

As the applicant (National Grid) has responded to my submission with what appears to be a generic answer. This response once again demonstrates a disregard for those of us who are affected by these pylons. In all consultations we've had with the applicant and their agents, our suggestions have consistently been dismissed with the same response "that any alternative would cost too much'. The applicant claims to have responded to feedback from Historic England and other stakeholders. However, it is unclear who these stakeholders are. They are certainly not my family who own the land that these proposed pylons (TB132-TB144) would be built on and own the Grade 1 Listed House, [REDACTED] and several of the Grade Two Listed Houses that would be directly affected. Historic England did not meet with us to discuss the devastating impact the pylons will have on these heritage assets.

If a reasonable alternative alignment exists that would materially reduce harm to designated heritage assets and the historic landscape of Great Waltham, national policy requires that such an alternative be properly and transparently evaluated. In the absence of a clear comparative assessment demonstrating that the Applicant's preferred alignment results in the least overall environmental and heritage harm, it cannot be concluded that the statutory duties under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 have been fully discharged. The Examining Authority is therefore respectfully requested to require the Applicant to provide a detailed comparative assessment of the Great Waltham alternative alignment before determining whether the current route represents the least harmful practicable option.