Case Study: Experience of Bramford to Twinstead

David Holland & John Foster
Suffolk & Essex Amenity Groups
Your Country - fight for it now
Poster art from the 1940’s, a time when the government realised that people would fight for their countryside
Stour Valley by John Constable
Bramford to Twinstead
400kV overhead line project

NG’s Original Project Leaflet Cover
2011 NG Project News
No pylons and a new project name
Stour Valley by National Grid
Pylons cannot be hidden in low relief landscape because they are taller than the landscape.
Missing from the original Optioneering Report

Gas Insulated Lines (GIL) underground - now the most economic on-land HVAC transmission technology

Any underground transmission system from Bramford to Twinstead.

Undersea HVDC to take the power direct to its London area located users.
Divide and Conquer

A map to set one community against another
Foregone Conclusions?

Compare the Pylons

Left, the type of substation NG will need to build
Right, Our prediction of the site they will choose: conveniently, the pylon is just right for the purpose!
The Holford Rules

They don’t work in our low relief landscape!
Gainsborough’s painting of the Stour Valley looking toward Bures St Mary Church in the distance
Our clean, simple and informative web site at

www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk
Core Values: Stour Valley Underground is:-

- responsible
- non political
- opposed to nimbyism
- pushing the agenda for the adoption of cleaner, greener more economically beneficial adoption of the new energy transmission and generation technologies.
- a positive force that seeks to find better solutions to energy distribution that will take the Nation back to being a net energy exporter which in the future will be renewably generated.
- NOT anti nuclear.
- communicative and publishes a monthly newsletter
- informative and maintains a regularly updated website
- interactive and mounts periodic public meetings for discussion of this issue and our campaign.
- responsive and contributes to all relevant public consultations.
- collaborative and works with amenity groups nationwide
Building our Campaign
ODIS and the map that told us of your plight back in 2010
Gas Insulated Lines

Potentially the most important technology for future on-land grid developments. A 4 km run under the Black Forest has run faultlessly for 30 years. Research now shows this to be the most economic HVAC transmission technology overall.
We have contributed to consultations on both National Energy Policy and Energy Industry Regulation along with a number of other consultations.
We have worked to build strong links with local government by lobbying, providing information and creating issue awareness.
Environmental Detriment Valuation

By scaling the investment to avoid environmental detriment by putting the huge windfarms at sea, we can calculate that the environmental detriment value of each and every pylon is at least £3 million and up to £7 million in a National Park.

Affordability & Willingness to Pay

From OFGEM data on the fraction of the cost of electricity that pays for transmission, the cost to underground all new on-land lines and the value of the grid NG operate now we can calculate that undergrounding ALL new lines would add under £5 to each annual household energy bill - quite a bargain!
Underground Transmissio... costs less per kilowatt delivered

Underground transmission will in future be the most economic technology and we can site both American and German research to support this position.

Technologies concerned are GIL for HVAC grids and “ELPIPES for bulk trans-national HVDC supergrid links

NG’s plummeting cost differential between under and overground power transmission since 2009
Environmental detriment valuation and real cost comparisons

We have shown that if you add together:

- the cost for pylons +
- the cost for consultation & planning +
- the cost for environmental detriment

= more than the cost for putting the power lines underground
The Supergrid
Your Countryside: Fight for it now!

wish you every success.