



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



FAO: Emma Cottam - Senior EIA Advisor
Environmental Services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Your Ref: EN020027

By email: eastangliagreen@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

7th August 2023

Dear Ms Cottam,

Re: Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) - Regulations 10 and 11.

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) (the Proposed Development) (now known as Norwich to Tilbury)

Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested,

Response from West Bergholt Parish Council - further remarks thereto:

On behalf of West Bergholt Parish Council, we write further to our letter dated 21st. November 2022 in which we outlined our objections to the above noted scheme as voiced by the Parish Council and by many residents of West Bergholt.

Since the said letter was submitted, our Council has been made aware of further details pertaining to the scheme following publication of the Project Background Document by Norwich to Tilbury in June 2023.

As far as West Bergholt is concerned, we are particularly interested in the section of that document concerning the area from Ardleigh to Marks Tey and noted as sections C and D pages 38-39.

The infrastructure to be installed in this area amounts to cabling suspended from approximately 115 new pylons over a distance of some 33.5 km. In addition, approximately 4 km. of underground cabling will be buried in the AONB which lies within the area. Needless to say, a great deal of this new facility will be visible from many vantage points in our village and its environs and will of course, be installed on pristine farmland.

The visual impact on the village is best illustrated in a photo montage attached hereto as **Appendix A** below.

Many other objections to the scheme have been raised by other concerned parties in the village and its environs. These objections are of a more general nature but are of no less relevance than those of the Parish Council, however, for the sake of good order, some of these are detailed below.

We note that National Grid is a private monopoly and therefore it does not have to follow procedures usually employed for other infrastructure providers such as Highway constructors and similar. This being

the case, it would appear that National grid has proceeded to overlay on the environment a piece of national infrastructure designed entirely for their own convenience and to fit into a business model without regard to the environment and the concerns of the population at large.

We would respectfully bring to your notice that it is a legal requirement for companies wishing to install major infrastructure facilities to follow the Treasury Green Book in order to assess the social, financial and general environmental impact on the communities affected by the proposed development. We further understand that at no stage has National Grid followed this legal requirement and as such is in breach of the relative legislation. In view of this breach, we would hereby request that all further development of the scheme be withdrawn forthwith so that a more comprehensive review of the said scheme be instigated.

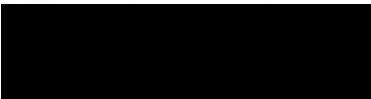
In this regard, and with particular reference to the Norwich to Tilbury phase of the development, it is noted that an alternative off-shore route has been mooted by many interested parties as being a greatly preferred solution.

National Grid have produced costings which show that an on-shore grid as preferred by themselves would cost some £2 billion more in the long term than an off-shore solution. This being the case, we can see no financial justification for proceeding with the overland route. On the other hand, National Grid have in the past, advised that an off-shore grid is not technically feasible, so how are they able to produce costings for an un-feasible concept and this despite the fact that offshore grids are being constructed by other nations in Europe.

In addition to the foregoing, we attach **Appendix B** which details several further objections to the scheme which have been raised in discussions with residents of West Bergholt.

Finally, West Bergholt Parish Council urges the Inspector to fully take into account the comments contained herein allied with those contained in our previous correspondence and to reject the conclusions of the Scoping report which fails to consider the wider impact of the proposed development on the community and the environment in general.

Yours Sincerely

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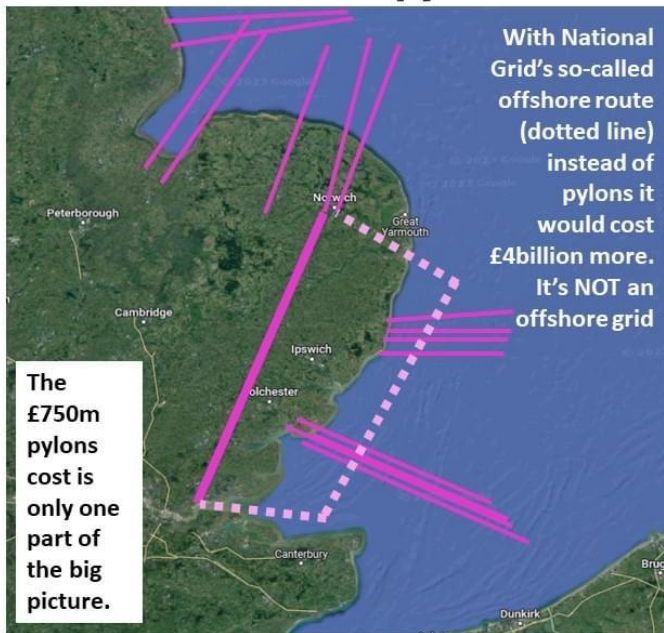
Clerk - West Bergholt Parish Council

p.p. Cllr David Short
West Bergholt Parish Council

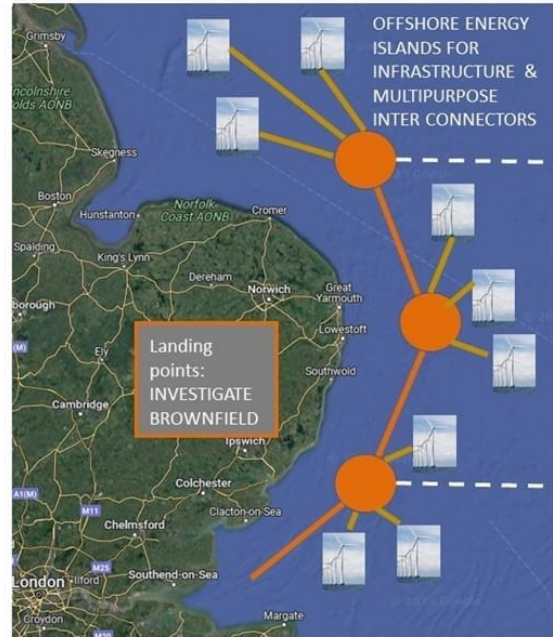
Appendix A



**Unplanned, piecemeal approach.
COST £7billion with pylons.**



**Integrated offshore grid.
COST £5billion.**



Appendix B

- 1) It appears that National Grid has already entered into contractual agreements to take electricity from offshore wind farms as soon as construction of the wind farms is completed. This means that a separate connection from each wind farm will connect to the main grid separately thus precluding the construction of connections between wind farms. If this were the case, any attempt to construct an offshore network would be nullified.
- 2) Out of the anticipated new power generated from the offshore wind farms serving the Norwich-Tilbury route, approximately only 3% to 5% will be consumed in Norfolk, Essex and Suffolk with the remainder destined to supply Tilbury and London. Thus, those three counties will bear the maximum level of despoilation for the least return. This would not be the case if a truly offshore scheme was to be implemented.
- 3) When asked if National Grid had any alternative route in mind if in the event that the existing plan should be cancelled, the answer given was that no alternative plan had been given any consideration. Thus, we conclude that National Grid intends to proceed with its plan regardless of any opposition from whatever quarter.