

NORWICH TO TILBURY: PLANNING INSPECTORATE DEADLINE 8

SHORT SUBMISSION FROM COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

In the time since the first sight of the National Grid's proposals and early consultations, up to the submission of the DCO application and the Examination by the P.I., the sound of people's heads hitting brick walls has been deafening.

As those of us who are not students of energy delivery considered the impacts of the Grid's route and preferred use – indeed only option for the vast majority of the route – of 50m plus high pylons, we learned how much we were being short-changed compared with more enlightened and long-term cost-effective HVDC schemes across the world. We cannot help but feel fobbed off with outdated, environmentally and aesthetically inferior pylons and deceived about the cost/benefit analysis of the alternatives over the coming decades. We submit this as food security is looming as large as energy security in our nation.

We would point to the extremely poor engagement on an individual level by the Grid with those parties most directly impacted as the Inspectorate has frequently heard. All the fancy Grid consultation documents and engagement events count for little if those who stand to lose most cannot get sufficient recognition of genuine concerns they have raised, and the alternatives proposed.

This route was selected in the full knowledge that mitigation of the impact on visual landscape was severely limited. Why start so far into largely rural Norfolk, and on through Suffolk and Essex when the energy generated is destined for close to the very end of the route. In our view the Holford Rules have been honoured more in the breach than the observance.

As we have underlined in previous submissions, the construction phase is terrifying for many in a small quiet village like Cotton and will impact our small farmers hugely. Please ensure that the Grid employs the least damaging approach to the haul roads, and respects our quiet lanes.

Finally, we would ask the Inspectorate to study in full the personal submissions from several affected Cotton residents, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. [REDACTED] family and property deserve better than they have experienced with the National Grid who should be held to their legal obligations.

[REDACTED] on behalf of

Cotton Parish Council

4 August 2026