

I have been a resident in the community of Somersham for 11 years, since I became aware of the intentions of NG to develop a NT pylons project, the route of the pylons has changed on 3 occasions. The initial route was approximately 5km from my property and despite the height of the pylons would not be seen from my property. Since the initial planned route the pylons have progressively closed in on my property, the current route indicates a series of pylons will now be located in a field to the north of my property of approximately 100, distant. I have read with interest a series of guidelines published by NG on the NT infrastructure project and those guidelines have been apparently considered by NG and their project managers and ignored. My property is a listed building dating back to 1540, the earliest maps dated in 1853 detail the property. In 2000 the property was recorded by English Heritage as a listed property at risk, during 2007 to 2014 the property was rebuilt under the supervision of the local council and English Heritage consulting on the refurbishment of the property. The property is a land mark for the village of Somersham which sits in a valley, our house [REDACTED] looks over the valley the village and surrounding farmland and has done so for close to 500 years. Our house is positioned on the top of a hill 280 feet above sea level which an un-obstructed view over the surrounding country side, sunsets and rises are universally considered to be superb offering vibrant colour and tranquil moments of profound beauty. Being located on the top of a hill the proposed route of the pylons being 50m in height will impact the views from our property and have a significant impact on the quality of our lives. The noise generated by the transmission of power through the cables will be heard on our property as we are located far from any background noise from neighbours or road traffic common with modern life, presently we have the privilege of the silence of countryside which is about to be ruined destroying our amenity. The limited number of listed buildings located around the region few and NG own guideline state that dog legs and locating pylons on hills should be avoided, other guidelines published in the regards of developing national infrastructure project state that listed properties should be avoided. In respect to our property it would seem that all such guidelines have been ignored. We have entertained representatives from Fischer German to hold and onsite review of our property, during the meeting our concerns were not considered, we were advised the route was diverted to pass close to our property as the only other option was to pass by a church. The church was discussed and it was considered to be listed building as well but no persons resided in the church and was not regularly used, they advised they would pass these points fwd for consideration but we have not received any feedback. We requested minutes of the minutes were supplied and provided so we had a record of the discussion, these were never provided. We have over the past few months appointed a land agent to act on our behalf, and provided them with copies of the documentation supplied by NG. We understand that NG wish to gain access to our property to relocate installations and to widen roads to gain access for civil works. By our own actions and those of our land agent NG has refused to provide any information on timings or the scope of any of these works. On our land we have several horses, this has been advised to NG and Fischer German, one of the areas they have indicated of interest will deny us access to the fields, stables, tack rooms and hay barns which we need to gain access for the well being and welfare of these animals. There are no other points of access to these buildings there is no understanding how the matter of access will be addressed as NG and their representatives refuse to acknowledge our representations. The widening of the single track road outside our property is the only access we have, NG have not provided any indication as to the scope of works they will require to support the civil works they plan to undertake. We have attended some of the preliminary hearings, it is clear from these meetings and consultation with other landowners there has been a lack of consultation and communication with the public and landowners, a lack of thought and consideration to alternate routes and methods of constructions. Indeed to outcome of our own meeting with FG being the agents for NG that landowners were not provided with the right information resulting the meetings being unproductive and unhelpful. The compulsory acquisition hearing had questions put forward by the planning inspectorate to NG indicating that 6000 parcels of land were under a compulsory acquisition we have no idea if any parcels of our land fall within this remit as any approaches have been turned away. Our land agent has advised us that in their opinion there is a need for better evidence of meaningful engagement with landowners, updates on reduction of white land, clarity on alternative alignments and whether compulsory acquisition requests are accurate, ensuring only necessary land is included (neither too much or too little), interactions with other major schemes such as UKPN, Gas, BT, Solar. There has been little discussion regarding offshoring of the cables, earlier NG publications on social media indicated off shore was the preferred route there has been no explanation why this approach has been now rejected and the favoured route results in the destruction of the country side. We understand the cost of this infrastructure project will be passed on to the consumer as a means of amortising the cost and return on investment. If this is being paid for by the consumer why are the concerns of the consumers being ignored. There are other matters to be considered other than the complications of planning consents, project management, legal consideration and finance. The project has not taken into consideration the psychological impact of this project on individuals and communities. The stress which this project has caused on myself and family is immense which is further compounded by my recovery from cancer treatment. It is unclear if during or after the project we shall find the civil works and the overwhelming pylons too much to bear, if we wished to relocate the value of our property would be substantially impacted. Our property within our location is substantially greater than the average value of property in the area by a factor of x3- x4 the mean, with a 50m pylon buzzing away less than 100m from our home will have a substantial impact on the value and will limit our options to replace what we have lost. As we are retired on limited income our ability to finance the shortfall to replace what we have is impossible, some of the offers for compensation being derisory, £2000 spread over 5 years of free electricity. Our property has solar panels and batteries we use an electric car for transport, we export more than £2000 pa to the NG via our solar system, in reality do you believe that £2000 of electricity paid in compensation has any meaningful value when the presence of such installations will reduce the value of our property by hundreds of thousands of pounds. The area of Suffolk will be destroyed by pylons and the landscape will be lost forever, our property has been lovingly restored to its former glory as a building of significant architectural we consider ourselves as conservators preserving the heritage of our nation, for what value when the landscape will be destroyed. There must be another way to preserve this county, we are not seeking compensation we ask that what we have is not taken away.