



Adrian Ramsay
Member of Parliament for Waveney Valley

July 2026

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in the Open Hearing on 12th February. I would like to expand on the points I made there, further to my registration representation made on 27th November 2025.

The Norwich to Tilbury project runs through my Waveney Valley constituency, affecting the wards of Bunwell, Bressingham and Burston, Diss and Roydon, Palgrave, Gislegham, Rickingham, Bacton, Mendlesham, and Haughley, Stowupland and Wetherden. Responses have been supplied by councils and individuals along this route and it is important that they are all considered carefully. Families who live in these places, some for generations, understand the areas best.

I have concerns about the consultation that has been carried out by National Grid prior to the application for this Development Consent Order. Communities and individuals have contacted me to say that they fed into the process but felt ignored, with one describing the consultation as 'a joke'. You will see this opinion reflected in the responses you have received, including those from Cotton Parish Council.

I am concerned that some of my constituents have not responded to the detail in the present application because they are of the opinion that the scheme as a whole should not go ahead. This may result in useful amendments being missed.

There is little or no evidence that alternatives to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury pylon route have been considered. Aside from offshore and underground routes, possibilities which have been raised include a new line of pylons closer to the existing route, closer to the A140 and upgrading the wires to composite core conductors as in Germany. I have seen no proper consideration of these options.

I remain concerned about the effect that pylons would have on the Waveney Valley to the west of Diss, past Wortham Ling and Roydon Fen. Pylons would be out of character with this landscape which would be irreparably harmed by their installation.

In addition to the effect on the landscape, I continue to be concerned about the effect on the inhabitants of Roydon if the village were surrounded by pylons on three sides. This route is unnecessary and should be altered to a straighter line which would have less impact.

I request that the Planning Inspectors visit three specific sites in the northern part of my constituency:

I request that the Inspectors visit Roydon and Wortham Ling to see how pylons would impact the landscape. I request also that the Inspectors visit the ancient woodland near Bunwell, owned by [REDACTED], to appreciate its irreplaceable nature.

I repeat my request for an accompanied site visit to Tibenham Airfield to fully understand the safety issues and potential danger to life that would be created by pylons sited as planned.

The comments I made at the Open Hearing are below.

The Norwich to Tilbury project runs through my Waveney Valley constituency, so I am here to represent the residents of Great Moulton, Winfarthing, Gislegham, Mendlesham, and everywhere between.



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Building on my long track record of supporting renewable energy, like most constituents, I strongly support the speedy roll out of renewable energy and increased grid capacity. However, if I were asked to move electricity produced off the North Norfolk coast down to London, I would not start by planning pylons south of Norwich. Serious questions need to be asked about why an integrated offshore grid has not been put in place in East Anglia. The Offshore Transmission Network Feasibility Study, published in 2011, stated £5.6bn could be saved by using a coordinated design approach. Why did this not happen? And, many of my constituents ask, if connectivity to Norwich was underground, why wasn't the rest of it?

So, for many of my constituents there are big questions about the nature of this project, while others highlight specific impacts along the proposed route which I ask you to fully consider.

You will hear from [REDACTED] who is concerned that an area of ancient woodland near Bunwell may be affected by the project and who suggests some specific changes to the route. Ancient woodland is precious and should not be damaged by pylons. The ecological impact of the project needs to be carefully evaluated.

Residents of Shelfanger have been in touch with me to emphasise that trees and hedges will be lost, taking with them habitat for a variety of animals, including species already under threat. Mitigation is needed for bat species whose flight lines are disrupted and habitats divided. And the nearest pylon would be less than 200m away from Shelfanger Meadows SSSI, a crucial grassland habitat.

Safety issues should also be fully evaluated as part of this planning inquiry, including the impact on Norfolk Gliding Club at Tibenham, given the serious dangers of collisions. I request that an accompanied site visit is undertaken to fully understand the safety issues.

The proximity of pylons to individual homes in Gislingham, is causing particular distress to individuals. At Mendlesham, the proximity of the new pylon line to the old line creates a problem of scale for residents.

At Roydon, the proposed route circles the village on three sides. Constituents have put forward a proposed change to the route which would allow a straighter line that would greatly lessen the impact.

This area around the Waveney Valley is especially sensitive due to the Wortham Ling SSSI and the cultural significance of the landscape. The impacts remain a big concern for my constituents.

The highways of Norfolk and Suffolk are not all capable of taking the heavy vehicles and amount of traffic that will be required to erect the pylons on this route. Many constituents are worried about the construction phase of this project, and its aftermath, so I would ask how potential damage and road safety concerns will be addressed.

Furthermore, individual families are worried that their homes will be devalued. Even a temporary drop in value could be disastrous for people at a point in their lives when they need to move elsewhere. Provision needs to be made to ensure that people are not left in impossible positions.

The impact on farmers along the route must be properly assessed too. For example, you have heard from Cotton Parish Council this week about concerns over how the viability of farms will be protected.

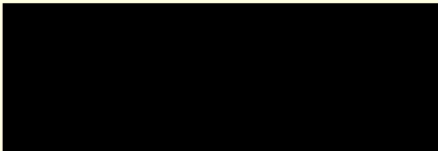
In conclusion, my constituents feel that alternative options have not been properly considered, including an offshore integrated grid as in other parts of the country and in Europe. There are documented concerns that pylons are vulnerable to storms and manmade threats, whereas undergrounding cables would provide reassurance against these and other concerns.



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Many residents of Waveney Valley have contacted me to say that they have not felt heard in consultation to date, so I very much hope that this planning inquiry will fully consider the evidence and assess the impacts and options for how best to deliver the improved energy connectivity and decarbonisation we need while minimising impacts on communities and the natural environment

Yours sincerely,



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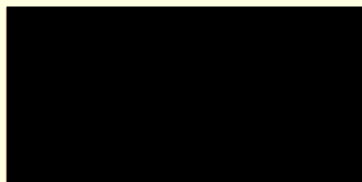
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