

The proposed pylons across the Colne Valley would be visible from the Dedham Vale AONB and therefore cause harm to the National Landscape. My daily view from [REDACTED] overlooks the Colne Valley, an area equivalent to areas of outstanding natural beauty nearby. It will be devastated if National Grid are successful in obtaining planning permission to construct a line of huge pylons through the countryside of East Anglia.

At present there is no infrastructure in this valley or even visible from the valley; this is quite unusual and certainly worth preserving.

A significant amount of documentation has been prepared and submitted to the Inspectorate noting the deficiencies in National Grid's proposals and, indeed, pointing out the areas in which National Grid have simply sought to avoid the planning regulations.

In the area where I live, there are many specific issues that have simply been ignored by National Grid and Fisher German as follows:

- a. There have been two independent landscape assessments, both of which have stated that within the Colne Valley alternatives to overhead power lines should be considered.
- b. This as an area where there are significant numbers of Roman sites with valuable archaeology. Close by, it is proposed by National Grid to build the Crabtree Lane Sealing End Compound directly on top of the site of a Roman villa.
- c. No proper analysis has been undertaken in respect of the effects of Electromagnetic Fields or noise, both of which will have a profound impact on local residents.
- d. Flood risks arising during the construction could be significant and have not been properly addressed by National Grid.
- e. The regulations stipulate that pylons should not be built within 200 metres of the curtilage of any listed property. National Grid have not adhered to this requirement and have consistently understated the impact of their proposals on properties and landscapes. Certainly [REDACTED] and Highfields Farmhouse will be materially and adversely affected by National Grid's plans.
- f. National Grid deny that there are bats within the locality. This is another falsehood. I see them regularly!

Throughout the process the approach of National Grid (and Fisher German) has been contrived and disingenuous. The suggestion by National Grid that the pylons will have minor impact on the properties in this valley, including [REDACTED], is entirely fanciful. Their own images show that the impact would be dramatic and overbearing.

The fact that National Grid proposes to build a sealing end compound directly on the site of an important Roman villa typifies their attitude of disregard and contempt for the natural beauty of this much loved and enjoyed countryside with its tranquil setting, its wildlife and its ancient archaeology.

The emphasis has been entirely on building huge pylons across the countryside with no concern for the effects on the local population or the long term impact on the environment. No proper consideration has been given to other options, in particular construction of an offshore grid.

More undergrounding would be less harmful but it is clear that NG has been and continues to be unwilling to be flexible regardless of the argument.

From the beginning, in spite of protestations to the contrary, National Grid has not engaged fully but has continued to duck and dive and avoid meetings even when they have been arranged in good time. This all indicates ongoing bad faith. National Grid have asked communities to tell them what matters and how a community fund of "more than £30 million" should be used. We have repeatedly told National Grid that what matters is the preservation of the current existing environment including the landscape, the wildlife and the communities. The project, as proposed, will have a huge destructive impact on the environment and its communities in perpetuity.

National Grid are clearly relying on the inflexibility in the regulations to push through their plans when the scheduled deadline is met. As stated by the Inspectorate, even though the size of this project is unprecedented, no more time is afforded to the Inspectorate to examine the proposals than is the case for much smaller projects with lower impact. It is a shocking indictment of the regulatory process that the time frame for assessment of such a major project should be so restricted and, further, that National Grid should not be held to account to prepare an appropriately rigorous analysis of the options and of the consequences.

Along with so many others I ask that the Inspectorate should refuse this application in its present form. National Grid should be required to undertake a full and proper assessments of the options and take account of the impact of their proposals on communities who would be so badly affected in the longer term if the planning permissions were to be granted in their present form.