

**Registration reference Number:** [REDACTED]

**Interest Party Reference : NTOT – AFP813**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the Open Hearing in Ipswich on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**This is the written script of the representation made that evening, I am unable to speak so my wife spoke on my behalf.**

My husband [REDACTED], he has virtually no speech so I am speaking on his behalf. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The proposed pylon and HV overhead line passes right next to our home and around 20 meters from our summerhouse and garden seating area.

The High Voltage lines emit Electromagnetic fields. Heart devices can be impacted by EMFs, and patients with implants are advised to avoid appliances with high emissions. I have contacted his device provider to ascertain the safety in close and frequent proximity to a high voltage overhead wire, while it is not a certain risk, they cannot guarantee its safety in these circumstances.

NG assure us it is safe. This is based on not having been informed of a device failure. When asked if they would feel happy with the device implanted in their own chest they could not answer.

We have adapted our home for [REDACTED] needs, we spend most of our time there now. [REDACTED] enjoys being outside and uses the summerhouse for therapy sessions.

Although his communication is severely impacted, his intellectual capacity is not, his speech therapist has worked with him to express his view.

[REDACTED] has triggered on one occasion in 10 years, it undoubtedly saved his life. If it failed when needed, the result would be catastrophic. This is relevant to one of his following points.

With speech aids and maps [REDACTED] expressed his feelings;

Alarmed

Annoyed

Electricity – underground

2024 – Die? (When his device triggered)

Ignored

East Anglia? (Concern that it is overburdened with energy projects)

Future – our future - where?

I don't think you would be surprised to hear, that this, together with the concerns outlined in my own representation, have been deeply worrying and had a severe impact on our mental health. Even more uncertainty about our already fragile future.

NG boast in their newsletters about “Community Benefits” – they ignore the devastating impact on the individuals and businesses directly in the path of this scheme and their losses, both financial and in quality of life.

I have spent the last 10 years fighting for [REDACTED] wellbeing and to give him the support and tools for the best recovery possible. That alone has been exhausting for us both. We did not for one minute think we would be fighting for the right for us to peacefully enjoy our own home against such a badly conceived plan and unnecessary destruction.

**I also have all the concerns raise in my wife, [REDACTED] submission, and have added here the data that we presented to National Grid to support our concerns re the EMFs.**

*Impact of proximity to High Voltage lines and EMF on heart device.*

The overhead lines will be 20-30m from the summer house and garden seating area which is at the bottom of our driveway (our house is on a hill and we have developed a garden area at the bottom of our drive which is sheltered as it is always windy around the house itself). The wires will be approximately 150m from the house.

There is plentiful literature about the possible impact of high voltage overhead lines on heart devices such as ICDs and pacemakers and I have contacted the heart device manufacturer who cannot guarantee that the safety of the device in these circumstances.

Many people are wary of buying houses close to pylon lines for health reasons, whether real or perceived this has an impact on the saleability of

the property and hence value. Despite assurances from National Grid that there is not an impact on heart devices such as pacemakers and ICDs, they cannot deny that there could be some risk and quite naturally, someone with a device implanted, where malfunction would result in death, is not going to spend time sitting more or less under these lines.

This is re-enforced by studies at Bristol university. Looking at possible impact on persons sensitive to EMFs produced this assessment of the likely impact of electricity distribution network pylons (and I assume overhead wires) at different distances:

Electricity Distribution Network Pylons

Distance From Pylon (m) >>		0	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	225
Electric Field Strength	V/m	Off Scale	Off Scale	380	70	45	25	20	15	8	1
Magnetic Field Strength	nT	Off Scale	1500	400	150	75	40	25	15	10	8

See Table 4 above for colour-coding categorisation 'Off Scale' indicates a reading of greater than 1999

Approximate levels at which ordinarily sensitive individuals might, or might not, expect to experience adverse reactions		Unlikely to cause harm – recommended for SLEEP areas for EVERYONE + daytime areas if SENSITIVE #	Adverse reactions unlikely unless SENSITIVE # - recommended for areas used for > 4hrs / DAY	Risk of moderate reactions * - avoid or minimise duration of exposure	Risk of severe reactions	Risk of extremely severe reactions
High Frequency	$\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$	< 0.1	0.1 – 5	5 – 100	100 – 1000	> 1000
LF Magnetic Fields	nT	< 20	20 – 200	200 – 300	300 – 500	> 500
LF Electric Fields \$	V/m	< 1	1 – 10	10 – 20	20 – 50	> 50

# Sensitive groups include children, foetuses, the elderly, pregnant women, the ill and people with ES  
 \* May be tolerable for less sensitive individuals for very short periods without any **too significant** reactions

These are not comforting given the proximity of the pylons and overhead wires to our garden area where we usually spend prolonged periods of time on a daily basis in the warmer months. The house itself is also close enough to the wires to be of concern. The assessment also sets out that there are two aspects to impact, distance AND duration.

Although National Grid’s assessment of low risk may be valid for someone with infrequent and very short exposure to high voltage overhead lines, this is not likely to be the same for a vulnerable person in such close and frequent proximity.

We are very concerned that we will be forced to move from Highfield Farmhouse because of these concerns (which we expected and wanted to be our lifelong home) and realise and inevitable significant loss which will compromise our choice of where we will be able to move to, let alone the emotional impact of moving from the home we love.

The stress caused by this project and the whole way in which the consultations have been conducted cannot be overemphasised, the impact on our mental health has been huge.

I endorse my wife's request for focused consultations considering the alternatives and the impact on Heritage Assets.

We would also like to invite the Panel to view our stunning valley and landscapes so they can understand the extreme adverse impact on the Fordham and Colne valley area.