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**Examples of objection issues:**

## **1 Visual impact:**

### **1.1 Visual impact**

of the proposal - a blight in our landscape.

### **1.2 The established field patterns**

of our countryside being obliterated- our farming landscape has taken hundreds of years to mature to its current appearance - placing pylons through this landscape is totally inappropriate for a rural landscape. The pylons are totally out-of-keeping with the established land use of our countryside.

### **1.3 Visual intrusion of the proposal to our homes**

the proposal will be overbearing and adversely affecting the residential amenity of your dwelling curtilage (i.e it affects how you can relax within your house and your garden as there is a perceived/real threat of adverse health effects); this is a legitimate planning consideration and has been the reason for many proposed mobile phone masts being refused permission due to their proximity to residential dwellings. iv) Visual intrusion to public roads and assembly points- the sensitivity of our landscape to adverse visual impact (ie too much or inappropriate development) is exacerbated by the density of public roads which cross our countryside; for example, between the counties of Armagh and Monaghan we have the highest density of road network per sq. kilometre of land in rural Western Europe. This road network will result in the pylons being directly visible daily to 10,000s of motorists travelling through this landscape. This figure will increase as traffic volumes continue to increase. This is wholly unacceptable in modern day planning and environmental assessment.

## **2 Archaeological**

### **2.1 Effect on Rathes and Hill Forts**

The proposal will adversely affect the setting of a nearby Rath/hillfort; Another example would be the setting of a standing stone or rath- views of these features can extend for several miles and a pylon in the visual foreground detrimentally affects the setting of these features.

### **2.2 Navan Fort**

The proposal will be in the foreground of Navan Fort/Armagh Cathedrals etc. (views of these monuments can include distances up to circa 10 miles or whatever distance the human eye can see)

### **3 Agricultural issues:**

#### **3.1 Farming activities:**

sterilisation of land;

#### **3.2 Animal health issues:**

#### **3.3 Crop reductions:**

#### **3.4 Farm quality assurance issues:**

#### **3.5 Future expansion plans of farms:**

being hindered due to a restriction corridor being placed on both sides of the proposed line.

#### **3.6 Safety of farmers and all workers:**

#### **3.7 Restrictions on slurry spreading:**

#### **3.8 Future potential of land:**

a pylon traversing our countryside obliterates potential of our countryside for in excess of 100 years;

## **4 Tourism**

Existing tourism of the area will be adversely affected- visitor numbers will decline from existing; potential tourists will be discouraged from visiting due to pylons; motorists travelling through our landscape will not advertise our area but instead will report back to others of the unsightly appearance of pylons in our area; Local features include Navan Fort, Blackwater Valley, Ringforts, Golf courses, Pubs, Hotels, Restaurants

## **5 Economic development**

Expansion of existing businesses will be hindered; new businesses seeking to locate in vicinity of proposed pylon scheme will not obtain planning permission; farm diversification schemes will not be viable; foreign investment to our area will not be forthcoming

### **5.1 Health and welfare of employees**

within place of work- employers are responsible for employees health and safety. The pylons directly create issues for employers in this respect. Liability issues for

owners of fixed places of work, liability issues for building sites throughout the countryside, farm yards, farm land etc.

## **6 Schools:**

impacts on our children, teachers and all in any way associated with our schools; this also will affect future children, teachers- health issues, outdoor pursuits are hindered, nature walks;

## **7 Churches:**

people attending services will be under undue threat of pylons, health issues, enjoyment of church services curtailed due to perceived threat: assembly in graveyards and the right of assembly without undue threat of pylons

## **8 Football Clubs:**

use and enjoyment of football fields is severely hindered by the visual intrusion of pylons

## **9 Road Bowls:**

use of the public road network in Armagh is unique in this respect for road bowls. Only in one other county in Ireland is this sport practiced (Co. Cork) and this is a world-famous and traditionally unique sport. Pylons will inhibit this sporting tradition and create health risks if practiced and undermine the enjoyment of this sport via the perceived threat.

## **10 Local Gun Clubs and Hunting Associations:**

Annual hunt day in Killylea, Madden Gun Club, Derrynoose Gun Club, Benburb Gun Club, Tullysarron Gun Club

## **11 Population Structure:**

The number of single houses in proximity to the pylon route- there is no other rural area in western Europe which has as many rural dwellers as our localities- circa 50% of the population in Northern Ireland (and 60% in southern Ireland) reside in the rural area (ie. Outside defined settlement limits). At a local level this equates to every single metre of this pylon being visible from public view continuously by existing residents.

## **12 Devaluation of Property**

## **13 Sustainable development:**

the pylons are contrary to the underlying planning policy test of requiring all development to be sustainable. Sustainable development is the core policy test of relevant planning policy; in particular draft PPS21 Sustainable development in the countryside.

## **14 Wildlife:**

can include migrating birds, nesting sites, Natural Heritage Areas, watercourse damage during construction and post construction

### **14.1 Loss of trees and hedgerows:**

trees and hedgerows up to 250 hundred years old are required to be removed, topped and obliterated to facilitate pylons and access roads;

## **15 Rambling:**

The ability to walk our country roads and lanes will be destroyed to the visual eyesore of pylons - health risks also associated with walking in the vicinity of the pylons

### **15.1 Adverse activity during construction stag:**

can take up to 9 months to complete each pylon; no. of concrete lorries required (circa 26 loads per pylon), crane/digger manoeuvring, laneways being created to facilitate machine access.

### **15.2 Right of way issues:**

permanent easements required - this is in total opposition to land-owners and property owners rights;

## **16 Planning:**

Precidents elsewhere in Europe and globally - governments in other countries and utility providers abroad have ceased erecting overhead pylons due to health, environmental, economic and social costs. Overhead pylons are not in the public interest but instead are disrespectful of the landscape, visually obtrusive, economically unviable and pose serious risks to human, animal and ecological welfare.

## **16.1 Existing planning permissions:**

outline and full planning permission exists on numerous sites along the proximity of this proposed route. NIE are not even aware of this fact and have not consulted with all land-owners/site owners. The potential to build existing planning permissions and future permissions will be totally stopped as NIE (if they obtain permission) will be able to legitimately object to any future applications submitted in the vicinity of this proposed pylon route.

## **16.2 Contrary to planning policy:**

Current relevant documents:

1. Draft PPS21- Sustainable Development in the Countryside;
2. Regional Development Strategy (available online at [www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture))
3. Rural Development Strategy (available online at [www.dardni.gov.uk/nirdp\\_2007-2013](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/nirdp_2007-2013))
4. See draft PPS21 document on page 8 here.

The following is a sample extract from the policy document draft PPS21 (which is the most applicable strategy to all rural planning applications available online or from your local Divisional Planning Office:

3.1 The **aim of DRAFT PPS 21** is to manage development in the countryside:

- in a manner consistent with achieving the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025; and
- in a manner which strikes a balance between the need to protect the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development, while supporting rural communities.

Objectives:

3.2 The objectives of PPS 21 are:

- to manage growth in the countryside to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development that meet the essential needs of a vibrant rural community;
- to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution;
- to facilitate development necessary to achieve a sustainable rural economy; including appropriate farm diversification and other economic activity; and
- to promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development in the countryside (extract from Page 7 of draft PPS21).

The above list I-V of draft PPS21 are applicable planning objectives which all planning applications are assessed against. Incorporating the above into our objections will validate and further strengthen our objections.