

Tharston and Hapton Parish Council

Response to National Grid East Anglia Green East Pylon Proposals

Tharston and Hapton Parish council are strongly opposed to the National Grid Green East Pylon Proposal to build and install obtrusive and ugly pylons in the unspoilt countryside of East Anglia to take offshore generated power.

The reasons we are against these proposals are as follows.

1. At no time was a public consultation held to discuss the merits of this scheme and the possibility of using an underwater scheme,
2. We are concerned that the consultation does not cover the decision already made by National Grid for the new pylon run to be overground, when it was specifically chosen against a viable undersea cable route – ‘Sea Link 2’ (SCD2) - without any public engagement, or explanation.
3. We share the view of many of our parishioners that, as far as is practicable, new offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, making landfall as close to the target population centres as possible.
4. The East of England already has the offshore infrastructure to build and support offshore sub sea work which would be a source of employment in an area where this is needed. We have the harbours, jetties, ships and the personnel to do this and to ignore this would see this industry decline
5. The National Grid it seems has already decided at a senior level to choose overground vs undersea without any public consultation and this is now presented by the National Grid as the only choice.
6. We are also worried that ugly 50-metre-high pylons and overhead wires will just cut through landscapes in the heart of East Anglia with the subsequent destruction of the countryside and loss of wildlife and their habitat. This part of the country is an area of migration routes for birds which will be seriously impacted by these structures.
7. The Parish Council believe that this old-fashioned, destructive project will be detrimental to a whole way of life in the area while the visual impact will be enormous and damaging to the tourist industry on which the region in part relies. It will also damage valuable farmland and the communities that it supports.
8. Another point that Tharston and Hapton Parish Council is concerned around is the adverse effects that the pylons would have on local businesses that rely on outdoor activity around this area as [art of their offerings (outside venues) etc.
9. We are all supportive of the drive to achieve net zero by 2050. The role that East Anglian offshore wind plays in that endeavour is well known, why then is the logical extension of this, a subsea cable arrangement rejected purely it would seem on cost?