



26 February 2025

Subject: **Objection to the Proposed Pylon Installation Across the Area of Proposed Change (Jan 2025 – Suffolk 1)**

To whom it may concern,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the **Palgrave Parish Council**, representing concerned members of the public regarding the proposed installation of pylons in the **Area of Proposed Change re Suffolk 1 (Jan 2025)**.

Specifically, we are referring to the section of the proposed route where pylons cross the **west of Palgrave village**, continuing south across the **A143 road** alongside **St John's House, The Grange, Seethings Wood, and Glebe Farm**. This section includes pylons labelled **RG92 to RG102** on the provided map.

While we recognise and appreciate the **proposal for undergrounding**, which is a significant improvement to reduce visual and environmental impacts, there are still several challenges and pain points that need to be addressed to minimise disruption to local residents, farmland, and the community. We earnestly request amendments to the plans, particularly in the areas outlined below.

Key Challenges and Pain Points

1. **Impact on High-Quality Agricultural Land (Pylon RG92)**

- The proposed route crosses **3A and 3B grade irrigated farmland** at RG92. This is highly productive arable land essential for local agriculture, with irrigation systems that could be disrupted by pylon installation and construction activities.
- To minimise disruption, we propose **relocating pylon RG92 to the edge of the field**, ensuring that irrigation runs and farming operations can continue unimpeded.

2. **Proximity to Residential Properties (Pylon RG93)**

- Pylon RG93 directly impacts **five houses** in the northern part of the map. The proximity of this pylon raises concerns regarding:
 - **Visual intrusion**, which will significantly affect quality of life for residents.
 - **Electromagnetic fields (EMFs)**, which, while not conclusively dangerous, can create anxiety and lower property values.
- In particular, East Cottage, opposite St John's House, is expected to experience significant disruption, as the **construction laydown site** and visibility splays are positioned close to this property. We recommend relocating both the laydown site and RG93 to a less intrusive location farther from residential properties.

3. **Lion Road Junction and Traffic Concerns (Construction Near RG93)**

- The proposed construction activities near **Lion Road junction**, particularly in the area of pylon RG93, will cause traffic congestion and safety concerns. This is a well-documented accident blackspot which has seen fatalities in the past. Please refer to the attached documents in this regard, noting that these are not definitive records as smaller accidents are not always recorded, so the true figures are actually greater than the data shows.
- Shifting the pylon and construction activities farther into the adjacent field would alleviate these issues, ensuring safer and more efficient road usage during construction.

4. **Disruption to a Working Farmyard (Pylon RG92)**

- Pylon RG92 is also proposed near a **working farmyard**, which will interfere with daily operations essential to the farm's productivity.

- Even a **small adjustment of a few metres** to move RG92 farther from the farmyard would greatly reduce the operational challenges faced by the farm.
5. **Laydown Site Concerns (Near RG93)**
- The proposed **laydown site**, positioned near RG93, is too close to residential properties and will cause unnecessary disruption during construction. Noise, visibility challenges, and general disruption to daily life for nearby residents are significant concerns.
 - We strongly recommend relocating the laydown site to a less intrusive area, farther away from residences, ideally in an open field with minimal community impact.
6. **Cumulative Impact on the Community (RG92 to RG102)**
- This section of Palgrave has already faced significant disruption from other infrastructure projects, including one already approved **solar farm** with another awaiting the final planning decision. The same area will soon experience increased activity with the **hospital at St John's House opening next year**. The addition of pylons in this area will compound the impact on residents and farming operations.
 - Care must be taken to distribute the burden of infrastructure projects more evenly across the region to avoid disproportionate disruption to this particular area.
-

Support for Undergrounding

We acknowledge and thank the team for proposing **undergrounding** in certain areas along this route, as this represents a significant improvement to reduce visual and environmental impacts. We encourage the team to expand the scope of undergrounding, where feasible, to further mitigate the disruption caused by this project.

Proposed Solutions

To address these challenges, we respectfully request the following amendments to the proposed plan:

1. **Relocate pylon RG92 to the edge of the field** to preserve the functionality of **3A/3B grade irrigated farmland** and minimise disruption to agricultural operations.
 2. **Move pylon RG93 farther from residential properties**, including East Cottage, to reduce visual intrusion, property disruption, and EMF-related concerns.
 3. **Shift the construction activities near Lion Road junction (RG93)** into adjacent fields to minimise traffic and safety risks as this is a renowned accident blackspot. Increased traffic near these bends will only exacerbate the rate of accidents at this location.
 4. **Reposition the laydown site near RG93** to a less intrusive location, farther from residential homes.
 5. **Adjust the placement of RG92** to reduce its proximity to the working farmyard and ensure that farming operations remain unhindered.
-

Conclusion

While we support the improvements made through the proposed undergrounding, further revisions are necessary to address the challenges and pain points outlined above. By adopting the proposed solutions, the project can proceed in a way that balances the need for infrastructure development with the preservation of local farmland, the well-being of residents, and the overall integrity of the Palgrave community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working collaboratively to find a solution that benefits all stakeholders.

Sincerely

Caroline Emeny, Parish Clerk
On behalf of **Palgrave Parish Council**



Palgrave: Car with four young passengers rolls into hedge in Lion Road

5th August 2014



Police accident (Image: Archant)

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A car with four young passengers was rolled into a hedge on a road in north Suffolk this morning.



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The Renault was travelling along Lion Road in Palgrave, near Diss, at about 9.15am when the accident happened.

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Men injured in head-on crash at Palgrave near Diss

Two men were taken to hospital following a head-on crash between a pick-up truck and car on the Norfolk-Suffolk border.

Emergency services were called to Palgrave, near Diss, following the collision at about 5pm last night.

The crash involved a blue Volkswagen Golf and a silver Isuzu Rodeo pick-up truck in Lion Road, near St John's House, a care home for adults with learning difficulties.

The driver of the Golf, a 59-year-old man, was rushed to the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, with a broken pelvis.

The man driving the pick-up truck, believed to be in his early 60s, also suffered serious injuries in the collision. He was taken to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital with fractured ribs and a broken sternum.

A spokesman for East of England Ambulance Service said they sent a paramedic, two ambulances and a rapid response vehicle to the scene. He said both men were conscious and breathing when crews arrived.



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Safety fears over corner where four cars have crashed this year

PUBLISHED: 14:45 06 December 2018 | **UPDATED:** 08:37 07 December 2018 | Simon Parkin

Scene of a recent accident at the St John corner on Lion Road near Palgrave. Picture: Jonny Ling

Scene of a recent accident at the St John corner on Lion Road near Palgrave.
Picture: Jonny Ling

A landowner has called for urgent safety improvements on a rural country lane after seeing four cars crash off the road into his field this year.



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Improved road markings on the Lion Road at Palgrave are on a highways list while a speed survey has been carried out. Picture: Adrian Cable

Jonathan Ling has urged highways authorities to improve warnings to motorists at the accident black spot on Lion Road at Palgrave, near Diss.

A series of crashes have seen motorists lose control and cars flip over at a corner near St John's House on the road that links Palgrave to the A143 and Wortham.

Mr Ling, who lives at nearby Grange Farm, where he runs the Mechanical Musical Collection, a museum of music organs, said he had dealt with the aftermath of four serious accidents this year. The most recent saw a car end upside down in his field while emergency services were called to another accident two weeks ago.



Safety concerns have been raised about St John corner on Lion Road near Palgrave. Picture: Jonny Ling

He said: "St John's corner needs some serious attention. This was the fourth car this year to come off into our field. It is a corner that seems to catch people unawares. When you are coming from the Palgrave direction it is also quite confusing because it is not clear what is road and what is the drive way to St John's House."

He has called on the highways authority to improve road markings, replace faded warning signs and install road studs in an effort to cut the number of accidents.

“I appreciate most of the time that it is people speeding and going too fast around the corner and not necessarily the roads fault, my point being that lack of white lines and road studs and faded signs does not help people read the road,” he said.



Another car leave the road after an accident earlier this year at the St John corner on Lion Road near Palgrave. Picture: Jonny Ling

The road has seen a number of serious crashes over the years. In 2014 a car with four young passengers rolled into a hedge, while in 2011 a head-on crash left one man fighting for his life and another suffered serious injuries.

A Suffolk Highways spokesman said: “The road markings along the centre of Lion Road are included on the countywide refreshment list. Road markings are prioritised based on the road marking type and the category of road they are located on, this is to ensure that the highest priority safety road markings on the highest category roads are treated first, so Palgrave will be considered however we don’t at this point have details of when this will take place.

“A speed survey has been completed as agreed and requested by the county councillor and the parish council. The assessment will be reviewed against the speed limit criteria to consider the need to extend the 30mph limit.”



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Voice of Reason • 5 months ago

There is nothing wrong with this road ... problem is purely down to the poor standard of driving. Why should the tax payer have to pay for other people stupidity?

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KettAgain • 5 months ago

The problem is, if the road markings were improved then idiot drivers would just find it easier to drive even faster. The crashes would still happen but the consequences would be worse due to the higher speeds. The Highways department should just make the "REDUCE SPEED NOW" signs bigger.

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