

My name is Paul Whittle and my interested party ref is [REDACTED].

National Grid (NG) in its February 2026 response to oral submissions has not addressed the issues I raised on the following;

- (a) The creation of a large area of “wirescape” in substantial breach of the Holford and Horlock Rules. In paragraph 6.5.8 of NG’s August 2025 justification of the siting of the EACN, it attempts to “balance” factors relating to substation aspects with others relating to electrical connections. All in vain because their proposals envisage a huge industrialisation of a large area with three substations, plus the EACN, and the Tarchon interconnector building, let alone various associated battery storage sites.
- (b) NG has ignored the effect on a nearby Grade 2 listed building. Despite attempts to engage with NG there has been no recognition of the damage that could be caused to the building during the construction process (the building dates back several centuries and was largely constructed with minimal foundations).
- (c) NG has also failed to consider the impact of the substation noise on the listed building and apparently has refused to consider moving the EACN further East to reduce the impact or build an underground substation, as it has agreed to do so in the case of the Orsett substation.
- (d) Furthermore, the NG plan involves both overhead and underground cables crossing Hungerdown Lane to the immediate south of the listed property using a 50 yard wide pinch point. Hungerdown Lane is a popular walking, cycling and riding route. NG has failed to say how they will minimise any blockage or provide alternative routes for public access. Such a concentration of cables into and out of the EACN may raise safety and health issues and be in breach of NG’s own rules on such matters. A dangerous design fault?!

Paul Whittle

12 March 2026