

From: Mike Hamilton-Macy
Sent: Tue 07/07/2026 16:57
To: Norwich to Tilbury
Subject: Deadline 7th July submission

Fordham Parish Council, Essex.

Interested party reference number: [REDACTED]

Dear planning inspectorate,

Regarding results of Specific hearing 4.

Thank you for taking on board all the submissions from those that will be seriously affected by National Grid's (NG) plans to run power lines through the Colne valley and surrounding areas. However, NG are still not playing by the rules and still fobbing us off with "smoke and mirrors." Specifically, the requirements of NPS-EN5, the Dedham vale area should not be crossed or tunnelled under at all. There is no way that a power line can be built through the area without lasting and permanent harm.

It would also be a travesty to run pylons or underground cables through the Colne valley through Fordham and Aldham. There have been two, independent Landscape assessments for the area and we agree, wholeheartedly with their findings.

I don't need to remind you, but will, of the historic heritage that the valley contains; remains and evidence of human habitation have been found from the medieval period back to Palaeolithic times. That's more than twelve thousand years of history.

The valley is a big tourist draw, regularly frequented by rambling and cycling groups, NG's plans will seriously curtail these activities and the Three Horseshoes in particular will suffer a significant loss of custom when the footpaths and roads are shut or diverted.

The permanent visual impact of pylons and temporary (years?) scarring of the valley by AC cable laying, not to mention the destructive and disruptive impact on our already struggling roads, will have a lasting effect on the well-being of residents and visitors alike.

The Colne valley is picturesque, beautiful and teeming with highly diverse flora and fauna, it should stay that way.

The Colne valley, although not listed as an ANOB, is a continuation of the Dedham Vale, is as important and valuable, it should and must be treated as such.

To reiterate:

"As per the requirements of NPS-EN5 this area needs to be "avoided altogether" due to the impact of the proposals on the Dedham Vale and its setting, noting that "even residual impact is unacceptable in planning terms" per NPS EN-5 and that failing this an extension of the underground route, using HVDC cables would be the only acceptable solution to mitigate harm to both the Vale and the Colne Valley."

Speaking of smoke and mirrors, NG's list and suggested "opportunities" are laughable.

Rather than re-write, I will copy in Rosie Pearson's views.

- NG proposes new scrub, woodland and grassland in the Woodland Trust area already managed for exactly that.
- Likewise, NG proposes 'connective green infrastructure' on the Fordham Estate, which is already managed for meadowland and woodland by the Woodland Trust and is public access.
- The Colne Valley maps contain random arrows that point meaninglessly at areas and associate them with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

- Meanwhile, the map does not show that the Roman River Corridor is in Colchester's Draft Local Plan as both an Essex LNRS nature opportunity and as green/blue infrastructure.
- The map shows recommended tree planting in an area that has planning permission for 150+ houses.
- The map shows a stretch of Rectory Road, Aldham which could see 'connective green infrastructure enhancements' but it is a quiet country lane with hedgerows already.
- Likewise, it appears to show that New Road offers the same opportunity but it's a road with trees and hedges all along it

Basically NG wants to put in what already exists. Obscure the pylons with hedges but in doing so will also block views of the Colne valley and lose the wide, open nature of the area which is one of its greatest characteristics.

In their "opportunities" NG doesn't mention the woodland Trust, tree planted area that will be destroyed around pylon TB046. Three acres of young woodland is likely to be dug up and lost.

If NG had gone with the offshore option in the first place they would have had no opposition, no massive mitigation and compensation costs, no court cases (there will be!) and the project could have started and delivered on time.

Regards Mike Hamilton-Macy.
Fordham Parish Council (chairman).