

I am writing to comment on the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury development. I am a resident of [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The most direct impact of this project on my home is the proposal to move the current pylon line approximately 100 metres closer to [REDACTED].

Communication and Consultation

I am concerned about the adequacy and transparency of the consultation process. For consultation to be meaningful, proposals must be genuinely open to change and realistic alternative options must be presented. The NESO Study (March 2024) considers several configurations for transmitting power across the East Anglia region, including an onshore HVDC underground option, which could replace typical overhead pylons over long routes such as Norwich–Tilbury. There is little evidence that this alternative has been realistically evaluated, and there appears to be limited transparency regarding the relative costs of each option.

For residents and other stakeholders to contribute meaningfully, information must be clear and accessible. I am educated to Masters level with a background in science, yet much of the correspondence I have received is not written in plain English, nor are the processes communicated in ways that most people can understand. Several pieces of information provided have also been unclear or inaccurate.

One example is the correspondence dated 18 June 2025, Ref 2413 which stated that our land “may be temporarily or permanently required for the construction of the project.” The accompanying maps showed areas of “Land of Interest” around [REDACTED] mostly car parks or grassed areas unrelated to our property. Other residents received similar documents with differing areas marked, and no explanation was given as to how these areas might be used.

When we contacted Fisher German, a representative visited the site and brought a clear plan showing the project proposal in full. They explained that the intention was to access Vale land to lower a low voltage line closer. This would have required a low voltage line to be moved closer to the site, the contractors acknowledged that the maps sent to residents were unhelpful and agreed to explore an alternative option involving access through nearby arable land instead of our shared access road. To date, we have not received an accurate revised plan nor any feedback regarding whether this alternative will be taken forward.

Impact on [REDACTED] and the Local Area

[REDACTED], formerly The Henstead Workhouse and later Vale Hospital (built in 1312), is identified by South Norfolk Council as a non designated heritage asset (NDHA). They note, and I agree that the proposed wires will significantly affect its historic setting.

In addition, I have significant concerns about the wider impact on my property and quality of life, including:

Visual impact and potential reduction in property value. Evidence suggests that homes located close to pylons can be more difficult to sell. Even where risks are unproven, buyers often perceive pylons negatively.

There are potential health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields.

Impact on the rural character and amenity of the area. [REDACTED] is a peaceful, rural location with open countryside views. I strongly support the transition to green energy, including the Bloys Grove solar farm. However, I cannot support a renewable project that appears environmentally damaging when greener alternatives may exist.

Request

I respectfully request that the planning authority reconsider the placement and this development, and fully explore alternative routes or technologies that would reduce the impact on residential properties, heritage assets, and the environment.