

Planning Inspectorate

Re: Norwich to Tilbury Great Grid Upgrade – Representation

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed installation of pylons and the associated haul road behind our property.

My family has lived here for the past ten years, having purchased our home for approximately **£1.1 million**. We chose this location because of its peaceful rural setting, protected landscape, mature hedgerows and abundant wildlife. At the time of purchase, we were advised by local estate agents that this was an up-and-coming area, and neighbouring properties have reflected this, with one nearby property selling for around **£1.5 million** several years ago. Our home has been valued at over **£1.4 million** for some time.

The proposed development threatens to fundamentally alter everything that attracted us to this location. Our greatest concern is not only the permanent presence of the pylons, but also the construction haul road immediately behind our home. The disruption caused by heavy construction traffic, noise, dust, vibration and prolonged works will have a devastating impact on our quality of life.

As residents of a rural lane, we have limited alternative routes. Any closures or restrictions will inevitably result in lengthy diversions and delays, affecting our ability to commute to work and carry out normal day-to-day activities. This is an unreasonable burden to place on the small number of households that call this lane home.

We are extremely concerned that the development will significantly reduce the value and marketability of our property. Based on the advice we have received and our previous experience of attempting to sell, we believe the scheme could reduce our property's value by around one-third. This represents an enormous financial loss for our family and effectively leaves us trapped in a home that has become far less attractive to prospective buyers through no fault of our own.

We instructed Beresfords Estate Agents to market our property in 2024. Despite it being situated in what has been described as a desirable rural location but within easy access to Chelmsford and its amenities, we received no viewings. We were told by Beresfords that the proposed pylons were the reason prospective purchasers were not interested.

A further issue relates to the advice we received directly from National Grid. Approximately two years ago, we attended a National Grid consultation event

at Chelmsford Racecourse where we spoke with [REDACTED], Property Stakeholder Manager, Land, Planning and External Affairs, Strategic Infrastructure. We explained our concerns that the proposed scheme would make our property extremely difficult, if not impossible, to sell.

[REDACTED] told us that she could assist because her role involved helping property owners affected in this way and that she would liaise with Fisher German on our behalf. However, we were subsequently informed that this was not something Fisher German dealt with. We were therefore left without the support we had been led to expect and with no meaningful assistance in addressing the impact on our property's marketability.

This experience has added to our frustration and uncertainty throughout the process and has reinforced our concern that the very real consequences for homeowners who are unable to sell their properties have not been adequately addressed.

Beyond the financial impact, the environmental damage is deeply concerning. This is a beautiful, tranquil country lane bordered by established hedgerows that provide habitat for birds, mammals, insects and other wildlife. The destruction of these hedgerows and the disturbance caused by construction will inevitably damage an ecosystem that has developed over many years. Once lost, this natural environment cannot simply be replaced.

We also keep ponies on our land, and we are extremely worried about the effect that months, or potentially years, of heavy construction activity, constant vehicle movements and noise will have on their welfare. Animals are highly sensitive to prolonged disturbance, and the impact on them has not, in our view, been given sufficient consideration.

This proposal will permanently transform a quiet, rural and protected landscape into one dominated by major electricity infrastructure and construction access. The cumulative effects on residents, wildlife, livestock, the character of the area and property values are profound.

I respectfully ask that the Planning Inspectorate give full and careful consideration to the extensive and lasting impact this proposal will have on our home, our property, our animals, and the unique rural environment in which we live. The consequences extend far beyond temporary construction disruption and will affect our lives for many years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my representation.

Yours faithfully

Mr & Mrs J & M Henry