WILLOUGHBY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Mrs J. Cooper

Rose Cottage

Asserby Corner

Bilsby

Alford

Lincs LN13 9QR

[willoughbyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:jencooper1@tiscali.co.uk) 07714 323722

National Grid

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17th February 2024

Dear Sirs

**Re; Grimsby to Walpole Proposed Pylon route & substations**

At its meeting held on Thursday 15th February 2024, Willoughby & District Parish Council resolved unanimously to object to this proposal for Lincolnshire, for the following reasons:

**Preservation of unindustrial landscape** – The area boasts a rare and precious unindustrialised landscape and such a proposal will be out of character.

**Proximity to Wolds/Coastal** – The proposed line runs close to the AONB, the AONB designation is not limited to the physical area within its boundaries, but extends to the views from the AONB to the coast and vice versa. This proposal will have an adverse material impact on the aesthetic value of the area, which will then impact on the tourist trade upon which many inland and coastal towns in this part of the country rely. Putting cables off shore will remove this issue.

**Agricultural Land impact** – Pylons will occupy valuable primate agricultural land, resulting is some permanent loss. In addition the proposed substations are sited on prime food producing land. To lose that amount of food production at a time when the country needs to look to sustainability in food production and lessen reliance on imported foods (which are subject to issues with the producing country and or the effects of war on the producing country – evidenced by issues with Ukraine) and the resultant increase in emissions in transport. Putting cables off shore will remove this issue.

**Wildlife** – The coastal strip is a migratory route for geese, pylons will disrupt that migration. Wildlife on the margins of and adjacent to land proposed for substations will inevitably suffer, particularly substation A which is adjacent and established woodland. Putting cables off shore will removed this issue.

**Flooding** – the area suffers from flooding from land which is a natural drain and which is struggling to cope at present, to have such land covered in concrete and buildings which are not permeable will only add to surrounding flooding issues from surface water run off. In addition, the Climate Change Lobby keep telling us that the coastal area is under great threat of flooding within a few decades, putting the substations and pylons at great risk. Putting cables off shore will remove this threat.

**Health/Environmental impact** – The electromagnetic envelope of high voltage overhead cables produces a significant hum, buzz and crack, which has been shown in some studies to harm health. Putting cables off shore will eliminate this impact.

**Mental Wellbeing** – The area between Wolds and coast has numerous footpaths, bridleways, cycle routes and serves as a haven for residents and visitors alike. The potential for introduction of noise, electromagnetic effects and visual disruption will have a significant negative impact on the mental well-being of the overall community. Added to this the complete collapse of property values, leaving many struggling to pay mortgages on unsaleable properties which will only add to mental health issues in the area.

The Parish Council supports all local objections and feels that this proposal should be scrapped in favour of an integrated off shore system.

Please acknowledge this letter.

Yours faithfully

J. Cooper

Mrs J. Cooper

Parish Clerk