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sent by email: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

10th August 2023

Dear Sirs

Re: Consultation response from Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comments on the second non-statutory consultation regarding the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: Norwich to Tilbury. As a Parish Council, we have actively engaged in recent briefings, both in person and via webinar sessions. We have closely followed your plans and have previously commented on two occasions, in June and December 2022. Copies of our previous responses have been attached to this letter for your reference.

Our engagement with the topic extends beyond your project alone; we have also extensively researched other infrastructure projects commissioned by the National Grid across the country. It is important to emphasise that the proposed solution for East Anglia has been met with significant opposition. Our MPs, every level of local government, and the residents themselves have all voiced their concerns about this project.

Our own MP, Alex Burghart, has assured the residents that he will represent our opposition to the pylon project at the House of Commons, stating that he does not believe pylon infrastructure is suitable for our region. Instead, he advocates for offshore transmission of electricity to minimize the impact on our precious countryside.

While we support the concept of North Sea wind farms generating clean and affordable electricity, we strongly favour the 'offshore' solution to minimise environmental damage and disruption. We believe this approach will be more sustainable in the long term, and future generations will appreciate the preservation of our landscapes.

We acknowledge that National Grid has dismissed the offshore grid option based on cost considerations. However, the additional amortized cost per person in the regions served would amount to little more than £2 per year, a relatively minor expense for a significant environmental benefit.

It is imperative to highlight that initial cost estimates should not be the sole criterion for evaluating proposals. Emerging technologies such as offshore cabling offer merits for the



future economy and society, fostering increased economic activity in environmentally sensitive sectors. These technologies have already found success in recent infrastructure projects, like the offshore wind turbines near Brighton and new subsea interconnectors between Scotland and northern England. Promoting these technologies will encourage their continued use and discourage the use of outdated and environmentally intrusive pylon technology.

Regarding the proposed route east of Ingatestone, we urge that the section running through the Wid Valley be reconsidered, an area which the Parish Council believe should be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The pylons would significantly mar this particularly beautiful countryside, and we propose that this 4 km section of the route should run underground.

In your literature, you presented three different types of pylons, and we noticed a potential bias towards the less expensive lattice pylons. We believe the T-pylon is a more aesthetically pleasing and less obtrusive option, which should be given more consideration for overground parts of the route.

We also want to draw attention to the National Grid ESO's report in November 2020, which concluded that the Integrated approach to the offshore transmission network design would be more advantageous overall. This approach offers cost savings, reduced environmental and social impacts, and improved security of electricity supply. We urge you to consider this report seriously and provide evidence to counter its findings if necessary.

As a monopoly representing the people of this country, we implore you to acknowledge the overwhelming objections to the current scheme and collaborate with your colleagues in NG ESO to develop and deliver an integrated offshore approach to the transmission network design. This would be a more sustainable and considerate solution for our region and the country as a whole.

Yours sincerely



**Abigail Wood, PSLCC, CerTHE Community Governance, CiLCA
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council**

Enc Emailed consultation response, June 2022
 Emailed consultation response, December 2022

Emailed consultation response, June 2022

East Anglia Green Energy Enablement Project Consultation

Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council objects to National Grid's proposals (dated April 2022) to build a new high voltage transmission network between Norwich and Tilbury.

We support the Government's targets towards achieving net zero, and understand that more capacity is required within the UK's transmission network to carry the extra electrical power needed, and to connect offshore wind farms to the network.

However, the proposed route would have the effect of hugely disfiguring a wide swathe of beautiful countryside. Other, greener, options are available, such as a subsea route, but they appear to have been discounted by National Grid.

We demand that National Grid holds a full public consultation on all options, with their methodology and costings being made available for public scrutiny, not simply an informal consultation on their pre-selected overground route.

Route Options

The Council strongly disagrees with the process to select National Grid's preferred corridor and graduated swathe. NG have provided us with a fait accompli rather than options with pros and cons.

The Evaluation Model that NG is using to determine the qualities of one route option over another should be made public. We need to see the detail to be reassured that NG is taking factors apart from cost into consideration.

We understand other options include:

- a subsea route, similar to the routes NG has already, such as connections from Sizewell to Kent, as well as much longer international links, such as the high voltage cable being installed between the UK and Denmark; and
- cabling underground. This is seen as more expensive, though new technology in cabling and equipment is making the installation process less disruptive and reducing costs.

Added to these there is much scope to uprate the capacity of existing routes.

Local issues

The option National Grid has chosen will disfigure some particularly beautiful countryside around Ingatestone and mid Essex, for example the Wid valley to the east of Ingatestone. The route seems to cross over, or run very close to, a number of historic buildings, including Margaretting Hall and Ingatestone Hall, creating a high degree of visual intrusion and loss of amenity in an otherwise picturesque rural area.

The route takes a tortuous route round the west of Writtle, with sharp corners, against NG's Holford Rule 3.

Where the route crosses the A127 it appears to pass over Dunton Hills Garden Village which has planning permission for 4,000 homes and is part of the Brentwood & Basildon Local plans. The route crosses over the A129 near Hutton in an area considered of natural beauty and the only green break in-between a continuous strip of housing.

In summary, we believe National Grid's proposals are neither green nor practicable and are causing considerable anxiety to local residents and businesses. We urge NG to pursue alternative options including a subsea route.

Conservation Area

Including Margaretting Hall, Ingatestone Hall and Hardings Farm, creating a high degree of visual intrusion and loss of amenity in an otherwise picturesque rural area. *Also, it is very near three conservation areas around Ingatestone and it will destroy the heritage and history that we have painstakingly built here*

Please click here for the three conservation area maps –

Ingatestone High Street Conservation Area Character Appraisal (brentwood.gov.uk)

Ingatstone Station Lane Conservation Area Character Appraisal (brentwood.gov.uk)
Fryerning Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (brentwood.gov.uk)

Rory Skepelhorn CiLCA

Communications Officer
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<http://www.ingatstone-fryerningpc.gov.uk/privacy>

Emailed consultation response, December 2022

Dear Sirs

Below is Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council's response to the National Grid Scoping Report for East Anglia GREEN

Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council reiterate their objection to National Grid's proposals to construct a new high voltage transmission network overland from Norwich to Tilbury. The proposed route would have the effect of hugely disfiguring a wide swathe of beautiful countryside. Other, greener, options are available, such as a subsea route. Attached is the Parish Council's formal response to the Consultation held April to June 2022.

The Parish Council is most disappointed that the subsea option has not been evaluated. It is our understanding that relevant MP's, County Councils, Borough Councils and Parish Councils agree that a subsea route is the best way to connect new offshore wind to the National Grid. The technology is already available to construct a subsea route and has been employed by National Grid in other projects.

The current overland proposal will have a severely adverse effect on the environment and communities that it passes through. The cost of the overland proposal should be subordinate to the impact the pylons will have on the beautiful countryside around Ingatestone and mid Essex, for example the Wid valley to the east of Ingatestone, and the views of historic buildings such as Margaretting Hall and Ingatestone Hall.

Rosemary Spouge CiLCA
Assistant Clerk
Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council

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