

Norwich to Tilbury Project Examination – Deadline 8 submission

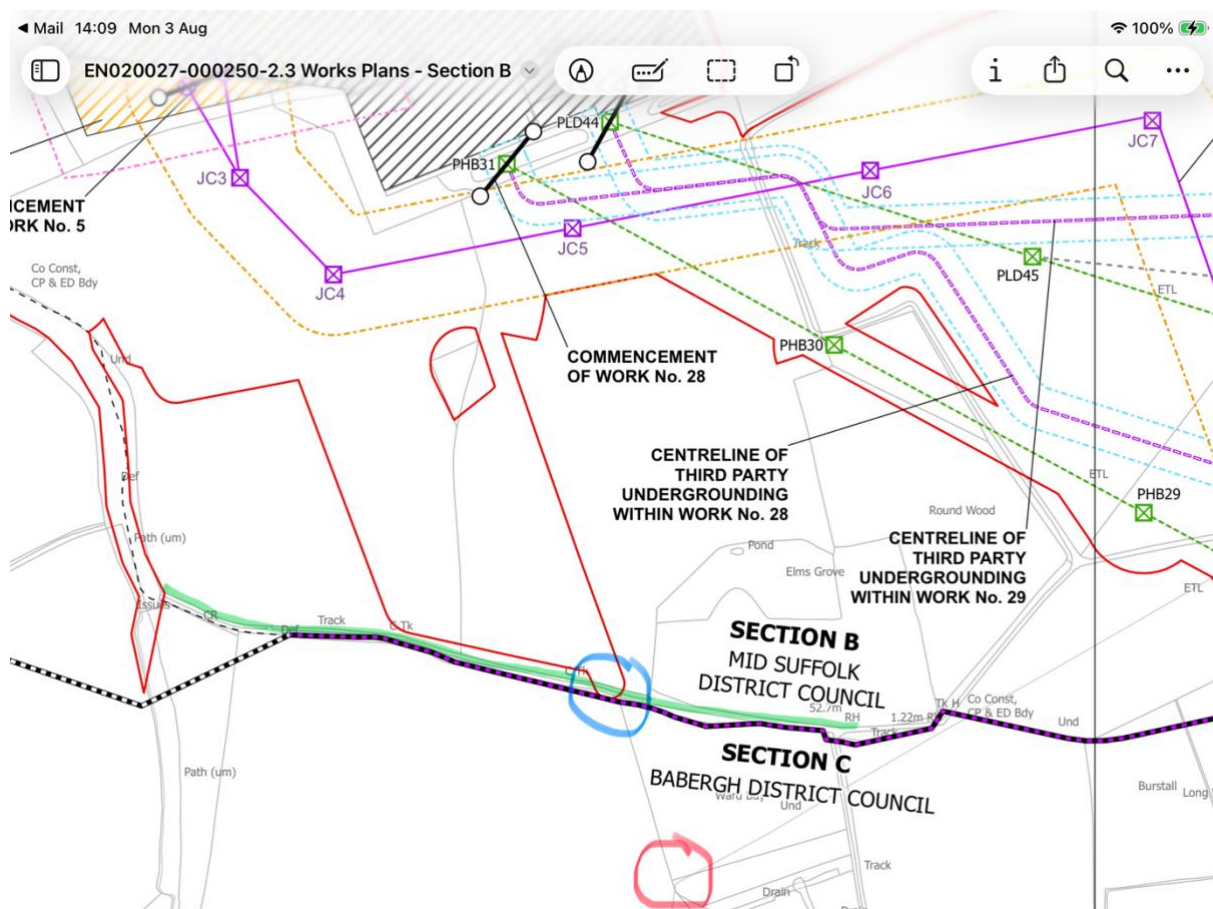
William Petersen (4/8/26)

This is a new item which has not been raised with the ExA yet. Whilst personal correspondence has been ongoing, this matter has not resolved and given the impacts are wider than just my property, affecting Cook Lane, Burstall village and the wider landscape mitigation, we raise it here.

Following correspondence with UKPN via Dalcour MacLaren, we are concerned that a pragmatic, cost effective, coordinated and sensible solution to resolving the sighting of power lines will be overlooked and disregarded.

Currently, the DCO allows for the power line that feeds Burstall to be buried until it crosses Cook Lane (green line – see map below), at which point it will come overground again, through the erection of a new mast (blue circle). Cook Lane is an historic sheep droving route, marked with an ancient marker stone and is significant locally given its tunnel of mature trees and hedgerows. Bringing the lines above ground at this point will negatively impact the footpath and lessen the opportunity for mitigation planting. See drone footage of the lane at this link, which starts at the west of Cook Lane travels east:

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



The red circle indicates a current double poled junction box which is on UKPN's operational work list as an urgent replacement – it dates from the 1940s and the poles are heavily eroded and fragile. The power lines that feed this junction box from the substation run along an ancient line of trees on the field boundary between the blue and red circles. These trees are cut back annually at UKPN's expense.

Our suggestion is to avoid bringing the power lines above ground at Cook Lane and to bring them above ground at the location of the new junction box. In addition, to relocate the new junction box to the west of the existing poles to avoid the trees on the field boundary.

This pragmatic solution will:

1. **Landscape Mitigation.** Enable landscape mitigation by allowing tree and hedgerow recovery on Cook Lane and along the field edge, and lessening the impact by building only 1 junction box rather than 2.
2. **Cost Savings.** Offers savings through less infrastructure (one less junction box and several less telegraph poles), coordination of works (all works completed at the same time rather than project and operational works) and ongoing annual maintenance through hedge and tree cutting.
3. **Operational Simplicity.** Designing this line with one junction box rather than 2 and moving the power lines away from a tree line offers great operational advantages. It should be noted that Burstall Hall was without power for a week in 2021 when a tree along this line brought the power line down. This solution would avoid any chance of a recurrence.

Whilst sensible, coordinated, pragmatic and cost effective, the response we have had is that these works are outside of the DCO and will therefore not be considered. We find this to be incredibly short sighted given the advantages to UKPN, Burstall village and myself.

Attached below is my wayleave agreement, showing the existing power line route, telegraph poles (1C, 2C and 3C) and junction box (3C). Our suggestion is to only retain 1C and to move this west out of the heavy tree and vegetation growth. We must do what we can to find and seize opportunities like this which offer landscape mitigation advantages in an area which has to be the most impacted through wirescape and renewable energy infrastructure, and which has, hitherto, been offered no mitigation.

Any response which blindly states the DCO limits without any pragmatic and practical appreciation of the ground, mitigation and ongoing operational works outside the DCO would be hugely negatively received.

On a separate but connected matter, the yellow highlighted dotted line that runs just to the east of the overhead line, is an existing underground cable which runs through my property and within feet of a waterway on my boundary. We have requested UKPN to

firstly confirm what will happen to this cable as part of the N2T DCO, and secondly to verify its current status and any soil and water contamination risk. This cable is of concern to the village - we are aware of excavation works here over the last few years, and possible oil leaks. A further excavation of this cable is ongoing now just south of my property. We have never been consulted or informed about any of the cable works

