

My overall objection is this has not been not a true consultation as this general route and the use of pylons was pre-determined.

Today I talk about the concerns of access to our home and farm business that I've raised repeatedly since the May 2022 public meetings. These are still unresolved.

Our access is via Salmons Lane which serves my home, another home at the farm, our twelve business units and our 140,000 chicken unit, another 11 houses and a business centre at East Gores. So significant number of vehicles use it every day and also at night.

Salmons Lane is a narrow country lane off the A120. It is the only viable route for large vehicles serving the farm and businesses here. We are told there would be periods of traffic management using traffic lights.

This is a problem: it is a single track road, where cars can currently pass each other using collapsing verges as passing spaces, or back quite long distances when meeting a lorry. Traffic lights need space for the moving traffic to pass the standing vehicles. On this narrow lane they would cause a blocked road.

NG also plans for temporary actual closure of Salmons Lane. The diversion route on the National Grid map is East Gores Road. This means the main diversion route is over 2 miles of mostly single track road. Our farm traffic alone includes 40-foot articulated bulk lorries and Tautliners as well as numerous smaller vehicles, so the route is patently inadequate.

For 4 years we have asked for solutions to this access problem. Most recently, with plenty of advance notice of our questions, the National Grid and Fisher German people came utterly unprepared. Ricky Yates the NG project manager promised to clarify the plan by the end of the week – but the reply after chasing, came after 3 weeks and was just the usual minimal, meaningless words “traffic management”.

National Grid seem only to send ill-informed staff who have neither the power nor ability to get a meaningful answer. This is either incompetent or deliberate and raises concern that, if approved, the delivery of the project will be done in the same incompetent or deliberately negligent way and be even worse than expected.

In summary, National Grid has, for four years, failed to address our concerns over the significant access issues we have raised. This is causing us huge stress especially as traffic disruption has the potential to cause significant harm: serious welfare issues for livestock, damage to our business viability and even problems of how we will get to our house.

THEREFORE THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE REJECTED