

**IN THE MATTER OF AN
APPLICATION BY NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC FOR AN
ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE NORWICH TO
TILBURY PROJECT
PINS REF: EN020027**

**FURTHER COMMENTS ON REP7-483 – UPDATED LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT
ON BEHALF OF ARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL AND LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH
COUNCIL**

4 AUGUST 2026

The Applicant's Year 15 evidence

1. REP7-483 presents the Applicant's mapped synthesis of landscape and visual significance at Operation Year 15. Figure 8.5.12.1 addresses visual receptor areas and Figure 8.5.12.2 landscape character. The Ardleigh, Little Bromley and EACN sheets show significant effects remaining after mitigation has had time to establish. [REP7-483, Figures 8.5.12.1 and 8.5.12.2]
2. The figures are expressly high-level and show an approximate extent. Significance varies within the shading and the mapped edge is not a hard environmental threshold. That caveat prevents an over-precise reading; it does not deprive the Applicant's mapped pattern of evidential value. [REP7-483, notes to Figures 8.5.12.1 and 8.5.12.2]
3. The figures separately identify Visual Receptor Areas C12 Ardleigh and C13 Little Bromley, together with the Ardleigh River Valley, Ardleigh Valley System and Bromley Heaths landscape character areas. The harm is not confined to views of structures. It includes effects upon rural openness, tranquillity, long views, historic landscape structure

and the villages' relationship with their countryside. [REP7-483, Figures 8.5.12.1 and 8.5.12.2]

Effects after mitigation has matured

4. Year 15 already allows a substantial period for planting to develop. A significant effect remaining then is a long-term residual effect, not an early operational condition awaiting ordinary mitigation maturity. REP7-483 therefore answers any suggestion that the relevant harm will disappear as planting establishes. [REP7-483, Figures 8.5.12.1 and 8.5.12.2]
5. The Applicant also corrects the position for VRA C13 Little Bromley: the cumulative visual effect during operation and maintenance is major adverse and significant. That correction is material evidence of the scale and concentration of long-term harm in the Parish Councils' area. [REP7-106, Table 3.11, ID 3.11.5b]
6. Detailed design may improve particular views, but the ExA should not assume a better outcome than the assessment. Planting remains subject to cables, drainage and operational constraints; Tendring also questions whether five years of aftercare demonstrates performance at Year 15. [REP7-477, section 7 and Appendix B; REP7-106, Table 3.9, ID 3.9.9a]

Implications for the planning balance

7. The Applicant accepts that compensation does not remove or reduce the assessed adverse effect. REP7-535 identifies a broad opportunity area, not a site-specific scheme. Future compensation may attract separate positive weight if secured and deliverable, but cannot reduce the adverse weight of the significant effects in REP7-483. [REP7-482, Appendix A, para A.2.24; REP7-535]
8. Mitigation should not be confined to the shaded polygons. Receptors immediately outside them may still experience substantial effects. A local response should address landscape character as well as screening and reflect the concentration of effects upon C12 Ardleigh, C13 Little Bromley and the EACN. [REP7-483, Figures 8.5.12.1 and 8.5.12.2]

9. The ExA is invited to give substantial weight to REP7-483. It shows significant effects persisting after mitigation has matured. Those effects should remain in the balance at their full assessed significance, with future compensation considered separately and weighted by the certainty of its definition, securing and delivery. [REP7-106; REP7-482; REP7-483; REP7-535]