



**James Cartlidge MP**  
**Member of Parliament for South Suffolk**

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP  
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change  
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1H 0ET

**CC:**  
John Pettigrew, CEO of National Grid

20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Greg,

**RE: NATIONAL GRID'S EAST ANGLIA GREEN CONSULTATION**

We write concerning the current consultation about East Anglia GREEN, a new line of 400kv pylons to carry electricity from offshore wind farms through open countryside in our constituencies.

We are concerned that the consultation does not cover the decision already made by National Grid for the new pylon run to be overground, when it was specifically chosen against a viable undersea cable route – ‘Sea Link 2’ (SCD2) - without any public engagement, or explanation.

We share the view of many of our constituents that, as far as is practicable, new offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, making landfall as close to the target population centres as possible. That is why we are all supporters of OffSET, campaigning for an offshore grid, which we believe is firmly in the interests of business - both offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g., Sizewell and Felixstowe Freeport; and would help to futureproof the network.

You will also be aware that National Grid themselves estimate savings of £6bn per year for consumers from a coordinated offshore grid. Yet, despite all of this, the ‘top level’ choice of overground vs undersea has been presented by National Grid as a ‘fait accompli’, without any public consultation. Instead, the consultation is restricted to expressing views on a narrow ‘swathe’ of overland routing - through precious open countryside - offering no real policy choice to our constituents.

Of course, we are all strongly supportive of the drive to achieve net zero by 2050, and the role that our East Anglian offshore wind plays in that endeavour. Nevertheless, the context is one where the Government has committed to delivering an offshore grid, and where multi-billion-pound undersea electricity cables are already being built e.g., to transport electricity south from Scotland and so protect their countryside (specifically, the Eastern and Western links, at £4bn+ cost).

Given that East Anglia GREEN involved an initial decision to reject an undersea option, and that this is meant to be a public consultation on the ‘choice’ of how the electricity is transmitted – in a context of a Government supporting an offshore grid – at the very least we would ask that the consultation be expanded to permit the public to express their views on the wider choice of overland vs undersea.



**James Cartlidge MP**  
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We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

James Cartlidge MP  
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP  
Member of Parliament for Harwich and North Essex

Dr Dan Poulter MP  
Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk & North Ipswich

Jo Churchill MP  
Member of Parliament for Bury St. Edmunds

Kemi Badenoch MP  
Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden

Richard Bacon MP  
Member of Parliament for South Norfolk