

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [East Anglia Two](#)  
**Cc:** [East Anglia ONE North](#)  
**Subject:** Open Floor Hearing - Statement of Oral Case - IP 20023176  
**Date:** 26 October 2020 09:01:01  
**Attachments:** [OFH 3.docx](#)

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Dear Sirs

Please find attached the script of my speech at Open Floor Hearing 3, by way of a Statement of Oral Case.

I would also like to reserve the right to speak at future Open Floor Hearings to be held early next year, particularly if new material is put forward by Scottish Power Renewables.

Kind regards

**Mary Shipman**

[REDACTED]



## Scottish Power Renewables: East Anglia 1N and East Anglia 2

### Open Floor Hearing 3 – 9th October 2020

Mary Shipman IP No. 20023176

My name is Mary Shipman and I have been a resident of Friston for 27 years. I am confining my comments mainly to flooding and footpaths, although I am concerned about many other issues.

#### **Flooding**

Land and properties adjacent to the Friston watercourse are in Flood Zone 3 for surface water and over the past 5 years the number of flooding events has increased significantly. This has included water entering our own house.

The watercourse is no more than a ditch, which extends through the centre of the village, entering a culvert at Grove Road and emerging into Low Road, where it continues south to an effective dam at its junction with the A1094. The dam was constructed to alleviate flooding to properties south of the 1094 at Firs Farm. The result is that the field north of the 1094 functions as a flood plain. Any increase in the **total amount** of water discharged into this ditch, irrespective of its flow rate, will cause additional flooding in this field and also to Low Road where the ditch is known to overtop.

The proposed substation site is at the head of this watercourse, and parts of the site itself are at High Risk for surface water flooding. This agricultural land contains a land drainage system and also several ponds and pits, which provide some containment of the current run-off.

To the dismay of residents, it is proposed to use this ditch for the disposal of the additional surface water arising from the laying of hard surfacing across the site. This concern has been made known to Scottish Power consistently throughout the Consultation Phases, and indeed at a public meeting in July 2019, I asked [REDACTED] SPR whether his team would inspect the flooding issues in Friston with me and Suffolk County Council's Flood Engineer. At the time [REDACTED] agreed, however some 2 weeks later SPR issued Notes of the Meeting stating that this would not be dealt with until **after** DCO consent.

No survey or assessment of the capacity of the watercourse to cope with the run-off from the substation site has been submitted. This is a serious omission and we would ask for this to be fully explored during the Examination.

The village lies in a bowl and there has been severe flooding arising from fields east of Grove Road, from where mud laden water flows towards down the road to the ditch, leaving substantial amounts of debris in its wake. Bringing the haul road across this elevated land, is very likely to increase flooding and sediment dispersal in the village and in the ditch itself. This should be addressed in the Examination.

### **Footpaths**

A further concern is the **permanent loss** of Footpath 6 heading north from the Church. This path is well-used by residents as it forms a pleasant circular walk from the village. An alternative route is proposed by SPR along the side of Grove Road, close to the substations. However Footpath 6 cannot be extinguished until the new route is completed, which will not be until post-construction. This will result in the northern side of the village ceasing to exist as an amenity for residents during the construction period, which could be up to 10 years.

In any event the new route is not an acceptable alternative to the extinguished footpath, due to the substantial loss of tranquillity, landscape quality and increased noise levels.

FP6 was both a Parish and a Hundred Boundary and the loss of this historic feature going back centuries should have been avoided in the site selection process.

A further 26 Rights of Way along the cable route will be diverted or temporarily closed. There is no timetable for these closures, however if the two projects are constructed consecutively, then it will be for a very long period, especially where the haul road is to be used for HGVs accessing the substation site between Knodishall and Friston.

Visitors are drawn to this area for the openness and accessibility of the landscape, which make it ideal walking country. The cable corridor severs this beautiful area in half and will deter visitors, as well as being a substantial loss of amenity to local people.

### **Ecology**

The wooded pit in the substation site is a haven for wildlife, including badgers and bats and will be lost. SPR have recorded four badger setts

on this site which will be destroyed, while only one other sett was found along the entire cable route. Skylarks, which are on the endangered 'Red List' are also heard and seen over the fields in this very tranquil area.

Scottish Power have made a fundamentally flawed decision in choosing Friston as the site for these substations.