

Purpose of Representation

The purpose of this representation is to ensure the scheme is designed and implemented in a manner sympathetic to existing land uses, particularly the Estate's ongoing commercial farming and shooting operations. I also highlight concerns with the engagement process, environmental and heritage impacts, and the potential operational impacts of the proposals.

Consultation and Engagement

The Estate, together with its agent, has engaged extensively with National Grid and Fisher German.

A formal response was submitted on 29th July 2025 during the Landowner Consultation, following an extension due to initially incorrect mapping, as well as an additional submission on 26th February 2026.

To date, we have not received any substantive response to this submission.

The plans provided during consultation were often incorrect and of low resolution, hampering meaningful review and causing significant time and stress.

Key Concerns and Harm Caused by the Project

Heritage - Significant visual impact on the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin at Fairstead and Beauchamps House. To avoid detracting from the rural setting, we request the lines be buried.

Environment, Habitat, and Species - The project passes near Galley Cable Wood and Troys Spring, which are important wildlife sites. Ground-nesting birds and other species will be affected.

Landscape - The project will compound landscape impacts caused by existing 400kV lines. The alignment should, where possible, follow the route of existing lines to minimise new impacts.

Proximity to Business - Agricultural workability of fields will be significantly reduced. Sporting rights (shooting operations) will also be severely affected.

Breaches of Holford Rules - We have concerns regarding design and routing in relation to Holford Rules, particularly regarding landscape sensitivity.

Access Roads - Proposed access roads will have a severe impact on agricultural output and soil compaction.

Connection Method - The connection should be either under the sea or underground to minimise surface impacts.

Impact on Farming and Shooting Operations

The Estate operates a commercial shoot, with two principal drives likely to be affected, potentially making them unviable. National Grid should coordinate with the Estate to avoid shooting seasons during construction and minimise impacts on farming operations.

Failure to do so will likely result in financial losses and potential compensation claims.

Solar DCO Interaction

The land is subject to an approved DCO for Longfield Solar Farm.

There are existing third-party rights.

Early engagement between National Grid, Longfield Solar Farm, and the Estate is critical to minimise development conflicts.

Access Routes

Plan 5111-1: Permanent access should follow the existing track along the field edge, not cut into the field.

Plan 5111-2: Permanent access should follow the existing track along the field edge, not cut into the field.

Environmental and Landscape Considerations

The development will result in landscape, environmental, and heritage impacts. This representation aims to ensure impacts are minimised and appropriately mitigated.

Final Note

The cumulative burden of the consultation process, poor engagement, and the proposed impacts on the Estate's operations and environment is substantial. We request that these concerns be fully taken into account during the examination.