



Parish Office  
Suite 2  
4, The Limes  
Ingatestone  
Essex  
CM4 0BE  
Telephone: 01277 676759  
Email: [clerk@ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk)  
[www.ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk](http://www.ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk)

Sent by e-mail : [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)

25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## **Parish Council Response to the Latest National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET) Consultation**

This submission is on behalf of the Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council, reflecting the views and concerns of the local community of Ingatestone and its surroundings.

The Norwich to Tilbury pylon scheme is the foremost issue for our residents, who passionately oppose the latest proposals. The pylons threaten to bring substantial harm to the landscape and heritage of the Ingatestone & Fryerning parish and neighbouring areas. We strongly urge NGET to modify their plans in light of these objections. We advocate for the consideration of the alternative solutions presented here and encourage incorporating emerging technological advances that offer more sustainable options for our region and the nation.

This submission is divided into three parts: our collective thoughts on the preferred offshore alternative and then – without prejudice to our primary position that the route should be revised and routed offshore – our collective thoughts on the onshore route and the type of pylons that ought to be used if NGET refuses to pause and reconsider the better offshore alternatives. These latter points are practical and pragmatic and ought to be adopted at a minimum in recognition of the local community's concerns.

### **Offshore Alternative**

While acknowledging the necessity of transmitting power from the North Sea to London, Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council strongly objects to NGET's Norwich to Tilbury pylons proposal. This objection aligns with our responses from June and December 2022 and August 10, 2023.

We are dismayed that capital cost, rather than the effect on communities, businesses, farming and the environment, has driven the choice of route and equipment. It is crucial to re-emphasize that the impact on delicate biodiversity, the beautiful landscape, and heritage assets must be considered, and the eventual route must be sympathetic to these unique features of the area. The proposed route and engineering methods will cut an ugly and destructive swathe across three counties, causing permanent damage.

The Parish Council reiterates that an offshore solution remains the optimal approach, regrettably not considered in the current Consultation. This is a long-term scheme that needs to be sustainable for years to come. Future generations, more so than this one, as technologies become more sophisticated, will be dismayed by your decision to route the pylons across land when a viable offshore route is available.

There is increasing evidence from projects in the US and Germany that with advances in power electronics and tunnelling technologies, the cost of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) systems for undersea and underground applications is reducing substantially, significantly narrowing the cost differential between them and overland systems. There is much material available that shows that over the lifetime of a long link like Norwich to Tilbury, HVDC can be more cost effective than overhead lines. Even just considering the capital cost, any marginal additional cost of non-overhead technologies, when amortised over a long period, represents a relatively insignificant portion of the total project cost.

### **Onshore Route**

As noted in the introduction, these alternative points regarding the onshore route and type of pylons are without prejudice to our primary points about the offshore alternative.

The Parish Council acknowledges that concerns regarding the previously proposed route east of Ingatestone have been partially addressed with the route adjusted to lessen the impact on Grade I listed Ingatestone Hall. However, the new route still traverses the Wid Valley, an area deserving special protection. The introduction of 50m high pylons here would cause substantial harm to the environment and significantly impair the open views across the valley for residents, visitors, and future generations. Additionally, the planned route includes a pylon (TB190) just 200m from the Grade II\* listed 14th Century St Mary's Church at Buttsbury. Furthermore, the Grade II listed Bridge over the River Wid would be affected by two pylons (TB188 and TB189) in close proximity.

NGET considers Dedham Vale worthy of protection by placing the cabling underground and is now considering a similar approach for the Waveney Valley, which is not a nationally designated landscape. Equal consideration should be given to the 4km section of the equally picturesque Wid Valley. We implore you to revise the onshore route again, being sympathetic to this area of outstanding natural beauty, and use HVDC cabling to minimise the impact on the overground landscape.

### **Type of Pylons**

The Parish Council is concerned that NGET's process for selecting the type of pylons is based solely on cost, with little consideration of the environmental impact. The use of the smaller T-pylons east of Ingatestone should be a 'no brainer'. In the

“Consideration of Alternative Pylons for The Project” appendix to the April 2024 Design Development Report, NGET disregards the use of T-pylons for much of the route despite them being a third shorter and having a much smaller footprint than the equivalent lattice pylons. Indeed, National Grid’s own literature states, “the T-pylon’s lower height and contemporary design will have less of an impact on the landscape than traditional lattice pylons.”

The Design Development Report suggests “T-pylons could help to mitigate landscape and visual effects as their lower height, coupled with existing layers of vegetation, would make them less visible to sensitive visual receptors, including residents at Ingatestone. There are few existing overhead lines in this area, reducing the potential for cumulative conflicts between different types of infrastructure.” If NGET refuses to reconsider the better offshore or underground alternatives, there appears to be no reason, apart from marginally higher costs, not to deploy T-pylons in the Wid Valley section TB187 to TB199.

Rosemary Spouge  
Assistant Clerk  
Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council