

Deadline 4

Heritage

We live in a heritage asset - Grade II listed, original building built in the 11C, Hempnalls Hall, in Cotton. It will be impacted as one of the many 8,800 plus houses, impacted by The Applicant. We have never had anyone from National Grid come around to see how the house and its surrounding experience and setting will be affected by the proposed pylon route and, the route has not changed since their first map that was made public which can only suggest that the Applicant has not listened to the many people of Cotton or anywhere about the impact on the heritage assets. I suspect that the applicant has surmised that the impact on Hempnalls Hall is less than harmful - what do they base this on? We will have pylons within 500m of the house disturbing a view that has not changed for 600 years. We will have disruption whilst the haul roads are being built and eventually when the project is finished, we will have 50m pylons industrialising a historic landscape.

The National Policy clearly states that any infrastructure harm to assets and their settings must be justified. It seems that the route was probably compiled by a computer and no one from National Grid has been to see Hempnalls Hall despite being invited by me many times, this has not been thoroughly justified as we seem to be a pin prick on a map. The historic deer parks that will be ruined cannot be seen by a computer although they can be seen from google earth. The deer parks were commissioned by the crown in 1440. The deer are still present. Historic England guidelines state that indirect harm to settings must be assessed and justified as infrastructure can alter the way heritage is experienced.

The pylon route will certainly alter the way this house is experienced and having a foot path that runs directly opposite a proposed pylons RG127 - RG131 will only underline that experience for the worst.

Mid-Suffolk District Council considers "this area has an open and flat landscape, and further that there is potential for impact on a heritage asset (Hempnalls Hall, Cotton)."

The Applicant states that no heritage sites are directly impacted - how can this be? Has the Applicant actually assessed, first hand, on site, every one of the heritage assets?

Our house is on the market and has been for a year - the main reason people are not even viewing this house is because of the pylon route. Regardless of this - Hempnalls Hall is in rural farmland and deer park land and having consistent pylons, one after another, changes the landscape beyond measure - it will be industrialised and the ancient oaks will be overshadowed by large metal structures. The Applicant suggests that pylons are designed so that from a distance, you will see through them. The pylons will be seen for ten miles and this is no consolation for a house 500m away from a pylon route. There will be little screening as most of the land is farmers' fields. The pylons will dominate the local landscape and Hempnalls Hall will be flanked on one side by industrial, steel erections. The tranquility of the

surrounding landscape, so rich in wildlife, will become an eyesore. This seems criminal when there is such a good alternative in HVDC.

Cotton has 15 proposed pylons - this is huge for a very small village. It will affect 5 of the listed buildings including the grade I listed church.

The applicant suggests that the route has been carefully designed to avoid heritage harm but how can this be when they have taken no notice of the many historical features of Hempnalls Hall and the fact that we have sent in reports from landscape historians suggesting that the landscape will be irrevocably ruined should the pylons be within 500m of Hempnalls Hall.

Traffic

Cotton is a small village with one road in and one road out. How can the haul roads not delay and disturb residents in this village, the impact on this village will be horrendous. We are a village of single track lanes not built for large HGV lorries carrying steel and other building materials. We have 15 pylons proposed for cotton. We have been told very little about the haul roads except that they will be around 8m wide. Roads will need to be built and removed, farmers' fields will be ruined. A calculation, not done by me, prepared by a farmer, suggests 1320 lorry loads of hardcore, cement and steel would have to be used to build in just this village, the haul roads alone. The Applicant will need lorries to bring steel, bring scaffolding, bring hardcore, bring cement. Is this green? HVDC has a much better carbon footprint - why has this not been given to us as an option?

Mental health

This project has loomed over us like a dark cloud for the last three years. We are unable to sell our house and therefore are unable to move on in life as we should be able to. The lack of sale and regular reduction in price causes [REDACTED] for the future as this house is our pension and we will not receive its true value thanks to the Applicant. There is no compensation to be had. This is outrageous! [REDACTED]

This project causes severe sadness that this beautiful area will be spoiled forever. I cry often about the unjustness of it all.

Also, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] no one has given me concrete evidence that this will not happen. The [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED].