

# Stop the pylons



*Plans to run a line of pylons through the Mendips have sparked widespread protests. Here, Tarnock resident Alison Nicole Bullett explains the concerns.*

THE Somerset landscape is at risk of being irreparably scarred if national grid has its way and “marches” 46.5 metre high pylons across our glorious landscape to carry a massive 400,000 volts from a new 3600MW nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. Some of these may need aircraft warning lights and will, therefore, be permanently illuminated.

Throughout the Mendip area, a plethora of yellow signs can be seen, paying testament to our community’s struggle to stop the pylons. National Grid embarked on what it referred to as a “consultation process” towards the end of last year but has presented only one mode of electricity transmission.

At no point have we been consulted about the use of a submarine HVDC that could be run up the Severn directly to Seabank at Avonmouth from the proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power station. Indeed National Grid is planning to install an undersea grid from Scotland to Liverpool. It makes sense, therefore, to adopt this as best practice in all cases. In countries like Denmark, Germany, Spain and Canada they install underground cables using the latest XLPE cables.

We live in an Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty, adjacent to Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Large parts of the Somerset Levels are designated as

Special Protection Areas under EC Directives, in order to protect wild birds. The erection of pylons would have a catastrophic and irreversible impact on the landscape, its surrounding ecology and wildlife.

Many of us have bought land to develop a more sustainable lifestyle, to protect wildlife and to ensure that our surroundings remain as they are. We do not wish to see this jeopardised. Clearly one also has to take into account the health risks associated with living in close proximity to these enormous metal giants; studies by Draper and Henshaw refer to this.

Protecting our landscape, the wildlife and people’s health from being blighted by pylons and overhead cables is a matter of national importance. If we lose our battle with National Grid, it will set a very dangerous precedent. National Grid already has plans to go down the North Devon coast, and also has similar proposals for a grid network in Suffolk.

● The Mendip Society has also issued its response to the National Grid’s plans saying: “In the Mendip Society’s opinion the best option is a direct undersea link either from Hinkley to Seabank or to the grid via Aberthaw in South Wales.”



Details: [no-moor-pylons.co.uk](http://no-moor-pylons.co.uk)