

Taking pylon fight online

INTERNET: Groups launch websites

By Elliot Furniss

TWO community groups fighting plans to build new pylons across the south Suffolk countryside have launched their own websites.

The online action is aimed at encouraging National Grid to rethink its plans to string a 30km line of pylons between Bramford, near Ipswich, and Twinstead, near Sudbury.

More than 600 people have backed the EADT's own campaign and residents in affected areas have already set up their own groups.

The first to go online was Stour Valley Underground, made up of members from the parish councils representing the communities of Lamarsh, Alhamstone, Middleton, the Hennys and Twinstead.

The group's website, www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk, contains information about its campaign and details about its preference for "smart grids" as an alternative way of managing electricity.

Representative David Holland, a Twinstead parish councillor, said: "Members are busily researching all aspects of this issue and the website will continue to grow as more and more evidence and information is amassed. This is only the beginning."

The Groton Pylon Alliance is the latest group to launch its own website, www.groton-nylon-alliance.co.uk, which went live this week.

The alliance was formed to represent the interests of a number of villages, including Groton, Kersey, Boxford, Edwardstone, Aldham, Milden, Chelsworth, Whatfield and Semer.

Chairman Colin Blackmore said: "We have expanded rapidly in the last month and have received many messages of support from parish councils, residents and landowners potentially affected by National Grid's plans."

"Given our widespread support base and the short period of consultation, it is important that we are able to communicate with our supporters in a timely and effective manner."

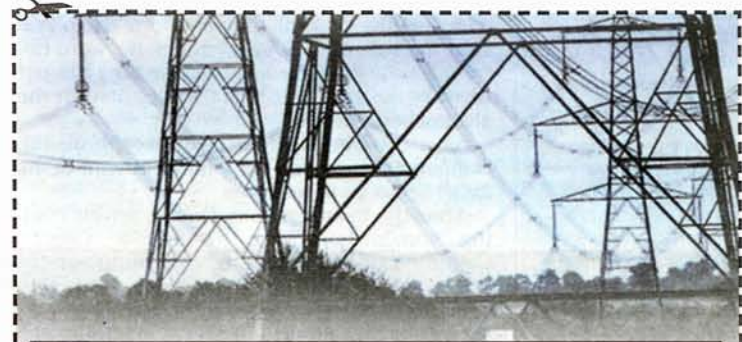
National Grid has put forward four possible route corridors that the pylons could follow and pledged to hold a full public consultation looking at the proposals.

The first of 19 public meetings was held last week and the next will take place in Hadleigh Town Hall between 12noon to 9pm on Saturday.

www.groton-nylon-alliance.co.uk
www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk
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CAMPAIGNING: David Holland, left, who is part of Stour Valley Underground – one of the groups fighting National Grid plans to build more pylons, right, in the Suffolk countryside
Photos: EADT



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