

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2026 12:57
To: Norwich to Tilbury
Subject: Interested Party Reference number: FD7ACC8EF
Attachments: OFH speech 3 mins final.pdf

Categories: Deadline Submission

You don't often get email from [Redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

Project: Norwich to Tilbury National Grid Pylon Scheme

Deadline: 26 February 2026

Location Affected: Ford Street, Aldham, Essex (CO6)

I write further to my oral representation made at the Open Floor Hearing on 10th February 2026 (copy attached). I respectfully request that this additional information be taken into account by the Examining Authority.

1. Late Disclosure of Proposed CPO Compound Land

Since the Open Floor Hearing on 10 February 2026, I have received a plan dated 11 February 2026 identifying land in Ford Street, Aldham (CO6 3PL) as subject to a proposed Compulsory Purchase Order for a construction compound behind The Maltings. This was the first notification I received of this proposal. It was not transparently disclosed during consultation nor clearly presented in any documentation relied upon at the hearing.



Plan identifying land subject to proposed CPO for compound behind The Maltings (Ford Street, Aldham).

2. Flood Risk and Site Suitability

The proposed compound site is subject to seasonal flooding and remains waterlogged for extended periods during winter months. This raises serious concerns regarding the suitability and resilience of the location for heavy construction use.



Photograph showing seasonal flooding at proposed compound location (February 2026).

3. Landscape and Visual Harm

The proposed pylons in the TB047–TB052 section are positioned on elevated ground directly affecting the setting of Ford Street, Aldham and Fordham. The scale and siting would dominate the skyline and cause permanent landscape and heritage harm.



Elevated landscape where pylons are proposed, illustrating ridgeline prominence.

4. Request for Site Visit

I formally request that the Examining Authority undertake an accompanied site visit to:

- (i) the proposed compound land behind The Maltings;
- (ii) the elevated locations proposed for pylons TB047–TB052;
- (iii) the affected Conservation Area and listed building settings;

The inappropriateness of the proposed siting becomes immediately apparent when experienced on site.

Conclusion

This submission is not made in opposition to necessary energy infrastructure. It is made in support of a more proportionate, policy-compliant solution that avoids irreversible harm to valued landscape, heritage assets and the character of historic rural communities.

With regards,

Caroline Homewood

I strongly object to the pylons, particularly around Colchester (Britain's oldest city) and the TB047 to TB052 section affecting the villages of Ford Street, Aldham and Fordham. National Grid is removing pylons under its Visual Impact Provisions. Why waste money erecting pylons only to remove them? Get it right first time. This scheme fails to meet the statutory duties placed upon National Grid.

The route through our historic villages maximises harm. Fifty-metre steel lattice pylons along ridge lines directly behind homes, breaks skylines and encircles us with industrial infrastructure. This is not a minor visual impact – it permanently transforms a high-amenity rural landscape, contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework requirement to protect and enhance valued landscapes.

It causes serious heritage harm. Fordham's Grade I listed church, Aldham's Grade II* church and the Ford Street Conservation Area – with around twenty listed buildings – rely on open countryside setting. Pylons on elevated ground will dominate views and undermine centuries of historic character. Even more concerning is pylon TB047, situated on Roman archaeological remains. This is not the precautionary approach required in national policy.

The Colne Valley is a place of regional conservation significance closely linked to the nearby Dedham Vale National Landscape. Ecology and public amenity will suffer. Woodland Trust land at the Fordham Hall Estate has regional conservation value and will be fragmented by construction corridors and tree loss.

The Essex Way long-distance path runs through this landscape; walkers, riders and cyclists come here because of its openness and tranquillity. Overhead lines introduce collision risks for birds along the River Colne and disrupt long established wildlife corridors.

The consultation process is flawed. Communities were presented with one overhead line option and asked to choose between pylon designs. No alternatives such as HVDC undergrounding, re-routing along lower ground, offshore integration, or reinforcement of existing corridors were transparently assessed, despite national policy requiring this where visual impact is significant.

Please do three things.

1. reject the current overhead alignment around Colchester and through the villages of Ford Street, Aldham and Fordham;
2. require a full and transparent assessment of alternatives, including HVDC cabling and an alternative route that avoids our historic villages and sensitive landscapes; and
3. ensure National Grid properly fulfils its duties under the Electricity Act, the Holford Rules, and national policy to minimise harm to landscape, heritage and communities.

This is not just a local objection. It is a plea for a better solution — one that delivers energy infrastructure without sacrificing irreplaceable countryside and heritage.