

To: Councillor Paul West,
Portfolio Holder for Creating the Greenest County

Dear Paul,

Proposed National Grid Pylons

We would like to make the following comments with regard to the response made by Suffolk County Council to the National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Overhead Line Project Consultation.

Our first point addresses your comments on the consultation process.

From a report that is 11 paragraphs in length, 10 paragraphs make the point that the National Grid Consultation is a flawed process. However, by including Paragraph K, which selects Pylon Corridor 2b, you have at best repudiated your own argument and at worst validated a flawed procedure.

Your position is also contrary to the four other consultee councils, namely Hadleigh Town Council, Babergh District Council, Braintree District Council and Essex County Council. In an identical consultation in the West Country, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council also totally reject Corridor selection.

Indeed your isolated stance on Corridor selection would seem to be illogical and somewhat perverse. Suffolk County Council's own documents state:

** In the event that the principle of the scheme is accepted, what are the potential environmental impacts of each of the four route corridors, what are the views of local people, and which corridor should the Council favour?*

** (Suffolk County Council) considers that National Grid has not yet demonstrated conclusively that a scheme such as that proposed is the most appropriate means of achieving the network enhancements the company believes are required;*

Our second point involves your selection of Corridor 2b.

Your only unique argument in defence of Corridors 3 and 4 is that they are virgin sites and should not be blighted, incidentally a view with which we concur.

However all other arguments apply even more so to Corridors 1 and 2, including further blight of an AONB and the further contravention of 6 out of the 7 Holford Rules.

Also, by explicitly selecting Corridor 2b you are really selecting Corridor 1 for the first quarter of the route. As you will be aware, Corridor 1 involves a double line of 150 foot Pylons marching through swathes of Special Landscape Areas, cutting through even more of a SSSI at Hintlesham Great Wood and further blighting a Grade 1 listed building in Hintlesham Hall Hotel, which is itself at the heart of the tourism industry in this region. This is all without mention of destroying more of the “iconic views” enjoyed in this part of the county.

Does this really sound like the least environmental impact?

Does this give you any scope for negotiation with National Grid?

Is this really the best outcome for the whole of Suffolk?

At the debate on the Call In which took place on the 18th February, a councillor urged you to be brave and do the right thing. Unfortunately you singularly failed to take that advice, and allowed party politics to govern a decision that will impact on the Suffolk landscape for the next 80 + years.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Eaton
Chris Leney

Bury not Blight