

## **COTTON PARISH COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

### **NORWICH TO TILBURY DEADLINE 4**

Cotton Parish Council wishes to add a short submission following the recent round the Inspectorate's Specific Issue Hearings. This is informed by the views and concerns of local residents. We apologise for the late submission which we have requested the Inspectorate to accept as such.

We urge the Inspectorate to strongly challenge the National Grid(NG) regarding Heritage Assets in the light of many representations, especially that of Virginia Brewer, Heritage Consultant. She asserts that significant harm will be caused by the cumulative effect of tall and linear infrastructure on many heritage assets along the route, which the Grid have either inaccurately assessed or have scoped out of assessment altogether.

We agree that the Grid has presented a misleading picture of the overall harm caused along the route. And in Cotton, we believe that the arguments for recognising the historic value and setting of certain properties, such as Hempnalls Hall, have been largely disregarded.

The whole construction phase for the pylons, if there is no movement on further undergrounding, continues to be a major concern. We were pleased to read that after the February hearings that the P.I. would explore alternatives to the stone/aggregate haul roads where possible with the NG.

The number and scale of haul roads to construct 15x50m plus pylons in Cotton Parish points to huge amounts of large lorry movements along narrow lanes and roads and across rich agricultural land. Calculations by one of our affected farmers estimate that 44 x 20ton lorry loads of hardcore/stone would be needed to build the haul roads between each pylon (circa 360m apart) and the same again to remove them. That could mean over 1300 lorry loads for the haul roads alone. This takes NO account of the transportation of all the other materials to build each pylon e.g., concrete for bases, steel for lattice and scaffolding, wires etc.

Naturally we worry about noise, safety, permanent damage to land and at least temporary damage to roads and lanes and footpaths in our village. But we are deeply concerned about the volume and nature of this activity and traffic along the whole 180km route. It is so damaging to the environment.

We recently learned that in Australia over 4,000km of HVDC is or has been laid between the renewable energy created in the North of the country to high populations centre in Adelaide and Melbourne. Why not along this modest run of 180km? The Grid itself is using this approach in some parts of the UK. It is short-sighted, backward thinking and insulting to the residents of East Anglia.

**Cotton Parish Council**

**15 May 2026**

