

Having now read the following documents I would make these observations:

Re Document 8.5.9: Technical Note on Noise Levels at Hintlesham Woods

Despite the lengthy arguments contained in the report about noise levels it is my view that nightingales will be disturbed by the construction and permanent installation of pylons and lines so close to their nesting site(s). The report focuses heavily on one particular site – the ('temporary') pylons at RB12T – and others with the main argument being that these are 360m away and no work will be carried out at sensitive times / some work is temporary. With the distance from them being carefully considered, apparently. But they are the wrong pylons to assess / or not the only ones to be concerned about...

This is potentially misleading and also seems like misdirection, when the plans propose other pylons with lines there for ever more. New Pylon 4YL13A will be 50m from known nesting sites at the woods. Construction for this will also involve the destruction of 25m of double ancient hedgerow, even less than 50m from nightingale nests. This would also break part of the very ancient corridor connectivity that National Grid elsewhere claims to value, including suspected dormouse habitat. The other side on the adjoining drove, and meadow/paddock, a similar distance just to the north, have similar nesting value. (this area has not been surveyed at all, despite invitations)
New pylon 4YL012B will be around 200m from nest sites.

Last year there were 2 possibly 3 nightingale nesting pairs along the north eastern strip of Ramsey Wood – a good year after the previous one. Some of the last in Suffolk, let alone England. They have already declined in nearby favoured sites such as Wolves. When there are none left in a few years - perhaps as soon as next - then will all the environmental bodies, including their custodians the RSPB, the politicians, the councils, environmental consultants etc consider that 'job well done, that was the least worst option'. The impact is for ever, despite all the focus on 'temporary'.

"Natural England notes in its Relevant Representation [RR-042], that it is particularly concerned about the impact to the nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) population at Hintlesham Woods." They have reason. I have been following them here over nearly 50 years and there is no more critical time.

I would urge once again that all stakeholders be given the proper chance to consider undergrounding in this area. Dismissed out of hand back in 2010-12, and again in 2022, it should now be fairly and properly (re)considered, as I and many others have asserted throughout. I understand that environmental bodies would be supportive of undergrounding in the right circumstances, including the RSPB, and I believe this area, like others on the route, merits that consideration.

These issues are not limited to nightingales, as I have been pointing out for 14 years. As well as destroying the landscape, proposed new Pylon 4YL14A and the lines between it and other new pylons 13A and 15A running along the edge of the woods will affect all kinds of wildlife, including barn owls, badgers, hare, bats, including barbastelle, various raptors – I have a list of over 50 species or bird and mammal here – a hugely biodiverse area for East Anglia. I would also repeat my submission claims that the environmental / wildlife surveys have been insufficient here, including the baseline studies, despite the Applicant's repeated reference to their various survey activity.

Re Document 8.5.12: Technical Note on Ancient and Potential Ancient Woodland

This document - contrary to previous claims and rationale for routing of new lines – at last recognises that the part of the eastern edge of Ramsey Wood / part of Hintlesham Little Wood is not technically ancient woodland. And the very small area taken up for a parallel line oversailing would not need to be valued as such. Locals know this and it is evidenced by old maps and other reports. This was part of my previous assertion during consultation that Option2 - paralleling the existing line and with pylons well outside the woodland – would not be as damaging as an additional line of 4km across virgin territory and still 20m from ancient woodland edge.

In fact, the creation of more high scrub could actually be of more benefit to many species, including nightingales.

Of course, it's better to do neither and underground instead.