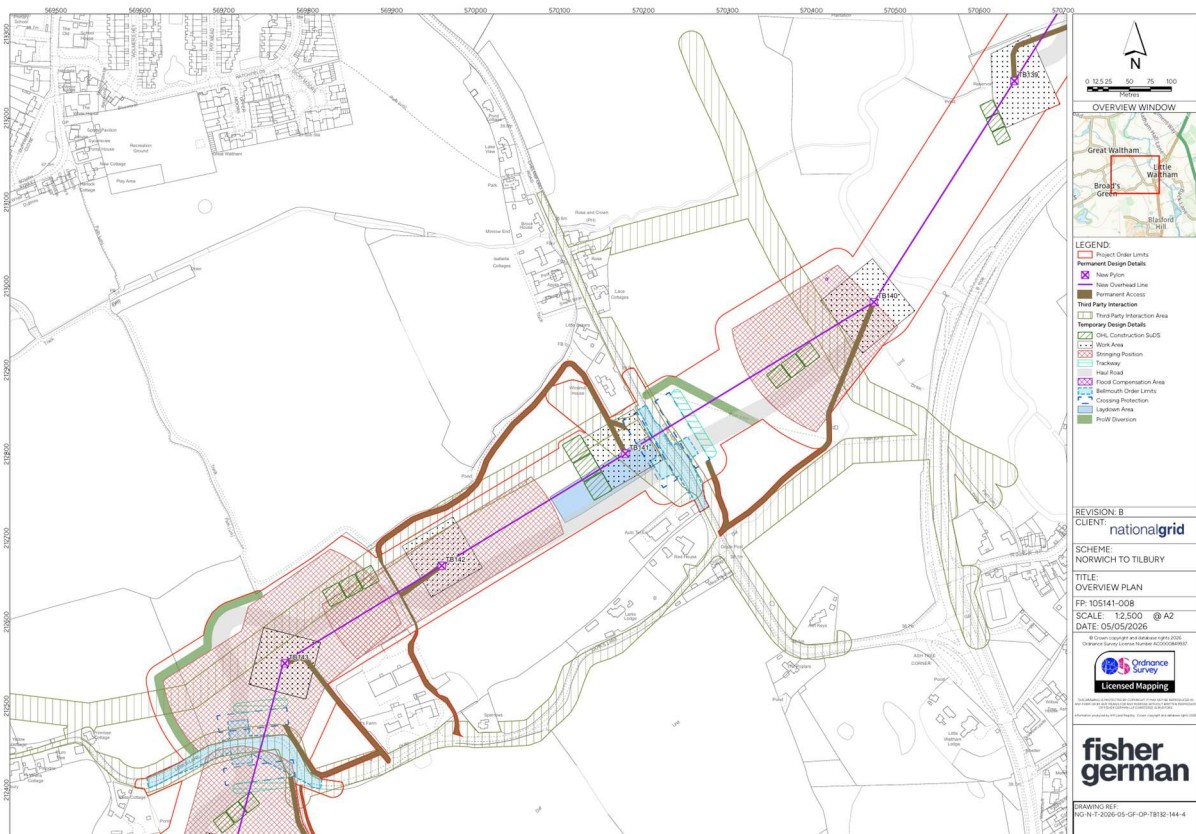


**Representation to the Examining Authority – Section F (Great and Little Waltham) by  
Charles Nicholas Micklem – F9A1BE6C7 – TB133 to TB144**

Not knowing the route

One fundamental problem that we have in Great Waltham, is no one seem to know where the pylons are being positioned. In Draft Development Consent Order (APP-056) National Grid stated that in 5, 1, B, ii 'to any extent upwards not exceeding 6 metres save in respect of pylons TB140 to TB142 (inclusive) and TB238 to TB243 (inclusive) which may deviate vertically to any extent upwards not exceeding 18 metres' This was confirmed in 8.9.1 Applicant's Responses to First Written Questions (Final Issue A) (REP3-074) (page 178) 'the 18 m vertical Limits of Deviation (LoD) is required to enable the change from low height to standard pylons. It should also be noted that this change also enables the removal of one pylon between TB140 and TB143'. This shows that it was National Grids intention to always revert back to the tall pylons as stated in document (APP-130), and document (APP-066, p.5236) indicates that the project will proceed using tall pylons (Scenario B). They confirmed in Deadline 1 cover letter (REP1-141) (page 25) that are going to proceed with tall pylons and provided two tiny maps that give no detail. Also in the Deadline 1 cover letter they said they would upload the documents for Scenario B by Deadline 5 (10<sup>th</sup> June). Why with all the above it is clear they wish to progress with tall pylons, they cant produce documents that we can look at for the pylons affecting our land. On the 7<sup>th</sup> May I was still receiving documents from National Grid showing the route with low hight pylons. How can we make comments to the planning inspector if we aren't being given all the details. In the meeting with national grid on 7<sup>th</sup> May they confirmed that the pylons TB137 – TB139 were to remain low height pylons to protect Langleys park and garden. However these pylons are screened by a wood and a futher away compared to the pylons TB140- TB143 which they want as tall. If national wont go the alternative route set out below please can they make all the pylons tall pylon as having a couple of low height pylons will stand out and make it worse



## Alternatives

With regards to the great Waltham alternative, in document Design Development Report for the Project (APP-359), National Grid stated that the alternative route would also need to cross part of the land used by The Wilderness Foundation for outdoor education including in part for short residential educational camps. Some disruption during construction likely to be unavoidable. However using this charity as a shield for the alternative route, National Grid has not mentioned that TB122 – TB123 runs alongside Manns wood which is operated by the Wilderness Foundations to further enhance the area being offered for education. Therefore this reason can not be used as the wilderness foundation will still be severely impacted with the current route.

National Grid also claim in Design Development Report for the Project (APP-359) that ‘In addition, the trees in the extensive parkland would provide filtering of views at Great Waltham and to direct views from the Grade I Listed Langleys’ However as mentioned the majority of trees that National Grid are relying on are Salix Alba Caerulea (Cricket Bat Willows). We grow cricket bat willows as a commercial crop on the Langleys Estate, and once the tree reaches the optimum size, around 12-15 years, they are felled. This means that the screening national grid is using is ever changing. Cricket bat willows are treated the same as wheat and other crops grown on the farm and are not grown for filtering views.

With regards to T pylons, Russell Harris KC confirmed in the issue specific hearing that ‘the team has taken the view that they'd not be an appropriate’. This is not a consultation view, National Grid have decided what they would like without letting us have a proper view on what we think is better for the environment that we live in. I disagree with his statement that pylons blend into the background, having seen the T pylons along the M5 I think they blend in a lot better than what is proposed. This shows that we were only given one option to consult on and that any deviation wasn't allowed.

## Mitigation

National Grid were very proud in the issue specific hearing day 2 (29<sup>th</sup> April) to state that for every tree cut down they will be planting 3 more. When questioned they confirmed that these trees would be wips (typically a wip is anything below a meter tall but typically 40cm). National Grid stated that this was due to them being young and vigorous, however this means they take a long time to grow. Typically a oak tree grows 1 ft per year meaning to grow to 2 meters will typically take 6 years. Once these oak finally reach an age of being able to help screen the pylons, the pylons themselves will be coming to the end of their life. Trees can be planted at 2-3 meters tall, but take more caring. I have attached pictures showing trees that are 3 meters tall, planted last summer (2025) to help screen the house from the pylons. As you can see they are growing and looking healthy. National Grid wont want to plant taller trees due to the maintenance and cost, but this is a small sacrifice for all trees they will be destroying for 'green energy'. I also believe its for the landowner to chose where to plant the trees not National Grid. Will National Grid be able to confirm this?.



## Biodiversity Net Gain

In national grids report **Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Final Issue A)** (APP-299), national grid has said the area under pylons 'These areas would not be re-instated as agricultural land, so it has been assumed that a habitat of low distinctiveness could be 'created' (sparsely vegetated land - tall forbs) in 'good' condition. is using area under pylons ' Areas under pylons become a weed infestive area that farmers have to deal with, they will not create habitats as often we have to spray the area off to stop grass weeds entering our fields. This shows the lack of understanding that national grid have for farmers and how they are trying to claim the enhancement of biodiversity by destroying the countryside

## Compulsory hearing

As stated in my oral communications, I had yet to receive all the heads of terms for land replating to the Langleys estate. Following the meeting Fisher German / National Grid did provide me with all the document. We had a meeting following (30<sup>th</sup> April) and due to change of ownership, I am currently waiting for an updated copy with the correct details (still not received on 12<sup>th</sup> May). With regards to the heads of term, as raised in the oral submission section 17 Planning states ‘The Grantor will not make any objection in respect of any planning application or Development Consent Order application which is submitted by the Grantee so far as each relates to the Grantor’s Land.’ Not only does this stop me objecting to the current DCO, but the wording can be used to stop me objecting to any DCO submitted by Grantee (National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (company number 02366977), 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH (“National Grid”). This is worrying that this could affect us from years to come. Having raised this point when we received version 1 of the heads of terms in September 2025 and having received version 2 of the heads of terms it is still yet to be changed. National Grid said in a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, the likely hood of them searching old documents is very slim, however to landowners this doesn’t rule it out. If we fail to agree on heads of terms we are being threaten with compulsory powers which limits us greatly and almost forces us to sign the agreement. We shouldn’t be forced to sign a document that ties our hands behind our back for any future projects that national Gird may take on our land. If they are ruling out this option then it should be easy for them to change the wording

<b>3.</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (company number <b>02366977</b> ), 1-3 Strand, London WC2N 5EH (“ <b>National Grid</b> ”)
<b>17.</b>	<b>Planning</b>	The Grantor will not make any objection in respect of any planning application or Development Consent Order application which is submitted by the Grantee so far as each relates to the Grantor’s Land.

### Boreholes

Having first raised this issue on 25<sup>th</sup> February and chased again several times, I am still yet to receive a response from National Grid other than they are looking in to it. I have provided them information from Anglian water stating that ‘, even if a bore hole is drilled and then backfilled it is a still a potential link to the aquafer and therefore we have to treat it as a borehole, therefore the exclusion zone would have to be put in place and biosolids cannot be spread within that exclusion zone’. This would affect my land for generation to come and make farming even more difficult and expensive. From analysis- done by my farm consultant, sewage sludge in 2023 was £130 per ha cheaper than artificial fertiliser. This also doesn’t take into account the spreading cost for artificial fertiliser but does for the spreading of sewage sludge meaning it would cost even more. Once again National Grid were arguing in the issue specific hearing (28<sup>th</sup> April) with the councils over 5 days, yet when it’s the other way around time is not important and we can wait till they are ready to provide answers.

Good morning Charlie,

No problem at all.

To clarify, even if a bore hole is drilled and then backfilled it is still a potential link to the aquafer and therefore we have to treat it as a borehole, therefore the exclusion zone would have to be put in place and biosolids can not be spread within that exclusion zone

Regards,

**\*EXTERNAL MAIL\*** - Please be aware this mail is from an external sender - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Thank you for the information below, please can I clarify more information on boreholes. If a borehole is drilled, samples taken from and backfilled (so you wouldn't know it was there). Would you still be able to spread over it? or does this still count as a borehole and you wouldn't spread over it

Sorry for the question, National Grid are wanting to put boreholes over our land for surveys for pylons and I'm trying to understand the long-term impact it may or may not have for us

Many thanks  
Charlie

## Pylons and route

I highlighted the route through Great Waltham and asked for it to be brought up on the screen to show how it would impact the area, however when shown and talked about they failed to highlight the 2 conservation areas that would be affected (Little Waltham and Great Waltham). which according to the Preliminary environmental impact assessment in April 2024 are the only two conservation areas to be negatively impacted along the wrong route. National Grid confirmed in front of the planning inspectorates (at the compulsory hearing (30<sup>th</sup> April)) and again in a meeting with Fisher German and National Grid on the 7<sup>th</sup> May they would get me to meet with the routing team to discuss why it has to come through the Waltham gap and where the pylons are going to be located, as of 12<sup>th</sup> May this meeting is still yet to be confirmed.

## Maps

I have requested OS maps from Fisher German on the 25<sup>th</sup> February to show all constructive elements that are on our land, having chased this us at the hearing I was still yet to receive the maps. However having mentioned it, after the meeting I was presented with satellite maps showing it but not in much detail and finally on the 7<sup>th</sup> May I was presented with OS maps still showing the low height pylons even though we will get the taller pylons. Once again this shows that national Grid do not care about landowners and wont listen to our request and time is not a issue for them.

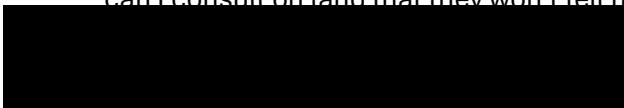
## Archaeological Surveys

With regard to the archaeological surveys that took place in August 2025, we had a meeting with Fisher German to discuss site access, timings, compound placement etc and that I was to be notified before work commenced and anything brought onto site. Firstly I was not informed when they arrived on site, this is a busy area of the farm with shooting, gavel pit assess road and farming activities so from a health and safety position this was dangerous. We were told that

there would be people on site from 8-5 with no mention of anyone staying overnight. However I later found out that there was a security guard with a dog on site. Once again from health and safety this should have been made aware. However the main problem was with the licence that was drawn up by National Grid. Firstly it was dated a year earlier (2024 not 2025) and secondly it was not followed. The compound area in the agreement was completely ignored and put somewhere else with out even asking for permission. I only found out once I turned up. What is the point in having a legal document if it is not to be followed?

## Letters

I have receive letter from National Grid, via fisher German dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025, stating that a consultation is out on a parcel of land relating to unregistered land, no map was provided and when questioned was not provided with any information, as stated at the hearing, this involved whatapps message and phone call on 14<sup>th</sup> July and chased on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. But the deadline closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and still to this day I am not sure what land they are referring to. How can I consult on land that they won't tell me where it is.



Reply Reply All Forward ...  
Fri 22/08/2025 17:37

Consultation Response MICKLEM July 2025.pdf  
593 KB

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposal. Firstly, and most importantly, in your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, you have stated the land registry title: un registered land. This is very unhelpful to be able to response. I have [redacted] phone call on 14<sup>th</sup> July to clarify the land in question, followed by whatsapp message the same day with a copy of the later. I then chased again on 12<sup>th</sup> August. But with the deadline 5 hours away I still am unsure what land in question that I am being asked to consult on, which I feel is not a fair view to have when consulting on a NSIP project.

I have attached our response to the previous consultation, that state we object to the low high pylons

Many thanks  
[redacted]



With regards to all the issues above, how can national grid be trusted to follow the rules? Even with legal documents they just [redacted]. This has caused unnecessary wastage of my time and effort having to deal with these and not problems they actually need to be sorted