

Assington Parish Council

Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) for Bramford to Twinstead (EN020002)

1. This is the Parish Council's response to ExQ1 CA1.4.35. We thank the Examining Authority for inviting our contribution
2. The owner of the land referred to has already made comments (REP2-036) related to the use of these parcels of land, and the Parish Council endorses his request for a site visit to discuss less impactful options for this section of the line
3. Policy ASSN-10 of the Assington Neighbourhood Plan requires that development in designated Local Green Spaces be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework, 'Protecting Green Belt Land' (27 March 2012, §137-151)
4. NPPF §147 & 148 emphasise that inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, and should not be approved except in 'very special circumstances', which do not exist unless other considerations clearly outweigh this harm
5. NPPF §149 & 150 establish exceptions to the presumption that new buildings in the Green Belt are inappropriate. Power transmission infrastructure is not listed among these exceptions
6. The proposed development in these Local Green Spaces is deeper into the Green Space than UK Power Networks' existing 132kV line, and the proposed infrastructure is larger and considerably taller than the existing pylon. The proposal will therefore inevitably harm local residents' enjoyment of the Green Space
7. The proposed access route would also create a break in the mature hedge line that is a feature of the Green Space
8. In summary, by proposing new building in the Green Belt, and because of the permanent harm that it will cause to these Local Green Spaces, the proposed development is contrary to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, and should therefore not be considered compatible with policy ASSN-10