

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the path. The trees are mostly deciduous with green leaves. The path is made of dirt and is surrounded by various plants and trees.

# National Grid's threat to Brick Kiln Lane NR16 1SA and surroundings

Document produced by local residents

This document shows a lot of special trees and features, in the area referred to as **Norfolk 3**, in National Grid's 2025 pylon route changes.



The map on this page shows our particular area of concern, where the proposed route could devastate a historic green lane, a small, private nature reserve, and a neighbouring 3 acre woodland.

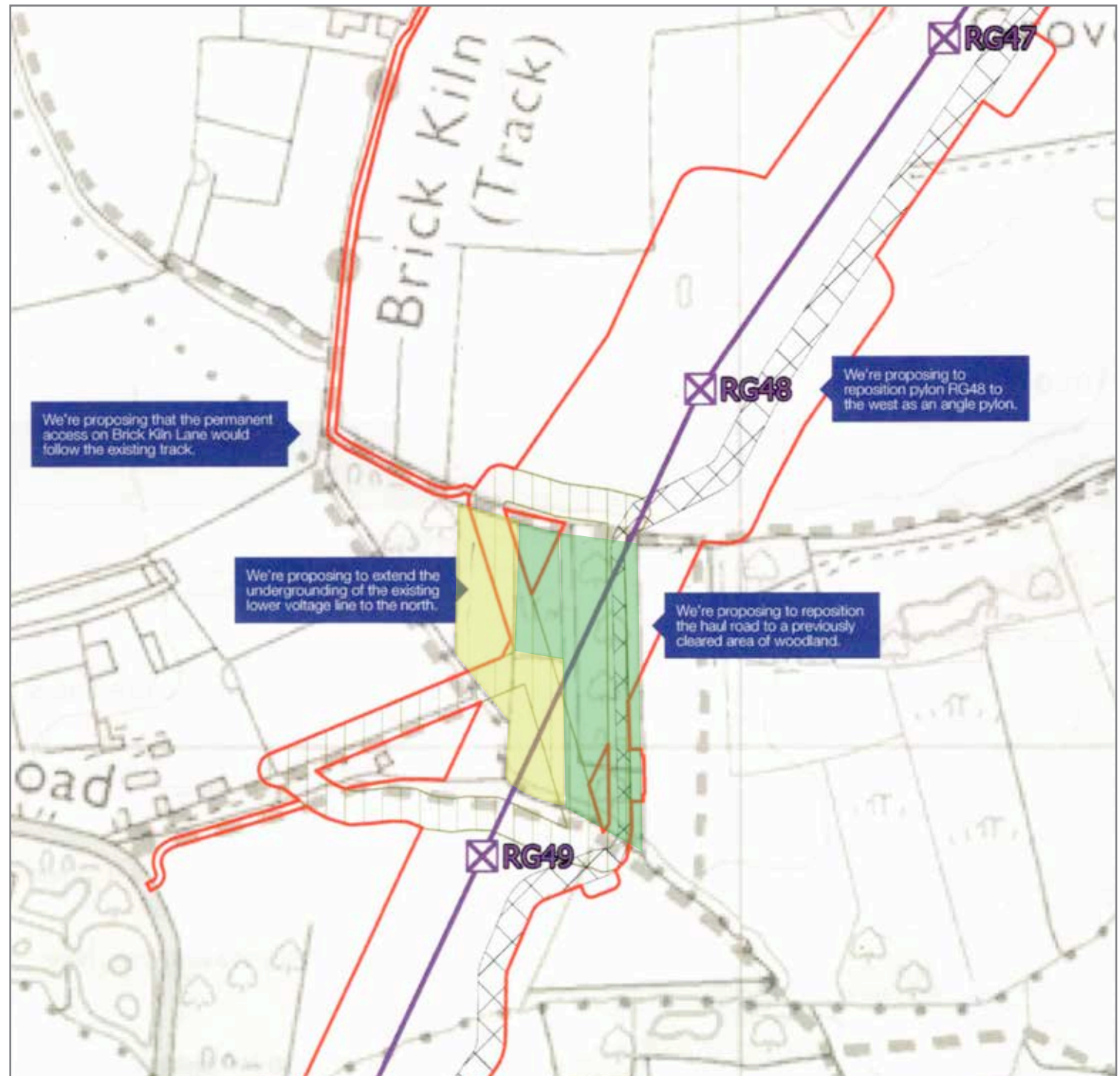
**The map is from National Grid. We have added the shaded green areas and numbering.**

It is impossible to photograph a whole woodland. But all the photos in this document show trees and habitat features that are in danger.

**RED** lines on the map show the **'Draft Order Limits'** which is the space needed to construct and install the powerlines. Trees and plants within this zone are at risk of damage or removal.

**Numbers on the zoomed-in maps on the following pages show the approximate position of the trees in the corresponding photos.**

-  Historic small fields
-  Mature woodland

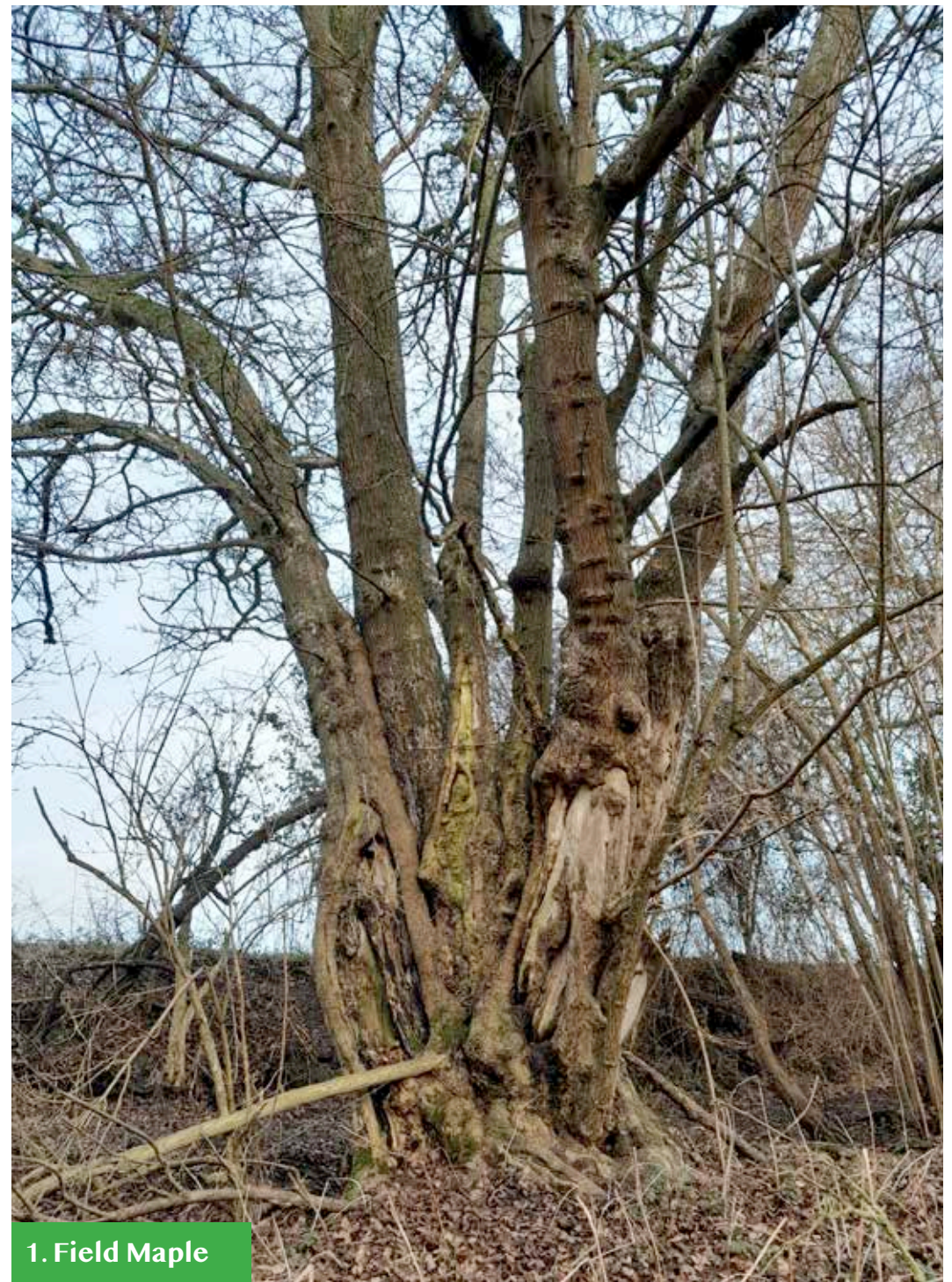


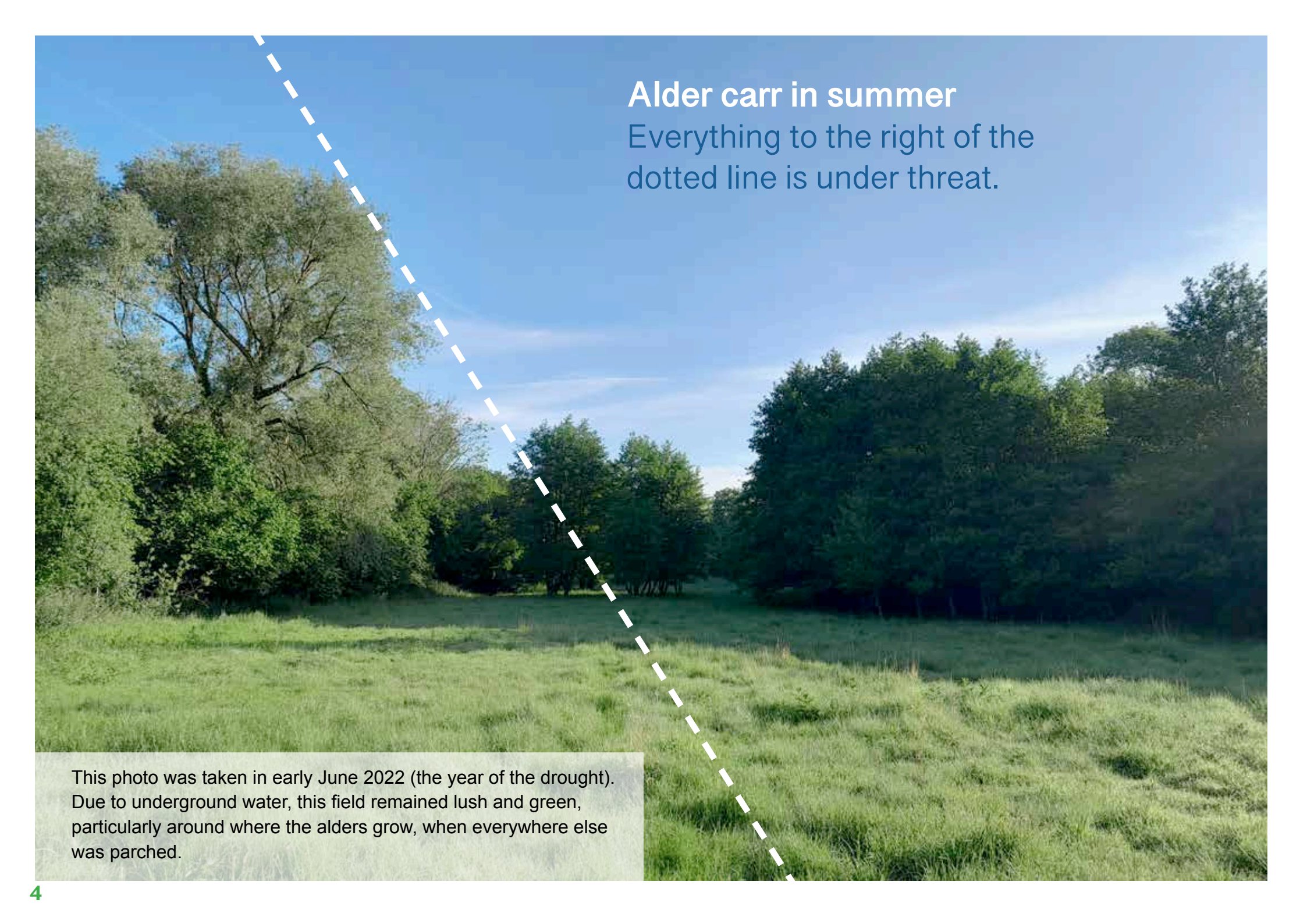


If existing 11,000 volt cables are undergrounded, this large field maple will be destroyed.

There is a possible tumulus / burial mound in this field, 'T' which will need to be investigated before any undergrounding destroys it.

We have discussed an alternative to the undergrounding with Fisher German.





## Alder carr in summer

Everything to the right of the dotted line is under threat.

This photo was taken in early June 2022 (the year of the drought). Due to underground water, this field remained lush and green, particularly around where the alders grow, when everywhere else was parched.



Alder carr,  
wet woodland  
habitat

2. Alder coppice at the edge of the 1 acre woodland





# Wild Wood





**This one-acre woodland contains coppice stools that are undeniably very old.**

**National Grid's own arboricultural survey in 2023 classed it as 'A3' - please see chart, next page.**

**Photos on the following pages show this woodland is a special and irreplaceable habitat.**



**BS5837:2012 Table 1 – Cascade chart for tree quality assessment**

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
<b>Trees unsuitable for retention</b> (see Note)				
<b>Category U</b> Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)</li> <li>Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see [BS5837:2012] 4.5.7.</i></p>			
	<b>1 Mainly arboricultural qualities</b>	<b>2 Mainly landscape qualities</b>	<b>3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation</b>	
<b>Trees to be considered for retention</b>				
<b>Category A</b> Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	
<b>Category B</b> Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	
<b>Category C</b> Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	

**FLAC Note**

The original contents of the column *Identification on plan* have been replaced by FLAC in the version above; spot colours to RGB codes given in BS5837:2012 Table 2

In 2024, as a result of feedback to the 2023 Consultation, National Grid altered the proposed pylon route slightly, to avoid this woodland. This page is from their 2023 Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report, April 2024, available on their website:

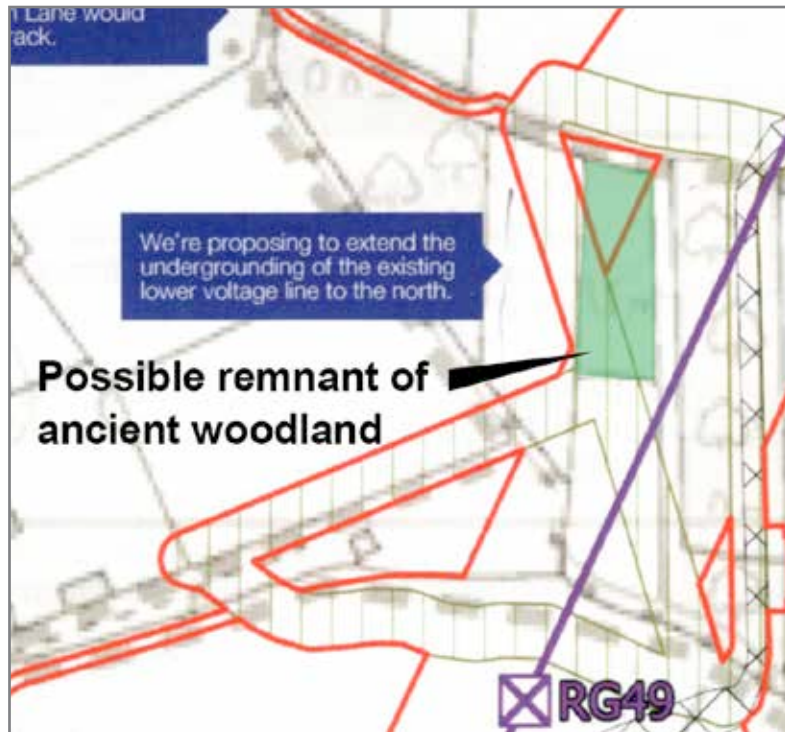
## Changes That Have Been Made as a Result of Feedback Received

Table 4.18- Summary of changes identified in responses to the 2023 non-statutory consultation

Change Requested	Change Proposed
Concern about the impact on Bloy's Grove Solar Farm, suggestions to avoid archaeology site at RG012.	In the case of Bloy's Grove Solar Farm National Grid's proposals currently avoid the positioning of pylons within the proposed development area. While we do envisage some oversail, we do not consider this should interfere with the solar farm operation. We have also moved the position of RG012 (now RG013) slightly north to avoid the archaeological site identified at this location.
Suggest relocating pylon RG044 away from Hoggs Barn.	National Grid has amended the location of RG044 along the draft alignment to move it out of / to the edge of the open view to the north-west from Hoggs Barn and also repositioned RG043 to also benefit further from screening. The pylons have been moved so that they are both positioned to benefit from screening by some existing woodland though much depends on the viewing position and direction.
Suggest that an alternative project route would reduce effects on woodland including on a private nature reserve at Brick Kiln Lane, NR16 1SA- including by relocating pylons RG048 and RG049 away from small woodland.	National Grid is proposing a change between RG046 and RG050, this would move the 2023 preferred draft alignment further east and therefore further away from the woodland and private nature reserve at Brick Kiln Lane, thus overall, reducing potential effects on woodland.
Suggest that the Project is routed away from Heywood Road. Including, moving pylons RG069 to RG074 to the west to avoid residential impacts.	National Grid is proposing a change between RG070 and RG073, removing the angle pylon at RG072 (replacing it with two angle pylons but each with direction changes) and moving the 2023 preferred draft alignment further west of this area.
Suggestions to underground the section of the Waveney Valley.	National Grid continues to investigate the development of the appropriate design in the vicinity of the Waveney Valley via a range of investigations. Pending the outcome of those investigations the baseline remains the use of overhead lines as set out in the 2023 non-statutory consultation. However, for the 2024 statutory consultation we are proposing to also consult on a Waveney Valley Alternative which includes a section of underground cable between approximately RG084 and RG090. Whether this is ultimately taken forward (or taken forward in an amended form) will be informed by consideration of landscape and visual, ecology and heritage effects along with the findings of

So why, in 2025, is this woodland no longer to be avoided?

# One acre, potentially ancient woodland



According to the current map, the area within the triangle would not need to be felled, but the other two-thirds of this semi-ancient woodland are within the Draft Order Limits and are at risk of felling.

The following photos were all taken in February 2025, within the area marked in green on the map, showing trees, plants and other features.



**Ramsons,  
an ancient woodland  
indicator plant**





Invertebrate  
habitat



Dog's  
Mercury



Adult included in many photos to show scale of trees



## Magical ancient alder



Fungi inside the coppice stool pictured left

## 2. Massive alder coppice stool







More ancient alders



Hornbeam at  
the edge of  
Wild Wood

King Alfred's cakes on an ash in Wild Wood





Scarlet elf cup



Lords and ladies /  
cuckoo pint



Mossy ground cover

Primrose



Bluebell  
beginning to  
show



Pignut, common spotted orchid and dog violet are also present, but are not available to photograph at this time of year.



Re-wilding site

**In their 2025 Targeted Consultation, National Grid describes this 3 acre woodland as a 'previously cleared area'.**

**This is an astounding piece of misinformation or disinformation.**

**Photos on the following pages show that there is no way this woodland has been cleared any time recently.**



# 3 acre woodland / rewilding site

Bordering the one acre woodland, this wood includes an old trackway, which extends to the far end of the wood. This is bordered by a row of old oak pollards and other maiden trees. It also includes an ancient hornbeam.



## 3. View at the top end of the trackway



Oak next to track



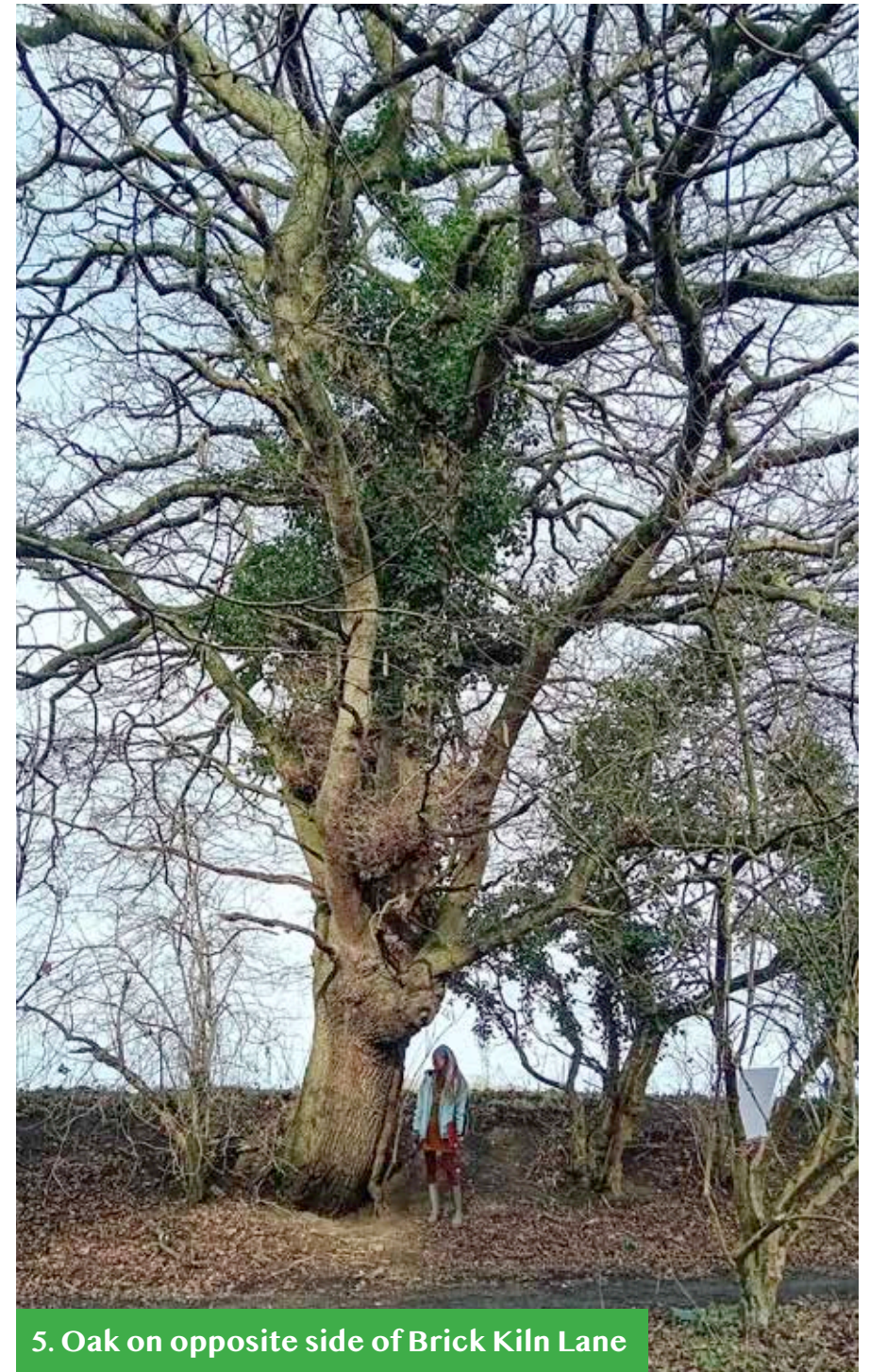
## 3 acre woodland / rewilding site

National Grid describes this woodland as a 'previously cleared area'. However, according to a long-term resident of Bunwell Hill, it has not been cut at all in the last 30 years at least.

On inspection, there are some large trees that have obviously not been 'previously cleared'. This woodland appears to have been wood pasture, with an area of old hazel coppice, and with some beautiful old oak pollard boundary markers. No-one goes in there, so it is full of wildlife, rich with birdsong. Allowed to do its own thing, these days we might call it a rewilding site.



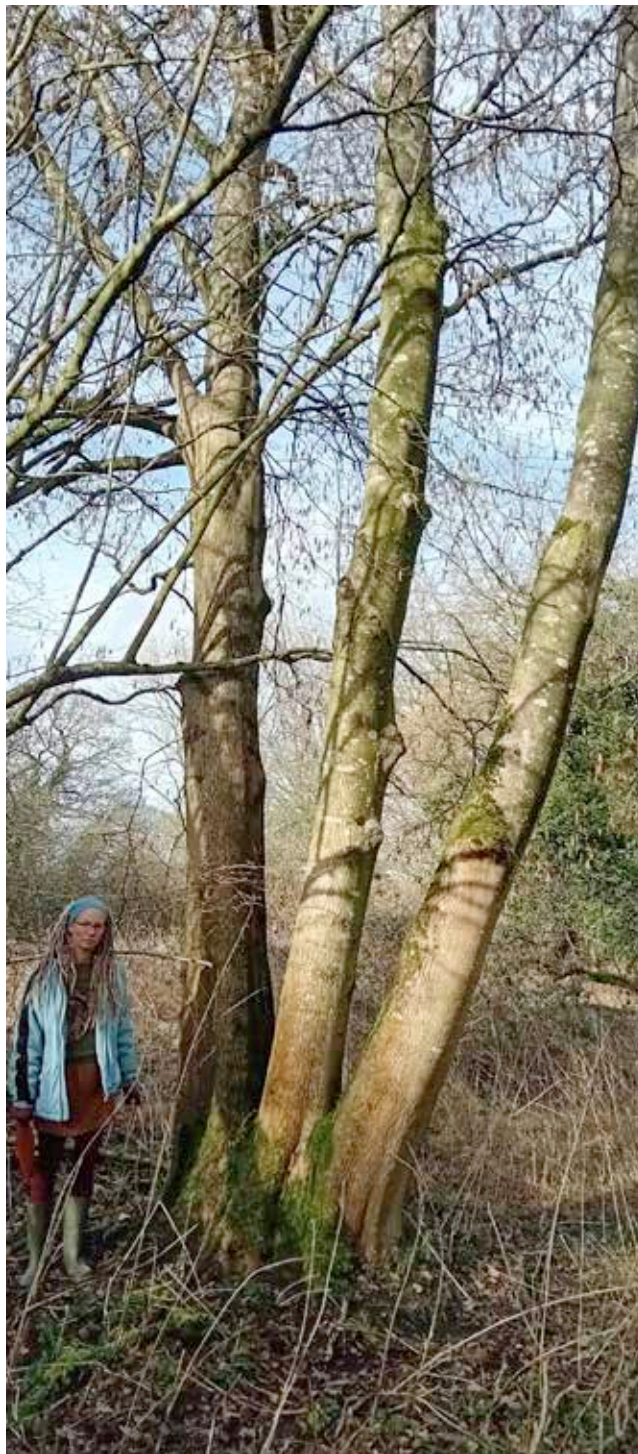
4. Willow



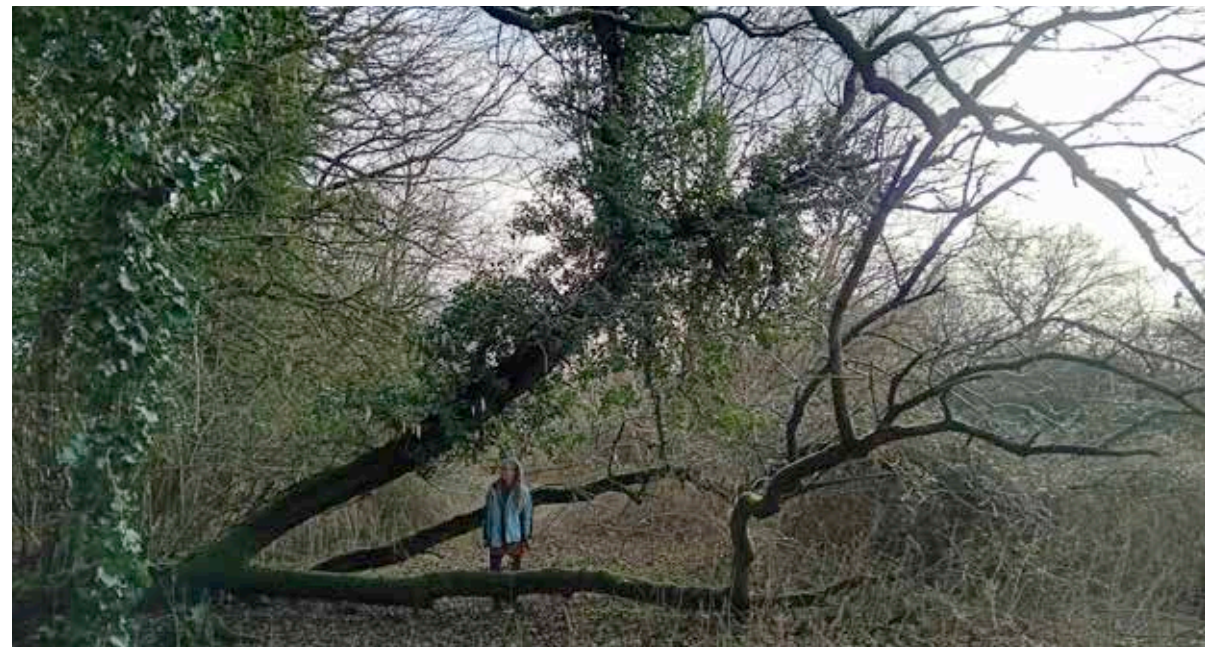


More oaks at the top end of the woodland





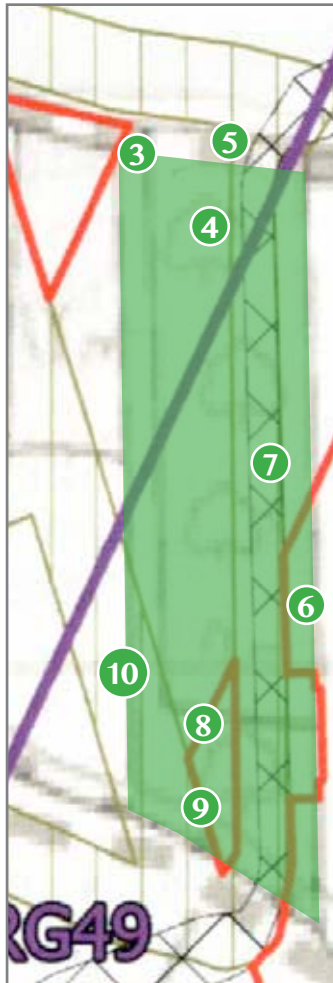
More impressive trees in the 'previously cleared area of woodland' including mature crab apple, ash, oak and willow



# Boundary markers

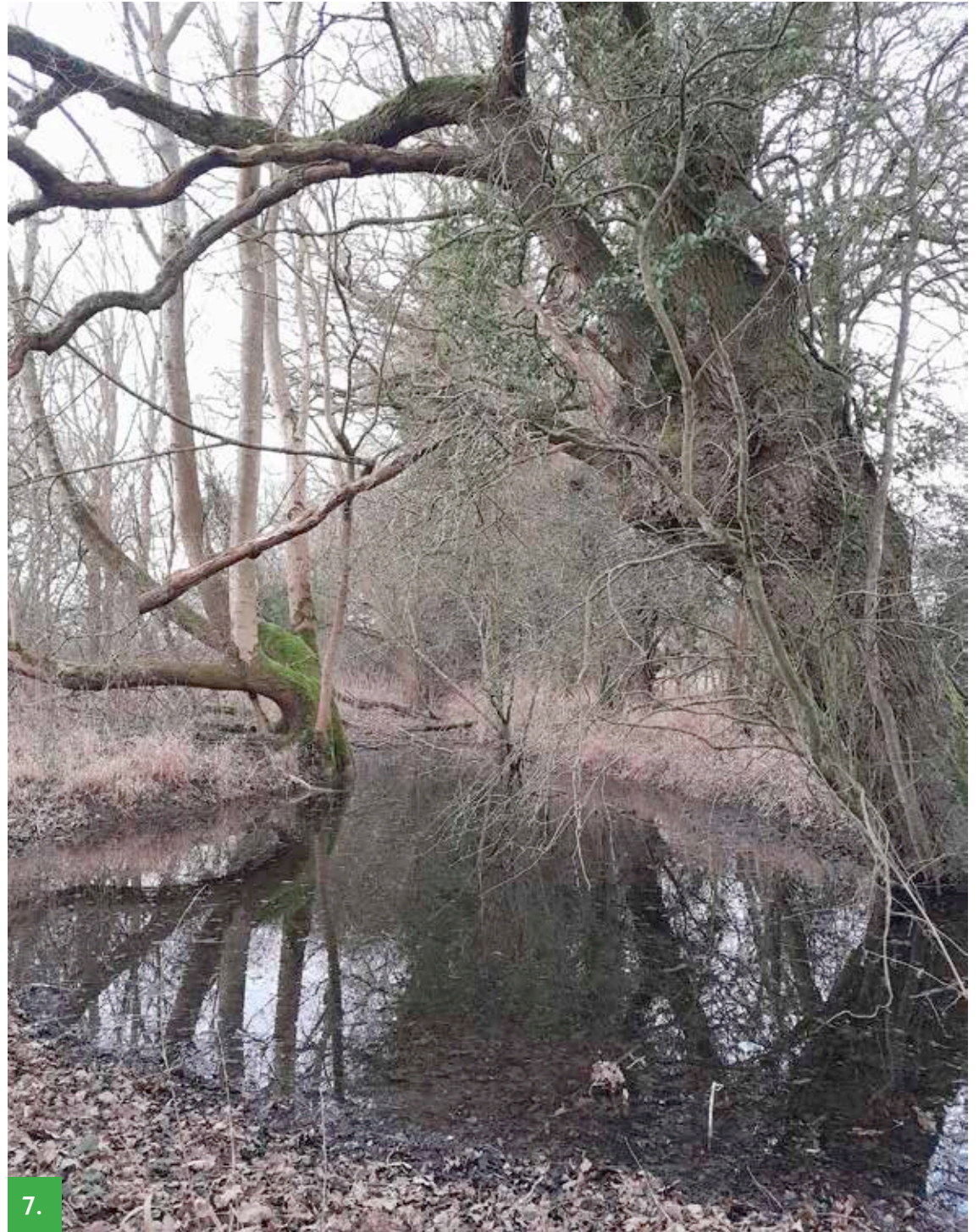
There are some oak pollard boundary markers on the edge of the 3 acre woodland. It seems National Grid are trying to avoid them, but even if they are not felled, the haul road will pass over their roots, causing root compaction which would cause them to go into decline.

The spread of the roots is equal to the spread of the branches.



6. Oak pollard boundary markers - unclear whether they are in danger





8. Epicormic growth



9. Field maple



8. Collapsed oak - still alive though



Old hazel coppice



Hawthorn at the bottom end of 3 acre wood



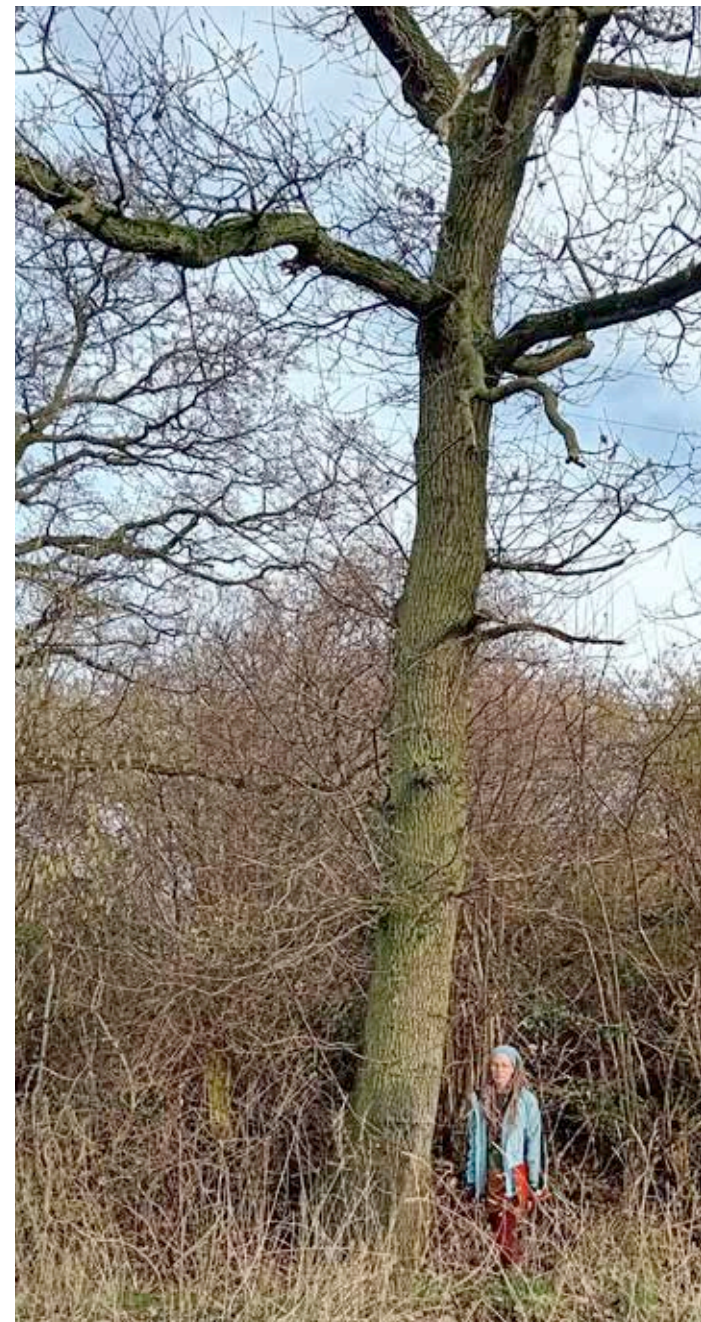
**Badger latrines;**  
**in the wood, left,**  
**and in Brick Kiln Lane, below**



Badger scat clearly visible in above photo. This same latrine has been used on two occasions; one poo contains seeds, the other is different. We've never seen badger latrines in the lane before.

**Red deer**  
**slots, pen to**  
**show scale**

## Between the 3 acre wood and a historic meadow







Mature coppiced hazel, southern end of 3 acre wood



10. This gnarly, ancient hornbeam has fallen across the ditch and rooted on both sides



Sadly this hornbeam was under threat with the previous proposed route, and still is now



**Further down the lane**

**This area is further east  
along Brick Kiln Lane, but  
still within the  
Draft Order Limit.  
In other words,  
still at risk of destruction.**

Last year's proposed pylon route crossed over this meadow, *page 36*, and these trees. Although the route has changed, many of the trees are still in the way.

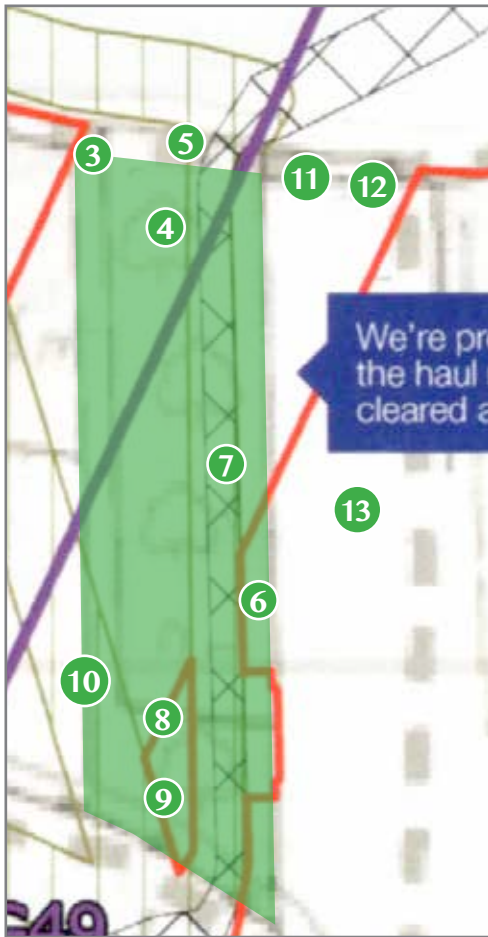
In their Targeted Consultation 2025, National Grid state that their new route would 'limit the amount of tree removal required.'

**In fact, the opposite is true.**

**Oak on the  
field edge**



12.



11.



11.



13. Grazing field

This year's proposed pylon route means this field is safer, though not totally in the clear. The trees at the top, including the 'Bee tree', as it is known locally, are still within the work zone.



12. Veteran oak with honey bee population

# Conclusion

Out of the three different routes National Grid have presented to us since April 2022, some of the trees featured in this document would be lost, **whichever route is chosen.**

Really there is nowhere along Brick Kiln Lane that is suitable for this project. The entire area has historic, cultural and ecological value.

National Grid have provided misleading information in their **2025 Targeted Consultation.**

They mention 'avoiding a veteran tree and active Honey Bee population' **but** the Bee tree is still within the Draft Order Limits.

They say they are avoiding a veteran tree, but they are possibly cutting down **many** other veteran trees.

Perhaps by describing a woodland as 'previously cleared', National Grid hope no-one will object to its removal.

Local residents and landowners cannot send informed or meaningful feedback to National Grid, if they do not understand what is likely to happen.