

Georgie Hannigan

From: Great Horkesley Parish Clerk <clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 April 2026 20:40
To: Norwich to Tilbury
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ref no. [REDACTED]; Question LV1.14

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Interested party reference number - [REDACTED]

Question LV1.14

Great Horkesley Parish Council does not agree that damage to the Dedham Vale National Landscape will only be "minor / not significant" once the project is in operation. The national landscape falls within our Parish and the proposed overhead line and underground section, with CSE compound, traverse our Parish near to the border with the national landscape.

The Dedham Vale is a tranquil space of wide open countryside untouched by modern infrastructure. It has an important historic and cultural quality and is known as "Constable Country" for its famous depiction in noted landscape art by Constable; it is also associated with other local famous painters including Gainsborough. It has remained largely unchanged since it was painted and is both an important local amenity and tourist attraction for that very reason. Once the landscape has been altered, this is harm that will last forever.

The underground section has a wide construction swathe. Many hedgerows will be destroyed and trees removed. The ground will be disrupted and the landscape altered and scarred.

It is not just the area within the national landscape itself that faces irreparable harm. It is also important to consider its setting. The infrastructure including pylons and sealing end compounds situated within our Parish and neighbouring parishes will be significant blots on the landscape. The local area is a flat plateau and open countryside at high local elevation with no significant infrastructure and the skyscape is clear. The proposed infrastructure will be intrusive and dominate the skyscape. The pylons are 50m high, dwarfing the local landscape characterised by occasional trees and low-rise buildings (including several historic listed buildings). National Grid accepts that many pylons will be seen from within the national landscape (23 visible within up to half of the vale; up to 35 pylons in places). None should be seen. The Causeway / A134 is an important gateway into the Dedham Vale and the pylons and CSE Compound will be seen from it as people journey from Colchester into the vale at Great Horkesley into Nayland.

The impact of each and every pylon and CSE compound and related infrastructure is significant and not minor; moreover the cumulative impact from all of them is seriously harmful.

The route of the power line through the Dedham Vale is far from a "necessary evil"; it is not needed at all and is a significant "kink" in the overland route in order to connect to the EACN at Ardleigh – only because National Grid themselves decided to do so (the connection point being pre-determined by National Grid). The route ought never to have crossed the Dedham Vale National Landscape and need not. It should be avoided altogether, as required in planning policy, and the setting also needs to be protected. No damage is acceptable ('even residual damage is unacceptable'). Harm should be avoided. Further, the overhead line from Ardleigh to Great Horkesley is unnecessary intrusive infrastructure in the setting of the national landscape. It is unacceptable industrialisation and harmful to both the Dedham vale itself and its setting.

National landscapes have their special designation in order to be protected. This protection needs to be real and not illusory. The special quality of this landscape, a national treasure, should be protected and preserved for the enjoyment of both present and future generations.

Thank you.

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Parish Clerk & RFO
On behalf of Great Horkesley Parish Council

Please note that my hours of work vary each week. I aim to respond to emails within 48 hours.