



cornerstone barristers

Planning Inspectorate
C/O Quadient
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

10th June 2026

Dear Sirs.

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for an order granting development consent for the Norwich to Tilbury project - EN020027

1. I am instructed to write to you on behalf of Ardleigh Parish Council and Little Bromley Parish Council (“the Parish Councils”) and to submit the attached documents in response to Deadline 5 of the Examination. These comprise:
 - a. Responses to the Examining Authority’s Second Written Questions;
 - b. ALBA Cumulative Effects Paper;
 - c. Public Rights of Way and Recreational Impacts Paper; and
 - d. A matrix identifying earlier submissions from the Parish Councils where material has been provided that is relevant to the questions now posed by the Examining Authority.
2. The Parish Councils are grateful for the continued scrutiny being applied by the Examining Authority to the issues of cumulative impact, landscape and visual effects, public access, alternatives and the relationship between the Project and the surrounding concentration of existing and proposed energy infrastructure within the Ardleigh and Little Bromley Area (“ALBA”).
3. The attached submissions are intended to assist the Examining Authority in its consideration of those matters and should be read alongside the Parish Councils’ previous submissions, including the visualisation evidence submitted at Deadline 4.
4. The Parish Councils wish to make two additional observations arising from material submitted by other Interested Parties during the Examination.
5. First, the Parish Councils have had the benefit of considering the submissions made by PEAL in respect of Deadline 5. They support the points raised by PEAL, but in particular the submissions made by Lord Banner KC concerning the interpretation and application of the Critical National Priority (“CNP”) provisions within EN-1. As has been set out previously, the Parish Councils do not dispute the existence of an urgent national need for electricity transmission infrastructure, nor do they dispute that the Project falls within the scope of the relevant national policy framework. However, they



respectfully agree with the proposition that recognition of a need for a particular type of infrastructure does not predetermine the acceptability of the particular means by which that infrastructure is delivered in any given case.

6. In the Parish Councils' submission, the existence of national need does not relieve the Applicant of the obligation to justify the route selected, the siting of the East Anglia Connection Node ("EACN"), the adequacy of alternatives considered, or the sufficiency of mitigation proposed. Nor does the CNP policy diminish the need for careful scrutiny of cumulative effects, landscape impacts, effects on communities and the adequacy of environmental assessment. The Parish Councils therefore agree that the Examination must continue to assess whether the Applicant has demonstrated that the particular solution proposed is justified on the evidence before the Examining Authority.
7. Secondly, the Parish Councils draw the Examining Authority's attention to the recent request for further information issued by the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division in relation to the proposed Kintore to Tealing 400kV transmission line inquiry (this point having been drawn to the Parish Councils' attention via the PEAL submission). That request requires detailed additional assessment of agricultural operations, agricultural worker safety, machinery clearance issues, irrigation equipment, land use impacts and associated socio-economic effects before conclusions can properly be reached regarding the significance of those effects.
8. By way of example, the Parish Councils have recently corresponded with the manager of Holly Lodge Farm, Little Bromley, regarding the practical implications of the proposed overhead line infrastructure for modern agricultural operations. Concerns have been expressed regarding the increasing size and height of modern agricultural machinery; the operation of GPS-assisted precision farming equipment; the growing use of drones for crop monitoring, land management and security purposes; conductor clearances and line sag; and the safety implications for lone workers operating large agricultural equipment in proximity to high-voltage transmission lines.
9. In providing this information, the Parish Councils do not seek to advance technical conclusions regarding these matters. However, they note that such concerns closely mirror a number of the issues identified by the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division as requiring further examination in the Kintore to Tealing matter. Whilst the Parish Councils do not suggest that the circumstances of the two projects are identical. However, they do submit that the Scottish inquiry demonstrates that concerns regarding the interaction between modern agricultural practices and major transmission infrastructure are capable of requiring detailed and site-specific scrutiny. In circumstances where similar concerns have been raised throughout this Examination, the Parish Councils invite the Examining Authority to



consider whether sufficient information has been provided to assess the implications of the Project for agricultural operations and rural businesses within the affected area fully.

10. The Parish Councils therefore respectfully submit that these are legitimate matters for scrutiny within the present Examination and that the Examining Authority should be satisfied that sufficient information has been provided regarding the interaction between the proposed infrastructure and modern agricultural practices before reaching its conclusions.
11. The Parish Councils remain grateful for the careful consideration being given to these matters and would be pleased to assist further should any additional information be required.

Yours sincerely

Simon Bell
Counsel