



6th June 2024

Dear Sirs,

Re: Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Scheme Proposals

I write on behalf of Mountnessing Village Councillors and residents alike, regarding the above-mentioned pylon scheme and in response to the latest statutory consultation.

Whilst accepting the need to move power from the North Sea to London, Mountnessing Village Council strongly objects to the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury pylons proposal. This is based on the arguments set out in consultation responses in 2022 and 2023 by Mountnessing Village Council.

Consultation has been and remains inadequate; valid alternatives have not been presented and the harm of National Grid's preferred solution significantly outweighs the benefits.

Alternatives that we would support are a fully integrated offshore grid or underground or subsea cables from Norwich to Tilbury.

The pylons and infrastructure proposed for our area will change the rural views and infrastructure of the village for future generations to come. Hugely impacting homeowners in the area, arable farmers, historical buildings, woodland walks, and public rights of way.

The path of the proposed pylons through our village will impact our historic church of St Giles which has stood in the village for 100s of years. The proposed "temporary" roads and access to the pylon sites will involve heavy goods vehicles using neighbouring roads to St Giles, which will cause un-tolled damage to the area surrounding the church and neighbouring farm. The route also impacts several houses, all historical value to our village and the rural area. The road route will significantly damage existing road infrastructure, well established and ancient hedgerows, and woodland areas alike.

Acres of rich, productive farmland are to be decimated and untouchable for years whilst the proposed pylons are built and sited. Miles of temporary roads, using thousands of tonnes of gravel will disrupt the natural habitation and crop production for years to come. With the proposed temporary roads also opens the issue of hare coursers and trespasses to be able to easily access woodland areas and agricultural fields, causing even more damage and harm to the local environment.

Mountnessing is a village built on Roman foundations. The archaeological value of land in our village is richly diverse and important to our village fabric and history. Building pylons into deep concrete structures would destroy this historical importance forever.

The landscape surrounding the proposed route through our village is one that is prone to severe, regular flooding after heavy rainfall. The River Wid which runs through the proposed route, directly alongside the pylons, regularly bursts its banks and flooding, meters deep occur in neighbouring roads and fields. The river is home to a rich array of wildlife and species, and proposed development in this area would destroy wildlife and habitat that is irreplaceable.

Our village is fortunate to have beautiful views looking into the Wid Valley from the highest points in the village. These views will be destroyed should the pylon scheme be passed. Blotting the landscape with huge 52m structures for future generations.

With regards to the public consultation events and awareness to villages affected by these proposals, we believe that there has been a severe lack of awareness made to impacted residents in villages along the route. Not everyone is able to attend the Brentwood Centre. We have a substantial sized village hall in our village, and we have never been approached by National Grid to hold such an event to enable our residents to be fully informed of your plans.

Please accept this response, along with our previous responses in 2022 and 2023, which maintain our strong objection to this proposal.

Your sincerely,

Cllr Andrew Slevin

Chairman, Mountnessing Village Council