

I do not believe the cumulative impacts of traffic around Ardleigh have been sufficiently quantified. The estimate of HGV numbers, construction routing, impact on rural roads and local amenities is insufficient. Has modelling been done at the busiest times of the day? Have the busiest junctions been fully assessed - eg Wick Road/ Dead Lane a notorious black spot.

I am not assured that the assessment of local bird population trends has been conducted over sufficient years or on a quantified (as opposed to qualified) basis. For example, we have buzzards nesting in the oak trees bordering our property, close to the undergrounding route into Ardleigh, which have returned this year and have produced young. To the rear are nesting owls and green woodpeckers. I am not aware that these have been assessed at all and certainly not over a number of years.

I would remind you that project requirements can be met by alternatives, such as HVDC undergrounding, offshore coordination, upgrading the existing grid. We have never been presented with alternatives by National Grid. There are better, cheaper alternatives which would avoid the large scale environmental vandalism planned by National Grid.