

EN020027 Norwich to Tilbury
Further Submission and Request for Accompanied Site Inspection
Deadline 5 – 10th June 2026
IPRN F8E454126 – Aldham Parish Council

NG response to Action Point 34 in Document 8.5.8 – Colne Valley

Aldham Parish Council supports and endorses the detailed rebuttal to the above response by Caroline Homewood (IPRN FD7ACC8EF). In particular, the failure in National Grid's response to address the specific issue of cumulative impact in a sensitive location and an adequate explanation as to why the Colne Valley was assessed differently to the Waveney Valley.

Aldham Parish Council also supports and endorses the detailed analysis of the Colne Valley through Fordham and Aldham in the submission by Pylons East Anglia (IPRN FBBCCB428). In particular, we concur with the conclusion that the alternative 'western' route brings no significant benefit and simply moves the problem elsewhere rather than overcoming the cumulative harm to the Colne Valley and also the Roman River Valley to the south.

Landscape Assessment of Colne Valley and Roman River Valleys

Aldham Parish Council has formally endorsed and helped fund the commissioning of a Landscape Assessment of the Colne Valley and Roman River Valley by The Landscape Partnership (TLP), to assist in ensuring adequate consideration is given to the impact of the proposed pylons on both these important landscape features within North Essex. The report has been commented on more fully by Pylons East Anglia (IPRN FBBCCB428) in their submission to Deadline 5 (included as Appendix D. Colne Valley Landscape Study by the Landscape Partnership) but is also attached here for ease of reference as annex A.

The Parish Council considers considerable weight should be given to the quality of the Roman River Valley, which has been covered in earlier submissions, and the fact that it remains a rare unspoilt landscape in this area, crisscrossed by Public Rights of Way affording long distance views largely unbroken by buildings or by urbanising structures such as pylons. The Landscape Partnership comments that

the infrastructure would become a defining element of the view, substantially altering the visual experience of the route and adversely affecting the rural character of the Roman River Valley (Section 6.3.1)

The TLP report concludes in section 8.7.6 that

Taken together, the findings indicate the potential for widespread and significant adverse visual effects across the Area of Interest, affecting a range of visual receptors including walkers, recreational users, road users and local communities. The findings are therefore relevant to the considerations set out within paragraphs 2.9.24 and 2.11.6 of EN-5, which recognise that locations with a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts may warrant consideration of alternatives, including undergrounding.

Request for Accompanied Site Visit

The Parish Council are pleased to note that an Unaccompanied Site Inspection was made on the 28th May (Site Inspection 6 refers), and that this included a number of locations cited in earlier representations. However, in light of the representations highlighted above and the conclusions of the Landscape Assessment, the Parish Council would respectfully request that further consideration be given to an ASI that would enable representatives of Fordham and Aldham Parish Councils to point out the key landscape features and vantage points, before the Examining Authority reach any conclusions.

Aldham Parish Council**June 2026**