

Submission for Deadline 5 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

I do not believe that Langleys, a Grade I listed building with Grade II\* registered park and gardens, has been correctly assessed by either Historic England or National Grid's heritage advisers. The setting of Langleys is a fundamental component of its significance and heritage value. Therefore, the conclusion that the proposal would result in only "Lower Less Than Substantial Harm" is, in my view, incorrect and significantly understates the impact.

The principal vistas from the house, formal gardens, walled garden and pool garden would be severely harmed by a line of either 40-metre or 50-metre pylons. These structures would form a prominent and permanent feature within key views and would be continuously visible, rather than merely "occasionally visible" as stated in National Grid's Environmental Statement (Volume 6, Document 6.11.A7).

National Grid continues to justify the use of 40-metre and 50-metre pylons through the Waltham Gap on the basis that it is following Historic England's recommendations. However, Historic England did not undertake a site visit to Langleys. Given that the house and gardens are privately owned, it is difficult to see how the impact on their setting could have been properly assessed without direct access to the site and its designed landscape.

Furthermore, National Grid's proposal appears illogical. It proposes four reduced-height 40-metre pylons north of the River Chelmer, while retaining two standard-height 50-metre pylons to the south. Yet it is the pylons south of the river that would be most visible from Langleys and its gardens, causing the greatest harm to the property's setting and key views. This approach seems counterintuitive and inconsistent with the stated objective of reducing visual impact.

I urge the planning inspectorate to give serious consideration to alternative solutions that would avoid or substantially reduce harm to this nationally important heritage asset and its historic landscape. National Grid has recognised elsewhere in the country that overhead transmission infrastructure can cause unacceptable harm to valued landscapes and has adopted alternative approaches where justified.

In this case, the setting of a Grade I listed building and its associated historic landscape is of national importance. It is therefore not credible to suggest that an overhead pylon route across these historic vistas is the only, or most appropriate, solution. There is no clear evidence that alternatives such as undergrounding, route realignment, or other technologies have been rigorously assessed and discounted on grounds other than headline cost. A more balanced appraisal is required, one that properly reflects the exceptional heritage significance of Langleys and the irreversible harm that would result from the proposed development.