

The Parish Councils of Assington, Bures St Mary, Leavenheath, Little Cornard, Polstead & Stoke by Nayland

Further written comments on Cable Sealing End Compounds following Bramford-Twinstead (EN020002) Issue Specific Hearing 4

1. Context

- 1.1 The parish councils wish to make further comments on the access to and location of Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSEC) following references made in ISH4. We regret that we were not able to submit these comments by Deadline 4 due to the time required to confirm common agreement from the parish councils involved, and ask for the Examining Authority's consideration despite the delay.

2. The proposed access road to SVEast CSEC from the B1508

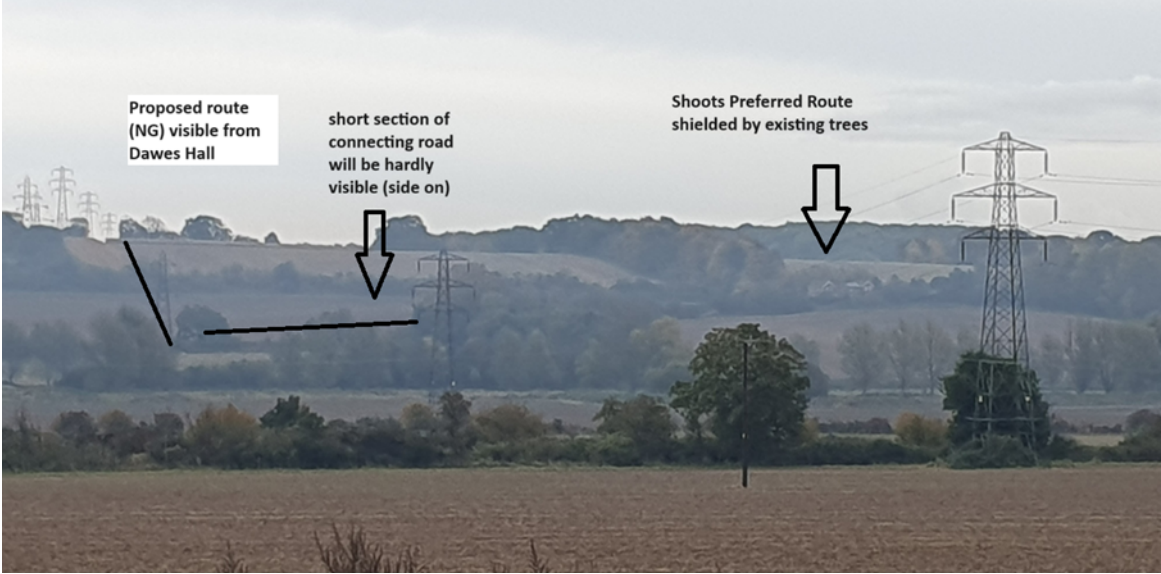
- 2.1 During ISH4 we referred to the high level of visual impact from the proposed permanent access road to the CSEC as proposed in APP-018 sheets 19 & 20. Our concerns focus on the visibility of the road from the Daws Hall area (TL 88764 36643) as shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 If the whole of Section F were undergrounded as we propose, the CSEC and its permanent access road would no longer be needed, removing the visual impact of the access road completely.
- 2.3 The proposed permanent access road creates a new junction on the B1508 and crosses a currently completely undeveloped area, which is highly visible from the opposite side of the Stour valley.
- 2.4 While we believe that the undergrounding of Section F could be comprehensively justified in order to reduce the proposed development's impact on both the Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area, in the event that undergrounding is not pursued, we propose an alternative route for the CSEC access (locations mapped in Appendix 2): using an existing junction to the south of the one proposed at TL 89910 36603, passing two houses then using existing track all the way. The access is serviceable in terms of splay onto the B1508.
- 2.5 In our view, this alternative is preferable for three key reasons:
 - 2.5.1 Visual impact is greatly reduced: the track already exists, and is well hidden by mature hedge and trees from the other side of the valley. Views from the Little Cornard area of the B1508 and Spout Lane would be less impacted than by a new road through a field, and the need for a new junction with the B1508 would be removed.
 - 2.5.2 Upgrading the existing track to a permanent road would improve access for all to the area including the houses it passes and for agricultural vehicles, providing a community benefit. Adding hedging to screen the access from the B1508 would further reduce the impact
 - 2.5.3 Disruption and excavation of an area close to an existing and occupied badger sett (near PCB 78) would also be reduced.
- 2.6 The current impact of the SVEast CSEC access road is significant in our view, and we appeal to the ExA and the applicant to give our proposals careful consideration.

3. Relocation of DVEast CSEC to Layham Quarry

- 3.1 Two further benefits of relocating the CSEC from the Millfield Woods site to Layham Quarry have been identified.
- 3.2 Releasing the Millfield Woods site would allow some 5.6Ha (by our estimation) of land to be returned to productive agricultural use post-construction.
- 3.3 Furthermore, consequential to the additional section of undergrounding, the removal of pylon PCB42 and the cancellation of new pylon RB33 would dramatically improve the setting of Pope's Green Farm, a Grade

II listed property (APP-151, Document 6.4.6, Fig 8.2 Sheet 2, ref 1037139) located within 100m of the pylons.

Appendix 1: view of potential access routes taken from Pitmire Lane near Daws Hall



Appendix 2: illustrative plans of proposed access routes



<https://tinyurl.com/CSECAccess>

