



LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Response to National Grid - The Great Grid Upgrade - Norwich to Tilbury 2023 Non Statutory Consultation

Little Bromley Parish Council would like to make you aware of our strong opposition to the National Grid - Great Grid Upgrade - Norwich to Tilbury (NG) proposal. Your proposal particularly affects the village of Little Bromley and neighbouring village of Ardleigh, with its plans for 50 metre tall electricity pylons, underground cabling and the location of an 18 plus Hectare electric substation, EACN.

You state that NG has offered and contracted connections to EACN to North Falls, Five Estuaries and Tarchon. We question how connections can be contracted at this time as your proposals are not approved. However both North Falls and Five Estuaries have carried out consultations and have made our residents aware of their plans. We have no visibility of Tarchon's plans at this time. Both North Falls and Five Estuaries are planning 8 Hectare plus substations and significant underground cabling within the parish of Little Bromley. The effect on Little Bromley from their construction and operational plans is massive. Discussions with NG staff at your drop in events indicate that we can expect similar plans from Tarchon, and that additionally Tarchon will need to construct a converter station (HVDC to AC) whose location will also need to be decided.

The cumulative effect of NG proposals together with those planned by Five Estuaries and North Falls is devastating for Little Bromley and is causing many residents anxiety and stress. This stress can only be further increased when Tarchon consult on their proposals.

These proposals if they go ahead will be a permanent disfigurement of the East Anglian countryside, remove valuable arable land from production necessary for food-security, generate significant noise, affect residents and communities amenities and potentially drive down property values for a large swathe of the affected area. Our current precious rural landscape will be industrialised by massive substations, 50 metre high pylons and wide stretches of farmland permanently affected by underground cabling.

Your NG proposal needs a complete rework. You are consulting on a single solution only. When challenged as to why other approaches are not under review your representatives state Cost as the only metric. There seems to be no regard for the long term implications or environmental, ecological and sociological impact of such a scheme. The quality of life for residents and impact on villages needs to be a prime consideration.

There is no need for this destructive project. We want an integrated offshore grid in the North Sea as it has been shown by National Grid ESO to save £2bn and to reduce overall infrastructure by 50%. We support and endorse the submission of the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Action group.

An integrated offshore grid will allow offshore generators such as North Falls and Five Estuaries to deliver their energy to areas of the country that require it. The NG proposal is designed to connect from Norwich to Tilbury – and to do this through electric pylons will wreak havoc on the East Anglian countryside. The proposed National Grid EACN substation at Little Bromley / Ardleigh is located to connect the offshore energy provider substations into the Grid. If an offshore grid is built then there is no need for these developments.

Written Correspondence to: The Clerk, Dakas House, Shop Road, Little Bromley, Manningtree CO11 2PX

It seems ironic that with Off-Shore wind generation now being the preferred route for Green wind energy, that On-Shore power distribution through pylons is even considered. Electric pylons were initially designed in 1928 with the first deployments being in 1938. Green Energy in the 21st Century should not rely on a 1920/ 1930 distribution solution with its enormous impact on the environment, wildlife and communities. The benefits and value of a 21st Century offshore grid far outweighs any cost uplift, and will allow the UK to demonstrate to the country and the world its leading expertise in this area.

Subsea cables are proven technology – National Grid have a 700km subsea cable between the UK and Norway and there are many interconnector cables between the UK and Europe. Tarchon who NG has offered a connection into EACN are designing a 540km interconnector between the UK and Germany.

The use of an offshore power grid will provide a standard for offshore energy providers to adhere to. Both North Falls and Five Estuaries are designing in isolation up to their connection into EACN. They are choosing their own cables routes and their own substation sites. This duplication will cause increased pressure on Tendring and increased disruption to communities. An offshore power grid will negate this.

It is worth reflecting in more detail on the impact that the National Grid proposal will have on the local Tendring area of Little Bromley and Ardleigh.

- The area designated for the National Grid substation is remote and rural with no major roads to allow immediate access. The associated installations and facilities such as temporary access roads, contractor facilities, equipment storage and more will be disruptive for many years. We question the decision to site in such a location rather than closer to main roads, on a brownfield site, and nearer to the onshore cable entry points from the Offshore generators.
- The potential area proposed for the National Grid substation stretches to within 1 mile of Little Bromley village. The area directly impacts many remote properties on the edge of the village. The visual impact and operational noise will diminish residents quality of life and property values will be affected. There will be a loss of village amenity.
- The construction noise, traffic, dust and mud will be disruptive to the village of Little Bromley and surrounding areas for many years.
- The route disruption in the area from the increased contractor and HGV traffic from the NG, North Falls, Five Estuaries and Tarchon will affect local, farm and business traffic for many years. There is concern that the volume of traffic will effectively sever Little Bromley and surrounding areas from access to key traffic routes.
- There is concern on the wildlife and environmental impact of your proposal. Little Bromley has a rich and varied wildlife population. Potential exists for protected or notable species to be impacted by construction activities and loss of habitat.
- The underground cabling in and pylon routing out of EACN has a huge impact on our neighbouring village of Ardleigh.
- The Grade 1 agricultural land selected is key for our food security. This is a precious resource that needs to be protected. And it is a huge area – over 18 Hectares for the National Grid substation alone.
- We question the health impact on humans from 400KV power lines and electric substations.

Little Bromley Parish Council asks that you stop the current Proposal from progressing further and that a strategic offshore solution is designed and implemented.

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