



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

21st November 2022

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)

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:

West Bergholt Parish council has had sight of a Scoping Report relevant to the above named project and after due consideration the Council finds the Scoping report, and project, to be inadequate and detrimental to the village and its environs generally and thus the Council objects in the strongest of terms to the Scoping report, and project; we detail below the principal areas of objection.

The Project, if implemented, would impinge very heavily on the visual amenity of the village and its environs. As can be seen from the map Figure 1 below, the red line denotes the parish boundary, and the yellow arrow denotes the broad swathe within which the pylons would lie.

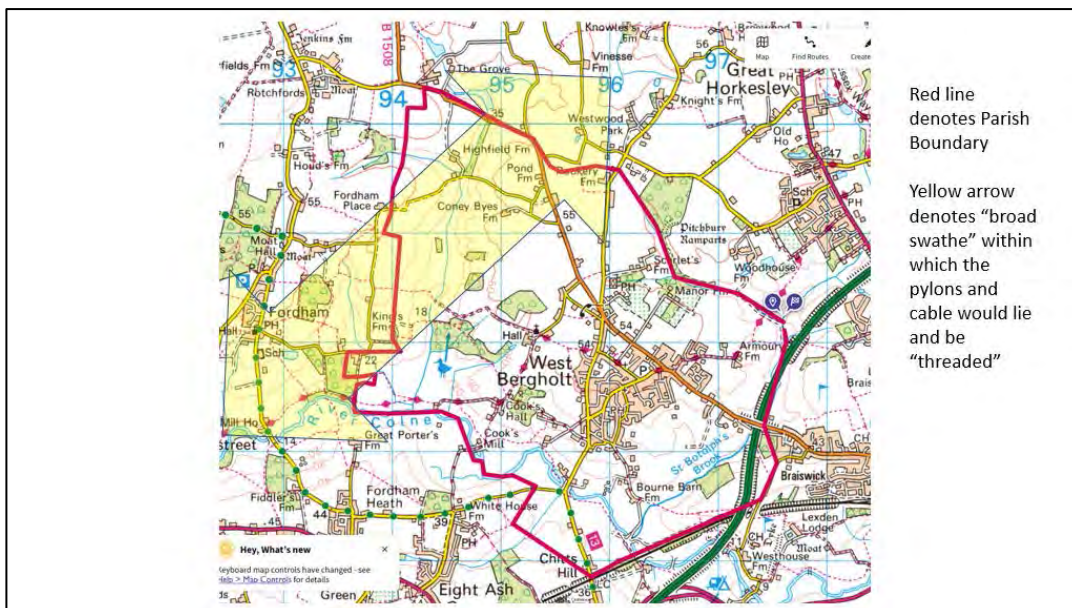
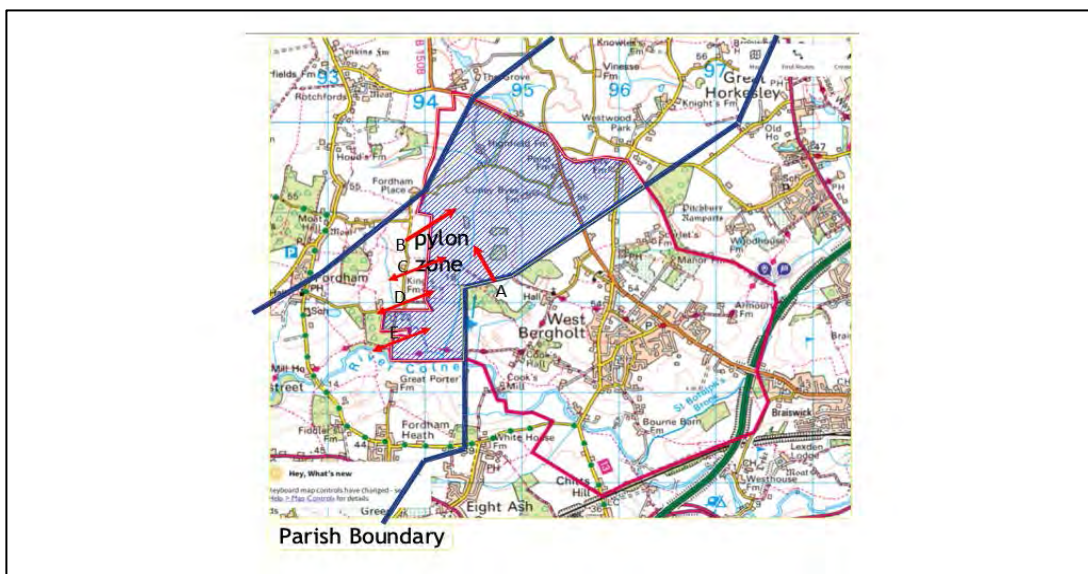


Figure 2 below, denotes the general pylon zone within the Parish boundary which would be the most severely affected should the project be implemented. Note that this figure denotes certain aspects of this area which relate to the photographs detailed in appendix A below and which are of particular environmental importance.



With further reference to the environmental aspects of this matter, reference is made to the West Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan adopted by Colchester Borough Council on 16th October 2019/minute ref.19/148. Section 14.3.2 of the Neighbourhood Plan advises in the landscape surrounding the village, the views to the west and southwest of the village are particularly noted as containing numerous footpaths extensively used by residents. In that regard the Inspector's attention is drawn to Neighbourhood Plan Community Ambition Policy CA7 and map CA7, the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on westbergholt.org. The overall area benefits from general protection by Colchester Borough Council countryside environment policies. Section 14.3.7 also states 'there are ten local wildlife sites of importance for nature conservation within the area which are protected within the local planning system'.

In addition to the environmental aspects, the Parish Council would reiterate further its objections to the project, as set out in the letter in Appendix B. The principle of these concerns the fact that National Grid has chosen a single preferred route to be consulted upon. The Parish Council objects in the strongest terms to this approach which it considers to be in contravention of standard planning procedure and of the Gunning Principles in particular. In that regard the Parish Council would have anticipated seeing alternative routes/options considered alongside with the overhead pylon route.

The Parish Council has had sight of correspondence between Sir Bernard Jenkin and the Offshore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET) in which cost comparisons between the overhead route and an offshore route were made. The Parish Council has no way of verifying the disparity of the costs quoted by National Grid in this regard. Accordingly, The Parish Council would urge the Inspector to require National Grid to provide a detailed and independently verified analysis of any alternative route costings which may be considered, but with particular reference both the offshore route and an underground route.

However, in summary West Bergholt Parish Council urge the Inspector to reject the Scoping report in that it fails in its proposals to consider adequately the impact of the pylons on West Bergholt.

Yours Sincerely

L. Walkingshaw

p.p. Cllr Brian Butcher
Chair - West Bergholt Parish Council

cc Rosie Pearson, Frances Torrington & Sir Bernard Jenkin

enc. Appendix A & B

Appendix A

View from Fossets Lane towards Rams Hall Lane (location B on map)



View from Footpath leading from the Old Church towards Hillhouse Wood (location A on map). Stitchling Wood is the larger spiny. Photos sequence from Stitchling Wood in the east to a view of Rams Hall Road in the west.



View from point C – Fossetts lane, Hill Top Cottage



View from point D – Fossetts Lane Kings Vineyard access track and Essex Waay



View from point E– Footpath



Appendix B

Attached as separate document (*Appendix B - Pylons 1 letter to Rosie Pearson 071122*)

APPENDIX B



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



Rosie Pearson, only by email

7th November 2022

Dear Rosie

Re: Offshore Electricity Grid Taskforce (OffSET) v. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)

The members of West Bergholt Parish Council have recently had sight of the letter dated 11th October 2022 from the National Grid (NG) addressed to Sir Bernard Jenkin in his capacity as Chair of OffSET, which you kindly forwarded, concerning the siting of an array of pylons, some of which as you know would be situated to the north of West Bergholt and as such, would impinge considerably on the visual amenity of this village.

Since the said letter was received, members of the parish council have appraised themselves in some detail with the technical details of the scheme and needless to say, apart from the general disquiet felt by many in this area, the response from NG raises further questions. The foremost of these are:

1. The huge disparity in costs between the overland route and the offshore route is nowhere justified in detail. We would suggest you therefore ask Sir Bernard to request that a truly independent audit of the scheme be carried out so that the detailed costings can be justified (or not).
2. The comparative costings of an underground routing do not seem to have been considered. So that all alternatives can be included in the equation and an all-round view of the scheme can be formed, an additional study should be undertaken to include an underground routing. Needless to say, such a further proposal should be accompanied by detailed and independently verified costings.

It is very apparent from a study of the information, which is presently in the public domain, that NG has already chosen it's favoured routing for this project and any attempt to force through a pre-ordained solution should be firmly resisted.

Please be assured of the full support of West Bergholt Parish Council for OffSET in this endeavour and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards

p.p.

Cllr Brian Butcher

Chair - West Bergholt Parish Council

cc Francis Torrington

cc Sir Bernard Jenkin