

My name is Catherine Booth and I am a resident of [REDACTED] For some context, my parents have been renting this property for almost 30 happy years. If you are referring to the areas of interest, 14297 and 14292 mark the only points of access for us and our neighbours to our property.

Our main question is this; 'is this really the optimum location for the proposed main cable route for the project?'. I find that really hard to believe. This cable would cause everyday disruption to our lives whereas minimal disruption would occur if the owners of [REDACTED] are consulted about the cable route going through their land instead. There are already three properties using this access route, with four more on the way. Mr C Marshall has planning approved for four residential properties using this existing access route. You can find the details of this in planning number 144540 by West Lindsey District Council. I therefore pose this question. Can you really guarantee that, when these additional four properties along with our own are considered, the cable route will consistently be 10 or more metres away from our properties? I find that hard to believe.

We have major concerns for the disruption that the construction of the cable would cause. The National Grid guidance states that, where underground cables are installed, 'the National Grid requires an approximate width of 30m in perpetuity above the cables to be kept free from development or planting in order to allow ready access for maintenance and to ensure that the cables are not disturbed'. You can see from the photos submitted on the 29th of August 2023 by Mr Stephen Booth as well as the plans for the areas of interest that this would not be possible with the proposed cable route.

Another thing the National Grid guidance stated was that the average work width would be 40 to 65 metres and again I question how this would be possible or plausible down our access route. We also have major concerns about how the cable will be set. The National Grid cites that 'disruption to traffic, excessive noise, vibration, visual intrusion and dust generation' can all be caused in the construction phase for cables. This would have major implications for the properties and the people living in them in Normanby by Stow. This particularly seems like an unnecessary risk when an alternative route could be used.

The proposed cable route is close to a bend in the road (B1241) and there have been multiple accidents here in the last 18 months, all of which have been attended to by PCSOs and other emergency services. This increase in machinery and the potential for road closure whilst the cable is being laid or for it being repaired (the National Grid alludes to it taking between two and six weeks for repairs on underground cabling in some cases) would, in my opinion, increase the risk of accidents occurring on this dangerous bend. Alternatively, through West Farm's field, the route would be on the straight of the road and not close to the bend where such accidents have already taken place. So, surely there is less of a collision risk if this alternative route were to be utilised.

Additionally, I want to talk about the potential health implications and mitigation. What maintenance and checks will be guaranteed in the long term to ensure there are no adverse health implications or other issues arising from the cables being so close to properties on this proposed route? On the EMFs Info page, which the National Grid refers readers to who wish for more information on electromagnetic fields, it states that 'ground level magnetic fields from underground cables can actually be higher at small distances from the cable compared to overhead routes'. How can you ensure that this will not adversely affect our health and our lives? Can you predict what the impact will be in the construction phase and disclose what sort of mitigation you would utilise? Has there been a hazard risk assessment about this, and will these findings be made publicly available?

So, my concluding thoughts. I would just like to say that this is really not the optimum route for the cable, since it is so close to houses. I would implore you to reconsider the route and discuss with the owners of West Farm an alternative cable route that will result in less disruption to the properties and the people living in them and would be more compliant with the National Grid guidance. Thank you.