

IP Reg [REDACTED].

Submission to Deadline 3, April 10th, with regard to EXQ1

Question BIO 1.38

The Applicant does not appear to have taken into account the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy of Colchester City Council's Local Plan Green/Blue Infrastructure strategy. This sees the Roman River Nature Corridor passing through Aldham and Marks Tey Parishes, which are crossed by the pylons and will cause habitat loss.

The Colne River Valley and Roman River Valley area, together with a large farm reservoir nearby act as a magnet for wildlife in general and birds in particular. The many bird species, including flocks of geese on regular twice-daily passage, together with little egrets, cormorants and herons are all seen near these local water sources.

The larger water birds, as well as many others including passerines, are also all subject to the dangers of wire collision from the pylons. Those which take off and land on the reservoir are exceptionally susceptible to this risk.

I understand from Natural England that their role in this matter is narrow, but they agree that there is a risk of collisions with overhead lines. They make it clear that it will be for the Planning Inspectorate to consider the evidence around risks to birds. And bird diverters are not a good deterrent in many conditions (Please also see Pylons East Anglia submission B 1.12)