

# RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

15 June 2022

James Cartlidge MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Cartlidge

## **National Grid's 'Green Energy Enablement Scheme'**

Raydon Parish Council is alarmed and dismayed to hear that National Grid is running a consultation proposing 180km of 'lattice framework' pylons between Norwich and Tilbury. These are the old-fashioned lattice pylons, 50m high monstrosities which are very ugly and will be a stain across the beautiful countryside of not only Suffolk but Norfolk and Essex also. And, even though NG have identified Dedham as an AONB where the cables will be buried underground, it does nothing for the rest of the county who will have to suffer seeing these pylons which will have been erected in sight of their homes.

This proposal identifies and provides very complex details for only one of three options:

1. **Overhead power lines supported by pylons - NG have supplied maps indicating a wide swath of land with no firm route being indicated;**
2. Underground cables - not considered an option;
3. Offshore cables - not considered an option.

There is no consideration in the consultation documentation issued by NG that the erection of these unsightly monsters will have on the:

1. Environment;
2. Health consequences - there remain unanswered debates about the risks of cancer and leukaemia in children from being exposed to high voltages overhead and underground cables;
3. The wellbeing and mental health of the residents. It has been suggested that cases of depression and stress will rise substantially;
4. Loss of use and devaluation of arable farmland;
5. Historic and listed buildings - Raydon St Mary's church dates back to the 14th century;
6. Devaluation of residential properties;
7. Loss of woodlands and hedgerows - it is stated that replanting will take place but it will take years for any of the removed trees and hedgerows to grow back, and where pylons are located they will never be replaced;
8. Wildlife that abounds in the area - deer, badgers, foxes, etc;
9. Access to many of the public footpaths;
10. Restricted flight path to the Raydon Wings airstrip - an active airfield, designated as an emergency runway for light aircraft. The flight path would be compromised by the proposed pylon route;
11. Restrictions to Army Air Corps training flights in the skies over Raydon and Holton St Mary, there being low level training flights taking place night and day;
12. Raydon WW2 airfield and the risks associated with how the land was utilised for fuel and ammunition storage;

# RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

13. Highway destabilisation and damage; there already exists issues due to the volume of traffic causing degradation to the inadequate road network in the area. The volume of HGV traffic already serving the Notley Enterprise Park, local businesses and farms causing excessive damage to road surfaces and verges.

The Gunning Principles, which are recognised in law, require a consultation to be held when a proposal is still at a formative stage. This one is clearly not. It is well advanced and the options available have not even presented for consideration. In fact, the complete detail is not even set out on the consultation website or documentation supplied.

The consultation does not allow any other options to be considered. It simply presents a pre-selected option and route but fails to clearly define what that the final route will be.

We believe that National Grid have failed to share their Design and Development principals for this scheme and in the first instance should have presented a series of options and costings to all concerned. They have also failed to consult with any of the following:

1. Suffolk County and Raydon Parish Councils
2. Raydon residents
3. Raydon Wings Airfield - an active airfield
4. Army Air Corps at Wattisham
5. Any resident or Council and organisation across Norfolk/Suffolk/Essex

In accordance with the Gunning Principles, NG should have in this and every instance presented a series of options, with costings setting out for:

1. Under the sea cables (to prevent the destruction of what must be thousands of acres of arable countryside and the loss of hedgerows and trees);
2. Lattice pylons as presented giving exact locations;
3. Underground cables on all stretches detailing the exact route. It is not just the designated AONBs that are beautiful and in need of this consideration;
4. T-pylons, (as adopted in Somerset for a 38km stretch of pylons). These are far less obtrusive but are still monstrosities;
5. Utilising existing pylons or following the existing line of pylons.

It is also safe to say that the Consultation Survey is ambiguous and the questions, depending on how they are answered, can be turned around to make it appear that those completing are in agreement with NG even though they are not. It is also considered that in the personal detail sections there are questions raised that have no bearing on the consultation at all being an information gathering exercise.

The NG consultation includes multiple errors, systematic bias and contradictions between the cost of identical routes of up to £1 billion.

It is also considered that the consultation breaches consumer protection law and Competition and Markets Authority should investigate this issue.

This is in no way a GREEN project and to insinuate that it is following the governments Net Zero policy is a SCAM!

It is a NG policy to protect shareholders and maintain dividends at the highest levels, so expecting the Government to fund the project from the public purse. The development and funding of a National Grid is the responsibility of the company, not the taxpayers, who are already meeting excessively high consumer costs for energy. NG also state that this work is necessary to connect the incoming power supplies from various privately owned offshore wind farms.

# RAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

It would therefore make sense that if these generation companies wish to make a profit from the end users, they should also accept responsibility for the cost of the grid development instead of expecting the public to pay for it via the government purse.

The only way for NG to redeem themselves in this instance is to defer the deadline of 16th June 2022 and return to the drawing board following the guidelines for a consultation which takes on board all of the options.

Further to this, it is requested that you and the OFFSet group exert sufficient pressure on Kwasi Kwarteng MP and Greg Hands MP to bring about a change of Government policy whereby NG are obliged to install an offshore grid with all onshore inter connecting cables to distribution points installed underground instead of seeking to destroy the country by installing further ugly pylons.

**In conclusion Raydon Parish Council and the residents of Raydon, totally reject National Grid's current proposal to install these hideous pylons and cables over or underground across much of Suffolk and would reaffirm that the only option is for these cables to be placed offshore.**

Yours sincerely



**Jane Cryer**  
**Parish Clerk & Proper Officer**  
on behalf of Raydon Parish Council

cc: Sir Bernard Jenkin MP  
Kwasi Kwarteng MP  
Greg Hands MP

Clerk & Proper Officer  
Raydon Parish Council  
Sunnyside Cottage, Overbury Hall Road, Layham, Suffolk IP7 5NA  
07920 713940 / [raydonpc@gmail.com](mailto:raydonpc@gmail.com)