

Interested Party reference [REDACTED]**National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Project**

1. I object to National Grid's proposed pylon overhead electricity transmission line alignment through the Chelmer Valley at Little Waltham and Great Waltham between pylon TB138 at Chatham Hall Lane and pylon TB147 south of Partridge Green Farm ('Chelmer Valley Crossing'), because the significant cumulative permanent negative effects at this location make the project impossible to deliver in accordance with policy.

Significant Cumulative Permanent Negative Effects on Designated Assets

2. The choice of this location for an overhead transmission line is worthy of close examination since National Grid's Preliminary Environmental Information Report, April 2024 identified Section F (which includes the Chelmer Valley Crossing) as the only location along the Project route where the potential negative residual effects from construction, operation and maintenance are likely to be significant on the landscape, and the visual and historic environment, in particular:
 - a. 70 permanent negative effects - by far the most of any of the eight Sections comprising the Project route
 - b. 16 of those 70 permanent negative effects will be significant which is the second greatest number of permanent significant negative effects of any of the eight Sections comprising the Project route
 - c. The Conservation Areas at Great Waltham and Little Waltham will be the only Conservation Areas to be permanently negatively impacted by the Project
 - d. The Registered Park and Garden at Langleys, Great Waltham will be the only Registered Park and Garden to be permanently negatively impacted by the Project
 - e. The Scheduled Monument at Little Waltham will be one of just five Scheduled Monuments to suffer temporary negative effects during the construction stage – likely permanent because pylon TB140 has since been relocated closer to the Scheduled Monument and within the estimated boundaries of the Pre-Belgic Iron Age Settlement
 - f. Grade 1 Listed Langleys House at Great Waltham is the closest Grade 1 domestic Listed building to the transmission line
 - g. Great Waltham is the only location where two Grade 1 Listed buildings (Langleys House and the Church of SS Mary and Lawrence) are situated within 1 km of the pylon line

Severance of a Unified Historic Environment and Community

3. National Grid treat the narrow valley landscape and flood plain of the River Chelmer between the villages of Great Waltham and Little Waltham as a pathway opportunity to avoid a route through more open country to the north and west of Great Waltham without regard to the fact that this location forms part of one historic environment encompassing both villages which trace their shared lineage to the Pre-Belgic Iron Age settlement here. The valley is a vitally important matrix for the historic, cultural and social identity of the Walthams.
4. The connection of the Walthams is reflected to this day not only in the managed and protected landscape but by contemporary community links between the inhabitants:
 - a. the NHS surgery for Great Waltham is in Little Waltham
 - b. the pharmacy at Little Waltham also serves Great Waltham

- c. St Martin's Church, Little Waltham and the Church of SS Mary and Lawrence, Great Waltham have the same priest in charge and worshippers in each parish attend services at the other
 - d. the sub-post office and convenience shop in Great Waltham also serves Little Waltham
 - e. the café deli in Great Waltham also serves Little Waltham
 - f. the hairdresser/barber in Great Waltham also serves Little Waltham
 - g. Little Waltham Players amateur theatre group include residents of Great Waltham
 - h. The Royal British Legion Club in Great Waltham also serves Little Waltham
 - i. the preschools at each village serve children from both communities
 - j. children from Little Waltham also attend Great Waltham Primary School
 - k. Great Waltham and Little Waltham Primary Schools together with Broomfield Primary School form a partnership to support and evaluate practise and share successful strategies for school improvement – including staff visiting each other's schools
5. Whilst simultaneously destroying both the shared historic setting and the sense of shared community the proposed development also manages to undermine the separate parish identities of Great Waltham and Little Waltham which are linked to the open landscape at this location, the importance of which is highlighted by the Great Waltham Village Design Statement produced and endorsed by residents and published in 2002 with the support of Great Waltham Parish Council and Chelmsford Borough Council which states:
- "It is considered essential that the parish retain its separate identity, notably that the "Strategic Gap" of land between Great Waltham, Broomfield and Little Waltham is retained and not developed."*

Erosion of Visual Amenity and Rural Landscape with Significant Permanent Effects

6. The scale of harmful effects unparalleled along the entire route of National Grid's proposal is not denied by them. In 2025 they made a revision to their proposals in an attempt to address criticism from Historic England who in their feedback to the 2024 statutory consultation stated by letter dated 25 July 2024 at para 2.51:
- "Given the closeness of the relationship between Great and Little Waltham, the park and the scheduled monument we have identified there would be a number of high value heritage assets that would experience a significant effect from the erosion of the rural landscape at this location"*
7. In response, National Grid made a number of alterations to relocate the transmission line slightly further away from Langleys House, gardens, woodland and deer park, reducing the number of pylons between Chatham Hall Lane and Chelmsford Road from three to two and changing their pylon style to the lower bulkier lattice type. This attempted amelioration created even more detriment:
- a. Pylon TB140 was relocated to Flood Zone 3 and within the estimated limit of the Pre-Belgic Iron Age Settlement marked by the Scheduled Monument;
 - b. the number of pylons running parallel to Larks Lane (a designated Protected Lane) was increased from two to three (TB141, TB142 and TB143) significantly reducing the distance between pylons and increasing their domination of the Protected Lane;
 - c. lower bulkier lattice pylon TB141 was relocated immediately adjacent to The Windmill, Chelmsford Road within Great Waltham Conservation Area destroying the amenity of that dwelling and making a mockery of the Conservation Area designation;

- d. The Windmill is a non-designated heritage dwelling, for more than two hundred years The Windmill Inn, sitting high on the southern slope of the Chelmer Valley along the historic coaching route from Chelmsford to Cambridge and a prominent feature in the landscape and focal point for views from the north across the Chelmer Valley, highly visible for users of the B1008 (Braintree Road and Blasford Hill) as well as Chelmsford Road. This signature feature in the rural landscape will now be replaced by a bulky pylon.
- e. pylon TB141, was relocated to the Chelmsford Road entrance to Great Waltham village close to the Village Welcome sign and will become the defining threshold feature for visitors instead of The Windmill.

National Grid has Failed to Properly Evaluate Alternatives

- 8. The sheer number and concentration of designated and heritage assets at the Chelmer Valley Crossing, its historic environment and rural setting make it a remarkable choice for a transmission line of bulky lattice pylons where alternatives are available in line with policy. National Grid has failed to properly investigate, cost and evaluate:
 - a. An alternative route avoiding the Chelmer Valley at the Walthams. National Grid glanced at the possibility of a route north and west of Great Waltham but wrongly dismissed it as contrary to policy because the route is slightly longer notwithstanding it would involve far fewer negative effects and avoid the significant cumulative negative effects at the Chelmer Valley Crossing thereby fully complying with Holford Rule 2, National Policy Statement EN-5 para 2.9.14 and the Electricity Act s9;
 - b. undergrounding at the Chelmer Valley Crossing in accordance with National Policy Statement EN-5 para 2.9.14;
 - c. alternatives to lattice pylon designs.

Personal Impact

- 9. The transmission line crosses both principal vehicular routes from Great Waltham to Chelmsford at Chelmsford Road to the east and at Chignal Road to the south west. It also crosses the rural footpath to Broomfield Hospital. Going north to Braintree the transmission line also crosses the A131. I and other residents of Great Waltham will be well and truly barricaded.
- 10. The pylons will be an ever-visible presence from my house in the village and Great Waltham Conservation Area, as well as neighbouring fields, footpaths and lanes. The rural character of the area and the wellbeing of residents will be irreparably harmed by this development.