
RIIO-3 Call for Evidence Further Email Responses

Contents

RIIO-3 Call for Evidence Further Email Responses	1
Duncan McIntyre.....	5
Martin Gallimore, Smalley	5
Claire Allison	7
Rachael Edwards.....	10
James Williams	13
Ian Ponsford	15
Colin Brown	15
Geoff Hodson	16
Gerald Wells.....	16
Jill Martin & Dave Butler	17
David Shaw	20
Steve Waters.....	20
Oliver Greene	21
Hugh Godfrey	21
Trish Hemming.....	21
Monica Lawrence-Stubley	22
Cheryl Damen	23
Anthea Williams	24
Angela Edgar.....	25
Richard Harrowven	25
Kate Tarn	26
Andrew Malkin	27
Sonia Coode-Adams	27
Giles Coode-Adams	28
Siobhan Clarke.....	28
Lee Hickling	29
Michael Bowes	32
Michael Taylor.....	33

Charles Carron Brown	35
Luke Buckley	37
Richard Hawker	38
Paul Wenden	38
Mark Evans. Jnoad Limited Buiding Sevices	38
Stephen Jones.....	39
Jonathan Weymouth	40
Alan Wilde.....	42
Erik Ellis	43
Philip Barnes.....	44
John Baldwin. CNG Services	45
Nick Ireland	50
Nikki Maguire.....	50
Mandy Pratt	52
Paul Whiteman.....	52
Phil Price.....	54
Ann Candeloro	55
Joanna Heath	57
Stephen Barr	58
Andrew Willoughby.....	59
Marina Brown.....	59
Geoffrey Lazeli	60
Steve Gibb.....	62
Jason Davies	63
Louise Chadwick	64
Mark Harper	66
Georgina Coburn	67
Geoffery Alcoe.....	67
Chris Owen.....	68
Rob Skinner	69
Caroline Blacker	69
Susan Edwards.....	70
Michael Demetriou	71
Anna Magee	73
Stephen March	75
Meb Somani	75

Samantha Harniman	79
Ady Brown	80
Lynn Parker	81
Tim Dysterre-Clark.....	82
Chris Vermont	83
Elsbeth Knott	85
Angela Stevens	86
Christine Barrett	87
Norman Stevens.....	87
Samantha Symonds	88
Joanne Elliot	89
Bob Cockerton.....	92
Caroline Pope.....	97
Grace Piercy	100
Christopher Holmes	101
John Towle.....	102
Kate Golightly	103
East Anglian Alliance of Amenity Groups.....	105
Karl Moxham	108
Helen Thompson	108
Stan Worrell.....	109
Gillian Carroll	110
Stan	111
Lisa Cross.....	113
Martin West	114
Michelle Gibbs	114
Cllr Lesley Wagland.....	114
Stephen Connelly	125
Lisa Connelly.....	127
Smalley (Kristen Robinson)	128
Robert (Stop the Pylons Derbyshire)	131
Jennifer.....	133
Wendy Wiseman	134
David Meek	135
Joanna Anderson Short (J Anderson & Son).....	135
Nicola Bell	136

Philip Attenborough	138
Bella Faulkner	138
Iain Black.....	139

Duncan McIntyre

I am emailing in connection with the above to highlight just 2 of the many areas where National Grid has failed to comply with its own rules during the non -statutory consultation period that local residents have gone through.

NGET's pledges to communities: *It is consulting with communities early in the planning process.*

The reality - Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options. In particular EDN1 as defined in their project plan documents. They have also failed to give an adequate explanation as to why EDN1, the cheapest option, has been dismissed. They have also failed to re-work all route options in the light of costs that have been identified since the plans were put forward. This is contrary to normal project management rules and may lead to greater costs to bill payers that could be avoided.

We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. The reality - National Grid have failed to properly explain and emphasise the sheer size and scale of the proposed 50m to 75m pylons, implying constantly that the pylons are of the size most people are used to seeing.

The above points are the tip of the iceberg but please factor them into your review and confirm receipt.

Kind Regards,

Duncan McIntyre

Martin Gallimore, Smalley

- a. Organisation: Martin Gallimore, Smalley (Chesterfield to Willington)
- b. Commenting on National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) business plan
- c. Response is not confidential
- d. Issues identified
- e. evidence or justification, below, as follows:

Set out in this document my concerns that NGET's business plan pledges are not reflected in reality, with examples below.

NGET's pledges to communities, our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project it is consulting with communities early in the planning process - Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options. We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why. The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils were: for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons

We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape, The only 3D tools available have been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the project. Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees.

We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance, disproved by the below report can all be read here: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/reports/>

There is no community acceptance of the N2T proposal as presented. Community relations are very poor.

We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them, NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were not only hard to come by but mostly impossible, the representatives holding the events were very poorly informed.

Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected

members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community, NG do not respond to requests for information from general public, Parish Councils etc.

Building trust through data transparency C4.4 Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use,

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Non-publication of Investment Decisions Pack, Engineering Justification Papers and CBA with the business plan for stakeholder scrutiny;
- Refusal of NGET to share risk register- Refusal to share granular costings, need for Lincs CC to use legal letters to ask for info
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines. You will find our letter to John Pettigrew in Appendix A.
- Incorrect evidence supplied to NESO's East Anglia Study 2024, that a shortage of HVDC cables would delay an HVDC solution. Yet NGET's business plan shows it is managing supply successfully. With 14,000km of cable purchased, there is no reason why HVDC could not be used for N2T: "In the case of HVDC orders, this has resulted in our supply chain partners investing in a new factory, a new ship and a significant expansion of a UK facility on the back of the long-term order book certainty we have given them." "£9bn HVDC frameworks to help us invest on an unprecedented scale across NGET and the National Grid Group. This includes procuring over 14,000km of cable, a third of global market capacity. "Please also see Appendix B for evidence that global HVDC suppliers are ramping up production to meet demand.

Claire Allison

My concern is that NGET's pledges are not reflected in reality, with examples below:

NGET's pledges to communities: it is consulting with communities early in the planning process

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: This did not happen. NGET "consulted" after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other

options, including a shorter and cheaper route (known as EDN1) that would not have destroyed so much of the beautiful countryside.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: I have repeatedly asked how NGET could meet their obligations under The Climate Change Act (2008) if the grid upgrade relies on more pylons (since pylons reduce the resilience of the grid to climate change, in particular to the effects of more frequent and severe gales and lightning, together with increased heavy rainfall.) No one at the public consultations was able to answer this question. I therefore included it on the official feedback forms, but to the best of my knowledge, NGET have never published any response to this question. Changes sought by stakeholders, such as local communities and parish councils, include:

- HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons.
- An integrated offshore grid. This has not been explored by NGET despite offering known cost-savings and reductions in infrastructure. It has been used successfully in other countries.
- If pylons have to be used, the chosen route must obey the Holford rules. These rules have been ignored for sections of the Chesterfield to Willington route. Not only was a shorter, cheaper route discounted prior to consultation, but the published preferred route has blatant disregard for the Holford rules, especially in the region of Morley, where the most likely route identified would cross over the brow of a hill, take a winding route necessitating corner towers and destroy a well-preserved section of buried Roman Road. Again, at the public consultation, none of the NGET staff could offer any explanation for why the Holford rules had been ignored.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: 3D tools may have been available at a public information event, but these events were so crowded with concerned people that I was unable to get close to one of the screens to see. I do not believe that any accurate visualisation materials have been issued by NGET for any part of the Chesterfield to Willington route.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: I have serious concerns about NGET's consultations. The events I attended were staffed by polite PR people, who smiled and nodded when concerns were raised, then asked for our feedback to be recorded on a form or in an email. They did not take any notes regarding our concerns. They were unable to answer any questions or expand upon the rationale for the proposed preferred route. Other members of my community had a similar experience. Community relations with NGET are therefore extremely poor.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: NGET have made it very difficult for people to share their concerns. The public information events were held in small village halls, which did not have the capacity for the number of concerned people who wished to attend. The chosen locations for consultations did not have good public transport links, and car parking was insufficient. This meant that people with mobility issues were unable to attend. For those of us who did manage to attend, although they listened politely, they appeared to be listening without any understanding, as no meaningful discussions arose, and no questions were answered.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: Some online webinars were held, but the questions put to NGET at these by our community representatives were not answered properly. Their typical answer was: "Please put that in a feedback form and we will consider it." I have not seen any community update

newsletters or information in local libraries. Despite extensive efforts on my part, I have been unable to obtain meaningful answers, by any means, to any of my questions to NGET.

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4

Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: Our community have a complete lack of trust in NGET, for the following reasons.

- Our questions, such as why the Holford Rules have been ignored in the Morley area and why the EDN1 route was discounted, have not been adequately answered.
- NGET have not published the Investment Decisions Pack, Engineering Justification Papers and CBA with the business plan for stakeholder scrutiny.
- Refusal of NGET to share their risk register, in particular with regard to climate change resilience if the grid upgrade relies primarily on pylons, rather than a diverse and hence more resilient infrastructure.
- Refusal to publish costing details.
- NGET's media is misleading and does not accurately show the true impact of their proposals.

Rachael Edwards

NGET's pledges to communities: It is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options even the EDN1 route (Chesterfield to Ratcliffe-on-Soar), which is a shorter route and follows the route of the M1 and the Holford rules more appropriately.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:

- An alternative route EDN1 in the strategic options report has been discarded with no valid explanation from NGET other than some technical complexities for NGET, so put simply it is easier for them to go with EDN2 even though its more intrusive and costly.
- for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons
- and integrated offshore grid. This has not been explored by NGET despite offering known cost-savings and reductions in infrastructure. Instead, an 'offshore solution' between Norwich & Tilbury was priced up but with very limited information and not consulted on.
- The current graduated swath in NGET proposal does not follow any of the Holford rules in the village of Morley.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The only 3D tools available has been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the project.

Further, some of the visualisations contained in consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees, which is completely misleading the public.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Whilst we are only at the non-statutory stage of the consultation, we have serious concerns about NGET's consultation

approach and if this continues will inevitably lead to legal challenges. Responses to concerns are replied to in very generic/general terms and the NGET team are not always knowledgeable about the facts.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: No response.

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4
Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project:

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Refusal of NGET to share risk register
- Refusal to share granular costings and basing costs of out-of-date information and technology.
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines.
- NESO's clean energy 20230 report refers to the route as being EDN2 Chesterfield to Ratcliffe-on-Soar, which is incorrect and should be Chesterfield to Willington. This shows the lack of care and due diligence has gone into the process from NGET.

James Williams

NGET's pledges to communities: It is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options even the EDN1 route (Chesterfield to Ratcliffe-on-Soar), which is a shorter route and follows the route of the M1 and the Holford rules more appropriately.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:

- An alternative route EDN1 in the strategic options report has been discarded with no valid explanation from NGET other than some technical complexities for NGET, so put simply it is easier for them to go with EDN2 even though its more intrusive and costly.
- for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons
- and integrated offshore grid. This has not been explored by NGET despite offering known cost-savings and reductions in infrastructure. Instead, an 'offshore solution' between Norwich & Tilbury was priced up but with very limited information and not consulted on.
- The current graduated swath in NGET proposal does not follow any of the Holford rules in the village of Morley.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities.

Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The only 3D tools available has been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the project.

Further, some of the visualisations contained in consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees, which is completely misleading the public.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Whilst we are only at the non-statutory stage of the consultation, we have serious concerns about NGET's consultation approach and if this continues will inevitably lead to legal challenges. Responses to concerns are replied to in very generic/general terms and the NGET team are not always knowledgeable about the facts.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: No response.

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4
Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project:

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Refusal of NGET to share risk register
- Refusal to share granular costings and basing costs of out-of-date information and technology.
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines.
- NESO's clean energy 20230 report refers to the route as being EDN2 Chesterfield to Ratcliffe-on-Soar, which is incorrect and should be Chesterfield to Willington. This shows the lack of care and due diligence has gone into the process from NGET.

Ian Ponsford

I have found National Grid to be arrogant in their views & dealings with our local community at face-to-face consultations in Ingatestone, Essex & written submissions.

My house is the last along the lane next to the proposed pylon. They are going to erect two in my vicinity, on green belt and arable crop farming. This is going to have a huge impact on house values and wildlife whilst reducing crop yields. I have asked for the pylons

To be moved as close to the A12 as possible giving us more breathing space. I am especially worried as to the electricity fields hum together with the health aspect of high voltage near my house.

National grid has not established

Costs and best route and feel we are being bullied by them.

It's affected us greatly and causing stress & anxiety which NG have not addressed or given reassurance especially to health aspect.

Regards

Ian Ponsford

Colin Brown

NG are not interested in protecting the environment, nor listening to people's views, nor are they bothered about damaging people's lives. They are only interested in boosting their company's profits, although they do pay lip service to provide a greenwashing service.

Geoff Hodson

I would like to say that I have not found the process at all transparent. It's even more confusing that NG recently proved a video which appears to espouse offshore infrastructure, exactly what the public and professional bodies have been suggesting. I have attached the video below:

NG are putting profit before the environment, claiming it is necessary to despoil the countryside in order to meet some arbitrary deadlines set by the government.

NG are paying lip service to comments provided by the public and have not seriously considered alternatives. The proposal for miles of overhead cabling is everything to do with NGs profits.

A survey of 1000 adults said overwhelmingly:

- nature, countryside & food security should be protected in the grid upgrade;
- people & businesses should be fully compensated;
- pylons are the last resort. Our alternatives (upgrading existing grid, offshore grid, HVDC) were very popular.
- Only 13% said they would buy a house near a pylon, and
- the majority were unaware that a pylon construction swathe is up to 80m wide.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Hodson

Gerald Wells

Your plans to run pylon across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex do nothing for the environment or for the communities affected. You will be destroying prime agriculture land when the cables could and should be run offshore. I am still to be convinced that pylon is a cheaper alternative, and I cannot see how green the construction can be when you will need the amount of steel and concrete to erect them.

The push for net zero appears to have lost its way with the destruction of farmland for pylons and solar.

Please reconsider as offshore affects no one why destroy vast areas of the countryside to supply energy when part of the necessary infrastructure is already in place (Bradwell).

Regards

Gerald Wells

Jill Martin & Dave Butler

This is in response to your call for evidence. We know you are looking at National Grid's business plan (for the country) and want to hear views. I have been a member of the group against National Grid's proposals since the outset. Our group's very detailed submission has been sent to you. As you can imagine, we found a lot of issues with the business plan.

This is a key opportunity for us to let you know what this means to us. As a group we have written to Ofgem many times, and today we wrote again to the chief executive calling for him to send National Grid back to the drawing board.

Have you found National Grid to be transparent?

No. National Grid have not been open nor transparent at all. Since their very first 'consultation' which was nothing more than an exhibition of maps, plans and details of what they were intending to do, they have bent the truth, treated us like fools and, even now, lied about many elements of the project.

Does National Grid do the best thing for the environment?

Definitely not. The pylons will damage the land, wildlife, people's property and lives.

What is your experience of dealing with National Grid?

They are fixated on their final 'goal'. They do not wish to entertain options and they seem to think they can just ride roughshod over everyone who lives in East Anglia.

Does National Grid care about communities?

Not at all. They are planning to destroy land, buildings, farms, homes and the beautiful views enjoyed by all who live and visit East Anglia.

Our national survey: results

As part of our submission we needed to counter National Grid's spin, so we commissioned a national survey of 1000 adults. It was very pleasing that people who have nothing to do with our campaign agreed overwhelmingly that:

- nature, countryside & food security should be protected in the grid upgrade;
- people & businesses should be fully compensated;
- pylons are the last resort. Our alternatives (upgrading existing grid, offshore grid, HVDC) were very popular.
- Only 13% said they would buy a house near a pylon, and
- the majority were unaware that a pylon construction swathe is up to 80m wide.

My own house has depreciated in value by 30% as a direct result of being close to the proposed pylon run. That is, if anyone would want to buy it, which is unlikely according to an estate agent contact.

WE ARE NOT NIMBYS. WE DON'T WANT PYLONS IN EAST ANGLIA AND WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO HAVE TO SUFFER THEM. THEY ARE OLD FASIONED, VICTORIAN TECHNOLOGY BEING SUGGESTED TO SOLVE A 21ST CENTURY ISSUE. WE HAVE PROOF THAT THEY ARE THE BEST OPTION, WRITTEN BY NATIONAL GRID ITSELF.

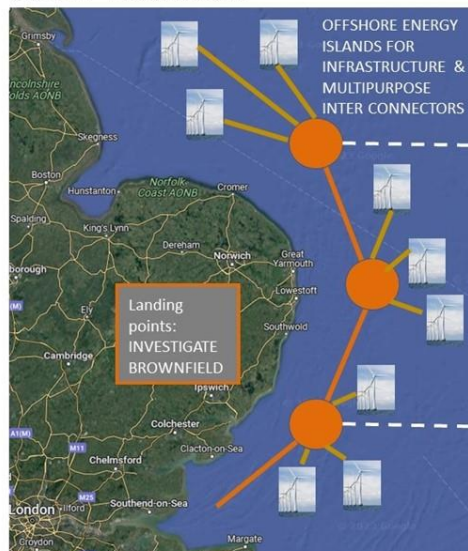
It is essential that Ofgem realises that it is supposed to be a REGULATOR and that National Grid needs regulating!

We have been in touch with campaign groups all over the UK and I know many of them are also submitting responses to Ofgem.

Unplanned, piecemeal approach. COST £7billion with pylons.



Integrated offshore grid. COST £5billion.



Ross Clelland

I am writing in response to your RIIO-T3 call for evidence to highlight concerns regarding National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) transparency, environmental commitments, stakeholder engagement, and treatment of communities.

Transparency: NGET has not made key documents, such as Investment Decision Packs and full cost analyses, available for proper scrutiny. Information is redacted, and alternative solutions are not openly assessed, limiting public confidence in decision-making.

Environment: Despite claiming to support a "nature-positive future," NGET does not fully assess the environmental impact of its preferred options. There is no clear comparison of alternatives such as HVDC undergrounding or offshore coordination, nor a proper evaluation of biodiversity and carbon impacts.

Stakeholder Engagement: NGET presents itself as consulting widely, yet rural communities and key stakeholders feel ignored. Feedback from consultations, including strong opposition to overhead lines and calls for alternative solutions, appears to have been disregarded.

Communities: The evidence suggests NGET prioritises speed and cost over meaningful community engagement. Rural areas bear disproportionate impacts, yet public opinion surveys show a widespread lack of trust in NGET's approach.

I urge Ofgem to take these concerns seriously and ensure that NGET upholds the principles of transparency, environmental responsibility, and genuine stakeholder engagement.

Best regards,

Ross Clelland

David Shaw

Regarding the pylon route through Essex and the Chelmsford area, the Pylons are going around and close to Broomfield Hospital which is the main Burns Unit for the East it is frequently used by the Air Ambulance, the Pylons are within a few Hundred yards and must be a risk to Helicopters landing and taking off from the Hospital landing pad. travelling from the North to South and East to west. The Danger It would be an even higher risk at night with the 150ft high pylons.

Please give the above your attention.

Please give the above your attention

David Shaw.

Steve Waters

I wish to comment about the National Grid Electricity Transmission project.

I have attended most of the consultations about the proposed Norwich to Tilbury upgrade and found they are not presenting all the options, only the one overland pylon project, which does not give me the view that the National Grid is being transparent but have their own agenda.

I think the proposed overland pylons are going to be very destructive for the environment, with a great swathe of land being ruined irretrievably, so they are not caring for our precious countryside.

My experience of dealing with the national grid is one of an arrogant, we know best attitude, not really good for public relations, as we are not being listened to.

I would think from their plans and presentations they don't really care about our communities, if they did, they would revise the project to go offshore, where it is most needed, the wind farms and nuclear power stations are all coastal so why should the pylons be overland?

Steve Waters

Oliver Greene

I wish to add my comments to the many that you have already received about this project. But National Grid does not appear to have taken in best practice as used in other countries, such as Denmark (offshore), Germany (HVDC) and now Saudi Arabia who are planning a 480 km HVDC line to Iraq.

It is now clear that National Grid is pursuing its pylon solution at all costs and in the face of contrary evidence that pylons are not the optimum solution. In so doing it has not been straight with the public in that:

1. It has completely ignored the dreadful impact of pylons on the landscape that would severely affect generations of East Anglians and tourists; The trade-off with environmental damage (including visual) has even been mentioned.
2. In cost terms no independently verified discounted cash flow analysis (including the assumptions behind it) has been shown to objectors comparing pylons with the other options of Offshore, and HVDC.
3. National Grid has pre-judged the situation and it has never been candid with the public.

Thank you.

Oliver Greene

Hugh Godfrey

I am very concerned over the lack of concern for the natural world, habitats and environmental impact of this project. national grid appears to have a very blinkered view on how their project impacts on communities and the wellbeing of the people who live along the route.

There is a complete lack of transparency around this, and I have raised a legitimate concern regarding health risks to children where lines run in close proximity to schools. Again, national grid has failed to address these issues.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Godfrey

Trish Hemming

I live in an area likely to be affected by the installation of large new pylons as part of the grid update, and last year took part in the first phase of public consultation.

I found it an unedifying process that seemingly contained virtually no checks and balances.

For instance, NG designed the feedback questionnaires, collected and collated the feedback. At the very least I'd have expected an independent, expert body to review the questionnaire to ensure questions were unbiased (they patently were not) and to collect and collate the feedback so that we could be assured of an unbiased outcome.

I attended a public meeting and found NG to be extremely opaque about the cost comparisons they provide for pylons vs undergrounding. Their costings seem to be way out of date and out of kilter with modern undergrounding methods such as cable ploughing but getting them to say where their figures come from is impossible. The lack of transparency and the fact that no independent body appears to be holding them to account, checking their assertions about costings, technical issues and their rationales for decisions is ridiculous for a modern democracy.

At a public webinar - which allowed no public responses to their answers to questions - I posed four or five questions in advance as required. Their answers were uniformly oblique, incomplete and missed the point. Yet there was no means of responding to these answers. The one question I raised about financing was totally ignored. This was not a public consultation but simply a PR whitewash.

In terms of the environment how can steel being moved from Australia to China to be manufactured into pylons there, then shipped halfway round the world to be installed on house size blocks of concrete be considered a good move? How many years of green energy will it take to offset those environmental costs? Again, NG were unable, or unwilling, to comment.

Doing as more enlightened countries have done and using undersea/underground cables seems to be beyond them. They simply dismiss these options with no backing up of why they are doing so with hard facts from credible sources that they are willing to share. It's all very cloak and dagger.

As a member of a potentially affected community do I feel that I have been listened to? No, I do not. I feel I have been fobbed off with platitudes, and my requests for hard facts ignored.

Kind regards

Trish Hemming

Monica Lawrence-Stubley

I write to express my concern about the National Grid plans for Lincolnshire.

I completed the National Grid Survey on the subject some time ago, and although my Survey was acknowledged, I have not yet received a response.

My concerns are that there was no transparency in the costings for the various option for the Grimsby-Walpole project. For the supposed public consultation, we were presented with one solution and informed it was the cheapest option. I and many others doubt the truth of this statement and suspect that this is the preferred option for reasons pertaining to greatly increasing infrastructure in Lincolnshire - solar farms etc. (With no concern for food production, despoliation of the environment, impact on rural communities etc.) The overland costings themselves did not appear to include all relevant costs and the public should have been granted access to truthful costings for both underland and undersea options. Lincolnshire is, on the whole, a very flat, agricultural county with wide open skies. The 84 mile stretch of massive pylons, together with the associated infrastructure will ruin our beautiful landscape. And we fear that is only the beginning.

Kind regards.

Monica Lawrence-Stubley (Ms)

Cheryl Damen

Please find below my comments about National Grid Electricity Transmission.

- The consultations have been at awkward times for working people
- The staff disingenuous "oh yes I would happily live under a pylon" "oh I live under a pylon in Central London" (there are no pylons in central London)
- Their staff ("representatives") lie ("there are no problems getting a mortgage for a home close to a pylon" - I am a mortgage broker, and their statements are completely false - many lenders will not lend on property near a pylon due to potential resale issues)
- There have been issues with technology not working at the consultations
- Information has been incomplete - for example books with photos that are incomplete "sorry about that, we couldn't get them all done on time".

And of course, issues around transparency in relation to costs. No information at all about alternative methods. A consultation on one outcome is not a consultation, it is a whitewash.

This proposal is a travesty for all in its path, who don't benefit from this at all. It must be stopped.

Cheryl Damen

Anthea Williams

am very concerned about the approach that National Grid are taking in their consultation over the 'great grid 'upgrade. I do not feel they have been transparent either in the analysis and discussion of the possible options and costs thereof , or in their assessment of the impact that the proposed pylon route from Norwich to Tilbury will have on rural communities, the environment and the enormous disruption that this will cause to peoples' and communities' lives.

I understand the need for an increase in capacity of the grid, particularly in capturing and moving the energy produced from wind farms on the North Sea, but the sole proposal that has been identified by National Grid is of the overland and largely overground route with enormous pylons cutting an irreparable swathe through such precious rural countryside , and they have discounted the sensible offshore route with subsea cabling , which will give a much more co-ordinated result for our energy transmission without the terrible scars on the land. It would also enable land access at Bradwell, where there is already infrastructure in place at the decommissioned nuclear power site- a sensible solution where the power can be delivered much closer to where it is needed in London and the southeast.

I do not feel that their consultation has been adequate, or that they are actually listening to the impassioned responses that people have given. Indeed at one of our local information meetings, the representative that was provided by National Grid was barely able to answer any queries from attendees at the meeting, people whose land and lives are going to be blighted by these enormous pylons- the scale diagrams that were provided did not impart the true size and impact that the huge structures will have, and also the disruption in noise and traffic/earth moving machines, hedgerow and tree removal and natural destruction of habitat was not discussed or acknowledged. Solely that there would be 'restoration' of habitat- but this will take years to happen, so I do not think that they are being transparent in their dealings and information.

Their care for communities is very debatable, and I feel they are going to aim to literally bulldoze through their preferred route overland. This will be a desecration on the countryside and will have a seriously deleterious impact on rural organisations and communities that have been custodians of our beautiful land.

Please challenge National Grid on their business plan and ensure proper regulation in the way that your organisation is mandated to do

I look forward to seeing detailed, relevant and important responses to the consultations.

Yours sincerely

Anthea Williams

Angela Edgar

I understand you require views on National Grid's business plan.

From my perspective, they have just put out a plan for 'consultation' with no intention of listening to alternative suggestions. They are treating communities with disdain. They are not answering any questions relating to the pricing for the Norwich to Tilbury pylons, so it appears they either haven't quantified the project properly or don't want to be proven wrong.

Even over the last week they have put out information which corroborates what they have been told repeatedly for years relating to offshore cabling instead of pylons only to withdraw it within hours. To me that proves utter incompetence. The longer this charade continues, the more money is being wasted. No one wants their outdated pylons, from the people anywhere in the country, to those affected along the route. It's not the NIMBY reason constantly repeated (I don't have a back yard, I'm English so have a garden), it's consideration for countryside, farmers, wildlife as well as doing the right thing for the future to connect up a proper grid not an insane kids game of jack straws all around the country.

How can we trust them with anything, especially the multi millions of pounds worth of our money they continue to pocket.

I don't understand why the UK government are incapable of putting a competent procurement plan in place.

Angela Edgar

Richard Harrowven

Contrary to Ofgem's requirements, stakeholders are not at the heart of NGET's plans and investment in NGET's plans will come at the expense of the landscape, the rural economy and the environment. Consumers are placed at risk by the lack of appraisal of alternatives, the lack of transparency in costings and the refusal to follow Treasury Green Book guidance.

I do not believe that NGET has achieved an appropriate balance between competing interests. Impacted communities (particularly rural communities) and nature (which can be viewed as a stakeholder) are disproportionately affected and unheard. Current research shows that alternative transmission options to those proposed by NGET can achieve a better balance and can provide better economic value, environmental benefits, futureproofing and less risk. Instead, we risk seeing much infrastructure that is not fit for a net zero future and not value for money.

Community acceptance has not been demonstrated in East Anglia, where there exists extremely strong public support for alternatives to pylons and for full compensation for affected parties. Moreover, it confirms our suspicion that the general public simply has no idea of the level of pylons construction destruction (80m swathe of countryside destroyed along the entire length of the cable run), thus opinions in other surveys may be skewed in favour of pylons. The vast majority do not want to live near a pylon. These issues are of great importance to the general public, across regions, genders and age groups but have not been addressed in NGET's business plan.

NGET must revisit its Environmental Action Plan to include an evaluation of the natural capital, carbon and biodiversity impacts of projects and their alternatives. This analysis should comply with the Treasury Green Book guidance and must include do-nothing; upgrade existing grid using grid enhancing technologies; underground HVDC and coordination offshore (instead of piecemeal approach) NGET must demonstrate how it takes the Mitigation Hierarchy into account and must publish a biodiversity report in line with the government's biodiversity duty. Reports must be transparent and available for public scrutiny.

NGET must conduct a full and transparent economic evaluation, of options to include socio-economic impacts, natural capital and biodiversity impacts and carbon impacts of projects and alternatives, adhering to the Treasury Green Book. Stakeholders, including communities, must be part of the optioneering process to ensure fairer, faster decision-making. NGET should ensure innovation by applying global best practices to modernise the UK grid while minimising ecological and social disruption.

Richard Harrowven

Kate Tarn

Please take note

National Grid lack Transparency.

They refuse to look at alternatives

As a regulator it is your job to make sure that National Grid show the benefits of offshore coordination rather than piece meal pylons.

Offshore is cheaper, National Grid have even said it themselves!

Kind Regards

Kate Tarn

Andrew Malkin

I have attended several of National Grid's public consultation events, invitation-only meetings hosted by my MP and corresponded with National Grid. I have found NG personnel to be ill-informed and not able, or not willing, to provide answers to questions. There has been no response when NG personnel have promised to go away, investigate and return with answers. This lack of transparency has been an ongoing issue.

There has been a reliance on outdated methods and outdated costings and a reluctance to give more detailed information about how the costings have been arrived at. On occasions there has been conflicting information from different NG personnel.

The impact on the environment, even though it will be evident for generations, is way down the priorities list, with cost, and in particular the cheapest cost, paramount.

My experience of dealing with NG has been a bad one. At best a mantra is repeated, failing to address issues raised. At worst it has just ignored me.

Rural communities in Lincolnshire will be inordinately impacted by demand for energy in other parts of the country. NG is facilitating a mad rush to swamp Lincolnshire with new infrastructure such as large-scale solar developments which would generate many times more energy than we actually need.

This leads to a conclusion that the industrialisation and loss of prime food-growing land is for greed and profit.

Andrew Malkin,

Member of No Pylons Lincolnshire

Sonia Coode-Adams

You do not seem to have taken the environment into account at all with this plan for these enormous pylons. They will spoil so much - the hedges and trees which will have to be removed, the views will be completely spoiled and there will be no pleasure to be got from our countryside in the East.

Please do put the electricity underground, even if it costs more to begin with and initially disrupts everything just as much, in the long term it would be so much better for the country and for the electricity supply which would be much more stable especially with increasing winds and possible fires.

Please think very carefully about how you go forward - we are in your hands.

Yours sincerely

Sonia Coode-Adams MBE

PS: We have two pylons planned for our farm and they will be so disruptive for ever - underground would be so much better.

Giles Coode-Adams

The real problem is that NG are not open about their reasons for wanting pylons for Norwich to Tilbury.

They claim that under grounding is unto ten times more expensive when NESO said that over the life of a cable underground is comparable to pylons. Does NG take into account communities and the environment. The Government hints at compensation for those affected, but I would regard it as an insult if I were offered say£1000 for having a 50-meter pylon close to our listed house. We have spent nearly 40 years trying to improve the environment and as a result have come to LOVE our farm.

There are good alternatives to pylons. Why not go underground or better still under the sea?

You are the regulator. Why do you not use your powers? Do not be like OFWAT.

Giles Coode-Adams

Siobhan Clarke

I have been incredibly disappointed by the lack of transparency provided by national grid over their plans for pylons between Norwich and Tilbury. They continue to ignore better alternatives to pylons and refuse to acknowledge the findings that undergrounding cables using 'HVDC' technology all the way from Norwich to Tilbury is cheaper over the lifetime of the project than pylons. National Grid have also displayed complete disregard for the environment and the communities involved. HVDC undergrounding is far less destructive than traditional undergrounding. It requires fewer cables and less space

between them than the traditional, AC, undergrounding. That means a much narrower swathe is required. Surely it is time for the regulator to step in and take action?

Yours,

Siobhan Clarke

Lee Hickling

NGET's pledges to communities: it is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project: Not the case. NGET consulted local stakeholders only after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options.

Observations: Arrogant approach typical of company (NG) that hasn't been required to undergo any form of competitive tender process.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:

- for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons
- and integrated offshore grid. This has not been explored by NGET despite offering known cost-savings and reductions in infrastructure. Instead, an 'offshore solution' between Norwich & Tilbury was priced up but with very limited information and not consulted on.

Observations: Undergrounding appears to be discounted on the basis of cost (without proving it). Whatever solutions are deployed, and I agree it's badly needed, we shouldn't rush headlong into blighting the wonderful countryside of the UK with this short-term balance sheet exercise. This infrastructure will be around for decades to come, and NG will have plenty of time to recoup its investment, short term quick wins for its shareholders shouldn't override all else.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities.

Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project: The only 3D tools available have been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, these severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the N2T project.

Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees.

Observations: Poor presentations and serious lack of detail for such a major project with wide-ranging implications - very poor NG but no surprise.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project: We have set out since 2022 over three separate NGET consultations that we have serious concerns about NGET's consultations. We have three legal opinions to date which state that the process is legally deficient. We will shortly receive a consultation best practice review by Rhion Jones, the 'Consultation Guru'. And we have written our own extensive submissions about the flaws in the consultations and held two surveys of participants. Our reports can all be read here: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/reports/>

There is no community acceptance of the N2T proposal as presented. Community relations are very poor

Observations: I endorse the parish council's findings and the independent legal opinions - NG are effectively "steam rolling" this process through with a serious lack of respect for the residents of the wider community.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project: NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

Observations: NG have so far failed to engage the local communities other than to turn up and go through the motions. The whole process has so far been heavily scripted with NG representatives sticking to the company line.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project: We have had to push for inclusion of local Parish Council involvement. This was arranged by a local MP who agreed to chair with NG team.

Limited information or response to questions raised feeling of lip service only offered.

Observations: Agreed

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4

Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington EDN-2 Upgrade project:

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Non-publishment of Investment Decisions Pack, Engineering Justification Papers and CBA with the business plan for stakeholder scrutiny;
- Refusal of NGET to share risk register
- Refusal to share granular costings, need for Lincs CC to use legal letters to ask for info

- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines. You will find our letter to John Pettigrew in Appendix A.

Incorrect evidence supplied to NESO's East Anglia Study 2024, that a shortage of HVDC cables would delay an HVDC solution. Yet NGET's business plan shows it is managing supply successfully. With 14,000km of cable purchased, there is no reason why HVDC could not be used for N2T:

"In the case of HVDC orders, this has resulted in our supply chain partners investing in a new factory, a new ship and a significant expansion of a UK facility on the back of the long-term order book certainty we have given them." "£9bn HVDC frameworks to help us invest on an unprecedented scale across NGET and the National Grid Group. This includes procuring over 14,000km of cable, a third of global market capacity."

Please also see Appendix B for evidence that global HVDC suppliers are ramping up production to meet demand.

Observations: Completely agree with the parish councils' comments.

Overall, the approach from NG and indeed government has been to ignore the communities concerns and instead misuse their power to class everyone with a legitimate question as a "NIMBY". These so-called Nimbys are the people who will live with the consequences long after Ministers have left power and shareholders enjoy the profits at the cost of others. In my book that's not democracy, true we need the new distribution network, and I think you will find most people agree that it's required but not at the cost of blighting the countryside (especially when alternatives exist).

Michael Bowes

Throughout the consultation process National Grid has only ever consulted on one means of transmission - pylons.

There has been an active campaign in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex for it to examine alternatives. These have been ignored by National Grid but have been looked at by a number of MPs. The campaign has mainly focussed on an offshore option similar to the cabling that is currently in place from the wind farms in the North Sea to Europe. An integrated offshore grid would be cheaper in the long term and would reduce the impact on the public and the environment.

A recent survey by the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons team showed that people agreed overwhelmingly that:

- nature, countryside & food security should be protected in the grid upgrade;
- people & businesses should be fully compensated;
- pylons are the last resort. Our alternatives (upgrading existing grid, offshore grid, HVDC) were very popular.
- Only 13% said they would buy a house near a pylon, and
- the majority were unaware that a pylon construction swathe is up to 80m wide.

National Grid seems reluctant to examine more modern alternative forms of transmission and has only consulted on an old technology it is comfortable with. The current government appears to be impatient to get things done as quickly as possible and this may result in outdated method of transmission being built that has an impact on the environment for years to come.

It is essential that an independent review of offshore options is looked at before any final decision is taken.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Bowes

(on behalf of The Coggeshall Society)

Michael Taylor

I am significantly affected by the proposed Kintore to Tealing OHL (TKUP) plus substations. This project is part of an overall scheme to route electricity from NE Scotland to SE England and to export to the continent.

Please find below my comments about National Grid (NG) Electricity Transmission:

NG has not demonstrated that it has properly considered the alternatives to the TKUP project, specifically the option to run HVDC cables from NE Scotland to SE England. In the National Grid document "Pathway to 2030; Holistic Network Design" of July 2022, it was stated:

"The HND should ensure an economic, efficient, operable, sustainable and coordinated National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) (including onshore and offshore assets required to connect offshore wind) to present options, and a recommended HND for offshore connections works. This includes connections and associated strategic onshore

infrastructure necessary to connect offshore generation in order to facilitate the pace and certainty required to deliver the 2030 offshore wind targets and the 2045 and 2050 net zero targets."

"The HND ToR set out four network design objectives, which are to be considered on an equal footing:

- Economic and efficient costs – the network design should be economic and efficient.
- Deliverability and operability – the network design should be deliverable by 2030, and the resulting system should be safe, reliable and operable.
- Environmental impact – environmental impacts should be avoided, minimised or mitigated by the network design, and best practice in environmental management incorporated in the network design.
- Local communities impact – impacts on local communities should be avoided, minimised or mitigated by the network design."

This has clearly not been done. Why hasn't NG enforced this? Why hasn't OFGEM enforced this?

In FOI / EIR requests to NGESO and OFGEM in January 2024, I asked ""SEN are claiming that the decision to proceed with the OHL option was made by NGESO. Is this correct? If not, who made that decision?"

NGESO replied "ESO make investment recommendations such as our activities under licence condition C27. These investment recommendations can then be used by Transmission Owners to commence development of infrastructure. Whilst we provide a strategic needs case for investment, we do not replace any other regulatory or statutory obligations of any party developing or constructing infrastructure, such as optioneering activities, planning consent and consultation."

OFGEM replied "This is correct. The ESO identified the projects essential to achieving the 2030 targets, together with a high-level scope and a signal to proceed as part of Network Options Assessment refresh."

So, it appears that NGESO were not being truthful.

By failing to properly consider alternatives to the OHL, National Grid has failed to properly protect the environment. Since this proposal is to supply power for the anticipated growth in the use of electricity (heat pumps, EVs etc) and the anticipated reduction in use of gas, oil etc, it must consider the environmental impact of

decommissioning and removal of the relevant gas and oil facilities that would otherwise endure, eg Grangemouth, gas pipelines etc. I refer to the judgment on the Whitehaven coal mine: September 2024. I think this legal judgement would also apply to the mining of lithium and cobalt, and child labour etc. NG has failed to recognise that the UK does not source the materials required to make all the hardware from within

the UK. It comes from countries where unethical and exploitive mining takes place. It doesn't buy all the turbines, the pylons, the lithium batteries for

BESS etc – from countries where industry is carbon free. In fact, many, if not most, of the materials used in the materials and components we import come from unregulated countries such as the DRC, where child labour is the norm and toxic waste is something, the workers wade in so we can get our lithium and cobalt. And much comes from China, which has the greatest consumption emissions in the world.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Taylor

Charles Carron Brown

I am writing to express my views on National Grid's totally ill-conceived Business Plan. In my view it will be more expensive both to build and to maintain than they say, will take longer to achieve than they plan and will result in both social and environmental harm that they have not taken into consideration and will result in the permanent loss of much needed agricultural land.

In my dealing with NG on the proposed Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) overhead power line and the extension of Norwich Main substation I have found that they have quite clearly tried to cover up their true intentions and are lacking in transparency when dealing with the public.

In an online meeting with NG on the Norwich Main Substation an engineer claimed that the extension was needed to manage the connection of several energy projects including Orsted's Hornsea 3, Equinor's SEP and DEP, EDF's Bloys Grove Solar Farm and BESS and FPC Land Ltd's BESS and that the extension would be needed regardless of whether N2T was approved or not. However, when examining the plans submitted to South Norfolk it is clear that the major part of the extension to the west of the existing substation is for N2T to be connected as the connection points are shown on the drawings. The same layouts were used for the latest NG consultation on N2T as were used for the Substation extension planning application. Furthermore Hornsea 3, SEP and DEP and EDF are all

being connected to the eastern end of the substation as can be seen in their planning applications.

In a meeting with NG at Swardeston Village Hall for the N2T DCO application I pointed out to NG Staff that by applying to South Norfolk Council for the Substation extension, which clearly includes the connection for N2T, they were assuming that the N2T Project would be approved. They tried to deny this but were clearly embarrassed at this being pointed out.

Having received approval of the substation extension NG contractors have been undertaking site clearance since November 2024. In the process they have cut down a perfectly healthy oak tree on the southern edge of the site (see below). This oak was planted in the 1950s when the original substation was built. A slight movement of the substation extension would have obviated the need to cut it down. In addition, the site clearance has been poorly managed with the topsoil being rehandled multiple times before being finally stockpiled in one large dump which is over 3 m high. The Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites issued by DEFRA states "Multiple handling of soil materials increases the risk of damage to soil structure so should be minimised." Clearly NG have little consideration for the environment. In addition, the decision on what elevation to use for the site has resulted in extremely large stockpiles of subsoil that are not necessary. Better design and planning would have raised the site elevation sufficiently to avoid the need for any subsoil stockpiles and provided more space to allow the topsoil to be removed and deposited immediately in a permanent location in a lower stockpile. This poor planning has increased the cost of the site clearance and caused the less-than-optimal preservation of the topsoil. NG clearly only cares for the environmental when it doesn't cost them too much.

In the meeting with NG at Swardeston on the N2T proposal I asked what alternatives had been considered and specifically whether an offshore HVDC grid had been examined. I was given a report which purported to do this but on later examination found that the report examined a purely hypothetical concept of connecting Norwich Main to Tilbury via an underground HVDC connection to the coast near Gt Yarmouth and an undersea HVDC line to Tilbury. This ridiculous concept was of course very expensive as it entailed laying an underground cable through part of the Norfolk Broads. At no point did they show me any of the ESO studies that show that a co-ordinated offshore grid to be better cheaper overall and quicker than the radial approach preferred by NG. I can only assume that NG prefer the radial approach for their own commercial benefit as it will reduce the capital expenditure for them whilst increasing it for the windfarm builders. This, incidentally, will make offshore wind more expensive and result in higher bills for consumers. An offshore

grid with island connection points for the wind farm and undersea HVDC cables to Tilbury bring the power onshore at a brownfield site is the best and cheapest long-term solution.

In the same meeting with NG, I asked what additional capacity would be created by building N2T as they propose. They said it would be the same as the existing line i.e. 6.65GW. I then asked how this capacity would be filled. Their response was specious say that it would depend on which companies applied to connect. They were not concerned about the cumulative impact of these additional projects.

We already have two offshore windfarms, three BESSs and two solar farms connecting to Norwich Main which together will take up the capacity of the existing 400kV overhead line. The impact of these on Swainsthorpe and Swardeston will be major as can be seen from the attached map. If another overhead line is built, we can expect to double the number of connections and hence infrastructure around Norwich Main and this will destroy our villages and surround them with electrical substations, BESSs and solar farms. NG does not care about communities or the environment!

Kind regards

Charles

Charles Carron Brown

BSc (Eng), ARSM, MIMMM, C Eng.

Consulting Mining Engineer - Formerly Chairman and MD of the Kosovo Electrical Corporation

Luke Buckley

I am emailing as I do not find the decisions or plans the national grid have made about the project to be transparent, or that they have listened or even regarded the feedback from 1000s of residents affected by the pylons.

I do not believe the proposed pylon plan to be the best course of action for any parties involved, especially the natural environment which will be most affected by both the sound and impact of the project.

If the national grid cared about the environment or the communities, it is planning to impact it would provide clear evidence why their suggested option is better than that proposed by residents.

I have no direct experience dealing with the national grid as I do not feel they have made themselves readily available to discuss the issue with.

Kind regards.

Luke Buckley

Training & Quality Assurance Specialist

Richard Hawker

I have been extremely frustrated by the way National Grid have been approaching the issue of upgrading the electricity grid, particularly the provision of new lines to take power from offshore windfarms in East Anglia.

They have produced documents which have not been factual; Pylons East Anglia has been able to prove them wrong many times.

They appear to have been free to 'do their own thing', unfettered by any concern for those who live in this area. Surely, they are under an obligation to consider seriously those criticisms put to them by groups representing inhabitants; they have just not done this so far.

Please ensure they act in a responsible way in future.

Thank you very much.

Richard Hawker

Paul Wenden

National Grid have failed to engage in a meaningful way with those impacted by their pylon proposal - brushing aside a counter proposal for an integrated offshore grid that is better in all respects. They are citing cost and timescale in their rebuking of what appears the logical solution - which is actually false in both respects (as proven).

We owe it to our younger generation to protect the environment. We all agree decarbonising the grid is a good cause, but not to the detriment of the environment.

As the regulator for National Grid - please ensure they are transparent, acknowledge the real impact their proposals have on the environment and make them listen to what are essentially their customers.

Many thanks,

Paul Wenden

Mark Evans. Jnoad Limited Buiding Sevices

Regarding National grids proposals for the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon route.

It is our opinion that National Grid should start the design and consultation process again from the beginning.

National Grid have been far from transparent throughout the process

National Grid's currant proposals will have a massive detrimental effect to both the environment and the wellbeing of people along the entire route.

National Grid have not listened to the view of the public.

National Grid have a total disregard for the communities affected.

We would ask that the project is re-assessed.

Regards,

Mark Evans

Director

Stephen Jones

Firstly, I would like to make it clear that National Grid (NG) has not consulted people affected by their proposals. We have had a few forums that were essentially a marketing exercise for NG, selling us their plans. From the outset we were told that they had already done their homework and considered all other possibilities and pylons were the best, further they had also considered all routes and the one they were proposing was the only sensible one – only details of the exact location of pylons was to be decided and often there was only a few metres to play with.

NG has consistently failed to answer questions or delay answering and then with a misleading or untrue statement. We have been told all sorts of figures for the cost, especially of the alternative undersea option, the true height of the pylons has been obscured (initially we were told the same as the existing route i.e. about 30-32m) and now I even doubt the power that that the new lines will be transmitting because the upgrade of the existing lines has only been 50% of the figure NG stated.

NG has not properly considered important environmental issues and general disruption; they have said that construction will not affect any existing roads as they will build temporary ones along the route. Of course, these tracks have to cross existing roads, and significant hard standing areas are planned. The pylons themselves are not environmentally friendly but the digging of foundations and pouring of tonnes of concrete has been neatly overlooked.

NG staff have been very dismissive of concerns raised and quite critical of the beautiful areas that they will ruin, areas that we chose to live in and not overshadowed by huge ugly steel structures – that literally no one wants. (Even some NG staff have admitted that they would protest if it affected their environment, homes and equity). I have found some staff to be very rude criticising Norfolk as being flat and featureless and the people to be NIMBYs, personally I have been insulted by some staff and on one occasion an NG person finished his conversation with me by simply walking away (after he had delivered his insults).

As NG has deliberately misled us with inaccurate information, I feel that they just want to get the project approved and profit from the huge budget available with no regard for the people affected. I still cannot see how such a route can be so much cheaper than all the alternatives. We have been told how long the project will take and a key benefit is that it will create thousands of jobs lasting several years, whereas of course undersea cabling will not create so many jobs (but somehow will cost several times more). Also, undersea will require more than one cable – probably true but pylons carry several cables. Regarding underground routes we have been told that substations will be required every few hundred metres, but we already have miles of underground grid cable in Norfolk and no substations in between (e.g. Snetterton power station to Norwich). Even within NG a group concluded that an undersea option had many benefits over pylons, including lower cost and faster implementation and indeed NG as an organisation has generated publicity material, including a video supporting this but recently it has been conveniently removed from the internet after only about 24hrs. The overall behaviour of NG and lies (I don't use this word lightly) told suggest to me that NG are not interested in consulting or finding the best option, only the one that gives them most revenue and bolster their annual accounts. This behaviour is no good for anyone whether or not you live near the route and if NG get away with this project, I feel that worse will be to come in the future.

Kind regards,

Stephen Jones

Jonathan Weymouth

I understand that you are requesting views on the National Grid's Business Plan I would specifically comment as a resident of Writtle in Essex and the Ex-Chair of the production of the adopted Writtle Local Development Plan.

Writtle lies in the path of the proposed Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex Pylon route and the whole Parish is directly affected by it.

In their dealings with the Community, they have had no regard to that Local Plan which reflects how the Community, through extensive consultation, would see how the Parish should develop over the next 15 years. It should be noted that this is a forward-thinking document and not one which seeks to inhibit growth but encourage development in all its forms to proceed in an acceptable way. Pylons through the Parish, large areas of which are Green Belt and have extensive views, both in and out of the built area, which also have a large number of Heritage buildings are completely the wrong way to proceed by adopting a technical infrastructure system which is 70 years out of date

In this context, I would set out the following answers to the points below

- *Have you found National Grid to be transparent?* YES- but only that they have made it plain that a Pylon solution is the only solution. They have, not and will not, consider any other solution, even though it has been put to them many times that there are multiple options which should be fully considered, such as underground and under-sea. Therefore, they have not been transparent at all in the accepted way of fully discussing with consultees, why the Pylon route is the only way to go.
- *Does National Grid do the best thing for the environment?* NO- This appears to be generally disregarded and not looked at in a holistic manner. The majority of electricity in the future would appear to be generated in a "green solution,"but National Grid do not seem to be able to apply the same parameters to its distribution which in their world seems to be what they regard as the cheapest (as yet unproven by them) of overland pylons and cables. These affect not only landscapes and views, but wildlife and the greater eco systems upon which we all depend. Extending a little further, there is much talk about energy security, but there seems to be no similar discussion on food security and the effect which overland solutions will have on farming, both in the use of the highest quality farming land and the division of farms by these methods both of which reduces available acreage
- *What is your experience of dealing with National Grid?* They are patronising and pay mere lip service to points raised and refuse to meaningfully discuss alternatives. Their representatives at consultations are obviously briefed not to get into such discussions but usually refer endlessly to cost and bills to the consumer.
- *Does National Grid care about communities?* Please see my comments above as to the context of my remarks and their disregard to the adopted local plan. They appear to be unwilling to engage in any meaningful way, but merely to tick off

the procedural boxes (such as Number of consultations etc.) required to obtain their consents.

I do hope that the above comments are helpful and will be taken into proper consideration and that National Grid will modify their modus operandi to ensure that the best solutions are adopted for the future distribution of this vital infrastructure.

Regards

Jonathan Weymouth

Ex Chair Writtle Local Development Plan

Alan Wilde

I write to express dismay and dissatisfaction with the Consultation process conducted by National Grid on proposals to connect new offshore wind generation via pylons running from Norwich to Tilbury.

All along, NG has presented consultation as a tick-box exercise, neither listening to local communities nor prepared to consider alternative means of transmission that would reduce disruption, protect the countryside and the environment and save money. Every correspondence from NG reads like " we hear your objections, but this is going ahead regardless". That is NOT a consultation, and I am sure not following the letter of the law. Why can NG not share the alternative costs of transmission using underground or undersea cables used already in other projects around the UK? Why is there no costs priced in to fully compensate households for the degradation to property values? NG have been furtive and secretive throughout the process.

The untold damage to rural communities and the environment is incalculable. The east of England, including Constable country, is a rich heritage that attracts many tourists to enjoy the countryside, the wild habitat housing many species of animal, bird and insect and our coastal towns. This will be irreparably damaged by erecting pylons the height of 5 double-decker buses! The construction process alone will wreak havoc on the regions narrow, windy roads and cement to anchor the pylons is one of the highest CO2 emitters - causing environmental damage to the planet under the guise of achieving the opposite effect!

NG has churned out much information and repeated questionnaires ad nauseam but is not listening to individuals or the groups formed to protest and encourage an alternative, less harmful transmission plan. This rides roughshod over the purpose of Consultations -

to hear and respect the views of the communities most impacted and then to reformulate a plan mitigating the issues raised - all of which are genuine!

Let me say, I am on favour of net zero and promoting viable alternative energy to fossil fuels - but not at any cost and certainly not at the cost of rural communities in the southeast who choose to live in green belt land for good reasons. NG must not be able to wreck our countryside and damage the emotional well-being of all of us who live here. Or at least not without adequate compensation! But if fully and fairly costed this would then change NG's assertions that pylons are the cheapest way to transmit offshore to onshore. Nor should NG be able to claim that only a small percentage of residents of the SE of England have registered protest. That metric should be evaluated as "the proportion of people directly impacted by the erection of pylons who have registered opposition to the current plan". The others will wake up when there are 40 lorries a day carrying cement past their doorsteps and adding to traffic congestion and pollution!

NG need to properly consult and listen to those of us who have researched this project and offered alternative solutions before any green light is given.

Yours Sincerely

Alan & Jacqueline Wilde

Erik Ellis

I wish to make the following comments about National Grid Electricity Transmission and the way they operate and interact with the public

Transparency

Through recent consultations I have not found any degree of transparency in their dealings and consultation with the public. At Consultation events, they do not have enough NG employees and those that are there are either unable or unwilling to answer some of the questions. In fact, asking the same question at 3 different events elicit 3 different answers!!

In a current targeted consultation, the paper maps provided are not of a sufficient scale and do not have sufficient detail to fully evaluate the changes. All communications have started from their preconceived ideas. If they are challenged about anything using their own YouTube posted videos, they just remove the video!!!!

Their transparency is at exactly the same level as a house brick!!!!

Environment

It is clear that NG pays lip service to the insect, mama, reptile and plant environment with the huge number of studies provided in consultations. It is also very clear that NG pay no attention to the visual and landscape environment by proposing plants that are solely price driven, made with ought a thought about the people who will have to live with the effects of this price driven view.

Community

From my experiences with NG, lip service is paid when consulting but there is obviously no real care about communities and the underlying attitude makes it very clear that you will get what you are given - not an attitude of we will listen and take things on board. The answer half the questions before they ask them in consultation, so the plan always follows the preconceived idea.

OFGEM - please do your job and regulate this company before it ruins Great Britain's countryside with the driving force being profit, not people.

Yours faithfully

Erik Ellis

Philip Barnes

I find it absolutely appalling how you are allowing National Grid to lie and misinform over its grid upgrade in East Anglia.

Lets start with the fact that Norwich does not produce any electricity at all.

You are allowing National Grids suppliers to bury cables 40 miles from North Norfolk coast and 37 miles from the East coast to South Norwich, which strategic plan was this in, did you approve it? National Grid has to provide a strategic plan every 2 years as part of their licence, so where was it?

Then they plan for pylons to London where the electricity is required, it should have gone straight to the Thames estuary via the North Sea.

A massive strategic error, especially when you see National Grids videos promoting strategic offshore grid (which they have now removed from public view - you couldn't make it up!)

Now National Grid are making clear misleading statements, they told me at one of their consultations that "its Ofgem's fault we have to use pylons".

They refuse to go into any detail costings on this and the alternatives. You have the powers to make them disclose their costings as your site states "We have the power to require disclosure of information, and to impose fines and enforcement orders on companies where we find that a breach has occurred."

You have not challenged their assumptions at all. When asked about compensation to farmers, businesses and households they refuse to answer - why? Come on get a grip. You are there to protect consumers against a private company which is in a monopoly position, we are all consumers, and you are doing nothing to ensure we have all the information that is transparent and challenged by independent experts, not those reporting to the Government.

I want to know why in January BBC Breakfast visited the generating operational centre and reported 58% of electricity was being produced by our "clean and cheap renewables". On the very same day you announced the price of electricity was going up by 10%. How does that work? You say it's the price of gas but if 58% is produced by cheap means and growing how can it keep going up. We are being misled, and someone is making a vast profit, even companies that only use renewables are charging the same price.

I saw your Chairman on BBC Breakfast in January. One could have been confused in to thinking he was the Chairman of National Grid.

One has to marvel at the drive for net zero, I liken it to the UK paying a massive price to have a dripping tap rectified in a drought whilst our neighbours USA, China and India have all their lawn sprinklers running 24 hours a day. We will bankrupt ourselves for very little impact.

Please do your job otherwise there is no need for you, you are only a cost.

Philip Barnes

John Baldwin. CNG Services

This is not a formal response to the RIIO-3 Consultation, but it is interesting to see what ChatGPT came up with. We focus on biomethane, but Chat is probably an expert in everything!

Regards

John

ChatGPT:

Biomethane in the Five Business Plans

Each of the business plans highlights biomethane as a key component in transitioning to a low-carbon gas network. Below is a summary of their approaches:

1. SGN (Scotland & Southern Gas Networks)

SGN connected the first biomethane plant to the UK grid in 2010 and now has 42 plants connected.

It aims to prioritize biomethane injection over natural gas, ensuring an efficient and standardized connection process.

Plans include developing a regulatory framework that secures biomethane entry capacity akin to natural gas supply standards.

SGN has proposed an investment of £7.3 million for eight biomethane roll-out projects in the next regulatory period.

The company recognizes the increasing demand for reinforcement to accommodate additional biomethane injections.

2. Cadent Gas

Cadent currently has 45 biomethane plants connected to its network, supplying over 3 TWh of green gas (enough for 300,000 homes).

The company aims to facilitate more biomethane connections by transforming its connection process and implementing new charging structures.

By 2032, Cadent expects biomethane potential across the UK to reach 30 TWh.

It seeks to remove barriers to biomethane expansion by socializing the costs of reinforcing the network to support higher injection volumes.

A major focus is optimizing digital forecasting tools to integrate biomethane with overall energy system planning.

3. National Gas Transmission (NGT)

NGT supports biomethane expansion on the national transmission system (NTS) and aims to streamline the connection process.

A major bottleneck is the £1.5-2 million initial connection charge and long timelines (up to three years).

The company has identified 51 new biomethane sites, representing an additional 3.8 TWh of capacity by 2030.

NGT is working with the government to improve biomethane policies and reduce connection costs.

4. Wales & West Utilities (WWU)

WWU's plan emphasizes the importance of biomethane in achieving net zero emissions.

The company is exploring how to integrate biomethane effectively into its existing network without requiring significant infrastructure modifications.

5. Northern Gas Networks (NGN)

NGN is focusing on reducing barriers to biomethane entry through regulatory improvements and industry collaboration.

The company sees biomethane as a cost-effective alternative to hydrogen, particularly for decarbonizing heating in rural areas.

NGN is also exploring hydrogen blending alongside biomethane injections.

Key Trends Across All Plans

Biomethane Growth: Networks are increasingly focusing on biomethane as an immediate and scalable low-carbon gas solution.

Regulatory Adjustments: Companies are advocating for changes in charging structures and connection policies to improve biomethane integration.

Investment & Expansion: Significant funding is being allocated to reinforce networks to accommodate higher biomethane flows.

Complementary Role to Hydrogen: While biomethane is a near-term solution, companies are also exploring hydrogen as a long-term transition strategy.

Chat says:

Would you like a deeper dive into any specific aspect, such as regulatory barriers, cost projections, or integration strategies?

Please draft a response to the business plans

I have drafted a response to the business plans, addressing key concerns and providing recommendations to enhance biomethane integration. Let me know if you would like any refinements or additional details.

Response to RIIO-3 Business Plans on Biomethane

Introduction

The RIIO-3 business plans submitted by SGN, Cadent Gas, National Gas Transmission (NGT), Wales & West Utilities (WWU), and Northern Gas Networks (NGN) collectively outline ambitious goals for integrating biomethane into the UK's gas infrastructure. We

acknowledge the substantial efforts made by these networks to facilitate the transition towards a low-carbon future, recognizing biomethane's role in reducing carbon emissions and supporting energy security.

However, several key challenges and areas for improvement need to be addressed to maximize biomethane's potential as a viable and scalable renewable gas solution.

Key Observations and Concerns

1. Network Reinforcement and Connection Barriers

While SGN, Cadent, and NGT have recognized the need for network reinforcements to accommodate additional biomethane injections, the costs associated with these upgrades remain a major barrier.

The high initial connection charges (e.g., £1.5–2 million per connection for NGT) and prolonged timelines (up to three years) are deterrents for prospective biomethane producers.

A more structured approach is required to standardize and socialize these costs across all network operators to ensure fair access for new biomethane producers.

2. Regulatory and Policy Framework Adjustments

SGN and Cadent propose a regulatory framework that secures biomethane entry capacity akin to natural gas supply standards. This approach is commendable and should be uniformly applied across all networks to provide consistency and predictability.

Ofgem should work closely with industry stakeholders to introduce a national biomethane injection incentive scheme that aligns with the UK's broader net-zero goals.

3. Coordination Between Networks and the National Grid

The business plans reflect a fragmented approach to biomethane integration, with each network operator pursuing independent strategies.

A unified Biomethane Integration Strategy should be developed, aligning transmission (NGT) and distribution (Cadent, SGN, NGN, WWU) operators to ensure seamless biomethane transport across the country.

Establishing a centralized biomethane capacity register would help track available capacity across networks, reducing uncertainty for new connections.

4. Technological and Digital Advancements

Cadent's proposal to enhance digital forecasting tools is a positive step toward optimizing biomethane integration into the gas system.

More investment is needed in real-time monitoring and control systems to dynamically manage biomethane injections and avoid unnecessary curtailment.

Research into advanced gas quality measurement technologies should be prioritized to reduce connection costs and improve efficiency.

5. Long-Term Role of Biomethane vs. Hydrogen

NGN and NGT emphasize hydrogen blending as a long-term solution, with biomethane acting as an interim measure.

While hydrogen has potential, biomethane should not be treated as a temporary solution but as a complementary technology within a diversified low-carbon gas strategy.

Future policies should recognize biomethane as a critical long-term renewable energy source, particularly for hard-to-electrify sectors such as industrial heating and transport.

Recommendations for Improvement

Introduce a standardized, cost-effective biomethane connection process across all networks to reduce financial barriers and connection timelines.

Develop a national biomethane injection framework that ensures coordinated expansion, balancing local distribution capacity with national transmission needs.

Enhance digitalization and automation in biomethane integration through AI-driven forecasting, real-time monitoring, and predictive maintenance.

Encourage investment in biomethane production scalability, including anaerobic digestion and gasification projects, by providing clearer financial incentives.

Align biomethane incentives with the UK's broader decarbonization strategy, ensuring that its role in reducing emissions is adequately recognized.

Conclusion

The RIIO-3 business plans demonstrate a strong commitment to biomethane, but further refinements are necessary to unlock its full potential. Addressing regulatory barriers, improving coordination across networks, and investing in technology will be critical to ensuring that biomethane becomes a key pillar of the UK's net-zero transition. By implementing these recommendations, the gas network operators can create a more robust, resilient, and low-carbon gas infrastructure that benefits both consumers and the environment.

Nick Ireland

I have not found National Grid to be transparent at all, quite the opposite in fact. When we visited an open day to display how and where the Friston substation was to be built, the size of the structure was shown as very small on their maps, it is in fact huge, so they lied to us. There was also no mention of the height, and nobody could give us an answer either, again we felt we were being duped.

National Grid doesn't do the best thing for the environment, if it did it wouldn't even consider destroying miles of countryside and concreting over green field (food crop fields) to build a substation, converter stations and cabling trenches as wide as the M11, rather than minimal disruption to the seabed at source. It is criminal that they are even considering this. Why is it that recently NG was showing a video on its website announcing the offshore option is cheaper and more efficient, but that has now been taken down? Again, we are being lied to.

NG clearly doesn't care about communities. Here in Friston we have complete peace and quiet, no light or noise pollution, and beautiful countryside. NG is now in the process of destroying that. They also have caused one resident to take his own life as his home was to be surrounded by the substation, and he'd recently been written to telling him he'd lose part of his garden. We also have a thriving holiday home trade here, that will disappear when the local countryside is blighted, and we have light and noise pollution. NG doesn't care that people's livelihoods will be affected, as well as their mental health. They seem to be a law unto themselves.

Regards

Mr N.G Ireland

Nikki Maguire

I hope this finds you all well.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have my say about National Grid ET and their so-called consultations (consultation means giving options, we just had the pylons option! Which National Grid has decided to use in East Anglia whereas elsewhere in the UK they get an offshore grid – how does NG make up the rules when consumers are paying?)and who is scrutinising these projects?

While I am totally on board with green energy and not being reliant on other countries for our energy supply – I cannot see how trashing our beautiful countryside is the answer! Ripping out millions of trees and hedges is so destructive and digging swaths of land (over 200m WIDE trenches through AONB in Dedham for HVAC undergrounding) is

reckless, the harm certainly outweighs the benefits of these projects.

I feel National Grid have been very elusive with the truth at consultation stage; by producing documents with 1000's of pages is virtually impossible to reach any answer. I also understand National Grid is a private company and needs to make a profit but why isn't an independent audit being carried out to check costings (this will be another overspend like the railway). When I attend National Grid's consultations over the past two and a half years they were unable to answer questions like :-

Will the EMF from pylons have an effect on pacemakers (personal question), microwaves and halogen hobs have effects on pacemakers so surely a pylon that's carrying 400kV that's 150m from my home will have some affect?

What is the true cost of pylons (backchecking other pylons projects like Hinkley (similar proportions to N2T to scale up) shows there is no way NG can build 184km of pylon for as little as £900m – it would be more likely £2.5bn in today's money.

What is the true cost of a PROPER offshore grid, not National Grid strawman approach – their own video (attached) states interconnectors are cheaper and quicker to build... and better for coastal communities – do the people of East Anglia not matter or does NG not realise East Anglia is on the coast and people live there!!

Also, NG's offshore cost estimates are '5xs to 10xs' more than the cost of pylons is a ridiculous analogy. If they priced offshore correctly, ie: ONE landing point like Tilbury or Bradwell (brownfield site) instead of their absurd, expensive idea of landing in Norfolk returning to seabed, then landing in Tendring and again returning to seabed before hitting Tilbury, of course that will be more expensive (their own video states this...), they're actually doubling up on infrastructure needed (causing more harm to the environment – on the seabed and on land). Again, annoyingly nobody seems to be independently checking these figures to see which is the best option for the consumer – we are the ones paying for this infrastructure and if we are paying how do some areas get an offshore grid and others do not (again video attached reinforces an offshore grid is better for communities, environment and is cheaper and quicker to build)?

Unfortunately, National Grid has removed video from their site (not very community friendly), why?

Why isn't National Grid being made to use 'Treasury Green Book' (book hasn't been

opened because NG said it doesn't apply to them...who does it apply to??) so that all elements are measured like :- BNG, community benefits, 40% contingency (NG have only allowed 10% even though this is there largest project to date), house and business impact and natural capital impact.

Finally, I have also attached a report called 'Leaders not Laggards' written by founder of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk pylons showing better ways to carry energy around our beautiful countryside without trashing it to death.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind Regards,
Nikki Maguire,

Mandy Pratt

I wanted to have my say because I feel completely ignored by Ofgem. I have attended meetings and talked at length with Ofgem representatives regarding my concerns for the impact on the environment right across this pylon route, but specifically through the village of Ardleigh.

This previously quiet village is expected to house the enormous substation and associated infrastructure (with its ongoing fleet of HGVs) as well as two lines of these vast pylons. This requires uprooting an entire wood (recently planted) as well as passing within metres of our primary school and traversing productive farmland.

The alternative offshore route has been discarded without any consideration despite proposed savings of £2billion! This is not small change but is clearly not worth revisiting contracts drawn up in haste.

Your representatives smile, nod and walk away. This is exactly what the entire organisation is doing, clearly disregarding any and all opposition. WHY?

Regards
Mandy Pratt

Paul Whiteman

National Grid are totally transparent in that their aims are twofold a) to maximise bonus payments to John Pettigrew and his fellow directors and b) then pay increased dividends to their largely foreign investors.

They have only submitted one route for SEALINK with no alternatives and they have confirmed to me that this is the cheapest option even though this will do irreparable damage to the wildlife and nature reserves of Kent and Suffolk. Unfortunately, they have managed to secure the services and support of Ed Miliband in order to achieve their objectives. They could go offshore as in being done in Belgium by Heerema for Tennet (National Grid equivalent companying Belgium) but unfortunately, National Grid are using old technology because they have paid their directors too much in bonuses and their shareholders too much in dividends. A big problem when a company has a monopoly. They should be nationalised and then the UK can have a proper energy plan that fulfils the needs of the citizens of the UK rather than the pockets of a few UK Directors and foreign investors.

National Grid dug up Pegwell Bay 5 years ago and the damage they caused can still be seen. They promise mitigation but they do not deliver. They are proposing to replace a wetland on Minster Marshes with a field which is bordered by offices and a main road which is totally unsuitable for nocturnal animals and birds and also creatures which currently thrive in wet or moist conditions. They care absolutely nothing for the environment and their promises are not worth the piece of paper they are written on.

I have sent many emails to them, and I have have their stock replies ignoring my specific questions, probably generated by AI which did not address my concerns. John Pettigrew never replies. No doubt he will be Sir John Pettigrew at the end of this process. This is a man who was paid £600,000 relocation expenses to move house from Warwick to London when he took the CEO job (internal promotion so he is not the best of the best). He also holds \$22.08m in NG shares and annual earnings of £7m.

Surely this is a conflict of interest as the cheaper the cost of SEALINK the more he gets paid? Why is there not an independent body looking at what the UK needs energywise and how best to provide it? Can you do something about it? Ed Miliband and John Pettigrew are too close! They have been meeting for at least two years and neither of them care about the environment. This project is about vanity and money and zero benefit to the taxpayers and bill payers of the UK. The price of green energy is too great if it destroys places like Pegwell Bay; Minster Marshes and good agricultural land.

If National Grid or the Labour Government cared about local communities SEALINK would have been relocated to more appropriate sites which have less impact on the environment. After National Grid UK showed their initial plan to the local community, they responded to the negative feedback with an amended plan which has and even larger Converter Station and an additional proposal to use Pegwell Bay as a lorry park for 4 years while they build it. This is typical of their arrogance. NG are abusing their

monopoly position and the fact that Ed Miliband needs a quick fix to achieve his target of Net Zero 30. Which won't be achieved anyway.

The Government is now looking to reduce the democratic powers of local communities in order to destroy the environment and National Grid will take advantage of this and will no doubt attack you if you challenge this project.

In the Labour Manifesto there was very little about the environment, but it did say they would protect wetlands so why aren't they protecting Minster Marshes?

On 2nd February it was World Wetlands Day set up by the UN to raise awareness of wetlands as they are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaption.

Replacing Minster Marshes with a farmer's field shows that John Pettigrew is only interested in the money he himself can make from this project.

On National Grid's website it specifically states that building Converter stations on Wetlands is unsafe so why are they proposing to build on Minster Marshes?

What real powers have you got? Can you get National Grid to RETHINK SEALINK?

Have you got teeth or are you a paper tiger?

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Paul Whiteman

Phil Price

I have just learned that you have opened a 'Call for Evidence' with regards to RIIO3 where you invite the views of various groups, organisations and individuals.

I'm a consumer of both gas and electricity delivered to me by National Grid - I am utterly alarmed at how National Grid have pursued their blinkered approach to the East Anglian section of the 'Great Grid Upgrade' - namely the Norwich to Tilbury power delivery using 112 miles of 50m tall overhead pylons.

Despite countless challenges by campaign groups (such as Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons), government officials and individuals, National Grid seem hell bent on pushing through with this piece meal and radial designed approach - despite there being many other possible solutions for this project which not only offer a potential financial advantage but do not destroy large swathes of beautiful countryside found in our region.

I am asking OFGEM to take National Grid to task and challenge them on this and ask them to do the right thing and consider these other practical and sensible solutions.

I have attended several seminars and consultation events that NG have provided and find that the general response/answers received suggest very strong that NG:

- Are Not being transparent - they refuse to provide detailed information on their costings! How can anyone believe them if they fail to back up their claims with facts?
- Have little regard for the environment - not only will the pylons be a huge eye-sore but the building of them will cause massive damage to the countryside
- Have little regard for communities within East Anglia - otherwise they would listen to us and engage us in sensible and constructive dialogue regarding the alternatives

I'd be interested to know what your experience of dealing with National Grid is - hopefully not as negative and utterly frustrating as the dealings I've had with them...

Please take them to task and get them to come to the table and talk to us....

Your sincerely, from a very concerned and disgruntled resident of Suffolk - Phil Price

Ann Candeloro

My experience with the Chesterfield to Willington, Sector 5 - Ockbrook to Aston on Trent project, non-statutory consultation.

Have you found the National Grid to be transparent?

- I found the non-statutory consultation delivered as a 'tick box' exercise.
- Information sharing events were scheduled mid-afternoon, at sites that many could not attend due to travel and work commitments.
- I requested 45 copies of the feedback document; we had to chase the Project group for these. I then delivered a total of 66 copies to people in my village. The prepaid envelope to return the feedback document was half the size of the document, in effect a barrier to submitting.
- The online feedback submission was convoluted, and a layperson could miss the email link easily, the system went down prior to the submission deadline.
- The Project Group are stating 2500 feedback received which seems incredibly low.

Does National Grid do the best thing for the environment?

- In my opinion It would appear not, as they seem determined to implement the overhead transmission, despite community objections to the impact on the environment-Landscape and visual, historic and ecological. Action groups have suggested a combined transmission and utilisation of the existing network.
- National Grid continually quote that overhead transmission is 5 times cheaper than alternative methods, having researched this action groups would appreciate up to date costings and comparisons that show the fixed build cost, variable build cost, variable operating costs, Lifetime costs and energy loss data as there is an energy loss with overhead transmission. National Grid need to demonstrate a long-term return on investment including environmental costs.
- National Grid also need to consider the use of overhead transmission in light of the increase in frequency and ferocity of storms.
- The Great Grid Upgrade – 15 different projects- is positioned as a green initiative to attain Net Zero by 2030. Communities fully endorse and understand the need to achieve Net Zero – however this is achieved in the Supply stage, the Great Grid Upgrade is about transmission, and they plan to install three 50Ft pylons per KM, circa 180 pylons in my Sector alone. Where is the steel for these being sourced and what impact does that have on the global carbon footprint?

What is your experience of dealing with National Grid?

- I attended an 'information sharing event at Borrowash Village Hall in July 2024, where National Grid representatives handed out documents showing the proposed swathe.
- Both Farooq and Sarah were ill informed, Farooq explained that Dr Paul Golby was privatising rail when I asked about Dr Golbys appointment as the chair of NESO, I was surprised to hear he was privatising the railway having worked in both Powergen and EON with Paul Golby as my CEO!
- Sarah introduced herself as an engineer but was unaware of the access issues to the locations where the proposed pylons will be built, both Farooq and Sarah showed not empathy when we discussed the flood risk and health impact associated with living in close vicinity to pylons.
- All NG representative continually referenced the Electricity Networks National Policy statement (EN-5) categories. On reading these documents it appears that planning and decision making was taking place in Jan 2022.' Following your

original technical, environmental and socio-economic assessment EDN-2 Chesterfield to Ratcliffe on Soar was selected as the most economic reinforcement -Jan 2022 you received a 'hold' signal on EDN-2 as the earliest in-service date was 2031.'

- The Project Group act as a barrier, in fairness they do respond in a timely manner, but the information is vague. I have corresponded asking for an update on the feedback and dates for the statutory consultation but have now been advised that this will be later 2025. This is concerning as I dialled into a recent meeting in the House of Lords where discussion was around the planning and consent review and Land Rights. Rob Salter-Church, Director of Regulation, National Grid Electricity Transmission represented National Grid in the discussion and wanted to refine the process to remove barriers, and ensure that NESO would not be at risk of legal challenge? Rob stated that NG face a huge challenge with delays and was keen to commence work in 2026
- 'The Great Grid Upgrade – questions answered' video on the website is condescending with Sarah and Peter treating the issues in a very light-hearted way. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aq62hjfSPM>

Does National Grid care about communities?

- Rob Salter-Church stated to the Lords that National Grid are 'Committed to Community Benefit'. The Lords questioned the local incentives within the Viking Link Project and asked if these were the way forward, the response was not one size fits all and communities that 'host' the new infrastructure would see incentives to make sure value goes to local communities?
- Questions were raised about compulsory purchase orders and Rob Salter-Church assured the House that National Grid secure land on a voluntary basis using Compulsory Purchase Order as a last resort, he quoted usage at 1%, but didn't have the figures to hand.

Kind regards

Ann Candeloro

Joanna Heath

I fear once more that a complicated problem is being solved by simple solutions ... which are wrong.

I've become involved in the topic of National Power partly because it is in my back yard. However, the more I learn the more I fear we are going down the wrong path which will have catastrophic future effects. I suspect the easiest route is being chosen to tick the box.

We have a national emergency, and it is not being taken seriously - there is a lack of consideration of alternatives and lack of professionalism in the projects proposed.

There appears to be no overall plan. Individual projects are not joined up - this splits communities who just dispute the one in their region. Divide and conquer.

From my experience, information is being cherry picked to suit the cause of each project. Things are being looked at in isolation without considering the whole picture. Information is often out of date (eg risks to community health) or things are being over simplified (e.g. costing of projects exclude any costs relating to damage to the environment, house prices, mental and physical health of people nearby, loss in tourism etc etc.)

The engineering used in proposed projects is using old technology unlike Europe who are using best practice. Why is undergrounding or offshore not being seriously considered? Evidence that I have seen from independent sources (without another agenda) show that these are cheaper options when looked at over the whole network and lifetime of the project and importantly are much less damaging to the environment.

Communities are not being properly listened to. The consultation process is a joke. We are not being heard. I fear for Democracy.

In summary, we need a much more professional approach from an independent source that covers the whole grid. Modern technology must be employed and full costs considered, financial and otherwise. Everything is being rushed; we need to get this right.

Resident in Drumoak

Stephen Barr

I am very distressed that National Grid clearly thinks that pylons is the only option. It will cause immense damage to the countryside which generations ahead will have to live with.

- nature, countryside & food security should be protected in the grid upgrade;
- people & businesses should be fully compensated;

- pylons are the last resort. Our alternatives (upgrading existing grid, offshore grid, HVDC) were very popular. No credible alternative is being considered by National Grid
- Only 13% said they would buy a house near a pylon, and
- the majority were unaware that a pylon construction swathe is up to 80m wide.

Please listen to what people in the countryside are saying and do your job as the Regulator.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Barr

Andrew Willoughby

I write to register my objection to the obfuscation of National Grid - there has been a shocking lack of transparency. Consultations have been held locally on different schemes to be carried out by different contractors. At no point has the cumulative impact on my local area, East Lindsey, been made clear.

Also, NG's reluctance to respond to legitimate questions on, for example, its costing methods in considering alternative schemes (underground, offshore, etc) is shocking.

The destruction of large swathes of East Lincolnshire through construction of pylons, vast substations, solar farms, etc is a source of great concern. This shows disdain for local communities who are being ridden over rough-shod. The Government's pronouncements that I and other concerned residents are merely 'nimbies' and 'blockers' show that we are just being seen as collateral damage.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Willoughby

Marina Brown

I refer to communications with regards to NG's proposed substation and battery plant at Minster Marshes and cables running from Suffolk and through Pegwell Bay.

NG have not been transparent in informing people around this issue. They are not taking into account the importance of Minster Marshes and Pegwell Bay at all. There are endangered birds on the Red List, Owls of all types, wading birds, beaver activity, migratory birds that feed at Pegwell and when the tide is in, they move to Minster

Marshes. Flora and other wildlife are utterly important. I'm sick of hearing 'newts and bats' as a way of informing the unimportance. By the way they are there.

Communities are not kept up to date at all. It seems to be landowners or farmers.

Cheap option in our case in Thanet. Marsh Land, it floods!!!! Peculiar to even contemplate such a structure.

M E Brown

Geoffrey Lazeli

I write as the owner of a Grade II Listed property located in the Waveney Valley, in Bressingham in South Norfolk and as a supporter of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk "Say NO to Pylons" campaign group, <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/> As such, I consider that I have a valid interest in this 'call for evidence' as one of a great many residents and other community stakeholders who will be adversely affected by NGET's proposed Norwich to Tilbury (N2T) 'Great Grid Upgrade' across East Anglia. As I understand it, the function of your organisation is to regulate the energy supply industry in the UK and to ensure accountability and oversight. The Business Plan for this project appears to be deeply flawed in numerous respects and it is the purpose of this submission to clearly demonstrate such. I will confine my comments to this particular project and leave any views on NGET's wider national plan to those better qualified than I to express them.

I have been asked to address the following questions in order:

- Have you found National Grid to be transparent?
- Does National Grid do the best thing for the environment?
- What is your experience of dealing with National Grid?
- Does National Grid care about communities?

1. Have you found National Grid to be transparent? Despite what can best be described as a thoroughly disingenuous 'PR' campaign, thinly disguised as a series of non-statutory and statutory 'Public Information Events' (PIEs), the only transparency displayed by NG has been the presentation of a 'fait accompli' in presumption of pylons as not just the preferred option but the only option. It is true to say that NG has been very professional in creating the illusion of transparency, but the widely perceived reality is far different. One fundamental example of this is the refusal to disclose detailed pylon costs!

2. Does National Grid do the best thing for the environment? The short answer to this is a very clear 'No', as easily demonstrated by the intention to drive the pylon swathe

through a narrow 550 metre gap between the SSSI of Wortham Ling and the LNR of Roydon Fen in our beautiful Waveney Valley. This is a recognised wildlife corridor which adjoins the Ramsar site of Redgrave & Lopham Fen at the source of the River Waveney and this entire stretch has been designated as a 'Valued Landscape' in a report commissioned jointly by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils. Despite the supposed environmental protection one might assume such designations would afford, NG displays a disdainful disregard towards the plethora of environmental concerns raised during the so-called 'consultation' process. Even the briefly considered 'Waveney Valley Alternative' proposed by NG for undergrounding across the valley has been abandoned without any detailed explanation.

3. What is your experience of dealing with National Grid? Whilst the various discussions I have had with the NG project management team at the numerous PIEs which I have attended have been conducted politely and respectfully, these have all taken place within an atmosphere of pylons being a 'done deal' and thus the pre-emptive dismissal of consideration of any alternatives. Much technical information has been provided, but always focussed only upon the presumption of pylons, in direct contravention of Rules 1 & 4 of the Gunning Principles and the guidance set out in the Treasury Green Book.

There has certainly been an absence of meaningful consultation regarding the two fully-costed and independently assessed alternatives put forward by our campaign group: No. 1 being a fully integrated offshore grid with landfall at the disused brownfield site at Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex and then onward transmission via the existing unused overhead transmission line to Rayleigh - a mere 22 km from Tilbury; Or No. 2 being underground HVDC cabling for the entire N2T route, running initially from Norwich to Bramford beneath the existing and recently upgraded 400kv overhead line, thus causing minimal disruption to communities, less environmental harms, greater ease of access for construction and ongoing maintenance, lower or comparative costs and enhanced security. NG steadfastly refuses to consider either of these options - despite having recently purchased 14,000km of HVDC cable and producing (somewhat perversely it seems) a promotional video extolling the virtues of an integrated offshore grid! That this was taken down within days of its launch following pertinent questions from our group, speaks volumes as to both the corporate incompetence and breath-taking hypocrisy of NG.

4. Does National Grid care about communities? Judging by the collective experience of some 13,000 individuals who have lodged their objections to this egregious N2T proposal and the 38,000 signatories of the 'Say NO' petition, it would appear not. Despite providing ample proof that the NG Business Plan for this project is fallacious on many levels, the numerous adversely affected communities along the entire 180km route have

been unable to penetrate the intransigence of the company's management. There has been no meaningful discussion regarding alternatives, only vague references to 'community benefits' and 'electricity bill discounts for those immediately affected' - both of which are widely considered to be nothing short of insulting attempts at bribery. If NG did genuinely care about communities, it would proactively engage with them in order to find a less intrusive solution to this problem. The generation of this electricity by offshore wind farms may well be considered 'Green' - but it's environmentally devastating transmission over our beautiful countryside is decidedly 'black'.

To conclude this submission, I would respectfully remind Ofgem of its role in the energy generation challenges this country faces. According to your own website, "**Our role is to protect consumers by working to deliver a greener, fairer energy system**". Your introduction goes on: "**We are responsible for enabling competition and innovation, which drives down prices and results in new products and services for consumers. We are wholly independent of the companies we regulate**". Such clearly defined terms of reference make it apparent to me that if you fail to act on behalf of, we consumers in fully scrutinising the spurious and self-serving statements made by NG in support of this project, then Ofgem will be guilty of negligently performing its public duty. Here is but one example of such statements, from page 6 of the RIIO-T3 Business Plan: "**In addition to our physical network, we are also investing in mitigating our own environmental impacts, supporting the communities hosting our infrastructure, and working with community organisations to deliver support to consumers in vulnerable situations**". Patently not so! As to the 'Introductory Message from the Chair' on page 2, which contains the statement, "**We are deploying cutting edge technology which we have successfully demonstrated and developed in recent years**" - nothing could be further from the truth. Pylons are 1950s technology and far from the actual "cutting edge" which we propose, our European neighbours already utilise, and I implore you to insist upon. Our situation is indeed vulnerable. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey H Lazell

Steve Gibb

National Grid has a clear focus on "national" and "grid". Sadly this appears to leave little scope in their plans for:

- a) local communities
- b) the environment

c) identification and implementation of best practice

a) Local Communities

Across the country communities (which comprise thousands of your fellow citizens) are being swamped by what appears to be daily announcements of new renewable energy projects and the "essential grid upgrades". The "piece small" approach picks off neighbours and small communities and puts us in conflict with each other as we strive to avoid our homes and businesses being swamped by industrial development. How is it possible for an organisation that is supposed to be working for consumers to be happy ignoring the heartfelt pleas for a different approach.?

b) The Environment

We are told that renewable power is "clean and green" - ignoring the well documented problems of mineral extraction, emissions during fabrication and then the harmful impacts on the local flora and fauna. if we are to re-wire the country - and I accept this needs to be done over the medium term - surely, we have an obligation to get it right, leaving a legacy that does not destroy the environment.

c) Identification and implementation of best practice

We are told that there is a "climate emergency", "climate breakdown" and other apocalyptic phrases specifically used to cow opposition or even debate about these plans. And we then hear that HMG is to spend £20 Billion on CCS - unproven technology that will in all likelihood have no impact. Isn't this money better spent on adopting best practice used in continental Europe where large scale grid upgrades are underground and/or offshore? Why do National Grid and its contractors (SSEN et al) choose only the lowest cost options? We know the answer of course - this approach enriches the shareholders at our expense. New undergrounding technology is being developed in both the machinery used and the cabling construction. Why are we not using this?

In summary, the country needs a proper debate and plan that integrates all the various options into a sustainable and deliverable plan. The headlong rush to implement 1920's technology at huge cost to the cultural, environmental and economic health to the nation is no way to conduct this multi-decadal effort.

Regards

Steve Gibb

Jason Davies

I also do not see any consideration for the environment from NG. There has been no

mention of the hundreds of trucks required to construct the pylons that will clog our road and pollute the air. The displacement and killing of wildlife and the destruction of their habitat. Or the loss of prime agricultural farmland and the beautiful English countryside.

NG appear to be ticking boxes in terms of responses and bulletins. As an example, the initial consultations were held at times when most of us are working, or in locations that are not impacted by the proposed pylon route. Consultations; tick!

Have NG really listened to the feedback from the impacted communities? I suspect not. They see this as a "done deal" as advised by the Mid-Suffolk chief planning officer at a recent Parish Council meeting. His evidence was the completion, without planning permission, of the Bacton to Norwich leg to bring power from offshore to the start of the Norwich to Tilbury pylon route.

In summary, I believe that NG should go back to the drawing board to reconsider, with supervision from Ofgem, the "best" solution for the country, the countryside and its communities.

Regards,
Jason Davies (Gislingham, Suffolk)

Louise Chadwick

National Grid is duplicitous, cares nothing for the environment, communities, countryside and its commerce in east Suffolk from the North Sea coast inland to Friston.

We live two miles from Friston, a medieval village beginning to be needlessly ruined by National Grid, along with acres of our beautiful countryside from the North Sea coast to that peaceful community.

Despite strong local opposition Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) were permitted to bring their energy from wind farms East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two ashore at iconic holiday village Thorpeness, across nine kilometres of protected, pristine, productive countryside to Friston where they will build two enormous sub-stations. To accommodate SPR National Grid (NG) is obliged to build its own substation to provide a connection to the national grid.

During the Planning Inspectorate's consideration of SPR's applications for DCOs, to bring their wind power ashore as briefly described above, NG refused to properly engage in the proceedings. SPR were granted their DCOs and by default NG was given permission for its substation.

As a result of NG being able to build a substation at Friston connecting to the national grid, by stealth NG was in a position to offer grid connections to other projects, eg Sea Link and Lion Link.

Every project that connects to the national grid at Friston requires a cable route to or from the North Sea, each motorway width, at least nine kilometres long and each with a massive substation or converter station along the route. These enormous structures will dwarf our medieval churches, create ugly monstrosities on our beautiful flat landscape. The cable routes will pass through the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape (formerly Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), the Sandlings SPA (Special Protected Area) and multiple villages to connect to the national grid at an energy hub located in the heart of the ancient village in rural Suffolk. Sea Link proposes landfall at the holiday town of Aldeburgh, tunnelling under RSPB Reserve North Warren.

Each converter or substation requires a huge concrete site. The area around Friston will turn good arable fields into an unsightly industrial area in the midst of beautiful countryside. None of this is necessary and jeopardises our food security.

As a result of NG's planned devastation of this part of East Suffolk the Destination Management Organisation (DMO), believes these energy projects along the coast could damage one of the UK's most successful nature-based tourism centres by up to £40 million per annum. This will inevitably lead to loss of jobs in hospitality and other tourist related businesses.

The cumulative effect of these multiple projects, combined with nearby Sizewell C, will result in the unnecessary devastation of a huge part of east Suffolk ruining lives, communities and livelihoods. For the next 10-15 years a huge area will be overrun with hundreds of HGVs and other vehicles, closed roads, widened, straightened country lanes (we like them as they are), fields disappearing under concrete. Wildlife will be pushed out of nature's vanishing corridors. There will be more road accidents, communities will be divided, livelihoods lost as compulsorily sold land and tourists disappear.

NG know that power generated at sea ought to be taken undersea to where it is needed in London and the southeast but say the use of HVDC cables is too expensive, despite planning their use for other projects. Indeed, relating to EGL2 in 2023, NG's president of UK Strategic Infrastructure Carl Trowell states: "This new infrastructure will connect more clean, renewable energy from where it's generated to where it's needed, helping contribute to lower energy bills over the long-term."

NG's plan for the energy hub in Friston is nonsensical. There is no need for offshore wind to come to east Suffolk at all. Apart from the devastation already detailed and NG's ridiculous financial arguments Sea Link (to take excess energy from Suffolk to Kent) would be completely unnecessary if power is taken directly from where it's generated via offshore cables to brownfield sites further south where the energy is needed.

Campaign groups and hundreds of individuals have repeatedly told NG that an offshore grid would be better, cheaper and faster, and despite NG having produced reports showing exactly that they deny the case for this part of Suffolk. NG has ignored local people and is determined to create an energy hub in this part of east Suffolk to the ruination of the countryside, its communities and economies.

National Grid is not doing its job properly, riding roughshod over environment, communities, countryside and commerce for which National Grid cares nothing. National Grid needs to be regulated, to be made to 'follow the rules'. Ofgem please will you ensure that happens.

Louise & Derek Chadwick

Mark Harper

My only question I have had the chance to put to a representative of National Grid still remains unanswered, what are the costs of pylons vs undergrounding vs under the sea. What I have from them via the media are simplistic and unsubstantiated sound bite claims. It goes without saying, but I must, this is unacceptable.

When they proclaim an improvement on a project, be it one up and running or one in planning, it makes me wonder why those improvements couldn't have been done at the offset, wasting time/money/the environment doing what should've been done at the get go. None of those things should be wasted by lazy and uncaring thinking. But I suppose if you can get away doing something twice, thrice or whatever and somebody else is paying, be it us (the taxpayer) and the environment and those that live in the vicinity then why get it right first or second or whatever time around.

National Grid's duplicity in their dealing with us, the public, is utterly uncaring and that is plain to see with their latest gaff of removing a certain video from their YouTube and online feeds, needless to say, in the video, they were arguing for the very thing that many of us feel is the solution (under the sea), saying it is the fastest and cheapest way to do the job, while when dealing with us on this project (what they call Norwich to Tilbury) they say pylons are the only option, certainly the only option they've given us.

Bearing in mind the power coming from "Norwich" is actually coming from the North Sea wind turbines, already in the sea.

Regards

Mark Harper

Georgina Coburn

The way that National Grid upgrades and proposed infrastructure is being handled is a national scandal. It is neither transparent or environmentally sustainable with an avalanche of planning applications for pylons, substations, battery storage facilities and windfarms by multinational energy companies taking advantage of the absurd practice of government constraint payments. For the Viking project in Shetland this was 2.5 million pounds in the first month of operation, times that by the thousands of planning applications made by greedy multinationals now gaining a foothold throughout the country, hidden from public view through salami slicing applications. In the Highlands we are currently seeing a tsunami of applications which would allow energy companies to stockpile at peak production times whilst claiming subsidies when idle, effectively being paid twice. The claim of cheaper bills is a lie. Our landscape, wildlife, agriculture, homes, and businesses are being sacrificed to this gravy train of corporate greed with no long-term benefit and no energy security. Consultation with my local community has been appalling, lack of information, poor quality or out of date maps and no answers to vital questions about air, noise and water pollution, fire risk from lithium batteries, impacts on wildlife and local populations. Communities and local councils are being ignored and legislative checks and balances discarded. As Thames Water clearly shows, there is zero accountability, higher bills and environmental disaster when vital resources are put in the hands of corporations with no regulation. The experience of dealing with the national grid for local communities has been and continues to be a soul-destroying nightmare- these so-called upgrades leading to "death by location" for many residents, flora and fauna, for generations to come. The scale of destruction and lack of responsibility is staggering, immoral and unethical, bowing to the profits of multinational shareholders over and above the health and wealth of local communities and our country as a whole.

Kind Regards

Georgina Coburn

Geoffery Alcoe

We've believe National Grid to have not been transparent in their approach to the Norwich to Tilbury project, in the meetings we've attended it would appear to be a done deal with any consultation meetings futile, are National Grid really doing the best for the environment when an offshore approach would be a much greener option, how much energy is being used to create the require pylons? Why are pylons banned in other countries and not being used in other parts of the UK?

I believe National Grid to be arrogant with very little consideration to the alternatives in their approach to this project there is no care whatsoever to local communities or the heart ache this project will bring.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Alcoe

Chris Owen

As a resident of Gislingham, Suffolk we are at the forefront of the Norwich to Tilbury Project being a community directly within the project. National Grid's (NG) plans will surround our village community on three sides North, South and East. Consequently, we have been at the forefront of NG's planning process and able to witness it at first hand. We have not found this to be the least transparent with constant bias towards the NG and in favour of its commercial, profit-making activities. We have received biased and incorrect information, plans which are difficult to interpret, constant positive spin and unrealistic deadlines for consultation submissions. Each stage of the consultation process has been fraught and worrying with NG refusing to answer critical questions and ignoring much of our feedback. We have not found the National Grid to be in any way transparent. Words I would use would include: "liars" and "cheats"!

We have found the National Grid to be completely careless regarding the environment consistently submitting false and biased Environmental reports which contend no harm will be done to our village and its surrounding countryside when, in fact, they are proposing to construct vast haulage roads and, in the process destroy hectares of ancient and established pasture and woodland. We are convinced that their objective towards "environmental net gain" is a complete falsehood.

Our experience of dealing with National Grid is that it does not care in the least for our community and is totally motivated by profit at the expense (literally) of us and the innocent people that form our community.

If you would like evidence of any of the above, I would be pleased to submit it in full detail upon request.

Christopher Owen

Gislingham, Suffolk

Rob Skinner

As an individual living within a community threatened by a vast new transmission system I wish to comment on the inadequacy of the National Grid's approach.

It is piecemeal and appears to lack any long-term plan, too focused on a short-term government target.

Foreign owned multinational corporations should not be given the level of freedom and flexibility to 'salami slice' massive infrastructure projects as this disguises the huge andverse environmental and socio-economic impacts.

We should be looking to utilise best practice modern technology as other forward-looking nations are now doing. Taking advantage of HVDC systems, new trenching and burial systems, subsea cabling to create an offshore grid (we are world leaders in Scotland of some of these technologies with locally based contractors). We cannot let shareholder profiteering alone dictate use of archaic pylon-based approaches. These claim to be cheaper but do not take into account the uncoded impact on the environment, agriculture and socio-economic issues (health, house prices, tourism and the mental health costs within communities).

Why are we routing vast amounts of power that is generated offshore, back onshore and then criminally through pristine landscapes and communities for hundreds of miles to reach distant end users? Keep offshore power offshore!

Let's plan and build something to be proud of and not some disastrous landscape and community destroying legacy!

Rob Skinner

Drumoak

Scotland

Caroline Blacker

As a supporter of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group and a resident in the Waveney Valley constituency, please find below my comments about National Grid Electricity Transmission.

I am extremely disappointed and cross about the way National Grid has addressed the concerns of those directly affected by the current Norwich to Tilbury proposal for electricity connection. We will not benefit from this destructive and non-strategic, piecemeal approach to energy transmission. **Offshore is better, cheaper and faster.** But National Grid has not been transparent; consultations have proved useless as NG is not prepared to be honest about an offshore transmission.

The Waveney Valley is designated as a 'Valued Landscape'. A Valued Landscape is an area that has physical attributes which take it out of the ordinary. It is identified as having sufficient landscape qualities to elevate it above other more everyday landscapes. The term 'valued' landscape is used by the Government to refer to important local landscapes that contribute to the quality of the natural and local environment.

Environmentally, NG has completely disregarded the impact of the environmental destruction along the whole length of the proposed route. Wortham Ling, an SSSI in the Waveney Valley, is adjacent to the current pylons route, as is **Roydon Fen**, a nature reserve.

In addition, the pylons route would be right next to the River Waveney and a serious danger to geese, raptors, summer visiting birds and others as they fly along the river to Redgrave and Lopham Fen, the source of the river Waveney, and a Ramsar Site.

Our communities and our precious environment have been severely let down. People, animals and plants can't move. NG should do the right thing, be honest about costs, consult properly, upgrade the grid and revert to their original position of backing an offshore approach.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Blacker

Susan Edwards

I can't help but feel frustrated by National Grids continued bullishness with regard to this project. The more I learn, the more disheartened I become about the duplicity of those making the decisions. This should be about doing the right thing for the future. We need

to have a grow up conversation about it, but it needs to be two ways, and we need all the facts. National Grid have not given alternatives and certainly haven't made the costs available. Sadly, it seems like another one of those situations which, sometime in the future, when the damage is done, will be shown to have been driven by half-truths and profits at best, corruption and deceit at worst.

There has been a prime example of this in the last week. We have been asking National Grid to consider other options, and it had just become known that National Grid has been considered other options, it has considered Offshoring and indeed think it is really good idea. National Grid think that it would be cheaper and quicker and cause less harm. They said so in their little video on their own YouTube channel and on their website. This video was uploaded 10 months ago, so they must have been talking about it for ages. As soon as this video is brought to light, both the YouTube video and the website video were removed. How are we expected to trust a multi nation company which advertised one thing, ie how great it would be to offshore cables, (remember cheaper, quicker and less harmful to the environment) and then tries to hide their thinking and then won't even discuss the possibility with those of us convinced that Pylons are a bad idea? What on earth is going on. We could all have agreed about this a year ago and be well on our way to having an offshore grid.

I did write to National Grids project manager last year; to ask a detail about Haul roads but he never came back to me. I have also been asking for all the environmental reports which have been done on my land. The lead ecologist, a lady from Arcadium, said she would send them to me. She never did.

It is only due to individuals like me shouting about the very rich habitats that will be lost, that has saved irreplaceable assets in the environment. The trouble is, it is a long route and not many places have someone as shouty as me.

It is your job to make sure that National Grid are transparent. To make sure that they make the right decision for the right reasons. This cannot be about profit, political gain or hitting a target.

Regards

Susan Edwards

Michael Demetriou

I am writing to you to express my views about: National Grid's Sealink proposal for Mister Marshes, their motivations and track record, and to make it clear that the many objections to the scheme you will no doubt receive are not born out of NIMBYism or

political views. It is simply that private companies such as National Grid, cannot be allowed to prioritise their profits over and above the destruction of irreplaceable habitat. Thanet is already one of the most densely populated areas in Kent and wildlife habitat and green spaces in general are already in short supply - with many more housing developments in the pipeline. National Grid has other options for siting this enormous development but chooses not to use them as they believe Minster Marshes will be cheaper.

I would ask you to consider that NG do have viable alternative sites, but seem determined to press on with this, in the way that often happens when a lot of time and effort goes into a misconceived plan, which turns out to be increasingly unviable, but the people concerned are reluctant to concede they may have got it wrong and would view a change of mind as failure, rather than just common sense. I would ask that you read my reasons below and take the time to check what is being argued by the campaign to save Minster Marshes and the veracity of what NG say.

Many of the people involved with the Save Minster Marshes campaign are supportive of the need to transfer from fossil fuels to home-grown, green energy. However, this cannot be done at the expense of rare and irreplaceable habitat, such as exists at Minster Marshes, when there are perfectly adequate alternative brownfield sites, which they don't prefer on the basis of cost. Minster Marshes position on that part of the coast provides a vital place for many threatened species to breed, feed, overwinter or stop off on migration - on migration routes which they cannot easily change when habitat is moved or denied them. Damaging this habitat in the way Sealink proposes will, despite their ill-informed, non-independent, mitigation suggestions, permanently destroy it in a way which will cause this area to permanently lose the large amount wildlife and biodiversity it currently supports.

The immense amount of building and heavy lorry traffic over some years will permanently drive away wildlife and it will be unable to adapt quickly enough to establish elsewhere - certainly not in NGs proposed mitigation site. It will just no longer exist and many of the species that depend upon it will just have an even bigger problem trying to survive than they already have.

The kinds of inadequate and totally inappropriate mitigations suggested - such as suggesting an overwintering ground on farmland some miles inland away from the coast, where there is no marsh, no suitable food sources, is adjacent to an industrial estate with associated light pollution and borders a very busy dual-carriageway - only serve to illustrate the lack of understanding of what threats this development poses. Not to mention that National Grids plans had failed to take account of the enormous amounts of

extra piling and concrete needed to stabilise the marsh they are proposing to build on - and which has not been accounted for in environmental assessments.

It is laughable that NG consider that, after all this destruction, they will provide a 10% net gain. Please bear in mind that National Grid have made similar mitigation promises before when bringing a subsea cable ashore at Pegwell Bay, which is next to Minster Marshes. Pegwell Bay was an NNR, SSI, SPA, SAC and RAMSAR site - designated for its importance to wildlife and wetland birds, and managed by Kent Wildlife Trust and, despite this, National Grid were able to cause an enormous amount of damage, much of it irreparable, and never made good on their mitigation promises. As well as Minster Marshes, this new development also threatens Pegwell Bay again - as they propose to use it as some kind of marshalling yard for deliveries. The local council denied permission for this, but I understand NG are appealing.

For all these reasons, I would urge you to get National Grid to fully explain why they can't build this facility somewhere - there are known alternatives - which are already brown-field sites and don't come with massive environmental destruction on the other side of the balance sheet.

Kind regards

Michael Demetriou

Anna Magee

I am the owner and co-director of a small Centre for Healing and Learning in Nature called Heron Meadow CIC - <https://heron-meadow.jimdosite.com/> - situated on the river Waveney on the border between Suffolk and Norfolk. I have been in consultation with NG via their agents Fisher German for the last three years because the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project (previously called East Anglian Green) cuts right across Heron Meadow. A small adjustment to siting of pylons now puts them just over my boundary hedge, but this will make no difference to the threat they pose to my project and livelihood.

The following points and questions are pertinent to my business, and I have yet to get a satisfactory response from NG.

- NG framed the project initially as being 'Green' intimating that it has minimal impact upon the environment and helps minimise carbon emissions, being part of the overall 'Net Zero' endeavour (deeply questionable in itself) however I would like to know the result of the total carbon calculations for the whole project including the production and import of the millions of tonnes of cement and steel

used in the construction of pylons which will need to be set upon vast rafts of concrete buried into East Anglia's light soils. The production of cement accounting for approx. 8 % of global carbon emissions and the effect on the environment of its acidic presence being well documented.

- During the last round of public consultations, the NG proposed the 'Waveney Valley Alternative' - which was touted as an under-grounded 1.5 km stretch through the river valley. Many local people felt that this would be a much better alternative and thought that their concerns had been listened to - however I was fairly certain that they wouldn't do it because the wording in the documentation made it clear that they reserved the right to go back to pylons, which they deem to be 'cheaper'. This is indeed the present situation - with the extraordinary rationale that it would be less impact on the environment.
- The impact on the environment of overland pylons is beyond question - High Voltage cables emit significantly toxic EMF fields impacting insects, migrating birds, wildlife and human beings alike. Beyond that toxic effect they are very noisy - howling in the wind and crackling in the wet weather. As Heron Meadow is a sanctuary of peace for people who may suffer with PTSD or be affected by other neurological and emotional disturbances - the presence of these intrusions will effectively close down my business.
- This stretch of the River Waveney is currently being restored in a joint project called Waveney and Little Ouse Land Recovery project - it will create a significant corridor for wildlife and increase the wet-land and fens capacity to hold back flood water and capture carbon into the land...this is an actually beneficial initiative rather than something which is being touted as such but actually causes harm and at a very high carbon price.
- None of the consultations offered by NG have seriously considered using alternatives such as HVDC cabling (which can be cheaply installed and moled into the ground as they do not carry the same risk of super-heating) or the more coherent option of an offshore 'ring main' capable of distributing electricity to Europe as well as to the areas of the UK who will need more power in the future (not the rural areas of East Anglia).
- NG recently took down a promotional video which they had posted on YouTube advocating just such a system - but they still press on with the expensive and destructive sticking plaster of the 'Norwich to Tilbury line'.

In short, the whole project is ill-conceived and short-sighted, expensive and terrible for the vanishingly small amount of unspoiled countryside left in this part of England.

Please take these considerations seriously. I would be happy to talk with a representative or meet someone at Heron Meadow if that would be helpful.

Yours truly

Dr Anna Magee

Stephen March

Ofgem is supposed to be the regulator, but it doesn't appear to be doing very much regulating of National Grid.

We farmland which is within the Norwich to Tilbury project. National Grid have not been transparent but contradictory in their plans.

They have stated on a Lincolnshire project that HDVC underground/subsea cables will have a lower lifetime cost than pylons and be quicker and less risky. The Norwich to Tilbury project has been told that there is not enough HDVC cabling yet National Grid have purchased 1/3 of the world supply of 14.000km of cable and companies are ramping up supply. When questioned at their drop in events they had no idea where the stone for all the haul roads was coming from or the cost. Likewise, the steel for the pylons. Without this how can they estimate the cost of the project?

The promotional video on their website promoting an Offshore Grid as it reduces Infrastructure, reduces harm to the environment and communities as well as reducing costs was put up on the 2nd February and rapidly taken down the next day as it promoted all the reasons why the Norwich to Tilbury project is wrong and the alternative is the right thing to do.

We have been farming our land for 30 years and it has been in the family for over a hundred years. Land is a finite resource. National Grid do not care about the environment and nature or food security. They have a blinkered vision of moving energy around the UK but have not considered that you can eat in the dark or go hungry with the lights on!

Stephen March

Meb Somani

In response to your request for views on any aspects of network companies' business plans, please see below NGET's business plan focused mainly on its East Anglian report:

Consultations

- NGET's BT does not appropriately reflect my views or those of friends and neighbours nor of affected communities.
- NGET consulted after it had decided on its preferred option - thereby ignoring other options which should have been considered but have been ruled out without proper analysis or explanation.
- The consultation area has been confined to people in close proximity to the proposed routes, ignoring thousands of people who will be affected and whose opinions need to be taken into account.
- Consultations have been piecemeal around specific projects - which under states the total impact of all projects in people's minds (North Falls, Five Estuaries, Tarchon, Norwich to Tilbury ie N2T plus all associated grids and substations).
- No convenient way of visualising or assessing the combined impact of all projects has been provided.
- There has been no response to points raised to date in responses to consultation.
- The impact on affected communities and nature has not been adequately considered in the proposed Plans.
- Community acceptance has not been demonstrated.

Options not considered

- A coordinated/strategic Offshore Grid is likely to be the cheapest option with lowest impact on communities and nature/biodiversity. Future offshore wind farms as well as Tarchon and future links to the continent can be accommodated without damaging and expensive landfalls, onshore grid and substations.
- National Grid removed a video acknowledging this - can Ofgem please re-release the video and promote it on National TV.
- Other options include reinforcement of existing grids using TS conductor and other technologies have not been considered.
- Rapidly advancing HVDC technology eg buried cable along existing/disused routes such as Bradwell, with converter station near demand centre has not been considered.
- Holistic Network Design and the Future Framework is not being applied in East Anglia - instead Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) has

allowed NGET to ignore viable competing options. The so called 'offshore' alternative considered by NG lands on Norwich (thereby resulting in two rather than zero landing points in East Anglia one near the demand centre, with associated pylons to/from Norwich). The applied piecemeal approach is suboptimal.

Needs of existing and future consumers (Demand and Holistic Network Design)

- The piecemeal approach (as opposed to Holistic Network Design / Offshore Grid) seems to be necessitated by an arbitrary, ideologically driven and unachievable policy target to decarbonise the grid by 2030 - please refer to statements by industry leaders (RWE UK) and experts including Sir Dieter Helm.
- This target is partly based on outdated optimistic demand forecasts for transmission infrastructure – according to Hiorns Smart Energy's report dated Sep 23 "ESO have noted that 70% of Generation projects listed...may never be built and ...many of the projects which are eventually built come online later than their contracted dates...some minor incremental...would accommodate circa 12 gigawatts (GW) of additional offshore Windfarm Generation in the East Anglia Region. The analysis undertaken in this report concludes that the need for the Norwich-Bramford-Tilbury overhead line can be deferred by 5 years".
- This is also highlighted as a risk in GB Energy's (Future Offshore Wind) report which mentions Attrition risk (ie projects being delayed or cancelled).
- In addition, as in the USA, demand growth forecast related to data centres for AI should be reviewed following the release of DeepSeek. And take into account loss of industry (Grangemouth, Tata Steel) resulting from policies.
- The other alleged reason for continuing with the proposed landfalls (eg for North Falls and Five Estuaries) is contractual commitments - however these are conditional on Planning permission ie the argument is circular (refer to Lord Banner KC's opinion).
- It is worth noting that sponsors of these projects (including RWE) have been willing to consider the Offshore Grid option (which is not necessarily restricted to Sealink) - investors like certainty: the proposed Plans are subject to opposition and delay, not least on procedural and economic grounds. Investors are no doubt aware that Mr Farage is the elected member of Parliament in the constituency where these projects make landfall.

Environment and Social

- NGET's Environmental Action Plan does not contain an evaluation of the natural capital and carbon, and biodiversity impacts of their Plan projects or other options.
- Such analysis should comply with the Treasury Green Book guidance and must include do-nothing and other options including Holistic Network Design and coordinated offshore grid.
- NGET has not published a biodiversity report in line with the government's biodiversity duty.
- Impact on rural communities including ours in Little Bromley, close to the proposed multiple substations, has not been taken into account (traffic noise and pollution and disruption during construction, new and widened roads, loss of recreational country lanes which act as the only amenity in the village for walking, cycling, loss of property value, etc.
- NGET should apply innovation and global best practices to modernise the UK grid while minimising ecological and social disruption and loss of cultural heritage.

Economics, allowed revenue and consumer bills

- GB Energy's report also makes the obvious point that investing too much / too early increases the Levellised Cost of Energy hence allowed revenue, tariffs and consumer bills.
- It is incumbent on Ofgem to ensure that NG have properly assessed the latest demand picture (including attrition risk) and considered all network options (including coordinated offshore grid) in East Anglia.
- This should be on an unconstrained and objective basis, without paying homage to any arbitrary grid decarbonisation target. Indeed, Ofgem should be independent, regulate rather than promote growth, and tell policy makers if targets are unreasonable or likely to impose unjustified additional costs.
- Instead of "robust evaluations", N2T and other projects have been placed within the ASTI programme, exempting projects from competition, scrutiny (based on NGET's ignoring of responses) and the very evaluations Ofgem consulted on in Q4'24.
- Comparison of options should include a full and transparent economic evaluation including socio-economic impacts, natural capital and biodiversity impacts and

carbon impacts of Plan projects and alternatives, adhering to the Treasury Green Book.

- Importantly, based on fairness and recent surveys of public opinion, since the proposals are likely to significantly affect property values, full compensation for such loss to all affected households, businesses and farms should be taken into account when costing options - and indeed offered to all affected.

Based on the foregoing, I trust you agree that NG needs to go back to the drawing board and resubmit its Business Plan for East Anglia - for robust evaluation by Ofgem.

Regards

M Somani

Samantha Harniman

Do you actually have any independence? I believed, obviously wrongly that you were independent of the government and huge corporations!! It seems that you just accept the government's plans and decrees without listening to the people of the UK who are being ridden roughshod over by Keir Starmer and his government who appear to be becoming a dictatorship. Changing our councils for Mayorships, not allowing us to vote for local authorities, changing the laws of this land to suit his own agendas, and stopping our democratic right to respond.

National Grid is one company, who are now pushing one solution to transmit power around the UK. Pylons and convertor stations concreting over the entire East Anglia.

Yet a few years ago, as posted on You Tube, they agreed that Offshore was best. Please explain why all of a sudden you, National Grid and the current Government have all decided to annihilate the East Anglian Countryside, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

Destroying Farmland, Tourism and the Environment? The video has mysteriously disappeared off You Tube but thankfully it has been saved by various local community groups should you wish us to send it to you?

To me, it appears that National Grid are at best evasive and at worst liars. The plans change, it is not made easy for people to give their points of view, National Grid are uninterested by alternatives that are greener, cheaper, save the environment, save our nature and save tourism which is our lifeline. They point blank do not listen to us or consider any other options? They are not transparent in any of their literature or communications

National Grid do not care about communities or nature, they just care about profit. And by doing what they are doing the government seems to be hand in hand with them.

Get them to disclose their full costings of pylons and convertor stations versus offshore. IF you were truly independent you would do this.

I live in hope you have not been corrupted by corporate greed and will do your best by us, the British people.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Harniman

Ady Brown

Do you actually have any independence? I believed, obviously wrongly that you were independent of the government and huge corporations!! It seems that you just accept the government's plans and decrees without listening to the people of the UK who are being ridden roughshod over by Keir Starmer and his government who appear to be becoming a dictatorship. Changing our councils for Mayorships, not allowing us to vote for local authorities, changing the laws of this land to suit his own agendas, and stopping our democratic right to respond.

National Grid is one company, who are now pushing one solution to transmit power around the UK. Pylons and convertor stations concreting over the entire East Anglia.

Yet a few years ago, as posted on You Tube, they agreed that Offshore was best. Please explain why all of a sudden you, National Grid and the current Government have all decided to annihilate the East Anglian Countryside, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

Destroying Farmland, Tourism and the Environment? The video has mysteriously disappeared off You Tube but thankfully it has been saved by various local community groups should you wish us to send it to you?

To me, it appears that National Grid are at best evasive and at worst liars. The plans change, it is not made easy for people to give their points of view, National Grid are uninterested by alternatives that are greener, cheaper, save the environment, save our nature and save tourism which is our lifeline. They point blank do not listen to us or consider any other options? They are not transparent in any of their literature or communications

National Grid do not care about communities or nature, they just care about profit. And by doing what they are doing the government seems to be hand in hand with them.

Get them to disclose their full costings of pylons and convertor stations versus offshore. IF you were truly independent you would do this.

I live in hope you have not been corrupted by corporate greed and will do your best by us, the British people.

Lynn Parker

I am writing to express my concerns regarding National Grid's business plan and urge Ofgem to send them back to the drawing board.

National Grid lacks transparency in its decision-making and fails to engage meaningfully with communities. Their approach does not sufficiently prioritize the environment, and their plans often seem driven by corporate interests rather than the urgent need for sustainable and community-focused energy solutions.

Despite numerous requests, neither SSEN, the government, nor National Grid has provided any evidence of the need for this infrastructure. No alternative options have been considered, and public feedback has been consistently ignored. This lack of accountability raises serious concerns about the legitimacy and necessity of these proposals. Furthermore, the failure to consult and respect the rights of local communities raises human rights concerns, as affected individuals are not given a fair say in decisions that directly impact their lives and livelihoods.

Additionally, National Grid's refusal to appraise alternatives using the Treasury Green Book puts consumers at risk of higher bills, causes unnecessary harm to the environment, and severely impacts rural communities. The Spittal, Loch Buidhe, and Beaulieu 400kV OHL project, in particular, is causing significant distress, with businesses at risk of closure and homeowners left in uncertainty without fair compensation. The British public strongly supports alternatives to pylons, the protection of nature, and full compensation for those affected.

As a regulator, it is Ofgem's responsibility to scrutinise the transmission operators' work and ensure that projects are justified, transparent, and in the best interest of consumers and communities. However, National Grid has operated without this level of scrutiny, refusing to provide public evidence of the need for such large-scale infrastructure and failing to justify its approach. We challenge the legitimacy of this proposal and the absence of supporting data, and we demand that all reports regarding these projects be made publicly available. Furthermore, we request an independent review to assess the true necessity of these plans.

To further illustrate National Grid's lack of transparency, the company has recently removed access to two videos from its website that highlighted the benefits of offshore coordination over the current piecemeal approach. These videos acknowledged that offshore coordination would be cheaper—a conclusion supported by three independent reports since 2011. If offshore coordination is indeed the more cost-effective option, why is Ofgem not enforcing this strategy to protect consumers from unnecessary costs?

How can Ofgem reassure us that our concerns will be taken seriously, and that National Grid will be sent back to the drawing board?

Tim Dysterre-Clark

I wish to complain about the conduct of National Grid (NG) and its agents in relation to its "consultation" on the above matter.

The initial non statutory consultation has been a sham, with NG's representatives freely acknowledging they don't have sufficient information to answer reasonable questions. In want of such information, consultees' ability to comment on and participate in the process has been severely restricted.

When answers are given, blatant misinformation is peddled by NG in several respects, most notably in relation to the cost of alternative technology such as underground cabling - reference to outdated coatings is dogmatically clung to that this would cost 10x more, when more recent analysis where undergrounding has taken place in AONB (thought to be about a third of the cost referenced) is hidden from consultees even after this has been specifically requested (I believe under a formal FOI request)

NG's provision of licence agreements to landowners, seeking signature without guidance to seek independent legal advice regarding the contents and payment for the same, is also indicative of NG abusing its position in what has become a completely one-sided process.

To finish, residents and communities feel completely steam-rolled and powerless under NG's oppressive approach.

Yours sincerely

Tim Dysterre-Clark

In addition to my email below, I would also point out that NG was extremely selective in its online virtual consultation meetings, seeking written comments and questions which

only they could see (and which couldn't be seen by other attendees) and then ignoring the questions they obviously didn't want to address (including mine), with the rest of the attendees being unaware of this blatant avoidance of the issues that matter to those affected.

Yours sincerely

Tim Dysterre-Clark

Chris Vermont

I wish to comment on my experience of interacting with NG in relation to the N2T project. As the industry regulator, you should be aware that NG has completely failed to take their community consultations seriously, simply going through the motions and not engaging in meaningful debate. Leaving aside NG's half-hearted attempts to address my own specific issues relating to the proposed East Anglia Connection Node which would be near my property, I focus below on the failure of NG's business plan to tackle two key issues of carbon impact and value for money.

Despite at least 3 requests, NG has failed to answer why they have not made a whole life carbon comparison of the various options for the N2T project. For a project which is predicated on the need for the UK to move to net zero as soon as possible this is a clear omission. What is the point of achieving a target completion by 2030 rather than say 2031 if the whole life carbon impact is higher?

Just as important is that NESO already evaluated various transmission options in 2024 and found that onshore HVDC (option 8 below) is the lowest cost option by £0.6bn if the 2030 date is missed.

	Option description	Delivery date	Deliverability and operability ranking	Environmental ranking	Community ranking	Economic rating (on-time delivery)	Economic rating (2034 Delivery)
1	Predominately offshore option – variation without East Anglia Connection Node (EACN)	2034	Red	Red	Amber	£4.2 bn	£4.2 bn
2	Predominately offshore option – variation with EACN	2034	Red	Red	Red	£4.8 bn	£4.8 bn
3	Onshore option	2030	Red	Amber	Red	£0 bn	£1.6 bn
4	Alternative Onshore option – variation with EACN	2030	Red	Amber	Amber	£2.0 bn	£3.6 bn
5	Alternative Onshore option – variation without Bramford to EACN	2034	Amber	Amber	Amber	£10.3 bn	£10.3 bn
5b	Alternative Onshore option – variation without Bramford to EACN – sensitivity	2034	Amber	Amber	Amber	£1.4 bn	£1.4 bn
6	Hybrid onshore and offshore option – variation with EACN	2034 ⁴¹	Red	Red	Amber	£1.7 bn	£2.1 bn
7	Hybrid onshore and offshore option – variation without EACN	2034	Amber	Red	Amber	£1.8 bn	£1.8 bn
8	Onshore HVDC Option	2034	Red	Amber	Amber	£1.0 bn	£1.0 bn
9	Using Bradwell as a landing point	2034	Black	Red	Amber	£9.0 bn	£9.0 bn

Table 7: Summary of options assessment

The summary of NESO’s analysis of the different options is on page 48 of their report. NG’s preferred onshore Pylon project (option 3) carries two “red” scored factors - (i) deliverability / operability and ii) community ranking - while the HVDC option 8 only has one red factor (deliverability / operability). Given that NESO says option 3 is very challenging to deliver and faces strong community opposition, there must be a high probability that the 2030 date will not be achieved. Supply chain issues also exist which are likely to affect delivery times and costs for critical equipment like transformers which may make option 3 less attractive in reality. As NESO has said recently in relation to NG’s ambition to complete work across the UK by 2030 – this would require a “once in the generation shift in the pace of delivery”.

It is worth examining why option 3 notionally comes out the cheapest. NESO reckons that only the A/C onshore solutions can be completed by 2030. They say all other options are deliverable only by 2034 (without explaining why all the alternatives are exactly 4 years slower). A large portion of the higher evaluated cost of other options is not the equipment or construction cost but the supposed cost of curtailment for Wind Farm operators over a four-year period. I can’t find the assumed cost of curtailment in NESO’s report, but it is one of the key reasons NG has given for selecting onshore A/C.

NESO / NG’s conclusions hinge therefore on three important assumptions:

i) that this government can successfully ram through all planning requirements for option 3 without legal challenge. If not, as precedent suggests, the 2030 target is illusory and maybe even 2034 is ambitious.

ii) that other options such as option 8 cannot be delivered more quickly than 2034. NG has recently said it has managed to secure large supplies of HVDC cable which could remove one constraint to option 8's early delivery.

iii) that additional Wind Farms will all be built on time. We saw a year ago that many developers refused to bid for new projects because the minimum guaranteed electricity price was too low. This may happen again or there may be other reasons for delay. This could significantly reduce curtailment costs.

Quoting from page 44 of the NESO report they say of the HVDC option

"If other options are delayed until 2034, then this option comes into closer comparison to other options, showing itself overall, to be the lowest cost option in the delay situation."

As noted above, in a delay scenario, option 3 becomes £0.6bn more expensive than option 8 (see last column). By implication, that means the preferred option 3 only needs to be delayed by 2-3 years (and / or option 8 to accelerate) to become more expensive than the HVDC option 8.

Most rationale actors, when faced with an ambitious target, would seek some form of plan B to make sure that either way they achieve it. At the very least I think NG should consider twin tracking the HVDC option and perhaps even prioritising it. It may not fulfil the political ambitions of a 2030 decarbonised grid, but it looks like a more sound long-term solution in terms of both cost and probably whole life carbon impact.

Ofgem should therefore be telling NG to revise their business plan.

C

Elspeth Knott

In my opinion National Grid have not set out a plan which is acceptable or in keeping with what they are proposing. When a video of offshore wind farms with interconnecting countries was shown on their website, it was quickly removed. Is this part of the overall plan or not? If it is, then surely round the coast would be much more in keeping.

They are not being honest about the costing of the project. They are not giving a complete picture of an overall plan. The facts in their booklets are not true. The proposed site for the substation between Ardleigh and Lt Bromley has not been "heathland" for many years, as described in their brochure, and has been and still is prime agricultural land.

In the early 1990s, Essex County Council had proposed to build a gas fired power station near to an existing electricity substation between Lt Bromley and Ardleigh. This was turned down because of the rural nature of this area. There are no pavements on Bentley Road, Little Bromley. The narrow country roads are also used by cyclists, horse riders, horse and carriages, and cars. There has been no change over the years, except that the number and size of cars has increased. This is the same road/ route now proposed to be used by National grid

When attending a consultation meeting with National Grid, 3 miles away from our seriously impacted village. We were told that a BigRig would be used to transport parts for the construction of the substation between Lt. Bromley and Ardleigh. In order for this to be possible, Bentley Road (the road to Lt Bromley from the A120) would have to be widened. Along this route there are properties without foundations, protected trees and a hedge which is over 100yrs old. The road is also prone to subsidence. When asked if the work involved had been costed into the overall expenditure of National Grids proposals. We were told "No"!!! So, National Grid is not being honest when they say that "round the coast would be more expensive", when they do not have a total figure for their proposed work!

They will totally ruin the environment in this area. They will be destroying the habitat of wildlife in the hedges and trees (removed to widen the road) Badgers, foxes, deer, hares, rabbits, owls, bats, kestrels, kites, buzzards, skylarks are frequently seen in this area, along with other garden birds. Grade 1 farmland will be rendered useless for many years to come.

They do not care about communities. A proposed "private road" to the substation will be splitting our small village in half. They will be taking away the character and appearance of a small rural community. Many properties in our village depend on well water and have septic tanks. As far as I am aware, no discussions have taken place with our Parish Council, who like most of the residents are left to source information from public consultations, all of which are 3 miles or more from our village.

Elspeth Knott

Angela Stevens

Looking at my area in East Kent, no reasonable consideration is being given to the Minster Marshes project, which is a protected area, as is Pegwell Bay in Cliffsend, with thousands of nesting and migratory birds at both locations. Communities and MPs have objected, but no notice is being taken by NG at any more suitable areas. No environmental / biodiversity care shown at all!!!!!!

Kind regards,

Angela Stevens

Christine Barrett

I am a resident of Little Bromley where National Grid are planning to devastate our village with haul roads, widening of village roads to accommodate HGV traffic to their substation. This is just the start of the devastation as they have contracted for Five Estuaries, North Falls and Tarchon to build substations and Interconnectors in our village.

Our Parish Council submitted an extensive response to National Grid in July 2024 with many objections to this project in our small village but to date we have been ignored. I understand National Grid are conducting localised consultations, but I have contacted them to ask if Little Bromley will be included in this local consultation so we can express our concerns again, but they have been reluctant to reply positively to this.

You can view our Parish Council submission here

<https://www.littlebromley.org.uk/notice/little-bromley-parish-council-response-to-national-grids-statutory-consultation-july-2024>

I feel very strongly that National Grid are ploughing along with this project with no respect for the people who are being affected.

Please read our Parish Council response as there are many issues highlighted that need urgent attention.

Christine Barrett

Norman Stevens

Ofgem is the regulator and National Grid needs regulating.

I have found that NG have not been transparent especially with regard to the cost of the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. From the outset they have put forward pylons as the only possible answer to the great grid upgrade. This is untrue as there are viable options e.g. HVDC underground cabling, upgrading the existing grid, re-using existing infrastructure and an integrated offshore grid. From the outset NG's consultations have been flawed with venues with poor access, events held during working hours and at a distance from the proposed pylon route making it difficult for the public to attend. Also, NG constantly say alternatives to pylons are more expensive. Again, this is not true, and the figures quoted by NG spokespeople vary considerably, it seems they are just plucking figures

out of the air- all very unprofessional. However, it is impossible to get the true cost of N2T pylons from NG because the cost of full compensation for home and landowners, for example, is not included. NG says an offshore grid is more expensive than pylons but their own presentation (which they have now removed from public access) says that an offshore grid with interconnectors is the way forward and cost effective. Such hypocrisy. A full appraisal of ALL the options must be done in order to get a complete and accurate comparison of costs and NG MUST be told to go back to the drawing board and present ALL options with full costings for consultation.

The N2T proposals will cause havoc to the environment. The loss of habitat and wildlife would be disastrous. Project N2T with massive haul roads and concrete bases for pylons will mean huge loss of hedgerows, trees and woodland which will have a severe knock-on effect on East Anglia's flora and fauna taking decades if ever to recover. NG don't care about this and all statements about mitigation are just a paper exercise. An offshore grid would avoid all this destruction of the countryside. The HVDC undergrounding option would be less destructive to the environment. Upgrading the existing grid would be even less destructive. It is galling to learn that companies such as TS Conductors, which is an NG company, produce cables which can carry far more power than existing ones. If the grid was upgraded with these cables the environment would not suffer. The UK should follow the example of the USA and upgrade the existing grid BEFORE building new infrastructure therefore avoiding untold destruction of countryside, habitat, wildlife and valuable farmland. The current free for all approach of new pylons, solar farms and battery storage is a disgrace and must be avoided and a complete appraisal of ALL options must be FULLY assessed.

Yours sincerely

Norman Stevens

Samantha Symonds

As a landowner, I have not found National Grid to be particularly transparent or trustworthy.

We own a small, private nature reserve, including some semi-ancient woodland, on the route of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury power lines. Our dealings have been through Fisher German, except at the face-to-face information sessions at local village halls, but I will refer to them as National Grid in this email.

Originally National Grid said they would try to avoid woodlands along the proposed new pylon route. However, during the first public consultation, we found ours was more or less the only woodland that would be right in the way of the route.

National Grid conducted surveys and listened to our first lot of feedback and moved their proposed route a little to avoid our woodland. This was not so good for a neighbouring landowner, but mitigation and damage limitation measures were discussed.

Unfortunately, following the second consultation, we heard the news this January, that the proposed route has been tweaked again, to go right over our woodland. This would mean devastation to a small pocket of valuable habitat, and to land of cultural and historic significance. We had been told, in person, last summer, by Fisher German representatives, that they could assure us the route would not go through our nature reserve, but this is not necessarily the truth.

We cannot say that National Grid does the best thing for the environment. A proposal that wreaks havoc throughout 180km of East Anglian countryside, cannot be called 'green energy'.

National Grid has surely not accounted for the true cost of this transmission. There is the loss of habitats; the crippling loss of value of so many people's homes. The loss of income for many rural businesses. National Grid does not seem to care about communities or the countryside.

They make a big deal about the importance of mental health on their website and social media, and yet they are deeply disrupting the mental health and relationships of thousands of people along the proposed pylon route. Mine and my husband's lives have been blighted by anxiety and stress ever since we heard about this proposal in April 2022.

It was clear from the very first public consultation, that National Grid were determined NOT to look into alternatives to this very destructive pylon route, such as an undersea option.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Piercy

Joanne Elliot

Summary of the issue

- National Grid have not been transparent in their dealings with the public or affected householders on the Norwich to Tilbury proposed transmission route.
- National Grid have not followed due procedure.
- National Grid have shown total contempt and disregard for affected homeowners and residents and no regard for communities or the environment
- We have found National Grid arrogant and uninformative in our dealings with them.
- National Grid are not providing comprehensive costings for the proposed route and refuse to provide any evidence of analysis of the alternatives.
- National Grid are determined to press ahead with their ill-conceived Norwich to Tilbury plan with no serious consideration of the alternatives in the face of evidence that these alternatives are not materially more expensive, much less destructive to communities and the environment and in fact will be in the interest of the billpayers in the long term.
- National Grid are acting in a way that increasingly demonstrates that they believe they will not be challenged and are above any regulation with total disregard for businesses, property, lives and the environment they will destroy.
- The impact on affected residents is being dismissed, this has a severely negative financial and mental health impact.

Evidence/justification for the statements above.

- National Grid's initial notification to materially affected households was through a "community newsletter" which gave the appearance of being a totally innocuous document and no indication of the serious implications for homeowners, communities and the environment. This was disingenuous. The label East Anglia "Green" was later abandoned.
- Consultations have often been away from the affected locations; the majority have been during working hours and have spanned a relatively short period frequently during holiday periods when residents are away. The locations have not been clearly signposted. Distressed residents have been told that there is nothing they can do about the proposed route and decisions have been made.
- The consultation process has clearly only begun AFTER the transmission route and method has been determined. National Grid have refused to give detailed and

comprehensive costings of the proposed route and method and has properly costed and demonstrated the alternatives.

-National Grid are not including realistic compensation in their costings, farmers discussing the impact with Fischer German have been told that these costs have not yet been assessed.

National Grid has quoted that alternatives will cost (various) multiples of the current plan yet studies have demonstrated this is not the case and the HVDC undergrounding in fact is a very viable alternative cost wise, it is far more popular and far less destructive to communities and the environment but National Grid refuse to give it proper consideration.

Our own questions and concerns as homeowners very close to the transmission line (less than 30m from the garden seating area) on a number of fronts have been dismissed or ignored, these include;

- medical (my husband has an ICD which is negatively impacted by EMFs),
- noise
- the imposing nature of the structures so close to the property
- the destruction of trees and habitat (a very rich and diverse ecological habitat which is home to protected mammal species and birds, including trees homing bats)
- the location of the overhead lines close to a large pond which is host to a significant a number of resident and visiting waterfowl species
- specific questions about the disclosures in the consultation material about our (listed) property and the impact of the project including the statement that it will be severely adversely impacted during the construction period.

Legal opinions obtained by the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group has shown National Grid has not followed due procedure

A commissioned survey by the same group of a population who had nothing to do with the campaign showed very different opinions to those claimed by National Grid.

There has been a refusal to look at the cumulative effect of huge number of projects which are proposed for East Anglia and the mass destruction and disruption which will be caused. The environmental and economic impact is unprecedented.

Ofgem must insist that National Grid (and others) go back to the drawing board and return with a fully integrated plan which minimises destruction of the environment and wildlife, damage to communities and households and preserves the East Anglian landscapes.

Overseas owned companies are prioritising their own management and shareholder's wealth, the regulator must intervene.

Joanne Elliott & Richard Davies

Bob Cockerton

We have previously received details of the subject proposal through the post and attended the consultation event which was held in the Tydd St Giles Community Centre. We have also regularly viewed online information, as available.

We have tried to be open minded regarding our considerations of the pros and cons of this project but have registered our **STRONG OBJECTIONS** to the scheme for what we believe are the right and constructive reasons.

May we start by saying we do hope that this is not a fait accompli, as we sadly suspect with little to be gained by any meaningful consultation regarding the routing or the physical makeup of the proposal but here follows our firmly held reactive observations which we very much hope you will seriously consider.

Cutting through NG's 'charm offensive' including the initial glossy presentation and its 'to everyone's advantage' followed by a flood of technical information to confuse poor 'Joe Public', we hope that this is not already considered a done deal within days of receiving the 'Consulting on our early stage proposals' document, the first of a series of presentations was held and they were completed by the end of that same month, with Feedback having to be in by 13th March 2024. Additionally, very few – three for this area (4305) - notification's posted recently (bits of card on sticks hammered into the ground by the side of two roads – not very professional!) advising your advanced plans to obtain Development Consent Orders (DCO's) seems to indicate that you view the Consultation period as just a legal stage to go through and the commencement as per your plans is a foregone conclusion!. Such haste and very little prior notification, if any, of a project of this magnitude is not the way to take the community with you, certainly not in our opinion or indeed that, we have discovered either, of ALL our local friends.

Are we NIMBYS? We don't think so just because we genuinely have a real interest in protecting the countryside and the communities residing in it, not just here but throughout the United Kingdom and indeed in other countries. Some projects when

proposed may have some stated benefits but on closer examination also have many overriding negatives and in reality, are not far short of industrial vandalism on a grand scale. We believe that this is one such project for a variety of what we believe are very valid reasons.

Lincolnshire was once proudly known as "The Bomber County" but is now locally known as the dumping ground for so called environmental projects. Energy projects after energy projects either already constructed or approved, with many more to follow when the sub stations for this project are constructed and online to facilitate viable connections to the Grid.

Solar Farms – oh yes, lots of empty low populated flat land in Lincolnshire, put them there with little objection!

Wind Turbines – oh yes, lots of low populated empty flat land in Lincolnshire, put them there with little objection!

Pylons – oh yes, lots of low populated empty flat land in Lincolnshire, put them there with little objection.

Well, there are objections, and we very much hope that there are enough to make NG think again on this one. Underground preferred. Our local Member of Parliament, Sir John Hayes raised the issue with the previous Prime Minister in the House and received an encouraging reply, supportive of the need to protect our environment and our farming industry from this project. Will this new Government follow suit?????

Local people in Lincolnshire have raised objections via petitions, which we have added our signatures to. Local Councillors have issued leaflets recommending written objections – as has ours. Indeed, Lincolnshire County Council are very opposed to the proposals and are, I believe, taking legal action against NG to obtain more detailed financial information with a view to the cabling going underground.

Many other people are against the project and in particular the use of huge pylons but do nothing because they do not believe that their view will be listened to, so their objections are not registered. A mood of general apathy is responsible for this but nonetheless the groundswell of objections is running high.

Alternatively, look again at the suitability of the so-called Swathe for routing the pylons – we asked at the Presentation why this route had been proposed and were told in a quite arrogant manner that the people at NG think it is the best. Well, that answer is not satisfactory. Why cannot the routing be underground and further towards the coastline

which is clearly less populated and likely to cause fewer concerns to people and village/town life.

Also, and importantly, our understanding from the presentation and the data available, is that the power transit is not to the benefit of those living in Lincolnshire but those mainly living in the South of England! Well, if this is so, it begs the question as to why cables should be routed through Lincolnshire and other counties at all? If we can lay cables/and piping across the North Sea and the Atlantic, why can you not transit the power, which is already offshore further under the sea down towards where its use is intended? No pylons, no eyesores!

Added benefits of revisiting your proposal and switching to underground include a lower cost of maintenance and added protection regarding the increasing need for security. Why is any overhead route being used? Too expensive to put them underground I hear you say but is it! This information is not being made readily available and NG's word for it is not sufficient because it requires formal and vigorous scrutiny.

Above ground hardware needs routine and emergency maintenance, particularly as a consequence of bad weather – not unknown in Lincolnshire. If, however, the cables are underground, this cost is minimal by comparison and cost effective in the long run. Once they are in, they are in!

Water pipework, gas pipework and telephone cables are routinely placed underground without question, so why should electricity be different? This should not be the case, why not a linked grid throughout the UK for Water, Gas and Electricity, or maybe following our North to South and East to West rail and road networks? One trench takes all with access locations as necessary. Surely something to seriously consider with the shared need for the population for each service being very much equal. A current water transference project near Peterborough is a case in point. If cabling across country is necessary, why not plan and co-ordinate with the other facilities providers and share costs?

Also, why are other countries seemingly more imaginative and mindful of the environment with regard to the provision of electricity. Germany for instance pioneer solar panel fencing. Korea has solar panels above car parks and the length of motorways between the crash barriers, etc, etc. No that is no good for us, we will instead erect miles and miles of 70-meter metal eyesores like our predecessors and theirs, going back centuries!

We understand that so called expert Simon Cran-McGreehin, Head of Analysis at the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit said "an offshore grid without onshore pylons made

no sense. The proposed grid investments already include coordinated undersea cables to connect up the UK's vast offshore wind potential, but at some point, those lines have to come ashore to reach customers, otherwise it's like a ring road without any routes into town".

Why does it make no sense? Bring it ashore as close as possible to where the power is required in this case London! The National Grid in other areas in the UK preferred underground cabling through areas, when necessary, mainly for environmental reasons and despite the so-called additional costs and these, once installed do not permanently ruin the countryside through which the power transits. So why not the same for this project?

An argument for the 'lazy' use of pylons is that it is the most cost-effective routing, but this is just a more persuasive way of saying that it is a cheap and financially beneficial to a select few, way of doing it! In this day and age bottom line cost, certainly for a project such as this should not be the favoured choice when you also consider all the mitigating factors, including the quality of life for all those affected on an ongoing lifelong basis thereafter. Who wants to look at a 70 meter plus pylon out of their window every day – no one! Who wants to hear electric buzzing 24 hours a day, no one. This will not of course apply to those proposing this countryside desecration because we are advised that they do not live locally and will not be inconvenienced in any way whatsoever if this is allowed to proceed, as is, In addition their bank balances will certainly notice considerable enhancement and enable them we are sure to live in comfortable areas with nice pylon free views! Where does the current Minister responsible live? Life is not fair, but we should work harder at it so being!

Pylons were apparently invented by the Egyptians centuries back and were first installed in this country in 1928, ninety-seven years ago and have been used to date mainly, despite many continued protests on the basis that they are "cheap and cheerful", oh sorry, cost effective. Surely engineers since and now, should be embarrassed because they have not invented a better alternative that does not impact on people as much as pylons do. Progress, what progress? There are better ways of achieving the transference and supply of electricity as required.

If not, where do you stop with your current proposals? In years to come with our ever-increasing population, farmland will be in short supply and the pleasing environment that we cling to today will be destroyed forever and lifestyles will be even more soul destroying than it is already becoming!

So, you should consider underground routing instead of the 89-mile-long swathe proposed. It would be shorter and once in place cause minimal impact on residents or

those passing through once it is in situ. Yes, the initial costs MAY be higher but outweighed over time by the lack of maintenance needs.

Given the obvious benefits of unchanged landscape and the state of mind and welfare of the hundreds of thousands of people who would be affected, for the reasons I have given the underground option should be seriously pursued in preference to the existing proposal for using pylons. Either that or the utilisation of pylons already (sadly) in position.

Raising more capital? Government Grants should definitely be considered for at least the difference in cost between underground against overground – if there is a difference!

A NG Share Issue should also be considered to raise the funding necessary. Having been shareholders ourselves, if only with modest investments, and given the obvious benefits, we would be happy with this option. Alternatively, a short-term nonpayment of Shareholder Dividend payments in lieu of monies necessary for this project could also be considered.

Our comments above are now followed by my personal observations regarding how this would affect our family, neighbours and us personally.

We would be affected in that your preferred swathe, as presented in the documentation appears to pass very, very close our house!!!!!! We are therefore very concerned not only for the quality of life of ourselves but also for the Standing of our property. We live in a Category II listed building (PE120HG) built circa 1750's and its pleasing setting will be wiped out by the proximity of your intended pylons and cables. Another Category II property, Guarnock House, sits on the other side of your swathe with the same criteria likely to be affected.

In recent years wind turbines and solar farms were also planned to be in your swathe area, but the applications were rejected by Government, partly because of the negative impact they would have had on our two properties and the surrounding areas but mainly because of the sacrifice of Grade A farmland, which will happen again. Additionally, there are no suitable roads in the immediate area for access and entry to the proposed sites so construction would necessitate much improved infrastructure that Lincolnshire Highways highlighted previously as significant. We very much hope therefore that these added factors will be strongly considered by yourselves before progressing further. We did draw this to the attention of one of your representatives, who of course did not live anywhere near your proposed route, at the presentation that we attended but only got a very vague response along the lines that your experts would have taken this into consideration – oh, that's okay then!

We have seriously tried to avoid a 'not in my back yard' approach and merely wish for something which wouldn't so adversely affect people's lives and destroy our countryside/heritage. If pylons must be part of the route either utilise existing ones or position new ones alongside main roads/motorways and industrial areas.

So why is the purple swathe your preferred option and cannot a 'marsh' route be adopted? We have been told that the RSPB had early notice and objected to a 'marsh' route due to the impact on wildlife but surely this cannot be true. Whilst a desire to protect wildlife is admirable, waterside birds will adapt when this project is in place there. Better to impact the life of people rather than birds? We say again, surely not. Huge pylons are far more likely to harm more birds than underground will affect.

Yours faithfully,

Robert and Jennifer Cockerton

Caroline Pope

I have found the way that National Grid has been handling the communications regarding the proposed Sealink project to be sadly very lacking! The initial consultations and in fact, all of them since have not been at all well publicised, I only found out about this proposed Sealink project from an electrician who was working at my mum's house. He told me briefly about National Grid's proposed development plans and about a consultation that they were going to hold! Being that this is such a massive scheme and will cause so much disturbance and destruction I was shocked by the lack of communication about these meetings! It would appear that this is their practice to try to keep people in the dark about their proposed project so that they get less opposition and objections! which is totally unfair and shows a total lack of concern for the local communities and their environments, putting their own agenda first, and trying to maximise their own profits!

I attended National Grid's exhibitions but found that the models that they did have were not at all very good and did not relay the extent of how all of the infrastructure would impact our environment. I have learned from having to do a lot of research and fact-finding what an awful detrimental effect this project in its present state will have upon our communities as well as the precious wildlife and their habitats that it will disturb and destroy!

National Grid has not been transparent in its approach. Questions have been ignored and left unanswered. Models have not been shown to an acceptable scale, and have not shown everything in the relevant size, such as the Pylons which I didn't see at all! Yet,

these will have detrimental effects on the look of our landscape, the loss of land they will use, and the terrible devastation to birds that may fly into them!

National Grid did not give any other option other than the Landfall site being at Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve, and the Converter and Substation being on the precious Wetlands wildlife haven on Minster Marshes! They did and do have other options but only presented this one option! How can this be a fair consultation if only one option is presented? There are other sites and possibilities of an Integrated Meshed Offshore Grid which would be much more environmentally friendly, reduce the need for so much destructive infrastructure on land and also allow for future projects to be connected at sea, plus the many more benefits that I'm sure you will know about!

England is one of the most Nature-depleted countries in the world! This is not a fact that we should be proud about and allowing projects such as this to go ahead will only make this sad fact a whole lot worse! We desperately need to be seen to be protecting what little true biodiverse wildlife environments we have left! For Goodness Sake! Pegwell Bay is a National Nature Reserve! It has multiple designated Protections on it! What good are these protections if projects such as these are allowed to run right through it, causing so much disturbance, loss, pollution, and damage in the process? In National Grid's own literature, they have said that they will respect specially designated areas, well surely respecting these areas means leaving them alone, avoiding them, and therefore causing them no harm! The Nemo link back in 2018 has left irreversible damage to this very day! And has anyone thought about the not-so-obvious damage that this will also do to the mudflats with them being compacted with the heavy machinery and the possible pollution caused by the drill lubricant?

Minster Marshes is a valuable Wetland area that is home to all sorts of Wildlife, many of which are endangered species! We have spotted 33 endangered RED LISTED BIRDS so far; this number is continually growing as many migratory birds visit also throughout the year! Water Voles, European Eels, Beavers, Bats, and Badgers, are some of the mammals also living there. Precious flora and fauna are also present, such as Lizard and Bee Orchids. Again, in National Grid's literature, they said that they would not build on Wetlands and areas prone to flooding which Minster Marshes regularly does! It is Marshland and is valuable not just for the biodiverse habitat that it provides but also helps to stop flooding of the nearby villages, especially Sandwich which is just downstream from it. It also is a valuable Carbon Sink! We need to keep it as it is, in its entirety!

Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve and Minster Marshes are extremely inappropriate areas to be even considered for such a project! Please do not allow this to happen!

National Grid is displaying their total lack of care for our biodiverse environments! To want to go through a National Nature Reserve, and to want to site a Massive Converter/Substation on valuable Marshland is sheer madness and shows a total lack of respect for the value of these areas! The Mitigation land that they are proposing is totally unsuitable and will in no way make up for the loss of such well-established biodiverse environments! The Mitigation area is 3 miles away from Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve and will not be at all suitable for some of the birds that use Minster marshes when the tide is in. The mitigation area is already a farmer's field that has wildlife in it, so will not present much if any Biodiversity Net Gain!

To try to get over the fact that Minster Marshes regularly flood they are trying to act like God and build up the Marsh using hundreds of tonnes of some sort of aggregate how can this be environmentally caring? It will only push the problem of flooding elsewhere! Along with causing more heavy goods vehicles polluting, damaging and causing congestion on the roads, and noise and disturbance to the communities that live nearby.

The effects of this on the communities nearby have not even been considered, many homeowners' properties will be devalued, and the work period will be extremely lengthy, with bank holidays offering no respite from the noise and pollution. People use these areas to walk and bird watch and as a release from the stresses of daily life. This project will and is already causing locals stress and mental health and anxiety problems! Some of the locals in Cliffsend have received letters asking all sorts of questions relating to the ownership of their properties, and one old lady I spoke to was very scared that her house was going to be repossessed! National Grid has not acknowledged or provided any sort of reassurance or counselling to ease people's anxieties. I can clearly state that they do not care about our environment, our wildlife, or the local communities of people. But what they do care about is their own profits and getting this proposed project done as easily and cheaply for themselves as possible! This must not be allowed to happen!

The Richborough area is also under consideration as a UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, this must also be taken into account, if this proposed Sealink project gets the go-ahead this could ruin this also!

Please do not let this happen! I am for Green Energy, but this is definitely not Green Energy if it is destroying what we should be trying our utmost to protect! Please help us to protect our future, our communities, our wildlife, and the precious little amount of true wildlife habitats that we have left! Please Do Not allow this Sealink Project to go ahead! We do not want or need to suffer such devastating losses that this project will cause! There is a much better Way!

We stand at a moment in history when nature needs us to defend and protect it!

Please do so and reject this!

Kind Regards and hoping that good sense will prevail.

Mrs Caroline Pope

Grace Piercy

My wife and I are landowners that will be directly affected by National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury pylon route, should it go ahead.

I feel that National Grid have not been transparent with their proposal ,especially regarding how they came to the decision of carving (up to) a 100m wide swathe, 180km long, starting at Norwich and then cutting through beautiful rural East Anglia all the way down to Tilbury, using an archaic Electricity Transmission System of 50m high Pylons, when all the other potential options have not been fully addressed.

Until last week, National Grid had a promo video on YouTube in which they said an offshore grid is best, which they took down after public awareness to it, was made by Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons action group. Why did National Grid take the video down? An offshore grid is what the East Anglian people want.

I am a Conservation Woodsman; I have a small business specialising in the restoration of ancient and neglected woodlands and hedgerows.

My wife and I care about nature and our countryside, so much so, we sold our modest terraced house and have invested almost everything that we have, in buying some woodland and meadows, approximately 9 acres, to manage as a private nature reserve.

In April 2022, we received news of National Grid's proposed Norwich to Tilbury 400,000v pylon route, and were shocked to find that this proposal would destroy a small, old woodland that is part of our nature reserve. This woodland, although not listed as Ancient Woodland, shows good age (probably 300+ years old) and has flora associated with ancient woodlands. It is probably a remnant of ancient woodland.

After attending National Grid's non-statutory consultation, we left feedback asking them to go offshore but if the overland route was to go ahead, to avoid our special little woodland. After many emails to Fisher German, National Grid's agents, regarding our concerns about this proposal, and after National Grid's many surveys, they changed their proposed route for their 2024 proposal, for a less ecologically damaging route, compared to going through the semi ancient woodland.

We attended National Grid's 2024 Statutory Consultation to discuss their proposed route through our area, and were told by one of National Grid's employees, that the new route

would be totally avoiding our woodland, but the adjoining re-wilding woodland site and a meadow would be affected. Although less ecologically damaging than their 2022 proposal, it would still be devastating for the local wildlife with the destruction of valuable habitat and reduction in biodiversity. We said this in our feedback to the Statutory Consultation and once again, urged them to look into an offshore grid.

As a result of the 2024 feedback, National Grid released their 2025 proposal, which took an about turn, and is again proposing to go over our special little woodland, which would mean clearing it, and over our meadows which would result in approximately 2 ½ acres of our 9 acre nature reserve being destroyed. That is approximately 28% of our nature reserve. This proposed route would also require the removal of a number of mature (possibly veteran) trees, from not only the woodlands but also the field boundaries, which again would have a huge impact on the wildlife populations that they support, including many species of bat, owls, red deer and badger. The list goes on.

As a result of National Grid's poorly thought-out proposals, and the way this whole project has been handled, my wife and I are suffering extreme anxiety, not only about the possible destruction of an ecologic and biodiverse semi ancient woodland, but also the surrounding area, as it is a beautiful, historically important and relatively untouched landscape. Its character has changed very little over the centuries.

But National Grid do not appear to care about Nature, Wildlife, Ecology, or Local Communities or the effect these proposals have on them. If they did, they would look into all the options and fully evaluate the actual costs and implications of each of these options before deciding on a route.

At the very least, please make National Grid put this project on-hold whilst they fully investigate the options. We, the public deserve better than this.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Piercy

Christopher Holmes

I am extremely concerned at the lack of transparency shown by National Grid in their business plan for the country, and in particularly in their plans for the Norwich to Tilbury pylon project. Individuals and the campaign group, Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons, have continually asked for National Grid to be open and honest about the information offered, and National Grid continues to be less than forthcoming. Only this month NGET has

removed access to a video stating the benefits of an offshore grid which contradicts its reasons for selecting overhead lines for the Norwich to Tilbury project. This was done on the very day that it was made available to supporters of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons group and is a blatant disregard of transparency on the part of National Grid. They simply do not want people to know the truth.

National Grid's plans do not take into account what is best for the environment. Their consultations have asked for comments, and these have been carefully thought through and supplied, and then duly ignored by National Grid.

Our experience of dealing with National Grid is that it likes to give the appearance of 'listening' so that it can tick that box. However, the reality is that it is determined to plough ahead and ignore all reasonable feedback. Their 'Consultations' are in fact a farce, as there is no real consulting.

National Grid does not care about communities. People need very real compensation for the potential destruction of farmland, environment, wildlife, villages, property prices, mental health. This should all be included in the overall costings of the pylons plans, and it very definitely is not. Again, National Grid is not being transparent, honest or open.

I very much hope that Ofgem will listen to this and will send National Grid back to the drawing board. Nobody denies that future electricity supplies are required for the whole country but it is so important to ensure that the methods used are the best possible ones to carry the country forward. Make sure they get it right. Please!

Kind regards,
Christopher Holmes

John Towle

The 'consultation' was anything but and did not occur until a proposed route had already been chosen. The staff at the local consultation in Horsley struggled to answer our concerns especially contradictions observed with the holford rules. Staff lacked any detailed knowledge further heightening our concerns and were quite abrupt at the end as they seemed more interested in quickly closing the consultation and getting away sooner than trying to help us better understand the process and effects on the community.

There was no consideration given for undergrounding or off shoring and national grid seemed adamant that pylons were the only viable option. Cost of undergrounding cabling were deliberately embellished. Very little consideration for the environment and

the consultation for what it was worth seemed already to be a done deal with little room for negotiation! Not exactly a consultation, more a showcasing of the approved project.

Since the 'consultations' no proper costings have yet been shown to back anything of what they have said to be true?

A recent letter sent to me had my name correct but my address completely incorrect and sent to a random address some 3 miles away. This letter contained other people's information and details, and I feel extremely anxious and worried about how these mistakes can happen? Furthermore, how many other similar instances have occurred.

My overall impression of National Grids consultation is one of incompetence and totally unprofessional conduct. I would expect someone in my workplace to be disciplined for this sort of performance, but as yet, this all seems to have gone unchallenged. Very reminiscent of the recent Post Office debacle.

As the UK sales manager of a highly successful engineering company, I remain absolutely astounded by all the holes appearing in this project and how such a major national infrastructure project has been rolled out, with, I hasten to add government backing. The primary objective seems to be the cheapest and fastest way to achieve a goal and tread on everyone who gets in the way.

A complete national disgrace and sadly one of many.

I can only hope Ofgem realise the implications of what is actually happening and hold those responsible to account, in the name of both the consumers and electorate who clearly have major unanswered concerns over this poorly thought-out infrastructure project.

Kind regards

John Towle

Kate Golightly

I am a resident in Lincolnshire who is affected by National Grid's plans to build pylons from Grimsby to Walpole and 3 electricity substations and converter stations around Alford.

Whilst we are not at the statutory consultation stage yet, I have significant concerns from my dealings with National Grid at their initial consultations and from seeing how they are proceeding with other similar projects such as Norwich to Tilbury.

National Grid are not being transparent

Since initially hearing about Grimsby to Walpole we have learnt of the many other projects that are now wishing to connect to it which will complete industrialise this area. Some are underground, some are being brought part way under sea, but we are not being offered any choice other than pylons. National Grid have not made it clear that an 80m wide section along the entire route would be required to be cleared for pylons. They have refused to give information about costings for pylons, simply stating that it would be cheaper than undergrounding, yet they are comparing this with HVAC not HVDC undergrounding and using out of date reports to support their arguments. An offshore grid is something that National Grid themselves said would be cheaper and more effective, but they have recently taken down their videos which stated this. There ARE cheaper, more modern and better ways to deliver this, and the government and National Grid need to look again! The presumption for pylons needs to be removed and energy needs to be transported to brown field sites, closest to where it is needed (this is not Lincolnshire!).

National Grid are not doing the best for the environment

Treasury Green Book rules are not being followed. How can these projects in any way be described as 'green'. What is the impact on the climate of pouring huge quantities of concrete onto countryside and agricultural land going to do to improve carbon capture (hint-leave the trees where they are instead!) and how will this impact on the risk of flooding in Lincolnshire? That's before we even consider the migratory birds, the wildlife habitats that would be destroyed, the agricultural land that would be lost.

National Grid don't care about communities

As residents who live near this project, we are already being negatively impacted. It is affected our mental health (we are not being given choices, and this is being thrust upon us), the scale of what they are proposing is unimaginable and also, we live in fear of what else is to come. The number of piecemeal projects that have been announced in the last 12 months is staggering. Why are we not being given the whole picture? Our house prices are already being impacted, and many are either unable to sell or having to reduce their price if they are to stand a chance of moving. Many do not have that option, again, being left with no choice.

We have already seen a number of other projects (e.g. Viking Link) which have provided Community Benefits. It is unclear what, if anything, National Grid would be offering but no amount of community benefits would offset the destruction of our countryside, our farms and tourism, which are what many people rely on to survive in this rural community.

National Grid are not easy to deal with

It was evident from the non-statutory consultations that National Grid were not making it easy for people to access the information about the project. Consultations were held at locations that were not easily accessible to many people (we are rural-our public transport network is limited!). Consultations were held on weekdays/during working hours. The team of people employed to staff the consultations were woefully lacking in training and knew very little about the project so were often unable to answer questions, were giving out incorrect and often conflicting information.

I attended an online National Grid webinar. Again, this event was not available for all to attend (it wasn't easy to access at the time). I asked National Grid to share their recording of the webinar, and they refused (it was clear that it was being recorded at the time!).

I thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and hope that you will send National Grid back to the drawing board!

Yours sincerely

Kate Golightly

East Anglian Alliance of Amenity Groups

The East Anglian Alliance comprises an informal association of amenity groups, countryside organisations and community representatives in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. While each group has specific interests in relation to Ofgem's consultation and several are responding to this call for evidence directly, they share common concerns about potential impacts on the region's communities and countryside.

Executive summary:

NGET's business plan contains bold statements about its commitment to community consultation and environmental protection and enrichment. These claims are not supported by valid evidence nor by NGET's recent actions and proposals. In one instance Ofgem appears to have encouraged NGET to sidestep its commitments which calls Ofgem's independence into question. The business plan should not be accepted as it stands. Improved consultation is required to achieve meaningful amendments. A change in culture will also be needed if NGET is to respond to stakeholder concerns.

Community consultation and engagement

In the BP NGET states:

We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance. We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

While NGET runs substantial promotion campaigns and consultations designed to persuade communities that the need case and the proposed method of delivery is necessary, discussion of alternative solutions and the wider context is generally avoided. Instead, it is referred to NESO or to other third parties. This might be acceptable if NESO were not so heavily dependent on NGET data or if relevant information was not withheld or restricted. For example, there has been no early consultation on the additional Bramford substation despite the cumulative impact that would result due to other proposed infrastructure. Also, a National Grid video on the benefits of developing more advanced offshore infrastructure was removed when it became apparent community groups would use it to support their arguments.

Environmental impacts including visual impact

In the BP NGET states:

Our local community engagement continues to highlight opportunities for visual improvement, which is considered for each new build project to protect natural beauty as far as reasonably possible.

The commitment that follows is:

Honour our commitment to visual improvement and invest in preserving natural beauty where new infrastructure is needed.

NGET then states:

We have followed Ofgem's recommendation not to initiate any new VIP projects during RIIO-T3 as it would limit our work elsewhere. (BP p71).

NGET's commitment is not compatible with the statement above. Ofgem and NGET appear to have reneged on an understanding with stakeholders that the VIP scheme should continue. Curtailment is a retrograde step and the claimed encouragement by Ofgem is surprising. The reason given of 'limiting work elsewhere' would, if applied to other NGET operations, relieve it of most of its responsibilities. Effectively claiming a business 'has too much to do' is the poorest excuse and not worthy of a major international utility.

The VIP programme was not undertaken lightly. It was the result of lengthy consultation between Ofgem and stakeholders including Campaign for National Parks, CPRE and members of this Alliance. The use of WtP survey techniques was developed through consultation and demonstrated a clear acceptance of the concept, including by people who were not directly affected by electricity infrastructure. The allowance decided by Ofgem was far from the upper range that could have been set by applying the findings of the WtP research.

In 2023 Ofgem accepted NGET's revised visual impact provision policy. At that time there was no indication the scheme would not be renewed for RIIO-T3 as for RIIO-T2 following its implementation during the RIIO-T1 price control period. We are not aware of any recent consultation on the issue. Completing existing projects is insufficient and suggests the break in the programme will be permanent. It suggests visual amenity is no longer of interest to NGET, nor to Ofgem.

NGET has also departed from some of the accepted principles of the scheme in other projects, including the Bramford to Twinstead upgrade and Norwich to Tilbury proposals. Ofgem's letter of 17 November 2023 concerning amendments to the VIP policy states:

NGET also confirms that the policy would apply to lines adjacent to protected landscape that still affect that landscape, and that consideration will be given to cost savings resulting from combining mitigation projects with other planned works...

In practice NGET has steadfastly refused to accept the impact of lines and towers that they plan to place in clear view of protected landscapes and that would therefore affect those landscapes, even where suitable mitigation is merely relocating sealing end compounds in suitable locations further from the landscape.

Based on recent experience with the Bramford to Twinstead upgrade, NGET's commitment to fulfil its biodiversity net gain obligations and environmental mitigation are also in doubt. Initial concerns were set out in the local authority's Joint Local Impact Report¹ and following the planning hearing some of these concerns were reflected in the Inspectors' recommendation². The absence of detail in the RIIO-T3 business plan on

¹ [Bramford to Twinstead - BMSDC SCC Joint Local Impact Report](#)

² Bramford to Twinstead Planning Authorities Report, Schedule 3 para 13 places a standard requirement on Biodiversity Net Gain but in the DCO the SoC amended Requirement 4 and made other consequential amendments in the DCO to ensure that the relevant management plans are considered outline and must be approved by the relevant Local Authority post-consent. In practice these are wide ranging.

ways in which NGET proposes to improve its application processes is therefore unacceptable.

We believe that Ofgem should take note of such 'grass roots' experience and respond to the BP accordingly.

John Foster

for the EAAAG

Karl Moxham

I don't feel as though National Grid have had the interests of those affected by the pylons in the slightest. From day one it's felt like it's a done deal and this is just a box ticking exercise.

I also have concerns over the legitimacy and thoroughness on their findings around the impact on local wildlife and the environment as a whole.

I don't believe alternatives have been looked into with any real conviction either.

Feel thoroughly let down by National Grid.

Regards

Karl Moxham

Helen Thompson

We would like to raise the following objections to the proposed routing of pylons across the Lincolnshire Fens.

1. The "consultation period" has been a joke. Like many others I attended an open evening in a local village hall. There were plenty of glossy pamphlets and a number of smartly turned-out young men and women, but not much hard information. We were promised that we would be contacted directly with further information, but this didn't happen. Telephone calls to the National Grid were curtly dismissed and not returned.

Thirty-five years of working for the NHS taught me that if an organisation wishes to bring in an unpopular policy or change, the usual state is to hold a lengthy consultation process, and then quietly introduce the change with a few minor tweaks. So far, the National Grid seem to be following the playbook exactly. Their lack of transparency and failure to communicate is a disgrace. No wonder Lincolnshire County Council are taking legal action.

2. Of course, the electricity from offshore wind farms has to be brought ashore, a perceptive insight from the Head of Analysis at the Energy and Climatic Intelligence Unit (sic) which amply justifies his presumably six figure salary. The issue is how this can best be done with the least impact on the lives of local inhabitants and the preservation of local habitats. This is likely to be achieved by bringing the electricity ashore, as close to its point of use as possible, or taking steps to disguise the impact on the countryside by burying cables underground.
3. The Lincolnshire Fens are already facing applications to cover very large areas of productive land with solar farms, which will inevitably bring further developments in their wake. Now we face a massive pylon construction program, it really feels that we are under siege. The unique Fenland landscape, undervalued by outsiders, but precious to its human and animal inhabitants, faces irreversible industrialisation and ruin.
4. We could accept this if it could clearly be shown that there is no feasible alternative. Two are obvious, taking the cables under the sea across the wash or burying them underground and routing them closer to the shore. The undersea route appears to be much shorter which might mitigate the initial cost. Taking the cables underground, as is done with gas and electricity mains, might be more expensive but less environmentally damaging and perhaps need less maintenance.

We feel that the National Grid has no interest in exploring these alternatives but simply wish to carry on covering the countryside with pylons, as they have done for most of the last century, whilst assuring us there is "no alternative". There may be no alternative, but they need to produce robust evidence to that effect and make a serious effort to engage with the public and answer their objections honestly. This development should be refused until they do.

Michael and Helen Thompson

Stan Worrell

National Grid. They have a total lack of understanding with regards to dealing with people and their communities. They see nothing apart from their sole intent to drive their plans where it suits them.

They have a total disregard for the local environment and think "everything will be alright as we are doing the right thing", but it's not our thing!

The consultations have been piecemeal, only pushing what they want and not looking at what their developments will do to people's lives and local businesses. They are neither transparent or truthful and have never really listened to what people think.

National Grid are not considering what they are doing to the environment, blighting many areas with these pylons, sub-stations and battery storage facilities, many natural features would be removed for their wholesale demolition and construction, features that have stood the test of time.

There has been no dealing with National Grid, they had consultants at the consultations and then posted or emailed out questionnaires and asked for more information about their impact. They have been told many times about the alternatives and every time they have said they want to go down the cheap option, yet we hear of other projects, and they are doing precisely what we have wanted for this Norwich to Thurrock power line debacle.

Very best regards

Stan Worrell

Gillian Carroll

As an affected community member I feel that our concerns have been ignored, and as time goes on, it is clear that the whole of the UK is being affected and not just Scotland and our local community. There has been no major announcement regarding the whole route, and these plans have been submitted 'section by section' of the route. We have only heard about other sections of the route by word of mouth and then slowly drip fed more information via the media as they have become more aware of what is being planned, via other angry communities affected, which will eventually affect everyone.

Scotland's once beautiful countryside is going to be desecrated by monstrous pylons, battery storage plants etc. How can this be environmentally friendly? There are better alternatives available to reach Net Zero targets, but these are being ignored in order to benefit the shareholders of the companies involved.

Politicians say they are listening but are choosing to ignore the concerns from members of the communities directly affected in order to get these preposterous plans rushed through without proper investigation and are calling us NIMBYs. We are not NIMBYs - we don't want them in anyone's 'back yard', especially when more modern technologies exist.

Who will take accountability when we are left with these outdated 'white elephants' and our countryside is ruined forever?

We do not want to be responsible for leaving a legacy of destroying our precious environment by allowing these plans to go ahead, not to mention the years of industrial development around us, using imported materials resulting in heavy construction traffic as well as road congestion.

Farmers and farming will be greatly affected resulting in local food shortages and meaning we will have to rely on imported produce which will push up the cost of living.

Time needs to be taken to come up with a proper solution to meet Net Zero targets and not rushed through, just so the government can say they've 'ticked a box' without thinking about the consequences of these rushed plans.

Kind regards

Mrs Gillian Carroll

Stan

NGET's pledges to communities: it is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options. Will not engage with local organisations such as Parish Councillors to discuss the proposals; will not disclose the width of the buffer area.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:

- for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons
- and integrated offshore grid. This has not been explored by NGET despite offering known cost-savings and reductions in infrastructure.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The only 3D tools available have been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the N2T project. Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Not the case; refusing to engage with local communities such as parish councils to discuss the proposals.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Again, not engaging with Parish Councils.

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4

Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project:

- Refusal of NGET to share risk register
- Refusal to share granular costings
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines.
"In the case of HVDC orders, this has resulted in our supply chain partners investing in a new factory, a new ship and a significant expansion of a UK facility on the back of the long-term order book certainty we have given them." "£9bn HVDC frameworks to help us invest on an unprecedented scale across NGET and the National Grid Group. This includes procuring over 14,000km of cable, a third of global market capacity."

Lisa Cross

National grid's consultation process on the Norfolk to Tilbury grid upgrade has been anything but transparent, despite lengthy engagement we have seen no evidence whatsoever of their consideration to any of our views, the words 'fait accompli' come to mind.

Environmentally, whilst we all agree clean, green energy is a must, the great grid upgrade plans ride roughshod over every environmental concern we have raised for our area, consistently trying to reinforce their proposals rather than listening and trying to understand.

National Grid has no understanding what -so- ever about the stakeholder communities, for example offering community benefit schemes of little or no relevance to our neighbourhood pales into insignificance when considered against the ruinous and long-lasting impact of their plans on our area and homes.

Our understanding is that Ofgem's role is to protect consumers and help the energy industry to improve the environment. In this respect we are looking to you to help protect us as dealing with National Grid has been entirely unsatisfactory.

Yours Faithfully

Mr and Mrs Cross

Martin West

My comments about National Grid Electricity Transmission are below:

- The countryside and food security needs to be protected in the grid upgrade. Pylon construction swathe will be approx 80m wide we are warned
- People and businesses should be compensated
- Pylons are the last resort. An offshore grid is my preferred alternative

Martin West

Michelle Gibbs

I would like to express my opinion on National Grid and you as a regulator should be aware.

Firstly, I have attended the so called 'consultation' meetings that have been held locally and to be frank none of our voices are being heard. There are thousands of people that will be affected by these monstrosities in more ways than one, our lives, business, wildlife will be devastated, and National Grid are taking a blind eye.

NATIONAL GRID - NOT TRANSPARENT

NATIONAL GRID - DOES NOT CARE ABOUT COMMUNITIES

NATIONAL GRID - DOES NOT CARE ABOUT WILDLIFE

NATIONAL GRID - ARE LIARS (you tube video taken down evidence where NG actually admit that offshore was cheaper this needs to be looked at by Ofgem)

75-metre-high pylons, 112 miles NG must go back to the drawing board. There are options, INTEGRATED OFFSHORE GRID, HVDC UNDERGROUND, UPGRADE EXISTING GRID ALL BETTER/CHEAPER/POPULAR.

None of what NG or the government have proposed makes sense, there is clearly an underlying reason for them to press ahead with a nonsensical scheme and it is your job to investigate and make public your investigations.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Gibbs

Cllr Lesley Wagland

I am writing to put forward my views in response to the third and statutory round of consultation on proposals by NGET (National Grid) which were formerly described as "East Anglia Green Energy Enablement" but have now been renamed "Norwich to Tilbury" as part of "The Great Grid Upgrade".

As the Essex County Councillor for Brentwood Rural Division and one of the three Brentwood Borough Councillors for Ingatestone, Fryerning and Mountnessing Ward which also sits within my County Division, I wrote on 16 June 2022 in response to the first round of informal consultation which completed on the same day, 16 June 2022. As then, my response today is in my capacity as a representative of the communities in my Division and Ward and a resident myself.

Response on inadequacies of the statutory consultation

This third round of consultation, has run from 10 April to 18 June 2024, subsequently extended to 26 July because of the general election.

1. There were no Village specific meetings. The single exhibition at the Brentwood Centre was welcome, but it took place very shortly after the start of the consultation period and many of the residents in my division and ward had no idea it was taking place at all. The online sessions were not accessible for many of my more vulnerable residents (and ones most likely to be in the village all the time during the works the subject of this proposal) and for many the Brentwood Centre is not convenient to get to without a car. This Brentwood Centre meeting should have been in addition to, not in substitution for, village specific meetings as happened for the first round of consultation.
2. Residents report signing up several times to receive briefings and updates by email, without receiving any. They found the online briefings gave no specific or detailed information on what the consultation describes as "Temporary construction requirements" including the haul roads and there was no explanation of the impacts of these on Ingatestone, the Wid Valley, Padhams Green and their historical features, viewpoints and landscapes. For this reason, many residents are not able to do as invited and address these requirements. These matters should have been the subject of separate investigations, including with my local communities, and a separate consultation.
3. This is important as it was accepted by NGET following the first consultation responses that Ingatestone village should be avoided by its proposals. The preferred route for the pylons was modified to give effect to this and moved somewhat further away from the village and from Ingatestone Hall, as well as

subject to minor modifications round St Giles Church in Mountnessing and some properties in its vicinity. Residents, businesses, farmers and local communities need will need to know that there will also be protection proportionate to the extraordinary scale of the project is provided for the village and its surrounding communities from what we are told will be 4 or more years of major construction works including major highway works. They also need to know that when and how the damage caused will be reinstated.

4. However, it has not been possible from the sheer volume and complexity of documents covering the whole of the route what difference those changes made and to what extent that policy of avoiding Ingatestone would be realised. This is contrary to the April 2024 newsletter which acknowledged the changes, and that people might be hearing about the consultation for the first time. It does not acknowledge that they might be seeing it for a second or third time and so need to understand the changes by reference to what they had commented on before and to know that they should comment again. This has been inadequately explained and deprived many residents of the opportunity to be heard this time.
5. The maps and materials are impenetrable without expert assistance as well as IT skills. I was, for example, helped by my Council officers to find one example of a "Construction section" F (Sheet 9 of 9) which is the only place where I could identify tiny pictures and specifications for the type of vehicles that might be used in connection with a "haul road" and its accesses. The constraints shown on this drawing demonstrate fundamental problems with the proposed access arrangements via the B1002, the A12 and Margaretting.
6. A note of "suggested mitigation" in F9 includes "Crane and two-way HGV traffic may need to slow while passing. Temporary traffic management may be employed to allow vehicle to straddle across both carriageway lanes". This is clearly a desktop analysis of the most basic kind with no existing traffic modelling and no indication of the mitigation that would need to be conditioned in any DCO. Legend or keys are limited and often indecipherable where they exist at all in the various materials.
7. There is no proper design or even description of what the "Temporary Construction Requirements" will involve, how they will be mitigated to avoid adverse impacts on Ingatestone, and, very importantly, how and when they would be restored and reinstated. Without reinstatement it is unreasonable to use the term temporary and indeed residents complain to me that they are being told that NGET suggest that they may prefer to keep them. These roads and

infrastructure may be argued by NGET In due course to be needed to be retained for future maintenance of the pylons and cables. There is no costing for removal or explanation of when and how it would take place. Their construction and removal have not been environmentally assessed for its impacts. These are all matters on which my communities would have wished to have a say and comment in detail including on alternatives. They are even matters on which they have been specifically invited to comment in this consultation but there are no materials here to enable them to do so.

8. No options for alternatives schemes and measures that would avoid the need for or substantially mitigate and protect from damage and disturbance from the major construction works appear to have been entertained or considered by NGET and so none are offered as options in the consultation documents.
Undergrounding is not dealt with for this sensitive location despite the acceptance that Ingatestone needs to be avoided and needed to be consulted on.
9. It is of concern that the adjacent communities of Fryerning (in the same Parish as Ingatestone) and Mountnessing (famous for its Windmill) have many features unchanged since the Domesday Book as well as buildings of historic significance and is also substantially affected by the pylons and Temporary works that under these proposals cross and recross the A12. Here the landscape will be changed dramatically by the impact on fields and farming. Taken together with Ingatestone and its surroundings, ancient patterns of landscape and life which can still be seen today will be disturbed and damaged irretrievably. It is essential that proper investigation and consultation of alternative options to avoid and protect takes place in discussion with these local communities.
10. Having already recently experienced serious problems with HGVs in Margaretting (for A12) and Mountnessing (for National Rail) construction works, which in turn resulted in non-works traffic diverting through Ingatestone with periods of congestion and gridlock over South Essex and damage to the historic fabric of the shops, homes and businesses in the narrow roads of the Conservation Area, our communities would have been well placed to help NGET evaluate the impact of any such "temporary construction requirements" but are being deprived of the opportunity to do so by the lack of proper explanation.
11. This is all the more important given that NGET's own April 2024 "Community Newsletter" said "We're also looking for views and comments on our proposals for construction, including temporary access roads and tracks, compounds and temporary areas to store materials, vehicles and staff welfare facilities" and that

“Building the project would involve a range of temporary construction activities. These would include preparing land and creating temporary haul roads to access road areas as well as providing temporary areas to store materials, vehicles and staff welfare facilities We welcome views and comments as part of the consultation”. The public is not however being given a fair opportunity to advocate alternatives, mitigation measures or reinstatement requirements because the details of the proposals for the haul roads, temporary access roads, ancillary construction etc are not there.

12. Significantly NGET has yet to discuss with let alone select a potential contractor or obtain a price for the works. This explains the generic and desktop approach in the documents, and this is also relevant to comparative costings of options. Communities need to know what the proposals in these respects are for their area so they can comment. Even at the exhibitions, this was not possible because NGET have yet to formulate these proposals.
13. The pre-election periods for not one but two elections covered the majority of the third consultation period during which there were severe constraints on Councillors and MPs in terms of publicising issues and financial limit on resources used. This severely hampered elected representatives from assisting our communities to understand, investigate and engage with the proposals. The extension, particularly in a period when many families will have been away, was inadequate.
14. The renaming of the proposals as Norwich to Tilbury is explained as “to make it easy for people to understand what and where [you] are proposing to build new great infrastructure “. However, in the case of residents and businesses in Essex, this has caused even more confusion.
15. NGET says in its materials that its focus remains “to bring new sources of renewable energy to homes and businesses across East, Anglia and the UK”, but residents and businesses in Essex will not benefit from the electricity transmission that this scheme is intended to provide. The renewable energy will, quite literally as matters stand, go over their heads. This is not addressed in a straightforward way in the latest consultation, just as it was not in the previous ones. The energy that the scheme would carry may be green, but this is an infrastructure option and has no green or sustainability credentials.
16. The consultation materials and questions continue to conflate any residents’ support for green energy with approval for the Norwich to Tilbury proposal and its infrastructure type. Residents’ complaints about this to me continue pursuant to

the latest consultation. This approach is logically flawed, inappropriate and unreasonable coming from a body with public responsibilities; and should cease.

Response to the statutory consultation on the proposals

1. ECC responded to the first round of informal consultation in June 2022, raising strong in-principal objections. After reviewing the revised proposals in the present consultation, ECC lodged a further response on 18 August 2023 - to be read in conjunction with last year's - maintaining those in-principal objections. I have seen the intended responses to this third, statutory consultation by ECC and Brentwood Borough Council.
2. I share ECC's concerns that if adopted the current onshore option would create an unco-ordinated, inefficient and outdated approach to energy transmission compared with an integrated offshore grid in the North Sea.
3. The preferred strategic option is, remains and should be that of integrated offshore technology that minimises onshore transmission infrastructure and does not include overhead lines or pylons. The comparisons made in the current consultation documents: ignore issues around the need and timing for electricity transmission including of renewable energy; dismiss a fully holistic approach to an offshore grid in the North Sea; and make unrealistic assumptions about take up in relation to renewable contracts. The materials now made available are not comparing onshore and offshore costs on a like for like basis.
4. Essex is the least developed of the regions around London and the last to offer genuine opportunities for generational improvements in the economy, environment and health and wellbeing of communities, including some of the most disadvantaged in the Country. Norwich to Tilbury is a predominantly overground project. As such this proposal would permanently sterilise and blight swathes of land needed for housing, garden communities, economic development, agriculture, public transport improvements and will preclude the sustainable and renewable infrastructure that is desperately needed to serve Essex communities rather than being parasitic on, or over-sailing, them.
5. The approach to Dunton Hills Garden Community - which was completely overlooked in the original proposals and now is expected to accommodate some of the major pylon infrastructure - ignores the purpose of such a Garden Community scheme which is to offer an attractive, holistically developed, environment and landscape setting in which to live and work. The pylons will be parasitic on this community and any scheme should be undergrounded.

6. It has been misleading (and much criticised by local residents) to suggest that the current proposals for Norwich to Tilbury are a green option and I am glad to see that 'green' has been removed from the title to the scheme. The proposals are for a carbon-heavy, overground proposal using old fashioned-pylon technology dating back to the 1930s for energy transmission. This is not a green solution to transmission nor to energy generation. Pylons have long since ceased to be an engineering innovation as an NG competition showed in 2015.
7. I welcome the shift in the preferred route to one which runs further East of Ingatestone. The River Wid Valley is a landscape asset which should not be intruded on by towering pylons on an industrial scale and the historic features of Ingatestone Hall and St Giles Church are important and warrant protection in terms of their setting.
8. However, the new route would run the same pylons through the residential properties on the outskirts of Ingatestone and Fryerning and across to and along the ridge that faces the River Wid Valley, where they would dominate views and setting of Ingatestone and features which NGET has already acknowledges require protection. There is no illustration of what the visual impact would be, and guidance requires prominent ridges to be avoided.
9. Pylons would also dominate St Margaret's Church in Margaretting at the point where the electricity lines would cross the A12, as well as being too close to historic St Mary's Church, Buttsbury which ironically operates without electricity or other energy sources in providing its services. Views of Buttsbury Church from Ingatestone, Ingatestone Hall, and the Wid Valley are a crucial part of the amenities of the villages of Ingatestone, Fryerning and Mountnessing, popular with tourists and hikers and dog walkers who are essential to the viability of the business and shops which protect the local economy as well as historic character and buildings. These are part of the setting of Ingatestone and would be irreparably damaged.
10. Whilst fewer properties would be affected by the new preferred route, a small number would be close to pylons. This conflicts with the Holford Rules. It is essential that occupiers are supported in discussion with NGET to mitigate the effect on them. This reinforces my view that this infrastructure should be located further away from the Wid Valley altogether.
11. Without the strategic housing allocation at Dunton Hills, Brentwood Borough Council would be unable to meet planning requirements for housing needs and delivery responsibilities.

12. Mountnessing Village is close to Shenfield and under housing pressure from developers, so that it will struggle to accommodate pylons without loss of expansion opportunities necessary to accommodate a growing population. It is already hemmed in by the A12 and its slip roads and needs its remaining green space in the form of agricultural fields to avoid coalescence with Shenfield, Brentwood and Tipps Cross. Mountnessing and Fryerning farmers, as well as those in Ingatestone, would be hard hit by the proposals in terms of agriculture productivity and disruption to productive land at a time when they are contributing to reducing the cost of living and providing sustainable locally sourced produce.
13. All three of my Ward's villages contain numerous historic features whose settings would need to be protected from the visual impact of industrialisation of the kind that 50 metre pylons would represent. Mountnessing features an iconic Windmill owned by ECC with a beautiful cricket pitch and village green. A substantial part of Ingatestone is in a Conservation Area and this and Fryerning village are full of listed buildings and heritage assets. There are 95 Ingatestone and Fryerning entries on the British Listed Buildings website. Notable amongst these is St Edmunds and St Mary's Church which is Grade 1 listed and dates from the 11th Century, being described in England's Thousand Best Churches by Simon Jenkins as "magnificent, a unified perpendicular composition of red brick with black Tudor diapering. Strong angled buttresses rise to a heavy battlemented crown, the bell openings plain".
14. Ingatestone Hall can be reached across agricultural fields with magnificent views over the Valley of the river Wid opening up over the old railway bridge. The line of small telegraph poles over the field puts into sharp relief the impact on those views that National Grid's proposed enclosure of 50 m structures and motorway standard surface two-way haul road will have. Ingatestone Hall too is Grade 1 listed, being a Tudor Manor House with a very extensive listing. It has been in the ownership of the Petre family since it was completed in 1556. Landscape settings and the historic walks and views from and to Ingatestone, notably those that open up from the village cricket pitch all the way to Buttsbury Church is stunning and will be destroyed forever,
15. The railway station buildings are historic and pretty with the gatehouse believed to be the oldest surviving on our railways and undergoing repairs through a local trust and highway heritage funds.

16. All these buildings depend on their countryside settings for their value to the community, which has been maintained around the existing infrastructure, mainly because this is low level. That would end with the pylon scheme. The walks around Ingatestone and Fryerning include historic rights of way and medieval paths and are popular with tourists who bring much needed income into Ingatestone's High Street shops. Tourism in Essex is worth £3.2bn to the County and the Country and the impact of a line of a completely unnatural feature such as pylons through a beautiful unspoilt valley, along with the disruption from installation and construction, will be felt along the length and breadth of the preferred route.
17. Ingatestone Conservation Area in the High Street is extremely narrow centring on the junction between the High Street, Fryerning Lane and Stock Lane. None of these roads are suitable for heavy lorries and equipment of the kind that would be needed for works of this scale. Such large vehicles can cause damage to heritage buildings which sit close to the roads with no or narrow pavements. At the exhibition I was informed that this wouldn't be a problem because extensive access roads would be built for the purpose and traffic managed to prevent access to the village. This did not prove successful in relation to A12, and National Rail works. It is inevitable that considerable damage would be caused by the ancillary works required to install such substantial structures as well as the harm caused to visual amenity by the pylons once installed. There is no complete picture of the cabling infrastructure to assess the cumulative impact of these proposals as well as other major NSIPs which may be underway at the same time.
18. As I have said, my County Council Division is Brentwood Rural. This includes Ingatestone, Fryerning and Mountnessing, but extends to villages North of Brentwood, namely, Blackmore, Stondon Massey, Navestock, South Weald, Tipps Cross, Wyatts Green, Hook End, Kelvedon Hatch and Doddingtonhurst. The roads which join up these communities are wholly unsuitable as routes or diversions for heavy lorries and equipment. The recent closures of the A12 for the J13-15 work and the A12 Marks Tey expansion works have required extensive diversions away from this area and still produced gridlock. A further massive A12 expansion with DCO is likely to conflict with the proposed pylon scheme.
19. outdated and damaging from the outset. This is an opportunity to determine on an approach which is integrated, modern forward thinking and sustainable. NGET and ESO materials suggest there is time to achieve this. The costs benefit

comparison in the materials is flawed because it is not comparing like with like, nor taking into account issues such as land ownership realistically.

20. There has been no detailed landscape, architectural, traffic, or construction management assessments that would inform the discussions as to where the pylons could best be located and the comparative merits of different onshore routes, and most importantly the true cost benefit comparison with an integrated offshore grid in the North Sea. Indeed
21. A pylon scheme would cause irretrievable damage to local communities and businesses over a 180 km swathe of countryside which will be compromised by technically outdated transmission technology. Those communities will not benefit from the transmission, and it will be neither green nor sustainable.
22. NGET acknowledges in its Preliminary Environmental Impacts Report (PEIR) that its proposals will have a significant negative visual impact at both construction and operational stages over the length of the project. It relies on there being "standard measures implemented to limit effects through adherence to good site practices".
23. However, both schemes (the pylons and the temporary construction requirements) are the equivalent of major NSIPS in their own right and are on an unprecedented scale. Each would require major bespoke mitigation and protective measures to address their unprecedented negative impacts. The Place Services Report for Brentwood Borough Council notes that for many of the PIER assessments, the baseline information is inaccurate or doubtful and that in several instances it is not even based on the current preferred route.
24. The proposals would physically sever the connections between the Parish of the Five Towers Churches and damage their settings forever. There is no understanding of the historic significance of St Mary's Church, Buttsbury and why it would be a travesty for this to be dominated by industrial scale pylons.
25. It has moved away from Ingatestone Hall but ignored its setting and viewpoints.
26. There is no assessment of the impacts on Public Rights of Way and Conservation Areas. The impact of ground water levels and impacts on and from the flood plain, including the problematic ford at Buttsbury, is not addressed.
27. Residents with engineering backgrounds have pointed out the limited design work for pylons and enabling works as undertaken by NGET is by their own admission generic, desktop and assumes no significant engineering difficulty. They

emphasise that local geological conditions along the route give poor load bearing and foundations conditions and will require different, high strength construction approaches increasing costs significantly.

28. They tell me that the use of poor and inadequate design and costings and omission of alternatives (on the basis that these can be sorted out later) matters because it gives a false comparison particularly with offshore options but also with undergrounding.
29. The Place Services report for Brentwood Borough Council shows in its careful analysis paragraph by paragraph the comprehensive deficiencies of the PEIR documents and the complete unreadiness of the proposal for application for a DCO.
30. There is no information about the impact on the farming communities of my County Division and Borough Ward and the impact that damage and losses for them have in damaging the economy and social fabric of my communities. It seems to be taken as read that pylons can be installed without much impact on anyone, including where tenanted fields are divided uneconomically into several parts. Their landscape contributions to the environment and landscape beauty of my communities are being completely ignored. Blight will not even be compensated for. My local farmers are resilient and pride themselves on their independence in the face of markets, regulators and environmental trends but many are integral to the life of our communities as well as to food security more widely. This is a major deficiency in the proposal and the assessment of its impacts.
31. These proposals will require an estimated 3.6m tonnes of stone to build not just the platforms for pylons, invasive though these are, and not just the haul road which will drag massive equipment north to south of Essex and carve a swathe through some of the most beautiful landscapes – over a two-way carriageway, with motorway grade surface. National Grid will build an entire road network all through our landscape to get them there. Experts tell me that hardly any part of Essex will be unaffected.
32. The B1002 Roman Road in my division, which has been grid locking parts of mid to South Essex as a result of a mere 3 kilometres of reconstruction of the A12 would be expected to carry under these proposals up to 10 lorries of stone an hour off the A12 to the haul road and other parts of our existing network in Essex would carry hundreds a day. This will not work and poses enormous and

unsustainable challenges to our residents, our road network and the Essex economy. These consequences have not been properly costed by the proposals.

33. For the reasons set out above, and for the reasons identified by Essex County Council and Brentwood Borough Council in their responses to this consultation which I have considered carefully alongside the NGET materials, I strongly object to the proposals consulted on.
34. This includes objection to the lack of evidence provided by NGET to support the need and timing of the N2T scheme being needed by 2030. There is therefore the time to properly evaluate how this energy transmission can be achieved in the most sustainable way and the impact of fast emerging and evolving technological advances in preference.
35. The impacts and scale of the proposed development, including the construction and development phases, have not been adequately considered (and in many cases not considered at all) nor have mitigation, reinstatement and restoration proposals been identified, and the proposals rest on "standard measures" completely inappropriate for a scheme of this magnitude. Undergrounding in particular is limited on grounds of cost, distorting comparison of options. The proposals as presented are also bereft of any social value. I would therefore submit that this scheme and its options require much more work and is wholly unready for submission as a DCO.
36. The NSIP process is a privilege available to developers of nationally significant schemes, but on the footing that the developer does all the work in advance and brings its proposals with a fair and balanced analysis of options and information necessary for host authorities and local communities to address them in a meaningful way. This proposal has not done that because it has predetermined what the scheme for delivery of this energy should be based on its contracts with government and then promoted it defensively. This approach means design and construction costs cannot be considered as reliable and a significant cost and resources overrun is to be expected. Alternative proposals are likely to be quicker and cheaper when all the factors are properly taken into account.

Stephen Connelly

Transparency:

National Grid (NG) have not been transparent in any way with regards its plans for infrastructure and have used underhand tactics by not producing an overall plan and

documentation for the infrastructure they intend to build and the impacts this will have on communities. This has led to members of the public having to attend many different consultation meetings and having to read many different technical publications, much of which are not written in plain English and understandable to a normal member of the public, in order to try and understand exactly what this means to the communities they live in, even now there are certain elements of NG's overall plans which have not been published!

In addition, NG are refusing to communicate with members of the public to answer questions when raised and are not allowing access to information, even when this has requested under the freedom of information act. They seemed to be frightened that their quoted figures for delivery, or the use of outdated infrastructure will be finally brought to light!

Environment:

NG, like our current government, are showing complete disdain to the environment, they refuse to see sense in the fact that the removal of existing farmland, mature trees, hedgerows are detrimental to the environment and its biodiversity. In addition they, conveniently, refuse to understand that the erection of pylons and other associated infrastructure that accompanies it will be a disaster for wildlife, especially of the avian variety with many birds killed by overhead cables every day, not to mention the displacement that many species of wildlife will suffer through infrastructure being built on the areas they live in.

Dealing / Communicating with National Grid:

Further to my comments above, I have found NG very obstructive in their dealings with the public, refusing to engage with members of communities, many of which have lived in areas their whole lives and know the lay of the land, to discuss issues and concerns that they have or to gauge whether there proposals are feasible.

NG are treating communities with an unprecedented level of disdain which I find surprising given that many studies have found that engagement with communities is important in order to deliver the proposed infrastructure!

Communities:

Referring to my previous comments, NG are unprepared to communicate with communities' and are treating the areas that they intend to build in as their own personal thieftdom!

NG do not accept that their projects will be devastating to most of the communities involved, decimating not only entire properties, business and livelihoods but whole communities, there are already examples of people taking their own lives due to the stress, and others who have already seen their property deemed unsellable due to proposed developments, this must be brought to a stop before this becomes widespread.

I look forward to your replies on this in due course

Yours faithfully

Stephen Connelly

Lisa Connelly

Transparency:

National Grid (NG) have not been transparent in any way with regards its plans for infrastructure and have used underhand tactics by not producing an overall plan and documentation for the infrastructure they intend to build and the impacts this will have on communities. This has led to members of the public having to attend many different consultation meetings and having to read many different technical publications, much of which are not written in plain English and understandable to a normal member of the public, in order to try and understand exactly what this means to the communities they live in, even now there are certain elements of NG's overall plans which have not been published!

In addition, NG are refusing to communicate with members of the public to answer questions when raised and are not allowing access to information, even when this has requested under the freedom of information act. They seemed to be frightened that their quoted figures for delivery, or the use of outdated infrastructure will be finally brought to light!

Environment:

NG, like our current government, are showing complete disdain to the environment, they refuse to see sense in the fact that the removal of existing farmland, mature trees, hedgerows are detrimental to the environment and its biodiversity. In addition they, conveniently, refuse to understand that the erection of pylons and other associated infrastructure that accompanies it will be a disaster for wildlife, especially of the avian variety with many birds killed by overhead cables every day, not to mention the

displacement that many species of wildlife will suffer through infrastructure being built on the areas they live in.

Dealing / Communicating with National Grid:

Further to my comments above, I have found NG very obstructive in their dealings with the public, refusing to engage with members of communities, many of which have lived in areas their whole lives and know the lay of the land, to discuss issues and concerns that they have or to gauge whether there proposals are feasible.

NG are treating communities with an unprecedented level of disdain which I find surprising given that many studies have found that engagement with communities is important in order to deliver the proposed infrastructure!

Communities:

Referring to my previous comments, NG are unprepared to communicate with communities' and are treating the areas that they intend to build in as their own personal thieftom!

NG do not accept that their projects will be devastating to most of the communities involved, decimating not only entire properties, business and livelihoods but whole communities, there are already examples of people taking their own lives due to the stress, and others who have already seen their property deemed unsellable due to proposed developments, this must be brought to a stop before this becomes widespread.

I look forward to your replies on this in due course

Yours faithfully

Lisa Connelly

Smalley (Kristen Robinson)

NGET's pledges to communities: it is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

My experience with the Proposal and consultation: National Grid doesn't seem to have come with options as opposed to its preferred option without consultation or any evidence of other options discussed / suggested after it had decided on a preferred option.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

My experience with the Proposal and consultation: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:

- for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons and not as expensive as they keep making out
- and integrated offshore grid. This has not been explored by NGET despite offering known cost-savings and reductions in infrastructure. Instead, an 'offshore solution' between Norwich & Tilbury was priced up but with very limited information and not consulted on.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

My experience with the Proposal and consultation: The only 3D tools available have been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that I and many others who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the N2T project. There should have been so many more of these at better times and more notice. Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees which hid the epic scale that these pylons will actually be.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

My experience with the Proposal and consultation: Many organisations, including my own have set out since 2022 over three separate NGET consultations that we have serious concerns about NGET's consultations. We have three legal opinions to date which state that the process is legally deficient. We will shortly receive a consultation best practice

review by Rhion Jones, the 'Consultation Guru'. And we have written our own extensive submissions about the flaws in the consultations and held two surveys of participants. Our reports can all be read here: <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/reports/> There is no community acceptance of the N2T proposal as presented. Community relations are very poor.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

My experience with the Proposal and consultation: NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

My experience with the Proposal and consultation: I personally haven't seen any of these as consultations - they are at best adverts, with vague and easily manipulated information - constantly pushing the net Zero principle and hiding behind it so they can do what they want and make as much money in as quick a time as possible with no concern for what this will mean for future generations left in the shadows of these monstrous structures.

NGET's pledges to communities: uilding trust through data transparency C4.4 Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use

My experience with the Proposal and consultation:

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Non-publishment of Investment Decisions Pack, Engineering Justification Papers and CBA with the business plan for stakeholder scrutiny;
- Refusal of NGET to share risk register

- Refusal to share granular costings, need for Lincs CC to use legal letters to ask for info
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines. You will find our letter to John Pettigrew in Appendix A.
- Incorrect evidence supplied to NESO's East Anglia Study 2024, that a shortage of HVDC cables would delay an HVDC solution. Yet NGET's business plan shows it is managing supply successfully. With 14,000km of cable purchased, there is no reason why HVDC could not be used for N2T:

"In the case of HVDC orders, this has resulted in our supply chain partners investing in a new factory, a new ship and a significant expansion of a UK facility on the back of the long-term order book certainty we have given them." "£9bn HVDC frameworks to help us invest on an unprecedented scale across NGET and the National Grid Group. This includes procuring over 14,000km of cable, a third of global market capacity."

Please also see Appendix B for evidence that global HVDC suppliers are ramping up production to meet demand.

Robert (Stop the Pylons Derbyshire)

NGET's pledges to communities: It is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs were:

- for HVDC undergrounding the entire route. This has not been investigated by NGET despite being technically feasible, popular, less harmful to the environment, less harmful to businesses including tourism and agricultural and potentially cheaper over the lifetime than pylons.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments, we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: The only 3D tools available have been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the project. Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: There is no community acceptance of the Chesterfield to Willington proposal as presented. Community relations are very poor.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project: NGET has made it very difficult for people. The majority of the drop-in events were during working hours. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4
Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington Great Grid Upgrade project:

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Non-publication of Investment Decisions Pack, Engineering

Justification Papers and CBA with the business plan for stakeholder scrutiny;

- Refusal of NGET to share risk register
- Refusal to share granular costings, need for Derbyshire CC to use legal letters to ask for info
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines.

Jennifer

It is consulting with communities early in the planning process: This is not the case. They consulted after they had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options

We are deploying digital tools like 3D visualisations to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities, etc: Most of these events were during working hours, which restricted numbers who could attend. Some of the visuals were of such poor quality they disguised the true enormity of the 50m high pylons.

We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them, etc.: NGET has made it very difficult for people. They have generated little information direct to affected areas and put the onus on the general public to attend their public events with no information to take away. Many events were only accessible by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

General Concerns:

The pylons are now going to be between 50-70m high. Neither NGET nor their Publicity Dept., have clearly demonstrated the exact scale of these pylons. In addition, they have not explained there will be numerous thick strands of cable extending from each arm of the pylons, creating an invasive/oppressive skyline/environment for the villages in their path. Also, the inductive effect could be a health hazard and none of these issues are/have been addressed by NGET. Nor indeed have NGET given any explanation/balanced argument as to why overhead is preferable to underground or why the route cannot track the A38/M1 rather than through rural villages, farmland and open countryside.

Further, there has been a failure to adequately demonstrate the scale of the pylons vs. existing houses/landmarks etc along the proposed routes, which would show the huge impact they will have.

Overall and in addition to the above, we are concerned that irrespective of the so-called 'consultation process' NGET have already decided on the route/method they intend to follow and will not listen to reason/alternate solutions.

Jennifer

Wendy Wiseman

I don't live in any of the areas that will be affected, but I care deeply about them. The proposed plan for Grimsby-Walpole currently includes compulsory purchase of 16 acres of my brother's land. And this week, there have been notices added, that are looking at the verge and the road in front of my brother's house. He would not currently be able to sell his house, because nobody would want to buy it. What compensation will be offered to him, for the devastation to his life, and to the many other people across the UK that will be affected?

It feels that local communities are being treated terribly. Some people will have their whole way of life affected, during the period of building the infrastructure, and once it is completed. And they are just expected to sacrifice their lifestyle, and their house price for 'the greater good'.

It is impossible for people who live near to the proposed substations to sell their houses at the moment, because people are being refused mortgages, and of course, won't want to endure the building work then live next to a substation. Similar applies to people who will live next to pylons, though the building work won't take so long.

How does National Grid propose to deal with this situation, where people need to move house? e.g. because they get a job in a different place, or because they become sick, and they cannot afford to pay their existing mortgage anymore. In a normal situation, a person can sell their house, and buy another one somewhere else, or rent. But this is impossible if the house cannot be sold.

The community benefits that are proposed, are pitiful, and insulting. £10,000 possibly given to a community, but hundreds of thousands of pounds wiped off house prices, if a sale is possible at all.

Also, National Grid seems to have no concept of what biodiversity means, and the importance of SSSI sites. In Minster marshes, the plan is to build a substation/converter

station next to a SSSI. Which will of course have terrible effects on the plants and animals within the SSSI. National Grid only recently seemed to have noticed that Minster marsh is a marsh and are now planning to build a huge concrete base to put the substation, which will also massively affect the existing plants and animals. Local people have done many surveys and plant and wildlife as proof of the existing biodiversity. National Grid seem to ignore this local research and send people for one afternoon to have a look.

'Consultations' are being held, but they just seem to be a box-ticking event, because the opinions of local people are ignored (and others like me, who don't live in the area, but care very deeply). Any changes to the proposals seem to occur after land surveys, so are for practical issues, rather than reacting to local people's concerns.

Regards

Wendy Wiseman

David Meek

Last year, National Grid said they would consider undergrounding cables which they planned to carry on massive, ugly pylons right through our lovely, unspoilt Waveney Valley.

Of course, the valley hasn't changed, but they now say they will erect these horrible pylons and cables anyway.

Which is both unfair and wrong. And like many people locally I feel dreadfully misled and let down.

Having proved themselves difficult to deal with, it's quite apparent National Grid don't care at all about Norfolk and Suffolk's local communities and our beautiful, unspoilt natural environment.

For these reasons I object strongly to the company's proposals and wish them to be stopped.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

David Meek

Joanna Anderson Short (J Anderson & Son)

Following our engagement with National Gas Transmission through RIIO-T2, we are writing to express our support for National Gas's RIIO-GT3 Business Plan.

The UK has set ambitious decarbonisation targets for the rest of the decade, and National Gas will play a crucial role in achieving them. We recognise the vital role National Gas plays in Clean Power by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050 alongside ensuring a continued and resilient supply of methane to support energy security where one third of UK power is from gas each year and 500,000 businesses supplied with gas.

We are also committed to those targets and national goals and consequently are committed to supporting National Gas' RIIO-GT3 Business Plan. We are confident that National Gas' business plan will deliver significant benefits for both current and future customers and we believe that key members of the supply chain, including ourselves, are ready to support National Gas in executing this challenging, yet achievable, plan.

The infrastructure market is highly competitive with significant work underway or planned across the UK. We intend to support National Gas in delivery of their Business Plan because National Gas are our 'Client of choice' who we have a strong and collaborative partnership for over 40 years. With the history of our business alongside National Gas we are invested in the future of the gas industry and the UK network.

Through this letter of support, we express our interest in and support for National Gas's RIIO-GT3 Business Plan.

Nicola Bell

NGET's pledges to communities: it is consulting with communities early in the planning process.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: Not the case. NGET consulted after it had decided on a preferred option and discarded other options. There was no real consultation, it felt like a box ticking exercise to say consultation had taken place when in reality the decision to progress had already been taken.

NGET's pledges to communities: We make changes to our proposals where possible and if we cannot, we explain why.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The changes sought by stakeholders including local communities, parish councils, district councils, County Councils and MPs have not been considered or adequately responded to. No changes to the original plan have been communicated despite lots of ideas being put forward.

NGET's pledges to communities: We are deploying digital tools, like 3D visualisations, to make it easier for people to engage with the developments we are proposing for their communities. Digital (5.2). We enhanced our digital channels to improve customer experience by providing more information through the connections process. For our ASTI projects, we are using state-of-the-art 3D models and virtual reality headsets to show the public how proposals could look in the local landscape.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: The only 3D tools available has been via a single screen at public information events, with no information to take away. This meant that only people who were able to attend an event could see the impact of the project. Given that the events were mostly during working hours and some at a distance from the route/communities, this severely restricted numbers who could understand the impact of the N2T project.

Further, some of the visualisations contained in the Statutory consultation pack were of an incredibly poor standard to the extent that 50m-high pylons were shown to be much smaller than trees.

NGET's pledges to communities: We aim to deliver the highest standards of public consultations and community relations so we can develop infrastructure proposals that are shaped by local input and create a greater level of community acceptance.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: This is not true. I have not seen any evidence of this in my local community. I'm not aware of anyone locally who supports this project. National Grid is pressing ahead with its plans regardless of objections. I've seen no evidence of any changes following local input. There is no community acceptance, and the consultations were far from high standard.

NGET's pledges to communities: We try to make it convenient and easy for local communities to find out about our planned network upgrades and to tell us what matters to them.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: NGET has made it very difficult for people. All of the drop-in events were during the July summer holiday period. Many of them were far from affected areas. Many were accessible only by car. Answers to questions were hard to come by.

NGET's pledges to communities: Online webinars, community update newsletters, social media advertising, consultation documents and information in local libraries, briefings for parish councils and elected members, one-to-one stakeholder briefings, telephone call-backs and language translation where necessary, really help we reach as many people as possible in the community.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project: I have received the same very high-level leaflet twice through the post which raises more questions than answers. Other than the public information events, which were held in the peak of the summer holidays, communication has been very poor. Feedback on these events from individuals in my community, who were able to attend, is that they were not listened to, and it was a waste of time anyway.

NGET's pledges to communities: Building trust through data transparency C4.4

Customers and stakeholders told us at our pathway to net zero events they need data from all industry players, and data needs to be more accessible, and once published, the datasets must be accurate for practical use.

Our experience with the Chesterfield to Willington project:

- Redacted data in business plan;
- Non-publication of Investment Decisions Pack, Engineering Justification Papers and CBA with the business plan for stakeholder scrutiny;
- Refusal of NGET to share risk register
- Refusal to share granular costings, need for Lincs CC to use legal letters to ask for info
- NGET's media spokespeople are often economical with the truth, for example, regularly stating that government policy requires them to build pylons and that undergrounding costs anything from 4 to 14 times the cost of overhead lines.

Philip Attenborough

In response for call of evidence regarding (NGET) RIIO3 business plans I submit my disappointment at the obvious disregard to NGET's own guidelines and this was strongly reinforced during a recent Panorama television programme.

Whilst I believe the existing plan to be a "done deal" it would be remiss to not take the opportunity in voicing a serious disappointment in the Underground cabling option apparently not being fully investigated with costings made available to satisfy those affected that the process has been fair and reasonable.

Kind Regards

Phil. Attenborough

Bella Faulkner

I write with regard to the new National Grid project of covering the beautiful fen and Lincolnshire landscape with yet more enormous unsightly pylons

Why in this day and age can they not be put underground like in other countries and in fact in other areas of the UK?

NG have failed to provide costings for these alternatives such as underground cabling over Lincolnshire's productive agricultural land or cabling under the seabed from north to south Lincolnshire- it happens in other countries- why can't NG be more transparent and provide these costings too?

There seems to be a lack of questions not answered with no financial figures for these alternatives.

Many thanks

Yours faithfully

C J Faulkner

Iain Black

Please accept the following comments on the above's proposal

- 1) Shows no consideration for visual effects on community
- 2) Presents fait accompli at 'community engagement' meetings i.e. this is what we're doing. So, they do NOT engage with the very communities from the outset
- 3) unwilling to consider other options (underground cabling) and straight routes that even the Romans used! (down A38 Rykneld Street)
- 4) This will be another HS2 -undue reliance on a single expensive strategy to carry wind generated energy. Future nuclear generation is already back on the agenda. We should be careful what we plan and what we wish for.

Thank you for your consideration, Dr Iain Black