



VICTORIA ATKINS

Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle

Mr Ben Muncey
Project Director
Electricity Transmission/New Infrastructure
National Grid
National Grid House
Warwick Technology Park
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

29 July 2024

Dear Mr Muncey,

National Grid Electricity Transmission – Non-Statutory Consultation on EGL 3 and EGL 4

I am writing in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Louth & Horncastle, in response to National Grid's proposals for EGL 3 and EGL 4.

Two locations are suggested for power to come on shore on the Lincolnshire coastline. One is at Theddlethorpe, in my constituency of Louth & Horncastle. Once onshore, the underground cabling is proposed to run between Theddlethorpe to a direct switching station and a converter station near Bilby in my constituency and then runs south.

My response to the Grimsby to Walpole project sets out many of my concerns about the industrialisation of our coastline. A copy of my letter for that proposal is attached for your convenience. These proposals underline these concerns and add more weight to the argument that overhead lines should not be the default option based on cost, especially in places like rural Lincolnshire.

I welcome that this proposal starts on the premise of lines being underground and trust that this will be adopted for the Grimsby to Walpole proposal. Whilst offshore options are preferred by my constituents, underground cables will have a lesser impact on our beautiful coastline and countryside than pylons.

Nevertheless, the reasons for why EGL 3 and EGL 4 should come onshore at either Theddlethorpe or Anderby Creek requires greater and clearer explanation, especially in light of EGL 3 and EGL 4 being brought south offshore all the way from Scotland. National Grid has also set out its preferences for offshore networks as stated in the 'Beyond 2030 Report'.

I share constituent's understandable concerns about the impacts that the proposed converter and direct current switching stations would have on Bilby and the surrounding area. Whilst I recognise you are in the initial stages of the design but the proposed measurements are terrifying: an expected footprint of approx. 100,000 sq. m and a maximum height of up to 30m for the converter station, also a footprint of approx. 20,000 sq. m and a maximum height of up to 30m for the direct current switching. This massive carbuncle will dominate this undeveloped rural area for miles around.

Bilsby is a beautiful village on the outskirts of Alford. Residents face the turmoil of years of construction and then towering infrastructure producing a loud continuous hum. I have received anguished correspondence from residents and the Parish Council about National Grid's failure to address their objections, including the impact on wildlife and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Other worries include the impact on our two main economic sectors; agriculture and tourism, which I mentioned in my consultation response to your Grimsby to Walpole consultation. These two sectors form the foundations of our local economy. In East Lindsey, the tourism industry is worth £824m and across the county £1.3billion is generated for the economy by our farming sector. It is still unclear whether National Grid has factored in compensation for these two sectors in our area.

The impact on food security is also absent from these proposals. The vast size of the suggested converter station and direct current switching station risks taking prime agricultural land out of use. What assessment has been made on the effect of plans on the agriculture sector and what compensation would be made available?

Residents and local parish councils have expressed real worry over the impact of your numerous plans on house prices. For local people this is not a problem for a distant future: these proposals are apparently affecting house prices today. Please outline what compensation scheme is being put in place to address this as a matter of urgency?

Furthermore, as your proposals acknowledge, this area has been affected by the construction work of Viking Link in recent years. We know from experience that the roads around the proposed site are not suitable for the heavy machinery required for the construction of projects of this scale. National Grid must confirm as a matter of urgency that it will fund any road maintenance required as a result of consultation processes. It should not be for Lincolnshire County Council or local taxpayers to pay the price for this national infrastructure project.

I would like a meeting to discuss local people's objections to these proposals. To arrange a meeting please contact my office by emailing victoria@victoriaatkins.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP
Member of Parliament for Louth & Horncastle