

Submission ID: SF8B027C4

National grid have indicated that they want to compulsory purchase a field for the start of the Dedham vale underground section, we are not in favour of this.

Richard Langton

Langton Farms

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing this to formally object to the Norwich Tilbury transmission line that will cross our family farm. This proposal as it is currently presented will cause profound and lasting harm to our farm business, our livelihoods and our family's mental and physical wellbeing.

My family have been here since 1958, it is where I was raised and where I brought my children up.

It is an all arable enterprise and the proposed pylon route will cut the farm in half, especially during the construction phase.

The 50 m pylons will eventually be visible from the main property altering the character of our landscape beyond repair.

The construction phase will be highly disruptive to the operation of the business with significant damage to soil structure, drainage systems and restrict our ability to manage crops in the affected areas.

Beyond construction the long term impact of these pylons will also restrict our use of modern agriculture machinery in the fields affected.

Any reduction in our ability to farm effectively threatens not only our income but the viability of the farm as a whole.

I wish to be candid with the planning authority about the personal toll this proposal is already taking on myself and the family. Farming is already a mentally demanding occupation in the present economic and weather patterns.

Uncertainty, financial pressure and the loss of control over one's land are well documented triggers of severe mental health difficulties among farming communities. The knowledge that this vast project could be imposed on us against our objections is causing considerable anxiety, sleep disruption and distress.

I don't think there has been enough impact assessment on how this project will impact all businesses and property owners on this route, especially during the construction phase.

The compensation package being offered bears no relation to the true scale of the loss we face.

It fails to account for the full diminution in the productive and commercial value of our landscape beyond repair, loss of earnings and business disruption during the construction phase.

The compensation per pylon is also derisory considering we will have to look and work round them for generations to come.

Now better technology is available to put HVDC underground cables in and be far less damaging, National Grid should be forced to revisit this option.

The proposal as it stands, would cause serious and lasting harm to our farm, our business, our landscape and our health and wellbeing.

The planning authority should require fundamental changes to be made to the route and design, proper independent assessment of under-grounding, especially off shore.

If a proper compensation package was offered to all the residents and businesses on the Norwich Tilbury route then the cost of offshoring the proposal would look different.

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