

LV 1.14 The adverse effects on the special qualities of the Dedham Vale National Landscape would be significant and permanent. It has been widely documented that significant numbers of pylons would be visible from MANY locations within the National Landscape and up to 60 structures visible simultaneously from some of the most elevated positions. The national landscape would be surrounded by a ring of steel, the tranquillity and beauty of the whole area and historical feel to the setting would be totally destroyed. The only acceptable way to mitigate this is to extend the undergrounding for several miles either side of the National Landscape so no new pylons would be visible from any part of the National landscape. This is a valuable amenity in terms of businesses and tourism but also for the mental health and wellbeing of the surrounding community. It is not possible to provide mitigation through financial incentives to enhance the landscape, do not allow it to be destroyed in the first place. Some things are priceless.

HE 1.34 We are encouraged to see the inspectorate has challenged The Applicant on the assessment of harm to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] West Bergholt. We strongly disagree with the assessment of harm and raised this with NG in the very first consultation. We set out a number of reasons we considered the effect to be SIGNIFICANT and also showed the screen shots of National Grid's own visual representation of the view from [REDACTED], the shots shown only show the view to the East and to the South, a panoramic scan would show a large angled pylon in between. The sealing end compound at Crabtree Lane would also be visible – it is not located in a dip as stated in the documentation. Our response to NG in the consultation is also attached below which provides further details.

The prominence of the pylons across the valley would also dominate the views from path around the west side Hillhouse Wood, an ancient woodland on one side of the valley (Bluebell Wood) and a hugely popular walk for locals.

WE 1.5 NV 1.1 – We have raised concerns about flooding risk and noise to our listed property given its site on the steep sided valley. We hope we will have the opportunity to see The Applicants response and pose further challenge if an adequate assessment is not provided, given the number of times these concerns have been raised with The Applicant and ignored.

HE 1.34 – Initial Consultation comment

1. [REDACTED] – ID and listed building number 1225094. Inaccurate descriptions in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. Volume III – Technical Appendices – 3 of 4.

There are several references to [REDACTED] in this document.

P582 contains a description of [REDACTED] and its setting. Paragraph 3.5.269 describes the farmhouse dating from the 17th C or earlier and its distinctive roof. The next paragraph describes the setting, surrounded by picturesque agricultural fields which provide a peaceful and spacious atmosphere. The farmhouse has farm buildings to the rear (uphill side) and views to the east and south. The paragraph notes that a small woodland blocks the

view to the east but does note that due to the proximity (of the pylons) there is a probability that the top of the pylons would be visible from the asset.

The person making this comment has clearly not stood on the property site. The pylons will be placed just behind the described woodland, the slope rises, the trees are approximately

20 metres tall. There is no “probability” that the pylons will be seen. It is CERTAIN and due to the topography of the land they will tower for at least 30 metres, possibly more, over the top of the trees, the description of being able to see the “top” of the pylons is misleading and understates the impact. The Pylons and overhead wires will give the impression of towering over the property and all the pylons and the sealing end compound at the end of Crabtree Lane (TB35/TB36) to TB40 (possibly more) will clearly be visible from this elevation. This was also evident from your simulation seen at one of the consultations. I was shocked at how clearly the sealing end compound could be seen, as shown in the image below.

Your document states that the sealing end compound is located in a dip, however height differential of that and the surrounding land is minimal and the extremely industrialised infrastructure can clearly be seen and has an impact upon a number of listed buildings around it, including Highfield Farmhouse. The sealing end compounds are industrial and incongruous and it is not acceptable for them to be visible from any listed building or residential property.

This image shows TB 34/35 (sealing end compound) and TB 37 and 38. **It does not include the two pylons closest to the house, TB 39 and TB40.**



TB40 which is placed opposite the end of the driveway, is a larger pylon due to the angle change of the line. The impact is massive and shocking.

The woodland is deciduous and therefore in the winter months will provide no screening at all, the pylons will be visible from top to bottom.

The views from the South elevation are far reaching across the very attractive valley, there is no screening at all and every pylon across the valley to Fordham will be visible. Pylons TB40 all the way to TB45, and possibly further, will be clearly visible.

The image below shows TB41 onwards.



These images are of low quality and resolution and therefore understate the impact.

Page 349 (Appendix 11.2 – Historic Environment Assessment Tables) describes the Operational Effects. It acknowledges that the project would introduce tall infrastructure within the setting of the asset, causing a **minor** change to the rural aspect of the asset's setting, which makes a **moderate** contribution to its value.

We will have a clear view of every single one of the row of pylons from TB35 to TB45 (and possibly beyond). The farmhouse has a clear view across the whole valley and plateau to Fordham Heath and Eight Ash Green. 3 pylons TB39 to TB41 turn around a corner and will all be sited within 250m of the house itself and around 30m from the garden and amenities of Highfield Farmhouse.

This will be a material adverse change to the setting. The setting will no longer be agricultural and picturesque, it will be industrial and dominating. The property is situated on

a slope with the land rising behind the north and west elevations and views out to the east and south which will be dominated by pylons and the sealing end compound. The feeling of the site will be of being hemmed in between the hill and pylon line. I would therefore conclude that the project would cause a **major** change to the rural aspect of the asset's setting.

The pylon route between the proposed sealing end compound at the end of Crabtree Lane and Fordham is across a particularly picturesque valley. Numerous listed properties sit along the hillsides and in the valley, the views and tranquil setting are what attracted most of the property buyers to this location and I would argue that the setting is a **significant**, not moderate, contribution to the value of all these properties. The outlook for ours, and neighbouring properties over many huge pylons will be distinctly industrial and the ambience of the surrounds irreversibly changed.

Accordingly, this project will have a **SIGNIFICANT** negative effect on Highfield Farmhouse as opposed to the "**NOT SIGNIFICANT** negative effect" set out on page 349 of your document.

Your document is materially understating the impact.