

Ardleigh (and nearby) residents- call to action

Respond to the consultation

The easiest way to do this is email contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com by 18 June 2024. You can choose to wait until near the end of the consultation period if you wish to submit a more detailed response. By then the regional campaign will have their consultants' reports back and the Ardleigh Parish Council response will have been finalised.

Or you can send a **brief email** or letter now, and a more detailed response later. Example of a brief email – say: *“I OBJECT TO YOUR PROPOSALS. The Norwich to Tilbury pylons project brings severe harm to the environment, communities, landscapes & heritage of East Anglia and would have a devastating effect on Ardleigh, where I live. Viable and deliverable alternatives such as offshore grid and undergrounding of cables have not been presented for consultation”* Share this wording with all your neighbours and family and ask them to take one minute to send the email.

Some suggested text (*in italics*) and help in preparing your **detailed response** is below.

‘OBJECTION TO SCHEME

While accepting the need to move power from the North Sea to London, I object to the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury pylons proposal. This is on the basis of the arguments set out in consultation responses in 2022 and 2023 by Ardleigh Parish Council and by the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons action group, whose submissions, including to this Statutory Consultation, I endorse.

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 I support are:

- *A fully integrated offshore grid*
- *Or HVDC* from Norwich to Tilbury, either underground or subsea. The subsea option includes a platform for Five Estuaries and North Falls, which we welcome...’*

HARM caused by the project	Some potential harms to Ardleigh are below. We need to show that harm outweighs benefits. Feel free to expand and include details of harms as you see them. If referring to a specific pylon in your response, refer to the pylon number on the plans. If you feel confident to do so, you can critique National Grid’s assessment of our Parish. List and compare what you know about Ardleigh against National Grid’s findings. The more detail the better.
Heritage	Describe the harm cause to historic assets like listed buildings. List the assets you are concerned about, their proximity, the harm caused. Note that we have a Ardleigh heritage survey which can be found here: https://bit.ly/ArdleighHeritage1
Archaeology	Ardleigh has many sites of archaeology finds and areas which are considered to be significant Heritage sites. Records show that within a 2km radius of Ardleigh Village centre there have been many recorded finds, including the area of our Scheduled Monument that is the largest Bronze Age burial site found in this country
Environment, habitat, species	Describe the harm caused by the project including loss of hedgerows to allow widening of roads. Talk about the wildlife and flora you see in the areas where National Grid want to build. Use www.magicmap.co.uk to identify habitats & landscapes.

Landscape	Describe features that make our landscape special, such as the reservoir, the setting of the Dedham Vale National Landscape/ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the relatively flat landscape which will make pylons highly visible from a long distance. Describe the harm caused by the planned Norwich to Tilbury project.
Proximity to houses or businesses	The pylon routes and undergrounding – as well as the construction sites and access routes are all very close to the village and to individual outlying properties. Concerns could include noise, disruption to businesses, traffic, large vehicles as well as eventual views of pylons.
Public Rights of Way (PROW) Local Green Spaces	Describe the harm to public rights of way/ footpaths, especially when they are well used or close to the Dedham Vale National Landscape. Describe the green spaces you currently use and how they would be damaged by pylons, undergrounding, substations. Note several protected green spaces will be affected by pylons such as Ardleigh Cemetery and a newly proposed Local Green Space at the fishing lakes behind the school (which would be crossed by Pylons)
Agricultural land	Ardleigh has many growers and farmland comes right to the centre of the village. Describe the harm to agricultural land (add the Grade, if you know it).
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical health risks – not proven but anecdotally it is believed there are risks to health from electric and magnetic fields Mental health risks, stress & wellbeing are real –we fear that people will have livelihoods, homes and businesses destroyed.
Other	Hazards to aviation – air ambulance etc, any specific concerns you have about the scheme and its impact and harm to our area and wellbeing, such as concerns about selling your property/ house prices.

Consultation

The Parish Council response will give details about the inadequacy of the National Grid consultation and where we feel that the rules have been broken (including Holford Rules and Horlock Rules)

You may want to express how you have felt about consultation events you have attended and whether the concerns and questions you previously raised have been addressed. *Despite being the worst affected Parish, there has still not been a National Grid consultation event in Ardleigh.*

Mitigation

Whilst having made very clear our disapproval of National Grid's consultation processes to date, including this one, and of the proposed scheme, in the event that the Norwich to Tilbury project gains approval, outline the mitigations you would want to see. This is our back-up plan. You might need to ask for certain pylons, or an access road, to be moved, or for an ancient tree or hedgerow to be protected. You might want to argue that the whole route through our parish should be undergrounded.

Further information

- See <https://pylonseastanglia.co.uk/actions/> for other suggestions and templates.
- An electronic copy of this leaflet is available to download from the Ardleigh PC website <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations> then scroll to 'downloads' where you will also find a copy of the APC response once it is ready.

Don't forget local events by National Grid coming up

Thursday 16 May – 2pm – 7pm Langham Community Centre, School Road, Langham CO4 5PA

Friday 17 May – 1pm – 6pm Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7