

I attended the Open Floor Hearing 3 in Norwich on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026. In my presentation I expressed concerns that construction of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project would create a serious risk of pollution for the River Tas in South Norfolk and its tributaries. Furthermore I stated that there is an identified and confirmed colony of native White Clawed Crayfish in the River Tas.

I have read Document 8.5.4 which is the Applicant's Response to the Open Floor Hearings Final Issue A February 2026. There is no mention of the River Tas or the White Clawed Crayfish in the document. Why have National Grid not addressed my concerns?

National Grid have failed to explain how they would protect the River Tas, a rare chalk stream, and its tributaries. There would be significant risk of pollution from N2T construction where the proposed pylon route crosses the river and from surface run off from N2T activity on higher ground above the river valley.

National Grid's failure to mention the River Tas in this report is exacerbated by not acknowledging the presence of the White Clawed Crayfish in the river or stating how they propose to protect the colony.

White Clawed Crawfish [*Austropotamobius pallipes*] are an endangered species and the only crayfish native to the British Isles. They are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and

**Countryside Act 1981 and listed as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority species etc. It appears that National Grid have failed to identify this priority species in their surveys.**

**Because of the protected status of the Crayfish, National Grid must carry out thorough surveys and tests in the River Tas according to regulations and relevant to the wellbeing of this endangered species.**

**It is of great concern that the River Tas colony of Crayfish is at high risk of extinction. The disturbance of the river environs during N2T construction would result in a reduction of water quality, and consequently increase the threat of extinction of the Crayfish.**

**It is essential that National Grid carry out all necessary testing and demonstrate how they propose to protect the River Tas and the White Clawed Crayfish. The overriding concern is that the Norwich to Tilbury proposals are totally inappropriate considering the potential damage the project would cause to delicate ecosystems such as the River Tas and the surrounding landscape that supports a wide variety of fauna and flora. Damage that would be repeated along**

**the whole Norwich to Tilbury route. Permission to build this project must be declined.**