



# Pylon Press

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**If the strength of local opinion counts for anything then National Grid's pylons through Lincolnshire proposals are doomed!**  
**If the powers of Members of Parliament count for anything then National Grid's pylons through Lincolnshire proposals are doomed!**



## A packed public meeting

at Sutterton Village Hall last night (Monday) was unanimously opposed to the plan for an 87-mile line of no fewer than 420 pylons to carry 400,000-volt cables from Grimsby to Walpole. The assembly was also opposed to the cables going underground, damaging the most fertile land in the country. And Boston and Skegness MP Matt Warman agreed.

He had called the meeting to gauge public opinion, and was left in no doubt that National Grid's bid to opt for the cheapest method to bring offshore power from the north of Lincolnshire to the south was a non-starter. He outlined National Grid's proposal and then listened to a number of statements from members of No Pylons Lincolnshire and concerned members of the public.

Some spoke of their property being blighted by 50-metre pylons equivalent to 15-storey buildings being placed near their homes and businesses. Others from the farming community were angry that cultivating some fields would be made uneconomic with the footprint of giant pylons in the way. Many made an eloquent case against pylons because of the use of grade 1 agricultural land when food security was a growing concern.

No Pylons Lincolnshire challenged National Grid's costings, pointing out that the figure for pylons was capital cost only and did not include any of the other costs that would have to be factored in if it was to abide by the Government's best-practice Green Book assessment. This would mean factoring in the cost of damage to the environment, loss of farmland and compensation to be paid.

It also pointed out that while National Grid was claiming £4 billion for laying cables for around 100 miles undersea, the much longer Viking Link of 475 miles under the sea to Denmark cost £1.7 billion. Even allowing for the difference in size and number of cables needed to carry more power the cost difference was questioned.

Others queried whether the Government's net zero credentials would stay intact if the tons of steel required to build the pylons came from coal-fired foundries in China.

Mr Warman, who is working with other Lincolnshire MPs Victoria Atkins (Louth and Horncastle), Sir John Hayes (South Holland and the Deepings) and MPs in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex where pylons are also planned by National Grid, pledged to support the work of No Pylons Lincolnshire in continuing to oppose the pylons plan and support instead an undersea route and the establishment of an offshore integrated grid to enable connectivity at sea of the current offshore wind turbines and others coming online in the future.

He concluded again by urging everyone to take part in the current National Grid consultation, which ends on March 13.

One third-generation farmer said previously good double-cropping land had never come back to full production since a gas pipeline had been trenched through in the 1970s.

Others were concerned about possible health implications from living near high-power lines.

National Grid claims pylons are the cheapest way to upgrade the network to carry the new power from offshore turbines, underground would be the most expensive with undersea cabling costing more than pylons, but less than underground.

Mr. Warman said he would pass constituents' views to National Grid while also emphasizing the importance of residents engaging themselves with National Grid's consultation process.

He said National Grid had told him its pylons option would cost £1 billion compared to £4 billion for undersea and £6 billion for underground.

*"But the value of the landscape and farmland is enormous. There is more than cost to consider, cost spread over 40 years. When you look at it in the round, pylons are not the cheapest option,"* said Mr. Warman.