

As a resident of Great Waltham I'm extremely disappointed and frustrated by National Grid's response to the open floor hearings. National Grid is not taking into account the strong opposition and significant concerns of local residents including myself. While it is not a designated AONB I believe the area around Great Waltham should be considered as unsuitable for pylons due to the conservation areas and dramatic impact on the visual landscape. If NG is unwilling to install an offshore grid (the preferred option of many residents) they should install underground cabling instead, which would be much more appropriate and less damaging to the Great Waltham/Little Waltham/Broads Green area in the long run. This is a historic village whose character will be destroyed forever by the installation of these huge pylons so close to it. Great Waltham and Little Waltham are one community, and share amenities such as the doctor's surgery. Residents regularly walk from Great Waltham to Little Waltham to attend the surgery and pharmacy, or to access public transport from Ash Tree Corner, as well as walking or jogging along these routes for exercise. Not only would residents be faced with the devastating visual impact of these dominating structures, but installing pylons over Chelmsford Road risks exposing residents to EMFs and microshocks.

Furthermore I am concerned about the impact on house values and saleability of properties, with the damage caused to the area by pylons resulting in significant issues for residents who may need to remortgage or sell their homes but find the value has been reduced - as shown in previous studies such as one by the LSE which found house prices within 1200m of pylons saw a value reduction by on average 3.6%. These serious financial concerns for residents such as myself (who will not be eligible for sufficient compensation as it stands) have been seemingly ignored by NG.

I understand that solutions should be "cost effective", but installing an allegedly slightly cheaper option despite the hugely detrimental permanent impact on thousands of people's lives, finances and wellbeing does not seem "cost effective". The cost to residents should be taken into account. This project to improve infrastructure is meant to benefit the whole country, so it is not fair for the pain, suffering and sacrifice of installing it to fall so heavily on some. Underground cabling would be a much fairer solution which would protect this beautiful rural landscape and historic conservation areas for years to come.