

EN020027 Norwich to Tilbury

Further Submission and Request for Accompanied Site Inspection

Deadline 6 – 7th July 2026

IPRN [REDACTED] – Aldham Parish Council

Colne Valley Landscape – Fordham/Fordstreet, Aldham

As has been maintained throughout, the three independent Landscape Reports (by qualified Landscape Architects) discussed at the recent ISH4, all assert that Norwich to Tilbury has the “high potential for widespread and significant harm” in the Colne Valley. This also concurs with the views of local councils. We fail to see how the Applicant can interpret otherwise.

We note that the Panel requested a response from the Applicant, by Deadline 6, regarding the extreme proximity to residential properties in Green Lane and Hines Close, Aldham of Pylons TB54 and TB55. We welcome the decision to carry out further unaccompanied site visits to Aldham to assess the impact on our village

We would argue that while the Colne Valley is not a National Landscape, we do feel that it shares many of the Natural England criteria. This could be a combination of factors, such as:

- landscape quality, where natural or man-made landscape is good quality
- scenic quality, such as striking coastal landforms
- relative wildness, such as distance from housing or having few roads
- relative tranquillity, where natural sounds, such as streams or birdsong are predominant
- natural heritage features, such as distinctive geology or species and habitat
- cultural heritage, which can include the built environment that makes the area unique, such as archaeological remains or historic parkland.

Aldham Parish Council endorses and supports, but does not repeat, the analysis by ESNP of the evidence provided to demonstrate how the Colne Valley and that portion of the Roman River Valley affected by the pylons meet the National Landscape Criteria.

It may also be worth mentioning in this context the National Grid Visual Impact Provision Project (VIP); this Ofgem-backed scheme is “to **reduce visual impacts** of electricity infrastructure in protected landscapes”. So, to this end, OHLs have been removed and replaced by underground cables in Snowdonia, Peak District, Cotswolds and Dorset.

The inference is clear.

ISH 2 Action 27, ExQ LV 1.28 and Masterplans. Colne Valley

Masterplans to be provided at the next deadline, with an agreed position in terms of compensation measures for residual effects on the specified landscapes by deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June)

8.4.12.2 Response to ISH2 Action Pt 27 “Masterplans” App E Fordham, Fordstreet & Aldham

The Applicant has not provided Masterplans, but limited sketch maps; and certainly no “agreed position in terms of compensation measures”. It is clear from the Opportunity (see below) and Constraint Maps provided at Appendix E in answer to Action 27 (see above) that the suggestions are inadequate or incorrect. There is a mismatch between what the ExA requested and what the Applicant provided.

It is also clear, as you will see from the notes below, that neither Parish Councils nor local landowners have been consulted. These maps are vague and appear to be very superficial desktop surveys. This can be assumed to be the case across the entire route.

There are only two veteran trees shown on the South Constraint Map, but they appear to be in the wrong place. There are two at the bend in Tey Road. [See list below from Woodland Trust map of relevant existing trees].

The habitat connectivity mentioned below has been a long-standing policy of the Woodland Trust with regard to corridors between Chalkney Wood (Earls Colne), Hoe Wood Aldham, Fiddlers Wood and Fordham Hall Estate.

- The Applicant suggests part of Rectory Road, Aldham could see 'connective green infrastructure enhancements' but it is already a quiet country lane with mature hedgerows.
- Ditto they show that New Road, Aldham offers the same opportunity, but this road also already has mature trees and hedges all along it.
- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy also covers the Colne Valley maps, while the Applicant employs meaningless arrows.
- The map fails to show the Roman River Corridor, which is shown in Colchester's Draft Local Plan as both an Essex LNRS nature opportunity and as green/blue infrastructure.
- The Woodland Trust already manages the area for scrub and woodland
- Likewise, the Applicant proposes 'connective green infrastructure' on the Fordham Estate. The Woodland Trust already manages for habitat connectivity, meadowland, woodland, heritage, public access and recreation.
- They recommend tree planting where planning permission for 150 houses is granted.

Using the Woodland Trust Inventory of Ancient Trees:

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search/?v=3064934&ml=map&z=13&nwLat=51.91602935663019&nwLng=0.7325649261493083&seLat=51.88907393627662&seLng=0.8561611175557573>

the maps for Fordham and Aldham show at least 5 veteran trees and a couple of notables that will soon become veterans are missing:

Aldham Map

- The Cricketers Willow
ID: 217221
Location: Fordham Heath TL9447226253
- Pedunculate Oak
ID: 190680
Location: Tey Road TL9076725992
- Pedunculate Oak
ID: 190679
Location: Tey Road TL9086326036
- Pedunculate Oak (Notable tree)
ID: 192555
Location: Roman River Valley TL9038224806
- White Willow (Notable tree)
ID 260066
Location: Roman River Valley TL9179624410

Fordham Map

- Fordham Hall Willow
ID: 215810
Location: NW of TB45 TL9330928339
- Poole's Farm Oak
ID: 214786
Location: Essex Way TL9404927500

NB: It appears the area around the B 1508 to the East of Wormingford Airfield has not been surveyed for veteran trees?

