

11 Welcombe Grove  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B91 1PD

27<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Mr John McKenna  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HP  
United Kingdom

Re: *The National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET)*

*Cotswolds Visual Impact Provision Project  
Compulsory Purchase Order 2025*

Dear Mr McKenna

We are the landowners of the land title GR240043 to which the Compulsory Purchase Order above relates. The land in question comprises ancient woodland and is potentially the most environmentally sensitive part of the proposed project. We are in favour of the aims of the Cotswolds Visual Improvement Project and are keen to agree detailed heads of terms with NGET in order to allow the work to be undertaken in the least environmentally damaging manner, both in terms of the initial construction phase and after completion.

We note that section 6 of the accompanying "Statement of Reasons" document states that, "NGET's preference will always be to secure land rights on a voluntary basis." The same section of the document also states, "NGET will continue to seek to voluntarily acquire rights over plots where there are known landowners and will continue to negotiate heads of terms with all landowners that are yet to agree heads of terms."

Regrettably, we are informed by our land agents, Carver Knowles, that responses to a number of longstanding questions relating to construction methodology, specification of the proposed access track, plans for drainage, methods of land stabilisation prior to the establishment of newly planted vegetation and the depth and width of the cable runs remain to be answered. We spoke to Carver Knowles on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 and understand that there has been no further movement on these points since the Compulsory Purchase Order was issued.

As such, we have reluctantly decided that we must write to lodge an objection to the Compulsory Purchase Order. The grounds of our objection are that insufficient detail has been provided by NGET to allow our professional advisers to assess the potential environmental impact of the proposed project.

We trust that NGET will move swiftly to address our concerns, in line with the commitments made in its "Statement of Reasons" document. We remain committed to working with NGET to reach an agreement to enable the project to proceed in the most environmentally sustainable manner.

Your sincerely

Handwritten signature of Ivan Drake and Ann W. Drake. The signature is written in black ink and consists of two parts: 'I L Drake' and 'Ann W. Drake'.

Mr Ivan Drake & Mrs Ann Drake

Cc Mr Andrew Troughton, Carver Knowles