

URGENT – PLEASE READ

The Norwich to Tilbury project has been a looming nightmare for my family and me since we first learned about it last May. In a desperate attempt to oppose it, I completed surveys, sought legal advice at significant personal cost, and attended National Grid's consultation meetings. Yet, despite overwhelming opposition from local residents, every step of this process has felt predetermined, as though our voices were never meant to be heard.

The consultations have been nothing more than a box-ticking exercise. Time and time again, we have asked for alternative solutions—offshore or underground options that would prevent the permanent scarring of our landscape and the disruption of our communities. Yet, National Grid has repeatedly failed to present these alternatives properly, dismissing valid concerns from the people whose lives will be irreversibly affected. This raises serious doubts as to whether National Grid has truly fulfilled its legal obligation to conduct a fair and meaningful consultation under the Planning Act 2008.

The impact of this proposal is already taking a devastating toll. If these towering 50-meter pylons are forced upon us, they will not only destroy the beauty of our surroundings and damage local wildlife habitats, but they will also bring long-term consequences—traffic disruption, noise pollution, and potential health risks. The fear of what these pylons could mean for our well-being is overwhelming. Concerns over prolonged exposure to electromagnetic fields and the increased risk of health issues have not been adequately addressed. Before any decision is made, a full independent health and environmental impact assessment must be conducted.

Adding insult to injury, the government's offer of £250 per year as compensation for living under the shadow of these pylons is nothing short of an insult. This token payment cannot undo the harm being done. It cannot recover the 30-40% loss in property value that estate agents have already warned us about. It cannot replace the sense of security and peace that my family has lost. Under the Human Rights Act 1998, we have the right to peaceful enjoyment of our home (Article 1, Protocol 1), and this project is set to violate that right in ways that cannot be ignored.

As a custodian of a Grade II listed farmhouse, I have always been proud to be part of Brentwood's heritage. But that pride has turned into heartbreak. How can I protect the legacy of my home when the view, the landscape, and the very essence of what makes it special are being destroyed? National Grid's disregard for the historical and cultural significance of this land is disgraceful. But beyond the loss of property and heritage, the greatest tragedy of all is the toll this is taking on my mother's health. This project is not just affecting our home—it is destroying her well-being. Every letter from National Grid, every wooden stake placed outside our house is another blow to her mental state. Since the proposal was announced, she has suffered crippling anxiety, panic attacks, and emotional distress that has led to multiple emergency calls to paramedics. Four times, she has collapsed, unconscious, overwhelmed by the fear of what is coming. She is now on medication, attending therapy, and struggling to cope with a reality that should never have been forced upon her.

No one should have to watch a loved one go through this. I have seen my mother become consumed by stress, and there is nothing I can do to take it away. National Grid has not only put our home at risk—it has stolen our peace of mind, our security, and, most importantly, my mother's health.

This is not just about infrastructure. This is about people's lives.

I demand that:

1. National Grid properly evaluates offshore and underground alternatives rather than forcing this destructive plan upon us.
2. A comprehensive and independent environmental and health impact assessment is conducted before any further action is taken.