

## National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Planning Inspectorate Submission

When we first Learnt of this proposed new pylon line, our initial reaction was “who on earth chose this route?”

The proposed pylon route on our land is sited on the second highest plateau in Suffolk, cutting fields in half away from field boundaries and siting a pylon on top of National Grids own high pressure gas main. Just crazy and unbelievable.

After two and a half years National Grid realised that was totally ridiculous, and have now moved the line over slightly. But whatever we have asked or suggested over numerous letters and meetings, [REDACTED]

An example of my frustration is when the proposed line comes within a few hundred metres of the existing 400KV line, the closest along the whole route, why are the two lines not proposed to be paralleled together? Especially as [REDACTED] Batts Farm and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lodge Farm will be sandwiched between the two pylon lines.

The response from [REDACTED], project director: “we also need to consider the overall increased environmental effects where the lines would need to converge and diverge along the route, and those increased effects on properties with overhead lines to both sides are considered greater than those introduced by a new route separated from the existing line.”

This is a replicated response, I guess from other N.G. projects, but as you see contradicts itself as there are numerous places along the proposed route where it could be paralleled without impacting existing properties by having pylons on both sides.

I enclose the three-minute verbal presentation which I made at the preliminary hearing below. But I would politely request again that you find time to visit us, so you can see what is being proposed and why we believe it to be a totally illogical solution.

The whole process has shown us [REDACTED] which is extremely worrying given this is national infrastructure. Surely it should be sited correctly and done in the best possible way?

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Bullock

National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Project consultation response  
Ref proposed pylons RG131- RG139

Dear Sir/ Madam

We farm in the parishes of Cotton and Mendlesham in Mid Suffolk. A mixed farm, consisting of dairy and beef cattle along with arable land. Whilst under construction, and for a considerable amount of time afterwards, this project will take five fields out of production (30% of our arable acreage). It is difficult to evaluate how bad the impact will potentially be on our farming business. The proposal alone has already affected my families emotional and mental health considerably. The impact cannot be overstated!

As I write again about this project, it is very easy to have the attitude of 'what is the point?' When you have been trying to voice your opinion to representatives of a company which has made its mind up and knows it can do whatever it wants. This is hugely frustrating as it's been quite evident that National Grid are just following all the relevant procedures, jumping through all of the hoops and ticking the boxes to achieve their end goal.

I was told at the first non-statutory consultation by someone from National Grid that the current proposal was the only option which could be delivered by the target date of 2030 (i.e. the quickest and easiest). This is an utter madness approach for national infrastructure.

In a response from [REDACTED] (project director) he says "we are required to fulfil our statutory duties and adhere to relevant policy, but that includes listening to landowners and the communities in which we will work and need to operate." It is very easy to listen, and then respond with contradictory waffle. At no point has anybody from N.G offered to explain their reasoning or logic with the sitings of the pylons or the crazy route the haul road is proposed to follow.

There are three questions which we have asked on numerous occasions and N.G have failed to answer.

1. Why, when the existing 400KV line and the proposed new line come so close together (within a few hundred metres) on our land are they not going to be parallelled?  
No other country in Europe would take the view that it is quicker and easier to put another massive visual scar across the natural landscape. Additionally on our land there are four sets of electric power lines (three 11kv and one 33kv) which will have to be undergrounded where the new oversail will be. When we ask where these smaller lines will be diverted to, we are told by N.G that it is not their responsibility and we will have to ask UKPN. All these smaller lines have already been undergrounded on the existing line.
2. Why the pylons cannot be placed along field boundaries. This would cause the least disruption to farming operations and minimise damage to field drainage.
3. Why is it necessary to construct a haul road along the whole length of the line when along our stretch of proposed route there is already an existing track. Alternatively, the pylon locations could be accessed from the public road which all construction traffic will have to cross anyway!

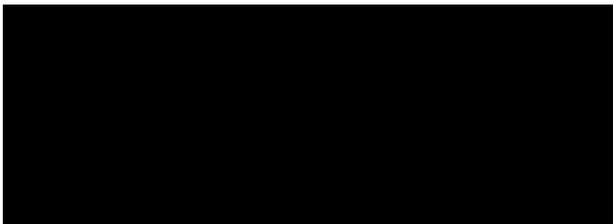
The haul road construction which is being proposed across our heavy clay soil will create irreparable damage for mine and my son's lifetimes. I remember the high-pressure gas main being dug in across our land over 50 years ago. The amount of soil moved and disturbed was a fraction of what is proposed for this project, but even after all these years it is still very evident in the bare soil and growing crop the exact path the pipe follows. This directly coincides with the friability of the soil showing the damaged soil structure.

It is very scary to think that when you, the 'Planning Inspectorate' grant consent, National Grid will be able to do and go wherever they like on our land.

I am very much in favour of renewable energy, but this project will leave a massive visual scar across the countryside, with huge destruction to flora and fauna. I guess we will get used to these monster structures overtime, like the bereavement of a loved one, but in this case we shall be reminded of the injustice and [REDACTED] every day!

I invite you to come to Suffolk, to meet me in person so I can show you what is being proposed and what we are trying to preserve.

Your Sincerely,

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Andrew Bullock

A small black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.