

Since 2022 we have had regular meetings with NG representatives to discuss key questions and problems concerning our farm business. We still don't have answers to specific questions about major problems that we can see arising, including main farm access, drainage, managing field operations, and how we will operate our farming business. We need to know so we can plan ahead. This is not a consultation: it is deliberate withholding of information.

The pylon route cuts right through the centre of our farm and approx. 70 acres will be unfarmable. NG have still not explained to us how tractors will cross the haul road. We need to know so we can plan. Again, this shows that National Grid is has no interest in genuine consultation.

Repeatedly we have asked about how road access will be maintained to the farm. For 4 years we have been [REDACTED]: At our last meeting, in January, a project manager, [REDACTED], came to an agenda'd meeting unprepared, promised that he would get back to us with answers by the end of the week: Finally, 3 weeks later, their response fails to answer the problem. We need to know so we can plan. This is not meaningful consultation.

We have objected to the siting of a large compound on Pit Field. We wanted it moved to the other side of that field. We have now been told, after 2 years, that they will not change the site because of two nearby residential properties. However these properties will still be harmed by the same number of vehicle movements using the junction that will be created to access it from the Tey Road. If we could talk to the NG person who make this decision we would point out that these houses are further away than the two houses in the farmyard. There are two houses in Little Tey which are nearer as well. We are not allowed to negotiate with the NG manager to alter outcomes. It feels as though the pressures of running a viable farm business – which today is difficult enough – has not been given due consideration or weight. This is hardly a consultation.

We will lose 2025 metres of hedging- either grubbed out or cut down. We will lose trees, including a row of Hybrid Elms planted in the 80's. These losses are irreplaceable. Hedges and trees provide, as you know, a valuable nature resource which over a few working days will be gone. Our farm has more trees and hedges, planted by me over my lifetime here, than any other farm in the area. It will never be restored in my lifetime, if ever at all. The project so far has been presented as "put up with it- we're not going to change". This is not a consultation as there is no two way discussion.