



# Pylon Issue Press 1

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by Andrew Malkin

**A campaign group opposed to an 87-mile swathe of hundreds of huge pylons through Lincolnshire has gathered 2,000 supporters in just a few days.**

**No Pylons Lincolnshire** was launched on Facebook when National Grid announced its pylon plan to the public last month (January).

Within days of being alerted to the scheme, called the Great Grid Upgrade, concerned residents had posted thousands of worried comments and questions on the new Facebook site. **No Pylons Lincolnshire** is challenging National Grid's preferred overhead cabling scheme in favour of one of the other options National Grid put forward - taking the cables under the sea. It is also campaigning for a faster, better, cheaper future-proofed integrated offshore network providing "plug and play" for other offshore wind farms as they come on-line, as has been done in Ireland, Holland and Denmark.

The new cables are needed to bring to shore power generated by wind turbines out at sea. National Grid wants to bring a new overhead line from Grimsby to Walpole - 87 miles using at least 420 pylons. Much of it will take up grade 1 agricultural land used to grow food.



**No Pylons Lincolnshire** founder member Cat Makinson said: "We are incredibly busy gathering information and

evidence to press for the undersea option. National Grid has opted for what it believes is the cheapest option, but it is the most environmentally-damaging. Our focus at the moment is to get the public to engage in the current consultation process and make their views known to National Grid before the deadline of March 13 which it has set."

Group member Andrew Malkin said: "Alone we are just 'skint little people', but recent events have shown that in a David and Goliath battle like this people power can come to the fore and the skint little people can win."

Only people close to the corridor chosen by National Grid for the pylons have so far received consultation material from National Grid, but anyone concerned about 50-metre tall pylons - equivalent to 15-storey buildings or as tall as Nelson's Column - can make their views known.

Cat said: "We fully support the generation of green and renewable energy, but object to trashing the landscape in order to then deliver it to us when there is an affordable and viable alternative option."

"National Grid is a private foreign-owned company which does this work for profit. In the past five years it has paid its shareholders almost £9 billion. It will earn from these cables for decades as its customers, the energy generators, pay National Grid to use them, so it can afford to do the right environmental thing and put this under the sea and not maximise its profits and trashing our landscape in the process."

Costings for pylons and overhead cables produced by National Grid are capital costs only and do not include environmental and social costs that it will have to take into account if it abides by Treasury best practice and assesses according to its Green Book rules.

**No Pylons Lincolnshire** does not support an underground route. It does not want to move the problems to someone else's back yard. Many are only just recovering from the impact of the Viking Link underground cabling work which, incidentally, also involves an undersea cable from England to Denmark.



National Grid has said feedback from the public will shape their plans, so it is crucial that people make their views known to them before March 13.

People can simply email National Grid at [contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com) with their name to register their objection or write to Freepost G TO W (no stamp or further address needed). They can get a feedback form by emailing [contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com) or by phoning 0800 0129 153 to request a consultation pack with feedback form and a free post return envelope.

They can also join **No Pylons Lincolnshire** on Facebook to keep up to date.

"Pylons are old technology and if there's a better, cleaner way of doing it that's the way forward," said Cat.

Lincolnshire County Council and MPs are also opposing the pylons plan.