

## Jessica Dunlop

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**From:** Suzanne Bolwell-Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 February 2026 02:09  
**To:** Norwich to Tilbury  
**Subject:** Deadline 1 Submission – Suzanne Bolwell-Davies – Reference [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** PINS - Deadline 1 documentation.docx

**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

**Categories:** Deadline Submission

Dear Ma'am, Sirs

Please find attached a copy of my submission following my presentation at Open Hearing 2 – Orsett Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Although I represented my family and myself at the Open hearing at Orsett, please note that I am also one of the Writtle Representatives on the Committee for Essex Suffolk and Norfolk Group ( Pylons East Anglia). I have also supported and advised Writtle Parish Council, Margaretting and Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Councils. I have also supported those impacted along the route at Statutory Consultations - Grays, Chelmsford Racecourse, Witham and Basildon providing emotional support, handing out leaflets and information. From all these events I have formed a very poor opinion of National Grid. The majority of the time they have been unable to answer questions, or just pay lip service or give stock questions that it is obvious and don't understand or know the area. This has been absolutely devastating for the people impacted by the pylon route.

After 4 years of being ground down by National Grid it is not surprising that families impacted majorly by the pylon route did not bother to speak at the Open Hearings, it's been exhausting talking to a brick wall. Thank you to the Inspectors at the Open Hearings for actually listening, the people of East Anglia are finally being heard. I am not against renewable energy, but I am against using dinosaur technology, when other more viable, more efficient and cost effective options that are readily available and will be completed in time. Having attended the Preliminary meeting, Open Hearing 2 and listened to the recordings of all the Open Hearings you will be hearing similar messages and frustration from all the participants. What is concerning that the man who had a pacemaker would be in constant fear of his life, that was very upsetting to witness. Equally the mention of Electro Magnetic Frequencies and current research into the impact on health was an eye opener. You may or may not know, that the Pylon line is also very close to Broomfield Hospital, which provides acute services to a local population of 380,000 and as a larger regional centre it serves over 1.2 million people across central and south Essex for specialist care. Apparently the line had a minor adjustment, so that the Essex Air Ambulance could land, but I would welcome assurances from National Grid that the AC line does not affect hospital equipment. There is another worrying point, the only access to Broomfield Hospital is from Chelmsford along Broomfield Road and in the other direction through the Waltham Gap, which is a pinch point and where the Overhead Power lines are proposed. I would equally like to fully understand how this will be achievable, without majorly impacting on the hospital and services it provides and potential for loss of life?

On a final point I also attended the Alternatives meeting on the 13 February and was frankly shocked at the total lack of professionalism that National Grid displayed. Bearing in mind this meeting was live streamed and recorded, you would think they would anticipate the questions the Inspectors would ask. They spoke in Acronyms and not considered the wider audience when doing so, often mumbling over words. The overhead slides were confusing and so complicated that the Inspectors thankfully called them to task to explain. On costings they produced a slide that had 2020/2021 figures in the heading ? which was totally unacceptable. They were clearly ill-prepared, and it was embarrassing to witness. I am pleased to note that

the Inspectors will be holding an additional Hearing on Alternatives, where National Grid will have to explain why they are persisting with Pylons when there are so many other options available.

Thank you again for listening and I hope that the information included in this submission is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Suzanne Bolwell-Davies.

Suzanne Bolwell-Davies

## Deadline 1 Submission – Suzanne Bolwell-Davies – Reference [REDACTED]

Listed in this document:

1. Written transcript from the Verbal presentation at Open Hearing 2 Essex -Orsett Hall. Please can you correct my name from Suzanne Davies to Suzanne Bolwell-Davies in the transcript – thank you.
  
2. Additional points due to the limit of the 3 minute request by the Planning Inspectorate to include:
  - a) Farmland Birds
  - b) Bird Strikes
  - c) Red List Protected Birds
  - d) Oil Pipeline – National Grid Pictures – local pictures
  - e) National, Royal, Military and Commemorative Flypasts over proposed Norwich 2 Tilbury
  - f) Flooding
  - g) Questions

# 1. Transcript of verbal presentation

Ma'am, Sirs

Suzanne Bolwell-Davies, Writtle Resident.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard

I live in the ancient and historic village of Writtle, home to Iron age and Roman settlers. Owned by Kings, the first King of Scotland and King John owned a Hunting Lodge, Writtle Deer Park and ancient woodland. Home to the first Radio Broadcast which took place in 1920, an innovative event that changed the world.

National Grid have no compunction and think it's ok to HARM our beautiful village which is not respected or afforded innovation with proposals of old technology and x23 50 metre high pylons, haul roads and works compounds, around the west side of the village. A ring Steel across prime farmland taking more land out of food production and further impacting our countries food security. Our ancient hedgerows are teeming and rich with wildlife above and below the ground, including Red Kites, Buzzards, Bats, Owls, Deer, Badgers all at Risk. Thousands of farmland birds' existence is now in danger as they will lose their habitat when trees, hedgerows, are grubbed out, Concrete and haul roads will cover their ground nesting sites.

Can I ask NG why they have not included Farmland birds in any of their 400 documents?

What mitigation are they going to put in place for Farmland birds?

Are National Grid aware that at this very moment 6<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February there is a National Survey by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust called the Big Farmland Bird Count?

NG purportedly stated that they would fell 1 million trees and 1.6 million hedgerow plants as part of the project. Writtle has many protected lanes including Nathans Lane which have beautiful, over 100 year Old Oak and Ash trees.

What is the age of the trees to be felled? What is NG doing to replace 100 year old trees as part of Biodiversity Net Gain?

I note that Emily Tetley Jones from the Pipeline Association was talking about significant risk to oil pipelines due to the AC interference from Pylons.

NG what is the significant risk? Explosion, fire, risk to Human life? What are you planning to do to mitigate or eliminate this Risk? What Risk management policies and procedures will be put in place? How are NG planning to consult and reassure residents?

Pylons (172 – 178) have been placed on high ground despite being asked to move them by the landowner to lower ground to make them less intrusive. Contrary to the requirement of the Holford Rules.

Do NG not follow any of the planning rules?

Sadly, the line will be seen from Hylands Park, parklands designed by landscape gardener Humphry Repton.

If NG had listened to the people of East Anglia rightly asking for Alternatives to Norwich to Tilbury to be considered, then they would have had a resolution to their problem sooner. It appears that we are to be the sacrificial lamb and as such I have complete lack of trust and confidence in National Grid.

Thank you, Ma'am, Sirs for listening.

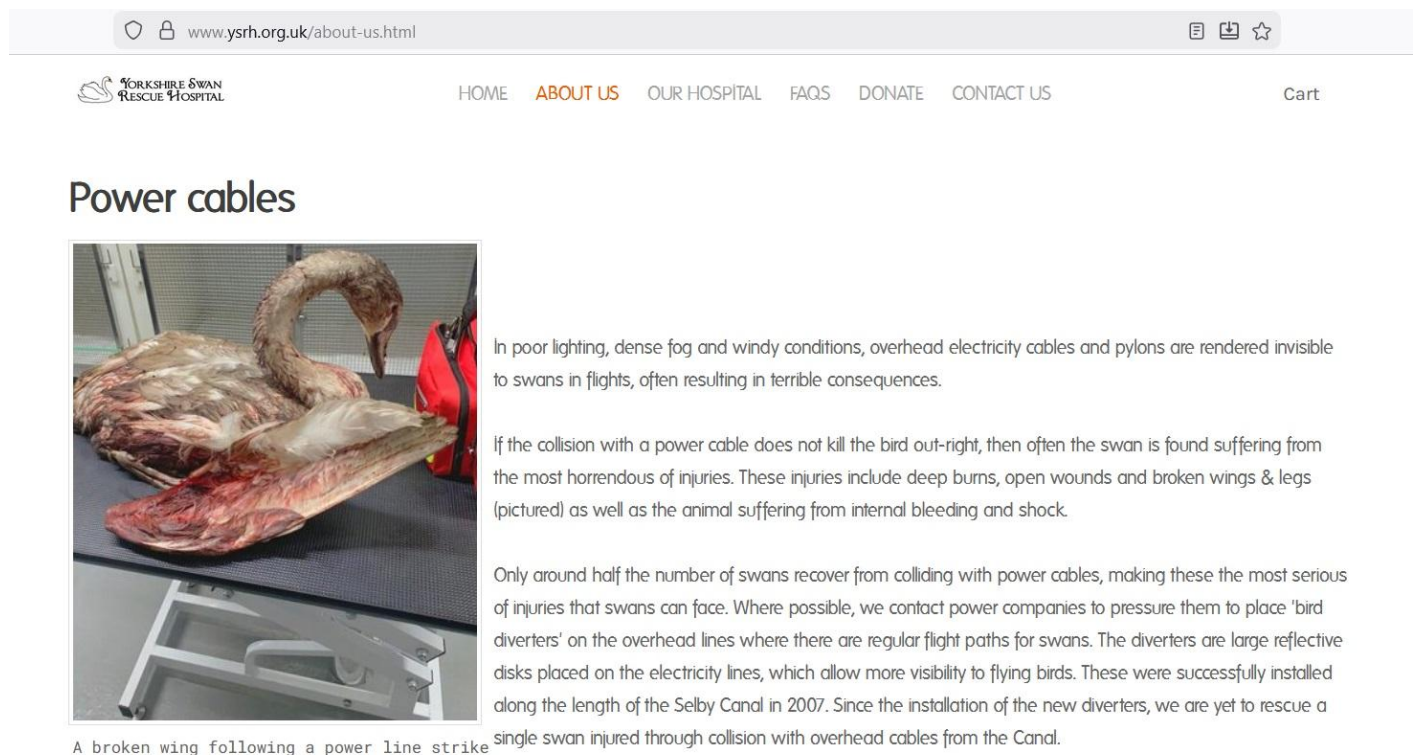
## 2a. Farmland Birds

It's obvious that National Grid do not care about the countryside or nature as they have not distinguished Farmland birds and therefore do not know how to mitigate them. No doubt if they know about the Big Farmland Bird Count which is an annual event that encourages farmers and land managers to record the bird species and numbers on their farms. The count aims to raise awareness of the important role that they play in helping our farmland birds, and to measure the impact of the conservation work that many farms and estates carry out.

<https://www.bfbc.org.uk/>

## 2b. Bird Strikes

As mentioned in my speech we are blessed to have such an abundance of Wildlife around Writtle and Margaretting due to the abundance of beautiful native oaks and also hedgerows. Daily I hear the distinctive calls of the Common Buzzard soaring above the route, hear owls, Red Kites, Geese, Swans as well as murmuration's of starlings and other farmland birds to name a few. I am very concerned that all these birds mentioned above and more will become victims of the Norwich to Tilbury power line. Quite simply Power lines maim and kill birds. Please see the attachment showing the Swan below, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there is no place for building new overhead power lines when there are more viable, efficient methods of transmitting electricity, this is cruelty to birds and other animals who are impacted.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.yshr.org.uk/about-us.html](http://www.yshr.org.uk/about-us.html). The website header includes the logo for Yorkshire Swan Rescue Hospital and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT US, OUR HOSPITAL, FAQs, DONATE, CONTACT US, and a Cart icon. The main content area is titled "Power cables" and features a photograph of a swan's wing that has been severed. The text on the page describes the dangers of power lines to swans, particularly in poor lighting and fog, and mentions the installation of bird diverters along the Selby Canal in 2007.

**Power cables**

In poor lighting, dense fog and windy conditions, overhead electricity cables and pylons are rendered invisible to swans in flights, often resulting in terrible consequences.

If the collision with a power cable does not kill the bird out-right, then often the swan is found suffering from the most horrendous of injuries. These injuries include deep burns, open wounds and broken wings & legs (pictured) as well as the animal suffering from internal bleeding and shock.

Only around half the number of swans recover from colliding with power cables, making these the most serious of injuries that swans can face. Where possible, we contact power companies to pressure them to place 'bird diverters' on the overhead lines where there are regular flight paths for swans. The diverters are large reflective disks placed on the electricity lines, which allow more visibility to flying birds. These were successfully installed along the length of the Selby Canal in 2007. Since the installation of the new diverters, we are yet to rescue a single swan injured through collision with overhead cables from the Canal.

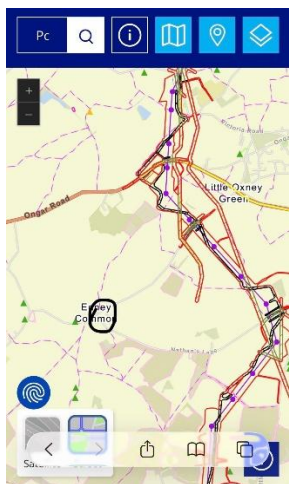
A broken wing following a power line strike

## 2c. Red listed Protected Birds

Along the pylon line Red listed protected birds have been identified on iNaturalist UK, Sounds, photos and videos have been recorded and uploaded and independently verified as part of the process. <https://uk.inaturalist.org/projects/norwich-2-tilbury-biodiversity-project>. Since setting up the project 6 month ago, I have personally made nearly 2.5 thousand observations. The more you observe then the more you see and appreciate how beautiful nature can be. Multiple sightings of Red Listed and protected birds have been observed along the route including the Cuckoo, Skylarks, Turtle Doves and Nightingales to name but a few. The project will continue with nearly 200,000 observations and new species identified every day.

## 2d. Oil Pipeline

The Oil pipeline that goes through Writtle was supposed to be a secret and has been there since WW2, although it is marked on the Margaretting Road (see 2<sup>nd</sup> photo below) and fields (3<sup>rd</sup> Photo Below). However, not so much of a secret now that National Grid have highlighted the Pipeline on their Pylon route map. The Oil line is straight across the map and the one closest to Little Oxney Green – hashed line and has apparently to be bonded due to the Overhead AC Pylon Line. Very close to residents in Writtle and surrounding area. Also please refer to the Questions section for specific Oil pipeline questions to be submitted to National Grid on Oil Pipelines.



## 2e. National, Royal and Military Commemorative Flypasts Over Pylon Line

I have lived in Writtle almost all my life and every year there is a Flypast over the Village on its way to Buckingham Palace for National, Royal or Military Comemrations. The planes will now directly follow the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Pylon line in Writtle and Margaretting before heading up the A12 to fly down the Mall and over Buckingham Palace. The aircraft that include, Nimrods, Eurofighter Typhoons, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and always the Red Arrows to name a few fly throttling back and very low in formation. We have Witnessed the shapes of Charles III and Elizabeth II held in formation which is pretty spectacular, then dash inside to watch the planes we have just witnessed fly down the Mall and over the Palace. These events are witnessed by millions of people around the world and are always major newspaper headlines. The events take years of meticulous planning and dare I say military precision to get the timings right. They ae a stirring reminder of Britain's rich aviation history and a tribute and honour to all Veteran and serving RAF personnel.

Have National Grid informed the Ministry of Defence the location of the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon line and that the National, Royal, Military Flypasts fly low over the pylon route ?

How is National Grid going to mitigate the Flypasts ?

What additional costs will be incurred by the MOD for moving the Flypasts from their historic route elsewhere ? If that is possible ?

**VE Day 80th Anniversary (May 5, 2025):** This was a major event featuring 23 RAF aircraft, including the Red Arrows, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) Lancaster, and Typhoon fighters. The aircraft passed over North Essex, including the Chelmsford and Writtle area, between roughly 1:25 PM and 2:10 PM on their route to Buckingham Palace.



Courtesy of Writtle News Issue No266 June – July 2025

**King's Charles III Birthday Flypast – 14 June 2025 directly over the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon route – Writtle/Margaretting/Ingatstone**



Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Bolwell-Davies taken from my garden. 14.6.2025

**Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Flypast – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 directly over the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon route – Writtle/Margaretting/Ingatstone**



Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Bolwell-Davies taken from my garden. 2.6.2022

## 2f. Flooding

After constant rain virtually every day this year the ground is saturated, and the water table is high on top of the fertile Essex clay. With the proposal of 23 pylons around Writtle itself and known flooding hotspots like "Cow watering Lane " an Anglo Saxon name given for a reason and thousands of tonnes of gravel for haul roads and thousands of tonnes of concrete, I am very concerned about the impact of flooding. The water will naturally find its way into to lower ground and could potentially have an impact on my home, the water must go somewhere.

Other areas of concern are at Buttsbury Wash, this is the notorious Essex Road where drivers keep getting stuck in floodwater. See the snip of the Facebook post from Billericay Fire Station – for the full story and comments click on the link

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DcL8j9MKB/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**Billericay Fire Station's post**

**Billericay Fire Station**  
11 February at 14:26 · 🌐

🚒 Today at 13:35, Billericay and Brentwood crews attended a water rescue incident involving a car in water at Buttsbury wash.

Wading teams using a rescue sled and water rescue equipment rescued one person from the car. 🚒

🚒 If you come across a flooded road, please turn around and find another route, it's not worth the risk

🚒 Please only call 999 if there is a life risk emergency

🚒 We can't recover vehicles from flooded roads

We know it's frustrating when your route is blocked and you just want to get to your destination but it's never worth the risk



The flooding is so prolific that a number of locals have You tube channels showing cars going through the Ford and also floating cars and those being rescued by Fire and Rescue, it has become a local sport. This is an area where two rivers converge and where the pylon line will be built. For an overview of the area and I would recommend that the Inspectors visit, but to give some insight then please view the You Tube video below.

The You tube link below is a video by Paul Butterworth which gives a good overview of the area – Buttsbury Wash, Flood, Essex January 2024 Walkabout during Storm Henk

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ky3Uslm8GY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ky3Uslm8GY)

Also note that Flooding is a problem with Pylons - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44gUAXTbZFK>

There are hundreds of video's reports about Buttsbury and cars getting stranded and having to be regularly rescued another one below:

<https://www.essexlive.news/whats-on/notorious-essex-road-drivers-keep-10779302>

## **2g. Questions for PINS to ask National Grid**

### **Farmland Birds**

Can I ask NG why they have not included Farmland birds in any of their 400 documents?

What mitigation are they going to put in place for Farmland birds?

Are National Grid aware that at this very moment 6th – 22nd February there is a National Survey by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust called the Big Farmland Bird Count?

### **Bird Strikes**

What is National Grid planning to do to mitigate Bird strikes?

Have they considered cable ploughing HDVC undergrounding as an alternative to cruel Overhead powerlines ?

### **Red List Protected birds**

How are National Grid going to mitigate red list protected birds for example Skylarks, Cuckoos, Nightingales, Turtle Doves etc when their habitats are being destroyed by National Grid?

### **Vintage Trees and Hedgerows**

What is the age of the trees to be felled?

What is NG doing to replace 100 year old trees as part of Biodiversity Net Gain?

### **Oil Pipelines**

National Grid what is the significant risk?

Explosion, fire, risk to Human life?

What are you planning to do to mitigate or eliminate this Risk?

What Risk management policies and procedures will be put in place?

How are National Grid planning to consult and reassure residents?

### **Holford Rules**

With reference to National Grid sighting pylons on high ground - Do NG not follow any of the planning rules?

### **National, Royal, Military and Commemorative Flypasts over proposed Norwich 2 Tilbury**

Have National Grid informed the Ministry of Defence the location of the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon line and that the National, Royal, Military Flypasts fly low over the pylon route?

How is National Grid going to mitigate the Flypasts?

### **Flooding**

How has flood risk been assessed for areas where pylons are proposed in flood-prone land?

What measures will be put in place to ensure that construction does not worsen existing flooding issues?

How will access routes be maintained for residents if floodwater blocks roads and surrounding land, particularly where pylons and associated infrastructure may restrict safe exit routes?

Given the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, it is essential that infrastructure projects do not compound existing flood vulnerabilities. How are these risks are being addressed?

How will National Grid protect villages that are already prone to flooding where new pylons are being installed in fields that regularly flood?