

Submission ID: SAA6623E8

Please see attached in response to the the Examining Authority's note of unaccompanied site inspection 6 and in addition a request to attend the hearings on the week commencing 22 June 2026.

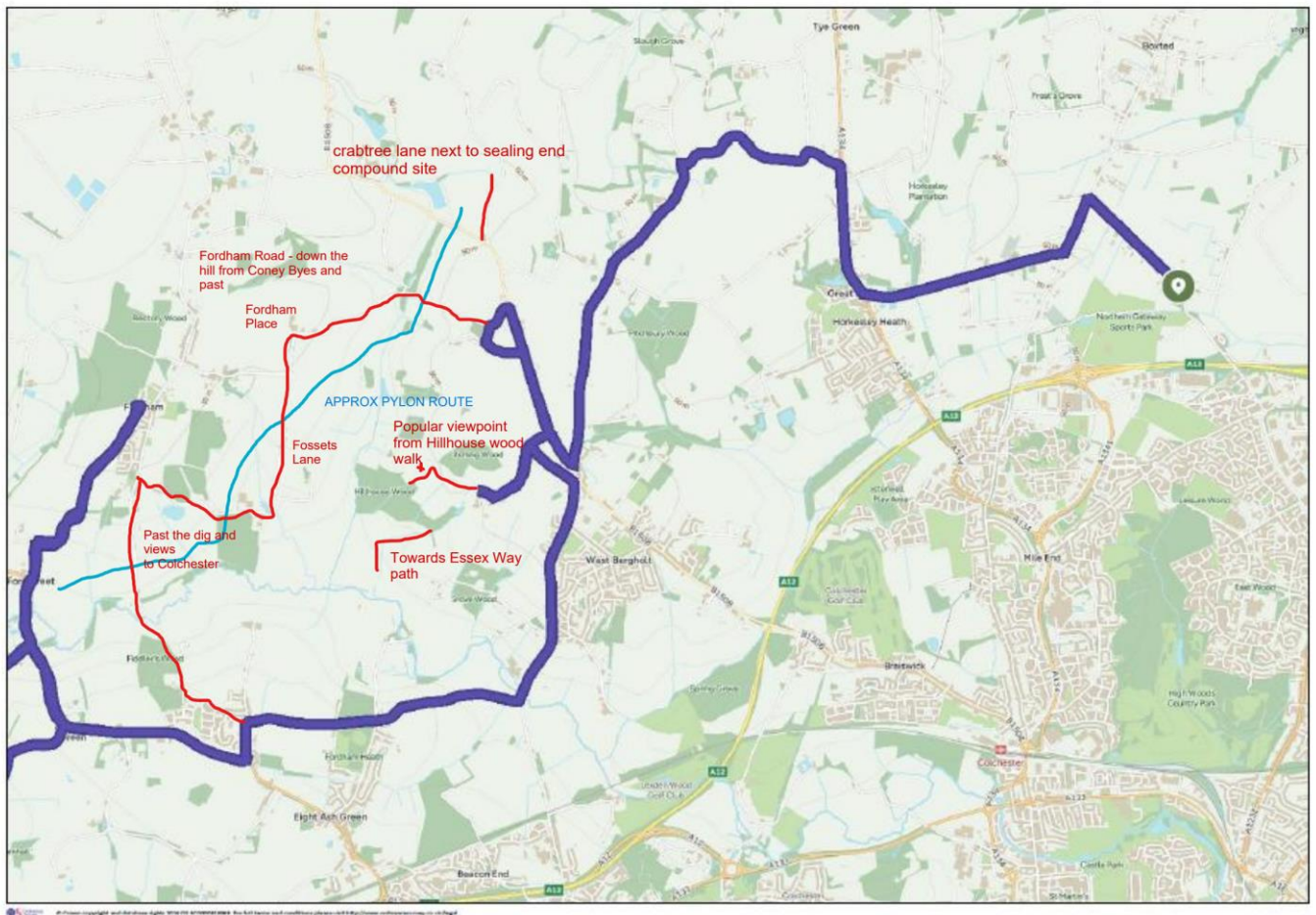
Interested Party Reference Number [REDACTED] (VILLAGES AGAINST PYLONS)

We are writing in response to the Examining Authority’s note of unaccompanied site inspection 6 (3 of 4) on Thursday 28 May 2026 with reference to Annex A – the route taken between West Bergholt and Fordham.

We are concerned that the Examining Authority would not be able to get a full impression on the open aspect of the Colne Valley tributary between West Bergholt and Fordham and how the pylons and overhead lines will dominate and fundamentally change the landscape. The roads taken were main roads with high hedgerows and mainly through the more urban areas and the more open rural areas with far reaching views would not be seen. Also, the participants may not have gained an impression of the visibility from the Dedham Vale of the sealing end compound at Crabtree Lane and the pylons leading out from this, the interaction with Hillhouse Wood, The Fordham Hall Estate and the Essex Way, all very valued local amenities.

The attached map highlights in red the roads through the valley and important viewpoints which we believe the Examining Authority would need to take to understand the impact.

Annex A: Routes taken on USI 6 (3 of 4) on Thursday 28 May (not to scale)



The photograph below shows the view from the footpath on the north side of Hillhouse Wood towards Fordham place – the overhead lines will run all the way across this landscape and dominate.

Hillhouse wood lies on the slopes of the River Colne valley within a rural and predominantly agricultural landscape. It is an important feature when viewed from the Essex Way. Managed by the woodland Trust the public footpaths that run through the wood are well used. The “Fiends of Hillhouse Wood” was set up in 1994 to organise workdays and events at the wood. Many of the friends were important in the fundraising campaign to purchase the site.



The photograph below shows the view from the archaeological dig site to the south of Fordham towards Colchester, Colchester landmarks are clearly visible from ground level. The pylons and overhead lines will run immediately in front of where this photograph was taken from.

This is on the edge of Fordham Hall Estate, Eastern England’s largest woodland creation site covering over 500 acres and featuring around 47,000 trees planted along the River Colne. This estate includes a variety of habitats, such as wildflower meadows and grasslands, making it a significant ecological area in Essex.

The Essex Way also passes close by, an overview of the Essex Way describes the Colne Valley as one of its most picturesque parts. This rural section weaves through ancient woodlands, quiet field edges and the gentle tree-lines of the River Colne



We would welcome the opportunity to accompany any site visits and arrange access **by vehicle** through private land to some of the viewpoints from important footpaths.

We would also like to give notification of a wish to attend hearings on the week commencing 22 June 2026.