions in harm to a protected National Landscape.

The planning inspectorate MUST require AT THE VERY LEAST a change from TB35/36 to TB42 or beyond.

This said, we agree with the position of Colchester City Council who state that the landscape there is as valuable in heritage terms as that within the Dedham Vale and our belief is that the underground section must be extended dramatically beyond this point.



Dedham Vale National Landscape

- Viewer grid points
- - - Dedham Vale National Landscape - 1km Buffer
- - - Dedham Vale National Landscape - 3km Buffer
- - - Dedham Vale National Landscape - 5km Buffer

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) - Dedham Vale National Landscape

- <5%
- 5 - 10%
- 10 - 15%
- 15 - 20%
- 20 - 25%
- 25 - 30%
- 30 - 35%

This Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping illustrates areas within which the top half of 50m high structures located outside the National Landscape would be theoretically visible from viewer grid points within the National Landscape (screening effects of National Landscape woodland included)

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