



Pylon Press

By Andrew Malkin

Issue 5 25th March 2024

“BEYOND 2030”

Has National Grid at last come clean about its full intentions for Lincolnshire with the release last week of its “Beyond 2030” document?

nationalgridESO

If it has it is nothing short of disastrous for the county, says the campaign group **No Pylons Lincolnshire**.

The newest National Grid document reveals the latest in a blitzkrieg of proposals for Lincolnshire to play a central part in the rush to decarbonisation of electricity generation with more industrial-scale infrastructure littered across the countryside.

Cat Makinson, of **No Pylons Lincolnshire**, said: *“The more we look into it, the further down a dark rabbit hole we slip. Pylons are just the beginning of transforming our county from green and pleasant to green energy and industry, sacrificing food security for energy security, tourism for technology, farms for factories and quality of life for inequality.*

“We’ll have a spider’s web of cables both over and underground all over the county and we’ll be living on a building site with traffic chaos for years.”

At first it was to be a new line of 50-metre-high pylons to bring home offshore power from the North Sea. This 87-mile swathe, all the way down the east of Lincolnshire from Grimsby to Walpole, met with a tidal wave of opposition.

Then the news went from bad to worse when it transpired this plan also included the building of five enormous substations, a major function of which was to accommodate a large number of new onshore developments including solar farms, batteries resembling container storage facilities and three new gas-fired power stations. And all on Lincolnshire’s famed top-class food-growing land - up to 17,000 acres of it.

Now, “Beyond 2030” reveals what many suspected - that Lincolnshire is set to become an electricity “superhighway” and a major interface point between offshore and onshore networks.

The report says: *“Lincolnshire at the heart of the country is a suitable location to host and transfer green energy across the Midlands or to the south.”*

And the £58 billion plan is in a hurry if it is to meet Government targets to decarbonise our energy needs by 2035. The report says that “swift” action is needed to meet these ambitions.

What the new plan reveals is that there is to be another new line from a new substation at Alford, in mid-Lincolnshire, to Walpole but, unlike the overhead line from Grimsby to Walpole, this one will be underground. And there will be five new cables landing on Lincolnshire’s shores from offshore wind farms, all making their way underground to the new substations at Alford and Weston Marsh, near Spalding.

These, say National Grid, cannot make landfall in Humberside or Norfolk because suitable locations there are already full with connections.

The campaign group, **No Pylons Lincolnshire** says this points to the fault with the up-to-now piecemeal development and connection of offshore wind farms - something that could be avoided if an offshore integrated grid was built.

Does it all end there? Well, the report from National Grid says the plan is a stepping stone towards a “fully Centralised Strategic Network Plan” which will be published in 2026 but it still needs to be optimised to minimise impacts on communities and the environment.



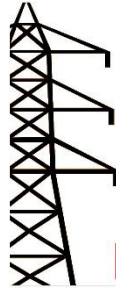
Cat said: *“This is death by a thousand cuts. Bit by bit by bit National Grid and Government has revealed the devastation its plans will wreak on Lincolnshire, and still many questions remain unanswered. National Grid is sticking resolutely to its plan for 87 miles of huge pylons all the way through the county in the face of monumental protest from residents, MPs and local authorities and yet proposes mile upon mile of other new underground cables . There is no logic.*

“We have said from the start that while we support net zero we do not favour overground or underground cables. We support the farmers and landowners dreading the upheaval, the damage to soil structure and the impact on growing crops in land heated by underground cables. We applaud the Prime Minister’s recent announcements regarding the importance of food security and the important part Lincolnshire plays with its superior land, much of it grade 1 and double cropping.

“Instead of using taxpayers’ money to bribe landowners, the Government should use this money to fund an offshore integrated grid fit for the future, as other, more forward-thinking countries are already doing.”

No Pylons Lincolnshire supports the development of a complete offshore integrated grid to provide connectivity for current and future offshore wind farms and reducing to a minimum the construction of onshore infrastructure.

It wants an independent review of all options with full costings using the Government’s best-practice Treasury Green Book rules.



From Grimsby to Walpole

SAY NO!

No **PYLONS** Lincolnshire

www.nopylons.co.uk

