

To the Planning Inspectorate,

I am writing to formally add my objection to the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons Development Consent Order proposed by National Grid.

I live in Swainsthorpe, a small rural village 4 miles south of Norwich, close to the Norwich Substation. My house lies just over 50 meters from one of the proposed pylons, with my garden even closer at only 40 meters.

Since receiving a feedback questionnaire and Statutory Consultation in April 2024, I have attended public information events and had company representatives visit my home to better understand the project and its effects. However, the maps and paperwork provided were unclear and sometimes irrelevant, marking other people's land, leaving me uncertain about the extent and nature of the damage this project will cause to my property and garden.

I am deeply concerned that the outlook from my bedroom—which has been my sanctuary in difficult times—will be completely disrupted by the devastation of the surrounding tree line, which has been acknowledged by the company. The prospect of being overlooked by this construction causes me great distress and adversely affects my mental health. I am also worried that I will be unable to open my windows due to what I expect will be ongoing noise.

My concerns extend to potential damage to my property. For example, current groundworks for a solar farm across the road have caused my bungalow to shake, resulting in items falling from walls and shelves and breaking. I fear similar or worse structural damage may occur from this project, including harm to the roots of the surrounding trees.

Furthermore, during a recent visit by two company representatives, I felt intimidated by the use of technical jargon and acronyms, despite my repeated requests for clearer language. This breakdown in communication forced me to politely ask them to leave.

It is troubling that although this project was meant to be for public consultation, I have not received information on possible alternatives, nor has there been clear or transparent information about distances from homes and gardens, detailed costs, or why there is a rushed deadline of 2030 for this project.

I strongly urge the Planning Inspectorate to reject the overhead pylons scheme in favour of less harmful, more modern alternatives such as underground HVDC cables, offshore coordination, and upgrading the existing grid with the latest technology. These options would avoid the severe negative impact on residents, the environment, and mental wellbeing.

I am fully behind the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons action group.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Jennifer Hawkshaw