

Walberswick Common Lands Charity

Founded 1901 - Registered Charity No. 206095

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Clerk: Matthew Wetmore. email: clerkwclc@gmail.com tel: 01502 724725

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NGV EuroLink Consultation
Holborn Gate
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26 Southampton Buildings
LONDON
WC2A 1AN

Via email to: info@eurolink.nationalgrid.com

Dear Sirs

EUROLINK – Non-statutory public consultation – Cliff Field, Walberswick

The Walberswick Common Lands Charity ('the Charity') owns land in an around the village of Walberswick in Suffolk. The Charity's purpose includes environmental stewardship of its lands, supporting individuals in need and hardship, and charitable initiatives in the local community.

I am Clerk to the Trustees and have been authorised by the Trustees to write this letter.

Amongst the Charity's land is the area adjacent to Walberswick beach known locally as Cliff Field. It has come to the attention of Trustees that Cliff Field has been identified as one of four potential landfall locations for the Eurolink interconnector.

Firstly, the Trustees are disappointed that National Grid Ventures did not make contact with the Charity, as landowner, prior to commencing the consultation process or even to inform it of the process at its commencement.

Secondly, the consultation materials include nothing to indicate what works are required for construction of the interconnector (and the plant necessary for that purpose), the duration of those works, the infrastructure that will remain, or the location and proposed means of laying the underground cabling. Each of these is of significant importance. Without such information, it is difficult to understand how any consultation exercise could be effective or reliable.

Thirdly, the Trustees consider Walberswick in general and Cliff Field in particular to be an unsuitable location for the interconnector given surrounding environmental designations, the social and economic impact of construction on a busy tourist destination and, to be practical, the site being prone to frequent flooding during tidal surges and being inaccessible to all but light vehicles.

Finally, and most important of all in the short-term, Walberswick has been excluded from the in-person consultation process despite having a significant population and two suitable venues in which to hold the consultation.

The Trustees urge National Grid Ventures to re-consider its consultation process and to include Walberswick as an in-person location. Failing to do so would further undermine the validity of the consultation. A large number of local residents would find it extremely difficult to attend one of the proposed Exhibition Events.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Wetmore', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Wetmore

Clerk: Walberswick Common Lands Charity