

I am writing as the owner of [REDACTED], to formally object to the proposed construction of a pylon and associated haul road as part of the Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) overhead line project, which directly affects my property boundary and would, according to the plans, place a pylon effectively within my rear garden / equestrian field. This objection is based on material planning grounds, significant environmental and amenity harm, and failure to consider less intrusive alternatives.

#### 1. Inappropriate Siting and Land Use Conflict

The proposed pylon location is wholly inappropriate given its proximity to a residential dwelling and its siting on equestrian-designated pasture land. The field is not agricultural; it is registered and maintained as equestrian land used for grazing and exercising a pony. The introduction of industrial-scale infrastructure would directly conflict with the lawful and established land use and render the field unsuitable and unsafe for equestrian purposes.

Such development is incompatible with the surrounding character of the land, which is rural and domestic in nature, not industrial.

#### 2. Loss of Residential Amenity and Enjoyment of Property

The proposed pylon would severely affect the visual amenity, privacy, and enjoyment of my home and garden. It would dominate the skyline and create an oppressive, industrial backdrop immediately adjacent to my residence. The visual intrusion and constant presence of heavy electrical infrastructure would cause substantial detriment to the rural character and enjoyment of my property.

The proposed haul road would further destroy the tranquillity of the area by introducing noise, dust, construction traffic, and disturbance over an extended period. The loss of quiet enjoyment contravenes the protections afforded under planning policy for residential amenity.

#### 3. Devaluation of Property

Independent studies and precedents consistently demonstrate that proximity to high-voltage pylons and overhead lines can lead to significant property devaluation (often 10–30%). The permanent placement of such infrastructure within or adjacent to a domestic boundary has clear financial and material implications for homeowners, constituting an unacceptable and uncompensated loss.

#### 4. Environmental and Ecological Harm

The pasture field provides established grazing and natural habitat for wildlife, including birds, small mammals, and pollinators. The construction and presence of a pylon and haul road would cause habitat destruction, soil compaction, drainage alteration, and long-term ecological damage. No adequate ecological assessment appears to have been undertaken for this immediate locality.

Furthermore, the loss of grazing area for my pony raises animal welfare concerns, as electrical infrastructure poses potential risks of stray voltage, electromagnetic fields, and physical hazards.

#### 5. Safety and Health Concerns

There are ongoing public health concerns regarding electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure from high-voltage pylons, particularly at close residential distances. While official guidance may assert safety within certain parameters, many studies suggest caution, particularly where people spend long durations, such as in gardens, bedrooms, or near equestrian animals sensitive to EMFs.

Additionally, the introduction of a haul road increases the risk of accidents, trespass, and livestock escape, given its likely proximity to existing paddock fencing and field boundaries.

I would also like to raise a personal and environmental concern regarding this section of land. A much-loved horse is legally buried within my field, and the proposed pylon location and temporary haul road appear to fall directly over, or extremely close to, this burial site. Disturbing an animal grave engages both DEFRA animal by-product regulations and groundwater protection rules, and would also cause significant personal distress. I request that the project team formally record this burial as a site constraint and ensure that the alignment is adjusted to avoid disturbing the grave.

#### 6. Construction Phase Impact

The construction phase would cause substantial and prolonged disruption, including:

- Heavy construction traffic near residential access routes;
- Noise, dust, and vibration;
- Loss of privacy and security due to contractors accessing land close to the home;
- Potential damage to boundary structures, ground stability, and drainage;
- Risk of flooding or soil degradation post-construction.

No mitigation measures have been clearly proposed to protect residents directly affected in this manner.

#### 7. Failure to Consider Alternatives

There appear to be viable alternative routes or underground options that would avoid residential land and sensitive equestrian areas. National Grid's own consultation materials emphasise avoidance of proximity to homes "where reasonably practicable." In this case, the chosen siting fails that principle entirely.

There has been no transparent justification for why undergrounding or rerouting away from private boundaries has been ruled out, despite obvious less harmful alternatives.

#### 8. Inadequate Consultation and Notification

I have received limited or unclear communication regarding the specific impact on my property. Consultation materials are generic, lacking precise mapping or individual engagement with directly affected homeowners. This falls short of the expectations set under the Planning Act 2008 and National Policy Statement EN-1 (Energy Infrastructure) regarding meaningful community consultation and fair notice.

#### 9. Cumulative and Long-Term Harm

This project contributes to the cumulative industrialisation of rural Essex and Norfolk landscapes. The permanent introduction of pylons across residential land has irreversible visual, emotional, and environmental effects. Once installed, they cannot realistically be removed or mitigated.

The irreversible harm to local landscape character, residential wellbeing, and animal safety outweighs any purported regional benefit.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, I strongly object to the proposed pylon and associated haul road being placed across or adjacent to my property boundary.

I request that the proposal be revised to remove the pylon from this location and that the line be rerouted or placed underground through non-residential land.

Please confirm receipt of this objection and ensure it is logged against the official consultation record.

We would also like to request a member of the planning inspectorate contact us to arrange a meeting at the site.