

I spoke at the Open Floor Hearing on behalf of Essex Scouts and Guides regarding the impact of the proposed route on the Essex International Scout and Guide Jamboree held at Roxwell.

Having reviewed the Applicant's Response to the Open Floor Hearings, I do not consider that the specific concerns raised regarding the Jamboree have been substantively addressed.

My submission explained that the proposed alignment places pylons within the core camping and activity areas of the Roxwell site. The Jamboree is a major international youth event hosting around 5,000 young people and more than 2,500 volunteers. Significant charitable funds have been invested in infrastructure at the site and many thousands of volunteer hours are devoted to organising the event.

The Applicant has not addressed the operational implications of placing transmission infrastructure within the centre of the event site. In particular:

- it has not addressed the fact that the 2028 Jamboree cannot take place during the construction period;
- it has not considered the impact of pylons within the campsite on safeguarding, licensing and parental confidence; and
- it has not assessed the effect on the long-term viability of the event.

While the Applicant refers to the technical safety of overhead lines, the concern raised was not simply one of engineering safety but the practical ability to host a large international youth event beneath major transmission infrastructure. The potential mitigation options raised at the hearing — including undergrounding of this section of the route or identifying and funding a suitable alternative site — have also not been addressed.

It appears the applicant chose a theme-based response, which I consider makes it easier for them to avoid addressing specific representations directly. Given the scale and significance of the Jamboree and the charitable investment involved, I respectfully request that the Examining Authority seek further clarification from the Applicant on how the scheme would affect the future operation of this long-established international youth event and what mitigation measures have been considered.