

Response sent to National Grid's GREEN Consultation on 15/06/2022

Great Horkesley Parish Council strongly objects to the National Grid's consultation on the East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN).

Great Horkesley Parish Council supports the objections put forward by our neighbouring Parish Councils – Little Horkesley, Fordham, Boxted, Langham, Ardleigh and West Bergholt – notably that there has been a complete lack of transparency in arriving at the proposed solution and that the proposal does not give any analysis of alternative options available to deliver a 400kV electricity line between Norwich and Tilbury.

There has been limited publicity of the consultation locally with many residents in our Parish living within the purple swathe areas on the map still unaware of the project or the consultation.

On the map of the purple swathe, the narrow pinchpoint in Great Horkesley appears to be a forgone conclusion, which is in breach of the Gunning Principles. It has also been pointed out that the printed version of the map shows a different proposed route through Great Horkesley than the online version of the map – which is correct?

The proposed route is in close proximity to a cluster of at least 18 listed buildings (including Grade II* Chapel Cottage less than 50m from the narrow swathe) at the Great Horkesley pinchpoint.

Great Horkesley Parish Council supports the OffSET Task Force and the campaigns for an offshore grid.

In addition, Great Horkesley Parish Council is in full support of the response to Government that had been compiled by Essex County and Colchester Borough Councils. This states:

“National Grid's current proposals for a new over-ground pylon route across much of its East Anglia is totally unacceptable. We fully support of the concept of North Sea wind farms to generate abundant, cheap, clean electricity. Furthermore, the recent increase in energy prices, coupled with the global insecurity of energy supplies gives added impetus to this strategy.. At the recent public consultation events, National Grid confirmed that upgrades to the offshore route was a viable alternative.

Therefore, our strongly preferred approach is an upgrade to the offshore route. By doing so, the environmental damage, disruption and despoliation that would be caused to East Anglia by the installation of hundreds of over-ground pylons would be minimised

We demand that National Grid holds a full public consultation on all options, with full details and costings being made available for public scrutiny, not simply an informal consultation on their pre-selected over-ground route.

We will continue to lobby National Grid and the Government to ensure that all necessary infrastructure is delivered in a sustainable manner. For us, this means moving the proposed new pylon route to an off-shore location.

We would urge all communities to have their say on National Grid's consultation portal and sign the petition for offshore upgrades instead.”