

IN THE MATTER OF THE NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY
TRANSMISSION (HARKER ENERGY ENABLEMENT PROJECT)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2023

**LETTER OF OBJECTIONS
ON BEHALF OF JAMES WESTOLL AND RICHARD
FAIRFAX WESTOLL**

To the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Transport c/o Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Energy Infrastructure Planning, Level 3, Orchard 2, 1 Victoria Street, SW1A 0ET Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR (e-mail: John.McKenna@energysecurity.gov.uk).

These are the objections of James Westoll and Richard Fairfax Westoll, trustees of the Glinger Estate (“the Objectors”) to the National Grid Electricity Transmission (Harker Energy Enablement Project) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023 (“the Order”) made by the National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (“NGET”) on 28 September 2023. The following plot numbers identified in the land acquisition plans and the Schedule to the Order are those over which Access Rights, Overhead Line Rights, or Earthing Rights, as the case may be, (together “the Rights”) are sought to be acquired from the Objectors, namely Plot Nos. 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 015, 016, 017, 024, 226, 236, 237, 239 (“the Plots”).

The address of the Objector is c/o Landreeve Ltd, 13D The Stables, Sansaw Business Park, Hadnall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4AS (e-mail: harrison.riddle@landreeve.co.uk).

The Objectors use the land over which the respective rights are said to be acquired for agriculture, deer management, wildlife reserves and nature conservation, and an application is being prepared for grants under the Countryside Stewardship Schemes (“CSS”) under the Agriculture Act 2020 and/or the Countryside Stewardship (England) Regulations 2020 made under s.98 of the Environment Act 1995 (together “the CS Rules”).

If the application for CSS status is successful, a CSS protects and enhances the natural environment by

- increasing biodiversity
- improving habitat
- expanding woodland areas
- improving water quality
- improving air quality
- improving natural flood management

By reason of the above interests of the Objectors, the Objectors make the following objections to the Order.

1. The use of compulsory purchase powers is unnecessary and no compelling case has been made to acquire all the Rights over the land specified in the Plots from the Objectors as the same is not necessary for the Order as the project underlying the Order can be achieved without the acquisition of all of the rights over every Plot of the Objectors’ lands.

2. The Objectors object to the acquisition of the Rights as following their acquisition and exercise by NGET and the erection of overhead lines and posts or pylons, the usual practice of NGET is the clearing, cutting or mowing of all vegetation under powerlines at intervals which practice is

highly likely to breach the CSS Rules and render the Objectors liable to payments being withheld, reduced or recovered.

3. The Objectors object to the acquisition of the Rights as the Objectors have plans for diversification schemes and initiatives in place on its land, that will be inhibited by the exercise of the Rights being initiatives and schemes essential for the economic and environmental well-being of the Objectors' use and management of the relevant land and for much needed employment opportunities in this rural area.

4. The use of compulsory purchase powers is unnecessary and no compelling case has been made to acquire interests in all the Plots as these Rights are too widely drawn and are unspecified as to their precise extent within the relevant Plots and unspecified as to duration and contrary to the requirements of specificity of and advice in paras 250-253 of the *Compulsory Purchase Process and the Criche Down Rules: Guidance* (MHCLG July 2019).

5. The use of compulsory purchase powers is unnecessary and no compelling case has been made to acquire all the Rights sought to be acquired from the Objectors as NGET has failed to minimise the acquisition of such Rights contrary to the advice in *Compulsory Purchase Process and the Criche Down Rules: Guidance* (MHCLG July 2019). NGET has gone beyond what is necessary or essential.

6. In relation to section 17 of the Statement of Reasons, the scheme for the purposes of section 6A of the Land Compensation Act 1961 should be limited to that part of the defined 'Project' for which the Order authorises the acquisition of land or rights.

7. The Objector objects to the acquisition of the Rights as the same will seriously interfere with the proper management of deer and squirrels. The management of these species is crucial for maintaining ecological balance and ensuring the health of the sensitive habitat, as well as for farming and forestry reasons. Any disruption to the Objectors ability to manage the populations of deer and squirrels could have far-reaching negative impacts, potentially also imperilling the entitlement to necessary and important grants. Furthermore, the encroachment of NGET personnel on to land where these shooting activities take place introduces a significant health and safety risk, further reinforcing the incompatibility of the Rights with critical wildlife management activities.

8. Without prejudice to the other objections herein, NGET has failed to engage in any substantive way for the acquisition of the interests of the Objectors and accordingly NGET has failed to show a compelling case.

9. The period for the making of objects has been unreasonably short and the Objectors reserve the right to add to and call evidence on all relevant matters.

SIGNED: 

DATED: **31/10/2023**