

Dear Minister The Honourable Dan Poulter MP

Proposals for power lines and pylons over 180km of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex's beautiful countryside must be shelved.

A strategic offshore grid is needed instead and it will save millions of pounds to say nothing of destroying acres of ancient trees. In addition there have been a number of scientific investigations into the effect of high voltage overhead cabling and an unprecedented increase in brain tumours.*

In National Grid's so-called 'East Anglia Green' project, which will be far from being green, the historic and rural landscapes of East Anglia will be blighted with 50-metre high pylons marching across fields and through woodland. Tourist and hospitality businesses that are dependent on their landscape will be at risk and farmers will see their farms criss-crossed by pylons and their huge concrete support blocks. Thousands of trees, many ancient and irreplaceable, will be lost to make way for the pylons to say nothing of the loss of vital wildlife habitats.

We need to protect East Anglia's stunning landscapes.

In their 2020 report to Parliament, the Committee on Climate Change called for government to 'Develop a strategy to coordinate interconnectors and offshore networks for wind farms and their connections to the onshore network and bring forward any legislation necessary to enable coordination'.

National Grid's proposals must be shelved. Only one option has been presented to the public, and there are other far more cost effective alternatives that need to be assessed and presented for consultation.

Underground cabling is an alternative and would be an easy proposition as Suffolk is not a rock bearing area. The soil is soft agricultural land and would be very easy to trench for the cabling and save billions of pounds in construction and ongoing maintenance costs.

The obvious answer, however, lies in the installation of an offshore 'ring main' to serve new nuclear power stations, solar arrays and wind turbines which will take the electricity where it is needed rather than have a single line of pylons serving one specific project. With an offshore ring main they can simply be plugged into the grid eliminating the requirement for numerous additional lines of pylons marching across the countryside. National Grid, unfortunately, vastly over estimates the cost of such a system and all but eliminates from consideration that which is a viable and cost effective solution to the problem.

The government must Protect East Anglia's landscapes. They are precious, historic and beautiful and must not be desecrated by pylons. It must adopt a strategic approach to electricity transmission grid planning for the east of England and bring forward new legislation to replace the current piecemeal, patch and mend approach that is adopted by the national grid and Ofgem.

Surely the Government must appreciate the need to replace the march of pylons across our beautiful countryside with an offshore 'ring main' to serve new nuclear power stations, solar arrays and wind turbines and take electricity where it is needed.

Submitted for your consideration.

Brian J. Heard

* Residential proximity to power lines and risk of brain tumors in the general population