

Norwich to Tilbury Project Examination – Deadline 7 submission Burstall Parish Council (21/7/26)

Document: 6.11.A1 Environmental Statement Appendix 11.1 – Historic Environment Baseline Report - Tracked Changes Version. Final Issue B. July 2026. Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

This document downplays, underestimates and undervalues the natural and historic landscape of Burstall, Flowton, Bramford and Sproughton and their surrounding parish areas. As set out below, it fails to include significant and rare features, the safeguarding of will require a re-routing of the pylons as previously proposed by Burstall Parish Council (BPC). Given the pylon route proposed by NGET, and the inadequacy of responses we have had to previous feedback concerning the pylon route south of the Bramford substation, the topic is of great significance and the document represents a major oversight. If the document had correctly represented the significance of the natural and historic landscape, then it would support the case for an amended route selection.

The document is extremely large and hard to search, however, of significance, we can find no mention of the following, which must be taken into account and offered the correct level of protection:

1. The Service Tree located in Burstall Long Wood, which is a rare indicator of the significance of the ancient woodland blocks south of the Bramford Substation (Bullen Wood, Round Wood, Elms Grove and Burstall Long Wood) and the need to protect and enhance the wildlife corridors which exist between them and to ensure sufficient buffer zones around them.
2. The ancient and historic tree lined sheep droving route of Cook's Lane running west of Elms Grove, including an ancient marker stone signifying the hundred or parliamentary boundaries.
3. The remaining ancient hedgerows and copse in the fields south of the Bramford Substation, identified in the earliest maps.

The current pylon route south of the Bramford Substation unnecessarily traverses these areas, cuts through the the wildlife corridor between Bullen Wood and Round Wood and offers very little buffer zone as it passes close in to the east of Round Wood and Burstall Long Wood.

If as suggested by BPC, an eastern exit from the substation north of Bullen Wood was taken, the ancient hedgerows and copse in the fields south of the substation, and Cook's Lane would be protected. And, if pylons 7, 8 and 9 were routed only a few hundred metres further east, a sufficient buffer zone past the ancient woods containing Service Tree, would be achieved.

The marked photo below shows the area and features. The blue lines outline the ancient woods, hedgerows, copse and wildlife corridors of significance that link them. The red line is the current proposed pylon route which crudely dissects the area, takes no account of the features and hugs the ancient woodland. The green line represents the suggested route, exiting the substation east using GIL then routes south giving an adequate buffer as it passes the ancient woodlands with a gap. Note the green shadows/ lines in the fields directly south of the substation, showing historic hedgerow field boundaries, still in use as wildlife corridors (not marked blue as this would hide the feature from view on this photo).

The below link provides an overhead view of Cook's Lane looking east towards the ancient woodlands.

<https://burstall-pc.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Drone-Footage.mov>

