



THE ROYDON ROUND-UP

The newsletter for Roydon Parish Council

Issue 21: Nov 2025

Roydon delivers response to pylon plan

The Planning Inspectorate is requesting views on National Grid's plan to build 50-metre high pylons between Norwich and Tilbury, which will impact Roydon. **You can respond too - see over to find out how - but you need to do it by 27 November.** Below is a summary of Roydon Parish Council's response. See the full document on our website.

Roydon Parish Council objects to National Grid's planned Norwich to Tilbury pylons.

We appreciate that the UK needs more energy security, and from sustainable resources. However, this should not be at the expense of our landscapes, environment and health, or quality of life.

The **consultation has neither been open or transparent**, especially on the alternatives - more partial undergrounding, complete undergrounding using High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cables, or an offshore grid. It has failed to provide comprehensive, clear and justified costings for these in the same manner as pylons, making it impossible to make meaningful comparisons. The alternatives would be less environmentally and visually damaging.

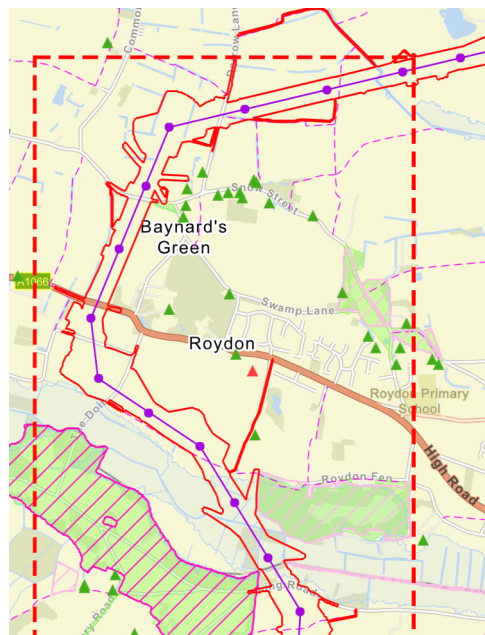
The Planning Inspectorate and the government cannot make a decision until a **full and transparent evaluation of these alternatives** has been made. But as it stands, many residents feel pylons are a fait accompli.

Pylons are **old technology** from the early 20th century and damage landscapes. This is recognised by the Grid as it's removing pylons elsewhere. Why is East Anglia different? And why are countries such as Germany scrapping pylons in favour of alternatives, and not the UK.

We have significant concerns about the impact of this project on the nation's **food security**. East Anglia is vital to food production but this

plan will compromise and use quality farmland.

The **Waveney Valley valued landscape** will suffer great harm from pylons. The route would take them through the narrow gap between the rare habitats of Roydon Fen and Wortham Ling, a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The setting of both would be damaged forever. The fact that undergrounding is happening in Dedham Vale is proof that the Grid understands the damage pylons cause. It may be an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but to many residents the Waveney Valley is just as important a landscape.



The pylon route in purple around Roydon, including the section between Wortham Ling and Roydon Fen.

The proximity of pylons to homes in Snow Street is concerning. The area has 11 listed buildings integral to the character of Roydon, and the setting of many will be damaged. Additionally, the route north of the A1066 and west of Hall Lane, Snow Street and Darrow Lane takes pylons very close to homes.

The route through the narrow gap between Roydon and Bressingham requires a number of sharp turns in **contravention of Holford Rule 3**. This seeks to ensure the very minimal use of larger angle towers which, in the flat landscape around Roydon, will be even more visually damaging.

...continued overleaf

See over for how to find out more about the project and how to respond.

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We are concerned about **the purchase by National Grid of The Gables**, a listed building on Darrow Lane that will be close to pylons and whose setting will be greatly affected. This was purchased at a good market rate. The Grid has not been open about the reason for buying it or what their plans are for it. It is apparently the only such property along the route that has been purchased in this way. Why and what is the precedent?

Local roads are unsuitable for the planned **high numbers of HGV movements** and other construction traffic. Many lack pavements, have blind turns and are single lane. Grid figures from the consultations showed traffic increases in our area ranging from 26% to 75% (7am to 7pm week-days) depending on the site, producing 8,984 extra vehicle movements per day, 795 of them HGVs.

The plan has caused **anxiety and stress** to residents. Has the mental health impact of this project on people been included in the project costings? We are also concerned by the evidence suggesting an association between proximity to power lines and childhood leukaemia.

The Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan (DDNP) was adopted in 2023, and includes Roydon. It designates **Key Views**, two of which will be compromised by pylons. Key View 28 looks around from the middle of Darrow Lane, north of Snow Street; Key View 25 looks south from the churchyard of the grade 1 listed St Remigius Church across the Waveney Valley. Many footpaths will be

Hedgerows and paths

Do you have a hedge that's making it difficult for pedestrians to use our village footpaths?

We've had complaints that several hedges around Roydon have got out of control and need a trim to ensure people can use paths safely - especially those with buggies or people with disabilities.

Please check your hedges and take action to ensure footpaths remain clear.

Parish council meetings

Parish council meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Parish Room at St Remigius Church. The December meeting, however, will be held on the 16th. See the website for any date changes, meeting agendas and minutes.

Residents have an opportunity to raise issues and ask questions at every meeting.

How to have your say on the plan

Visit the **Planning Inspectorate website** at bit.ly/rpc-pi. Click 'register to have your say', provide your details and then add your comments on the plans.

You need to respond to the Planning Inspectorate by 27 November.

National Grid project details and map: bit.ly/rpc-ng

Roydon Parish Council website: bit.ly/rpc-sn

Fox Wood Forest School on Snow Street, which supports children's well-being, and Heron Meadow, a Care Farm promoting well-being and learning off Doit Lane, will be compromised during the build and permanently through visual impact.

The DDNP defined a number of **Non-Designated Heritage Assets** (NDHA), the setting and enjoyment of the following will be spoilt by pylons:

- Roydon Fen (Track and Environs), NDHA 16.
- The Grade I listed St Remigius Church and the White Hart, NDHA 27.
- Medieval moated site of Bush Hall, NDHA23, which lies on the route in the Waveney Valley.

The DDNP designated **Local Green Spaces** to be afforded protection. The setting of Little Green, Snow Street, LGS 31, will be impacted.

We believe that residents should not be "bribed" by **condescending offers of compensation**. Such minimal benefits do not compensate for the permanent damage that 50m pylons will do to our residents' quality of life and the environment, let alone the significant reduction in property values.

NOTE: Remember that the Roydon Parish Council website has our full response to National Grid's plans if you wish to use it in your response.

Litter pick on 22 November

Our autumn litter pick is on Saturday, 22 November, at 9.30am.

Please meet at Roydon Village Hall on the High Road from 9.30am-10am to be allocated a location, rubbish bags, hi-viz vests and litter pickers. There'll be a pop-up cafe at the hall in the morning with free refreshments for litter pickers. We ask non-pickers for a donation to cover costs.

Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for updates.

