

Pylon TB209 has been positioned close to a bend in the field boundary, creating an awkward layout that will sterilise a disproportionately large area of productive land. A modest shift of the pylon into the adjoining field corner would substantially reduce this loss and minimise disruption to field operations. This minor adjustment would achieve the same engineering function while delivering a clear reduction in agricultural harm and should therefore be properly considered.

As the proposals include compulsory acquisition powers, the Secretary of State would need to accept that there is a compelling case in the public interest to justify the proposed interference with private land rights and that the public benefits associated with the proposal outweigh any private loss.

There is no evidence that the public benefits clearly outweigh private losses, which include reductions in property values, impact on business operation and viability, crop losses, costs of reinstatement, professional fees, lost development potential, loss of mineral extraction, and other significant detriments all of which represents an unacceptable interference with landowners' management of and enjoyment of their own property.

No credible biosecurity or invasive species management plan has been presented.

While National Grid notes that appropriate biosecurity measures will be included in future method statements, these cannot be reviewed at this stage as contractors have not yet been appointed. There is therefore no assurance that adequate provisions will be put in place. There are no safeguards if the method statements submitted post-DCO approval prove insufficient.