

# Formal Objection to the Proposed Development

## Concerns Regarding Access Track

### Use of Private Track

The proposed development seeks to utilise our private track, for which we bear sole responsibility for maintenance and upkeep. This track is particularly narrow and was not designed to accommodate construction vehicles or large maintenance equipment. Its route runs directly alongside horse fields, significantly increasing the risk of disturbance and presenting potential safety hazards for both the horses and people who use the area.

### Track Accessibility Issues

A further significant concern is the frequent inaccessibility of this track due to extensive flooding from the Ford. This flooding is a recurring and well-known issue, making reliable access difficult to maintain. Such ongoing difficulties cast serious doubt on the practicality and feasibility of using this track for the proposed development activities. I have several photographs documenting these flooding events should further evidence be required.

### Access to Our Home During Track Upgrades

Another pressing matter relates to how access to our home will be managed during periods when the track is being upgraded for pylon access. The disruption caused by these works could severely impede our ability to reach our property and conduct everyday activities. Additionally, we have two dogs who are particularly sensitive to disruption, making it essential that access is preserved throughout the day to allow for our movements in and out of the home.

### Building Next to Our Cess Pit

We would also like to raise concerns regarding the proposal to build next to our cess pit. This matter requires careful consideration, as the cess pit is located adjacent to the proposed access route for servicing Pylon TP195

## Environmental and Community Impact on Buttsbury Parish

### Impact on St Mary's Buttsbury

St Mary's Buttsbury is a Grade II listed church dating back to the 14th Century. The views from the church will be disturbed by the erection of pylons, and the area will also be adversely affected by increased construction traffic. This would negatively affect both the setting and the tranquillity of this historic heritage site.

### Impact on Remus Animal Sanctuary

Remus Animal Sanctuary is accessed up the private track mentioned previously and is home to 72 animals. Many of these animals, including horses, donkeys, goats, sheep, and cats, are being cared for in their later years and have disabilities such as blindness. The proposals highlight all their land, and this would mean many animals would need to

be relocated and may not even make it with the shock of the construction work and known effects of pylons on horses and other animals.

### Impact on Farmers' Livelihoods

The proposed pylon route travels through many fields used for grazing sheep and cattle and for growing crops. The erection of the pylons will create a loss of land for the farmers and raise concerns about the safety of the animals. Many of the fields will become inaccessible and therefore unable to be ploughed and maintained, threatening the livelihoods of local farmers.

### Impact on Local Wildlife

Wildlife in Buttsbury comprises a diverse range of mammals, including bats, badgers, Muntjac deer, and foxes. Birds are also prolific in the area, including red kites, woodpeckers, and herons. Many of these mammals and birds are protected species in the UK. The erection of the pylons will harm their habitat and have an impact on their flight paths, which may result in fatalities.

### Impact of Pylons on House Prices

There are several key factors which would contribute to a decline in property values because of the proposed development. These include the visual impact and disruption to the landscape, perceived health risks associated with electromagnetic fields (EMFs), noise pollution, and a resultant reduction in desirability for prospective buyers. This will have a direct effect on me and will be made worse by your access road to maintain the pylons which runs past my front door.

### Construction Process and Increased Traffic

Stock Lane and Ingatestone Road are to be used as the main access route through Buttsbury to erect the pylons. These are country lanes and are not used to the amount of traffic planned. Ingatestone is often used as a cut through when there are works or an accident on the A12 which had been often over the past two years, records will depict this. The whole area will be gridlocked causing delays to journeys.

### Conclusion

In summary, the Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals present considerable and unacceptable threats to our local environment, the habitats of wildlife, heritage sites, and the overall wellbeing of our community. The anticipated decline in property values, disruption to daily life, and the significant risks highlighted above reinforce the strength of my opposition to this development. I respectfully urge you to give these objections your fullest and most careful consideration, prioritising the protection of our environment and community throughout your decision-making process.

Moreover, I cannot support the use of overhead lines when less harmful and more modern alternatives exist. Options such as HVDC underground cables, offshore coordination, and upgrading the existing grid with the latest technology offer solutions that would avoid the visual intrusion and potential damage to heritage sites. These alternatives would better protect our historic environment while meeting energy infrastructure needs.

I urge the Planning Inspectorate to reject this proposal in its current form and require National Grid to consider these less damaging options that preserve our cultural heritage and landscape. I

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