

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North](#); [East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: WRs: Friston Parochial Church Council
Date: 29 October 2020 12:34:23
Attachments: [Friston Representation FINAL-1.pdf](#)

Dear Sirs

I attach the Written Representations of Friston Parochial Church Council:
PINS Refs: 20023636 and 20023639

They include the Historic Context as requested by the Panel from Revd. Mark Lowther at the Open Floor Hearings.

I hope that these are in an acceptable form. It has been an extremely stressful exercise.

Kindly acknowledge safe receipt.

Simon Ive
Secretary and Treasurer, Friston PCC



WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS
FOR SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS
(DEADLINE 1)

INTERESTED PARTY:
FRISTON PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL

THE CHURCH OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,
FRISTON

PINS Refs:
20023636 & 20023639

Date: 27th October 2020

***'Our Community and
Church under threat'***



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S1 SUMMARY

The Friston Parochial Church Council is wholly opposed to the Applicant's proposals as set out in their Development Consent Order Application.

We especially support the Written Representations of SASES in conjunction with Friston Parish Council which also oppose the developments.

We note and also support similar opposition from our MP, Dr Therese Coffey, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and other opposing individuals and organisations including Save our Sandlings and SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions).

We are not opposed to the need to develop more carbon-free and renewable energy to meet Government climate change objectives. But the proposals for Friston concern connectivity to the National Grid.

We fear that these proposals presage further energy developments of uncertain magnitude which will be centred on Friston and surrounding areas. The construction of Sizewell C alone will be transformative. In all there appear to be twelve energy projects in the pipeline which could extend over fifteen years. (Appendix 1). The cumulative effects exacerbate existing fears and concerns.

If these developments are allowed to proceed, the church will lose its most precious asset of over 1,000 years – the serenity of its surroundings.

Instead, future generations will be able to stand in the church grounds, look north and wonder '*who on earth decided to put that there*'?

And then possibly look around and see interconnectors and other elements of energy infrastructure.

Friston church is not only a central point of the village but its spiritual heart. (Refer S4 & S5)

Our concerns for our community and environment are integral to our ecumenical and pastoral care which strives for mutual sustenance of the village and church.

A 'mark of our mission' is '*to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*'.

Accordingly, we cannot support the

- Destruction of our natural environment
- Habitat loss
- Irreparable harm to wildlife and the balance of diversity

We deplore the costs and loss to humanity:

The destruction of landscape and impairment of Heritage Assets which constitute a source of identity and cohesion for communities. (Refer S4)

Such destruction deprives us of a source of inspiration for creativity and spirituality. (Refer S6)





The loss of peace and tranquillity.

The proximity of the developments to the village threaten the residents with isolation during the extended construction periods arising from the impacts of construction equipment and traffic, the narrowness of the village lanes impeding the ability to move around the village freely. Those fears relate particularly to safety (traffic and construction works) and health (pollution, flooding) and noise both during construction and then when operational. (Refer S8 and S9).

Consequently, Friston and the surrounding area would then become an unattractive place to live. It then fails to attract younger people moving into the area who will refresh and contribute to the future life of the village which is necessary for the economic and social health and wellbeing of the community and church.

We consider that the proposals do not take adequate account of the UK Government's more recent and wider National Planning Policy Framework and concerns for the environment and current guidelines. (Refer S7).

We deplore the Applicant's insensitivity towards proper understanding of the nature and qualities of the area; the disregard for the environmental impacts; ignorance of human concerns – fear of the unknown; loss of amenity and safety; threat to its sustainability. The lack of proper consultation and listening. All resulting in a complete lack of trust in the Applicant's capability to manage the development properly and with sensitivity.

So, we emphasise the need to reject the proposals. Instead preserve and manage what we cherish for future generations:

- 12 million visitors come to this area every year attracted by
- The sea and landscapes
- Peace and tranquillity
- Open air recreational facilities
- Culture
- Creativity.



Church Road / Lane - it is single lane providing access to the church and village hall and recreation!





S2 Foreword

As the Rector of Friston church I occupy a tiny part of a very long line. There has been a church building in Friston for over 1,000 years, which means that villagers of Friston have been the church for that length of time too. A church is its people and though, over that great span of time, the village has seen many dark times it now faces something that, if built, will change its character and viability forever. Viability? Would you like to come and live in a village dominated by huge industrial buildings? The fear is that the community would be fractured forever and, literally, nothing in Friston would be the same again. This document contains both historic information and the input of several people closely involved in the church community. Though their 'takes' are different all are united in opposition to the proposals currently on the table. Part of our responsibility is to maintain the church in good health for the future – the ancient building, of course, but, more particularly, the people. They do not deserve to suffer and I pray that they will not. The line must be able to continue unbroken.

The Revd Mark Lowther
Rector
St Mary, Friston



Village green





S3 Friston Suffolk





S4 The Church of St Mary the Virgin Its place in time and the community

Introduction

As a Church community we celebrate and believe ourselves to be guardians of our created world. We support green technologies, for example wind power, as a way to protect our planet but we cannot support the destruction of the heritage that our church building reflects, we cannot support the destruction of the natural environment, habitat loss, irreparable harm to wildlife and the balance of biodiversity and the human cost that the Applicant is proposing to rain on the village of Friston and its surrounding land. Consequently we implore you to reject the application for development. If consent goes ahead, the peacefulness and calm of this historic church building will be lost: the substation buildings will be just across the road from the church, and noise and light pollution will be constant.

The Setting

St Mary's church is accessed via the single-track Church Road/Lane turning into a no through lane, Church Path, which also provides access to the Village Hall and provides parking for the residents.

Walking the path from the car park to the entrance to the church we are reminded that the St Mary's church is built on raised ground which has a vantage point to the surrounding countryside and is a place from which people reference the village. The Grade II* Listed church, in its tranquil setting, is bounded on all sides by open land where ancient pilgrims walked; the well-maintained burial grounds, in use for hundreds of years, parts of which are conservation areas, contain the graves of three former Lord Mayors of London and local residents: gentry, landowners and humble workers who led unremarkable lives, a Commonwealth War Grave and the memorial to those from the village who gave their lives in defence of our country during the two World Wars. Beyond this there is farmland, wildlife meadows and some of the homes which make up the village community, including, adjacent to the church, three Grade II listed thatched cottages. It is a tranquil scene, a place of prayer, a place of refuge for those seeking somewhere to sit and reflect, and the setting for musical concerts held to raise money for local charities. The church is not only a central point of the village but its spiritual heart.

History

Since the 11th century both the church of St Mary's and the village of Friston were closely associated with Snape and the priory that existed there. It is thought probable that the first Christian place of worship built in the village would have been a wooden structure, but the building that stands today is a Medieval church. It includes an arch in the north wall of the Nave which has been dated to the 11th century. Other





historical features include a 12th century doorway which contains symbols hewn into the stone including several crosses and what appears to be an Anhk – an ancient symbol known as “the key of life’ or the “cross of life”, these are believed to be marks left by pilgrims en route to Dunwich, and a 14th century tower. Little else has been added to the church since this period apart from an 18th century porch and some 19th century restoration. Inside the church building there are notable treasures including a wooden Royal Coat of Arms of James 1st dating from 1605, and part of a 16th century Bible. The eastern window on the south side is early 13th century and is believed to still contain some ancient glass and the decorated window west of the porch was inserted in the 14th century. We are proud of the heritage and architecture of our church. Tourists come to the church and its grounds and are thrilled at the interior and the history it contains. Our Visitors Book tells of the sense of peace and calm found here, truly a place for contemplation.

A Living Church

St Mary's is at the heart of a thriving village community. The church has weekly Sunday services with a small but regular congregation and each Wednesday evening there is a service of Compline, a time for reflection and prayers focused on the needs of our community and our country. The major festivals of Christmas, Holy Week and Easter are celebrated with services and a packed church. The church has a long commitment to Remembrance and has observed all the key national days commemorating the anniversaries of the two World Wars. On Remembrance Sunday we gather around the War Memorial to begin with the sounding of the Last Post, the Reveille and prayers for peace before entering the church for the continuation of our service. On VJ Day, this year, a socially distanced congregation, featured on the BBC Look East commemorations of the day's celebrations. The ringing of the church bells, heard each Sunday morning and rung on special occasions. eg Jubilee celebrations. The bells rung on VE Day; 8th May 2020 were subsequently relayed on the Radio 3 Sunday Morning Breakfast Show. St Mary's is a beautiful venue for weddings and we are blessed when children with parents or grandparents who live in the village ask to be married in the church. The well-maintained churchyard with its graves going back for centuries provides a serene and respectful place for funerals and the burying of ashes.

Community Outreach

Outside of the liturgical celebrations the church community engage in activities to reach out to others in the village, annual activities include an Easter Art Exhibition and Flower Festival held in the church, a Car Boot sale on the Village Green, Open Gardens with some 20 gardens for visitors to enjoy, 'Classics on the Green' –cars, bikes and even steam engines, and a Christmas Fayre held in the Village Hall and spilling over into the church and the churchyard. Since the Coronavirus outbreak we have also produced and funded, alongside the Parish Council, a village newsletter, The Swift, and have a team of volunteers ready to support residents eg going shopping, picking up prescriptions, helping out in the garden or just making a friendly visit





Why the Development Consent Application should NOT be granted

The Applicant's flawed site selection for the proposed development threatens to destroy the tranquility and serenity of the church and the heritage which goes back centuries. The Applicant did note in 6.1.24.Chapter 24 Archaeology Cultural Heritage pg 97 that eight designated heritage assets (all Listed Buildings) were identified as areas where change in setting could lead to material harm to their significance. These included the Church of St Mary, Friston (1287864, Grade II*) and Friston War Memorial (1435814, Grade II), Grade II* being of High heritage importance and Grade II being of Medium importance. Yet in their Non-Technical Summary of February 2019 pg 48 paragraph 156 they claim "the proposed on-shore development is largely comprised of agricultural land and has been sited away from population centres and sensitive receptors". Is it any wonder that on its photomontages it has repeatedly and deliberately not shown how close the proposed development is to the village: the church and residents' homes? Surely you have noted this yourselves on a site visit. One of the key principles to site selection the Applicant stated in EA1N Chapter 27 of its PEI is "avoiding proximity to residential dwellings" but their development site is less than 250 metres away from homes.

Furthermore, since the Applicant's initial plans for the site in 2018, the land SPR requires has grown, to the extent that Church Road /Lane, the single-track lane along the side of the burial grounds, and the land running alongside it, despite being subject to a covenant, is earmarked for their development. The Applicant has requested permanent rights along this road, including closing it for three weeks during construction. If granted consent this would deny churchgoers access to the church car park; so too Village Hall users; it would mean emergency service and Council refuse vehicles could not access the lane and would also deny residents on Church Path, access to their homes.

"Heritage constitutes a source of identity and cohesion for communities disrupted by bewildering change and economic instability. ... UNESCO is convinced that no development can be sustainable without a strong culture component. Indeed only a human-centred approach to development based on mutual respect and open dialogue ...can lead to lasting, inclusive and equitable results." (UNESCO: Protecting Our Heritage and Fostering Creativity.) The Applicant certainly does NOT have a human-centred approach to its development. During construction noise will impact on the serenity of the churchyard. Working hours and days threaten services with the noise from vehicles and piling.

The Applicant's lack of concern for Friston and its residents has been evident from the outset. The 'Consultation' events were no more than a token exercise, a legal requirement that ticked a box. Villagers do not trust the Applicant as their concerns have never been listened to nor their fears addressed. If granted consent





the proposed development will destroy Friston which will become a 'dead' village, not sustainable: no longer will the air be full of the sound of birdsong; no longer will there be access to footpaths; single track country lanes which have no pavements on which villagers walk and cyclists ride, will become 'rat runs' as cut-throughs and the lives of those who live in the village will be forever blighted. No longer will the gardens of the village provide a quiet place! If nothing else the past few months have made us even more aware of the effect, and danger, of the loss of open space and footpaths which, if consent is granted, would further impact on the mental wellbeing of the residents. People should not have to get in their cars and drive to then be able to enjoy outdoor space and take their dogs for a walk!

Benefits against losses

There are NO benefits from this development to our church and community of Friston, the impacts if development consent is granted are all adverse. We want to protect the heritage of our church and its history, a place for celebration and reflection. We want to protect the land that we benefit from: open fields, ancient hedgerows, an abundance of wildlife, dark night skies, footpaths walked on for centuries. We want to protect the future of our village a place where tourists are welcomed, where new residents seek a home in a peaceful location and where our community will further develop.

Marie Szpak, Lay Member, Friston PCC





S5 WILL ST MARY'S CHURCH BE LOST FOREVER?

If these developments are allowed to proceed, the Church will lose its most precious asset of over 1,000 years – the serenity of its surroundings.

Summary

The church is most at threat from the loss of serenity arising from the proximity of the development.

The church provides the spiritual, and the village hall, the complementary social hub of the village.

Access to the church and the surrounding character must be preserved.

The church seeks to extend its pastoral care and engage with the community through its programme of events and the support of volunteers.

The income from these events and the appreciation of the community through generous giving financially sustain the church.

Accordingly, the village needs to maintain its attractiveness for new residents and visitors to ensure sources of continued support.

Loss of serenity

The chapter title is a strange question for this medieval church whose roots go back to the 11th Century.

But the proximity of the proposed development will deprive the church of its greatest value – the serenity of its position.

It is a Grade II* listed building and surrounded by Heritage Assets.

Sited on top of a slight hill on the northern edge of the village it is surrounded by fields and close to the village green. As you approach it, the local noise diminishes and creates a special sense of peace and tranquillity which is enhanced as you ascend the path through the burial grounds to the entrance.

Standing or sitting in the grounds you enjoy the vistas of the village and surrounding countryside – the history of the headstones – there is a Commonwealth War Grave, War Memorial and the graves of three former Lord Mayors of London.

Inside, visitors enjoy the quietude. The setting and building offer valuable time for reflection and contemplation.

Peace and tranquillity are integral to the dignity and solemnity of our services.

The construction of industrial infrastructure destroys all these. The vista to the north is to be obliterated and some will see the site as threatening and disturbing.





The spiritual and social hub of the village

Access to the church is via Church Road / Lane and leading into a quiet close, Church Path, which also houses the village hall. The latter provides vital facilities for meetings, clubs and societies, keep fit and supports church activities.

There is a 'mini-community' of residents in the close who tend for each other and to the maintenance and care of the buildings and grounds, albeit contractors are employed for major works and cutting of the hedgerows and churchyard.

There is concern to preserve the character of the surroundings and access. A threat arises from whatever potential alterations the developer wishes to make to Church Road /Lane which is single lane running between the Aldeburgh-Saxmundham Road and Grove Road which is lightly used by residents and vital for access to the church and village hall.

Standing over the village, the church provides a sense of stability, solidity and continuity. A much-used footpath connecting Grove Road with Church Lane runs through the church grounds.

The graves in the church grounds are well tended by relatives and the church community seeks to show its care and understanding with regular maintenance.

The Church engaging with the community

The church has two weekly services:

- Sunday Morning Service
- Wednesday Evening Compline for reflection and prayers to save our church and community.

The congregation size might be small, averaging, 15-20, but it is stable.

Feast days and acts of remembrance are observed and well supported.

But it is a core objective to reach out and be part of the community. That engagement is through a programme of events throughout the year:

- Easter Art Exhibition alternating with a Flower Festival.
- Village Car Boot Sale in May
- June Open Gardens when we have a 'trail' of some 20 village gardens.
- July Classics (Cars and Bikes) on the Green.
- December Christmas Fayre.

These events are supplemented by concerts both inside the church and in its grounds during the summer.

The engagement comes from the volunteers needed to manage the events in so many ways – car parking, collectors, refreshments in the village hall, exhibitors, stallholders et al – as many as 70 help with Classics on the Green.





Sustaining the Church

Following from the above are the financial benefits which ensure the church's existence.

These are

- The donations, collections and sales of refreshments at each event.
- The village engagement which has generated an appreciation that has led to regular giving which is the life-blood of the church. This appreciation is reflected in that 75% of regular giving by numbers and 60% of total amount is from irregular or non-churchgoers.

Twelve years ago, the church was suffering substantial annual losses. Through hard work and generosity of spirit and support over the years some stability has been achieved.

Protecting the future

However, the applicant's proposals are a major threat to its continued sustainability.

Key to the future are:

- Ensuring continued and unimpeded access to the 'hub'.
- Maintaining the serenity of the area
- Preserving the attractiveness of the village and its spaces and buildings as a place to live and visit.
- Landowners continuing to make available additional space to accommodate our events and parking.
- Above all, with an ageing population, being able to attract and welcome a steady flow of new residents and regular visitors to help in the management of the church and its events.

Simon Ive Secretary and Treasurer, Friston PCC





Church Road / Lane water course, and view of Church access





S6 Creativity and Spirituality

I would like to make a further Relevant Representation, focusing particularly on issues that have come to light more recently, and to consider some creative and spiritual aspects of the proposal.

But firstly, I must say that I support the opinions of SASES and the vast majority of interested parties in that I believe that wind energy is an important natural resource that should be encouraged, but absolutely not at the expense of wrecking beautiful and irreplaceable landscapes such as the Suffolk Sandlings AONB and the village of Friston.

I am a resident of Friston, and by profession a composer of music which has been played, broadcast, and sung all over the world by choirs such as Kings College and Selwyn College Cambridge, The Sixteen, VocalEssence, and many more. I am saying this not to blow my own trumpet, as it were, but simply to say that I find the individual landscape of this area extremely inspirational for the creation of new music, and that, in this respect, I follow in the footsteps of great composers such as Benjamin Britten (Aldeburgh), Gordon Crosse (Wenhaston), William Alwyn (Blythburgh), and Oliver Knussen (Snape).



Photo 1 – Friston Church seen from the ancient trackway across Friston Moor





The wide skies, the ever-changing farmland, the ancient churches, and the pounding sea are all features that inspire these composers, and equally inspire a range of authors, poets, painters and sculptors.

Recently, I wrote a short orchestral piece called 'Friston Moor' (which you can hear on YouTube) inspired by this landscape and the possible threats to it. In a talk that I gave about the piece (also on YouTube), I explained that for me, the electricity pylons that cross the AONB from Sizewell always had a sense of power and strength, putting the landscape in perspective in the same way as railway viaducts did in times past. But now, I went on to say, they have changed – they have a sinister and menacing feeling, threatening a historic landscape that has been enjoyed by many generations. The area north of Friston – Friston Moor – is such a rich and characterful place, and regular walks along its ancient footpaths caused the musical ideas to flow easily as a result of the beautiful surroundings. The views from it of the medieval – St Mary's – cement the link with the past, and the ever-present pylons – quite harmless as they currently are – create a link with the present. (Please see photo no. 1)

---If the Applicant's proposal for the substation, site goes ahead, all of this will be lost, as an area of 83 acres will be covered in concrete and ugly buildings.

St. Mary's Church is a short walk from my house. Before the pandemic forced closure of the church building during the week, I would frequently enter it, sit down, pray, and meditate. There is a feeling of calm and spirituality in that building which is rare. Sunday mornings there have a real sense of community coupled with the opportunity to worship, and special services such as at Christmas and Easter, and occasional concerts, bring the whole village together in peaceful celebration (Please see photo no. 2). I also often sit on the bench in the churchyard, where again there is that opportunity to take stock of life in the calm and quiet atmosphere. (Please see photo No. 3) ---If the Applicant's proposal for the substation, site goes ahead, the peacefulness and calm of this historic church building will be lost: the substation, buildings will be just across the road from the church, and noise and light pollution will be constant.

I know that I am not the only Friston resident who enjoys the rather longer walk from the village to the sea at Thorpeness or Sizewell. This walk partly follows the route of the 'Sandlings Walk LDP' and begins on the ancient trackway from Church Farm to Knodishall Common, soon becoming part of the AONB. (Please see photo No. 4)

---The Applicant's plan is to turn this track into a 'haul road' for heavy lorries, for an unspecified period of at least several years.

Then the route of my walk crosses the B1069 at the so-called 'pinch point' and either takes Sloe Lane or Fitches Lane towards the B1122. (Please see photo no. 5)

----Under the Applicant's plan, these lovely old lanes, with ancient hedgerows, are threatened by the digging up of cable trenches, 64 metres wide, possibly not just once, but twice. It is likely that the land will never fully recover.





Photo 2 – An open-air concert outside Friston Church, perilously close to the proposed substation site.



Photo 3 Friston churchyard – an oasis of calm





The path then crosses the B1122 north of the North Warren Nature Reserve, past the Ogilvie Almshouses, near Aldringham church, and into Aldringham Common (Please see photo no. 6), through The Walks, leading to the cliffs between Thorpeness and Sizewell (Please see photo no. 7).

----Under the Applicant's plan, these cliffs and the land behind it would become the cable landing and works compound. This would completely threaten and possibly destroy the unstable cliffs, and, together with the cable trenches, would ruin the Suffolk Coastal LDP and the land behind it for generations to come.



Photo 4 - trackway from near Church Farm towards Knodishall





Photo 5 - Fitches Lane



Photo 6 – Aldringham Common



Photo 7 - cliffs between Sizewell and Thorpeness, in the area of the proposed landfall site.





In summary, this walk across the AONB, and many others like it, would be completely spoilt, at great cost to the important tourist industry as well as to local residents.

Finally, it has also become clear recently, that if the proposal for the cable route and substation, goes ahead, it will be an open door for other projects such as Nautilus and Eurolink, resulting in more trenches, more substations, and more disruption and destruction.

Please consider the strength of feeling on this issue, remembering that the spirituality of the ancient churches in the area, and the inspiration to creative artists in the landscape, can never be replaced. I urge you to turn down the application for the landfall, cable route, and substations and encourage Scottish Power Renewables and the National Grid to use newer, cleaner, greener undersea technology to transmit the power to already existing sites.

Thank you. Alan Bullard
Composer and Parishoner, Friston.





S7 ENVIRONMENT – OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

‘There are opportunities to improve health through the choices government, regulators, businesses and individuals make in creating and contributing to healthier, greener and more accessible environments.

This is one of the main findings of a report, ‘The State of the environment: health, people and the environment’ published by the Environment Agency, September 2020.

It emphasises the UK Government’s increasing concern for and commitment to protecting ‘green’ spaces and the environment for the benefit of human health and wellbeing.

One of the Anglican Community’s ‘Five Marks of Mission’ is

‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth’

We seek to explain how that aligns itself with the aspirations and principles of current Government planning and environmental policies and guidelines. In turn how these present great enhancing opportunities for this area; but which would be undermined and even destroyed by the Applicant’s proposals under consideration; that these negative effects would be magnified by further energy projects in the pipeline. There is a stark reminder of the sheer scale of these in the schedule at Appendix 1. In sum, there are possibly twelve major projects all of which would be judged NSIPs whose construction periods would extend over fifteen years!

‘A GREEN FUTURE: OUR 25 YEAR PLAN TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT’

This UK Government Plan was published, 11th January 2018. It is ambitious in its aims *‘to help the natural world regain and retain good health’*, but offers opportunities for this area to help towards these aims:

Chapter 3, Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing says it all:

‘Spending time in the natural environment – as a resident or a visitor – improves our mental health and feelings of wellbeing. It can reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression. It can help boost immune systems, encourage physical activity and may reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as asthma. It can combat loneliness and bind communities together’.

Action guidelines include:

- Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green





- spaces including through mental health services.
- Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.

Chapter 6, Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment:

We will conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment and make sure it can be enjoyed, used by and cared for by everyone by:

- *Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.*
- *Making sure that there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas, and encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing.*
- *Focusing on increasing action to improve the environment from all sectors of society.*

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPF)

This framework was presented to Parliament in February 2019 and reaffirms the Government's commitment to sustainable development.

Achieving sustainable development: (NPF S2.8)

• Economic Objective (NPF S2.8a)

The proposed development is at Friston which lies within an area which is officially designated as the Suffolk Heritage Coast.

The most urban area stretches from Ipswich up to Woodbridge, so that the 'green' space (not officially defined but descriptive) extends from Woodbridge north to Southwold. Within that area is the narrow stretch of coastline from Snape (Friday Street junction of A12/A1094) to Aldeburgh and north to Sizewell, location of the proposed Sizewell C nuclear reactors.

Friston is at the heart of this area; located on the Sandlings Way and surrounded by listed buildings; the Church is a Heritage Asset, Grade II* listed.

Within a vibrant and diversified East Suffolk economy, this area is noted for its attractiveness as a place to live and visit derived from its accessibility to peaceful and tranquil land and seascapes; open air recreational facilities and culture. Indeed, a survey undertaken by the consumer magazine, 'Which' reveals that Southwold and Aldeburgh are rated 3rd and 4th respectively as the Best Seaside Towns in the UK (6.10.2020).

This is further affirmed in the increasing numbers visiting the area during the Covid-19 restrictions this year and increasing interest in moving to the area as urban living becomes less attractive and the trend to home working is facilitated by reasonable broadband connectivity.





Economic drivers are inward investment (housing and retail; refurbishment and maintenance); agriculture; conservation areas and reserves and culture inspired by the Britten-Pears facilities at Snape Maltings and Aldeburgh.

Servicing this is an extensive if fragmented (reflecting the physical nature of the area) hospitality sector. The visitor/tourist economy is estimated to attract 12m visitors and generating income of £672m annually. (Source: 'Economic Impact of Tourism, East Suffolk 2018' by Destination Research Ltd)

Concern has already been expressed at the negative perceptions for the visitor economy from the proposed development and that of Sizewell C. (Source: Energy Impact on Suffolk Coast 2019, commissioned by the Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation (DMO))

Note that this does not include the negative impacts of further energy projects in the area.

• Social Objective (NPF S2.8b)

The area is considered to have a strong social fabric. This is derived from the area being attractive to retirees and second-home owners and their commitment to preserving and maintaining its characteristics. Many contribute voluntarily their accumulated experience and expertise to sustaining the community, all toward its health, social and cultural wellbeing.

The coastal stretch from Thorpeness is home to charitable organisations:

- Sizewell Hall
- Suffolk Christian Camps
- The Warden's Trust.

These provide valuable holiday and rest facilities for Christian groups, young people, the disabled and disadvantaged.

Along the same stretch is the popular Beach View Holiday Park which offers a wide-range of accommodation including camping and caravan facilities for all families and is safe location and attractive as a base to cycle and walk the countryside.

All these will be adversely affected by the entry point at Thorpeness and the cable route of the proposed development and then again arising from further potential developments.

The area has long been a source of inspiration for artists, poets and writers and composers. These continue and the legacy is most exemplified in the Britten-Pears Arts facilities in Aldeburgh (The Red House) and Snape Maltings. The latter is now an international centre for the arts, but is more than two concert halls. It offers facilities for young composers and musicians to develop their talents in inspirational surroundings; it runs programmes for young people from urban areas and rehabilitation programmes for those of Hollesley Bay Colony. Many of these initiatives are supported by volunteers.





Pro Corda at Leiston Abbey provides music-based courses and outreach for young people – around 50% of whom have special educational needs and disabilities.

This area of creativity has been the catalyst for a great range of cultural festivals which take place throughout the year.

• Environmental Objective (NPF S2.8c)

Following from the above, there is a need to preserve the area for its rural nature and opportunities and overall peace and tranquillity. The area is home to an Area of Outstanding National Beauty and areas of Special Scientific and Special Interest; nature reserves at Minsmere (north of Sizewell) and North Warren (between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh). These are maintained and supported by active organisations which are reliant on enthusiastic voluntary supporters – RSPB; Suffolk Wildlife Trust; Suffolk Preservation Society; Alde and Ore Trust. Whilst Friston is on the edge of these areas, it forms part of the sweep of the countryside and is home to its own biodiversity.

Building a strong, competitive economy and Supporting a prosperous rural economy: (NPF S6)

Visitor numbers and above national average house prices are testimony to a continuing attractive and prosperous area. The challenge is to maintain and preserve the balance of the economy, not least:

'sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. (NPF S6.83a and 83b)

Promoting healthy and safe communities (NPF S8)

It is here that the development proposals are at their most damaging and those effects will be magnified by the likelihood of additional projects. These will require:

- Entry points along a fragile and much-used coastal footpath;
- Cable corridors and construction consolidation sites which will scar the landscape; cut-off footpaths, loss of open spaces; disrupt communities and accessibility across the countryside for residents and visitors.
- The fear of this cumulative expansion of infrastructure (interconnectors et al) is the gradual swallowing up of the countryside. Could Sizewell merge with Leiston and Leiston expands to embrace Aldringham, Knodishall and Friston?
- Arising from all this activity are the hazards arising from construction equipment; construction traffic – pollution from emissions, noise (see separate S9 of this report) and most importantly, safety which is addressed separately in S8





Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (NPF S15)

We emphasise the most important as relevant to the area and Friston:

- *Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity;*
- *Maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;*
- *Preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. (NPF S15.170)*

The issues relating to pollution have been highlighted above, but we add flood risk.

Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty. (NPF S15.172)

Friston is part of the sweep of the landscape and should be assessed as such. It is at the heart of the Sandlings Walk.

Within areas defined as Heritage Coast, planning policies and decisions should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within a Heritage Coast is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with its special character. (NPF S15.173)

Development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. (NPF S15.175b)

- Mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts from new development*
- Identify and protect tranquil areas*
- Limit the impact of light pollution (NPF S15.180a,b,c)*

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (NPF S16)

Heritage assets.....are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved (NPF S16.184)

Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment (NPF S16.185)

Great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (NPF S16.193)

Substantial harm to or loss of grade I and II listed buildings should be wholly exceptional (NPF S16.194b)*





THE PLANNING REGIME FOR NSIPs

The requirements of the planning regime for NSIPs seem far less exacting and altruistic.

These are within the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) which clearly states that *'there is a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications'* **(EN1-4.1.2)**

And where there may be conflict with Local Development Plans/Framework, *'the NPS prevails...given the national significance of the infrastructure'*.

To many, the perception is that 'the industry' is given free rein to justify projects on specious terms, usually under the guise of carbon-free/renewable energy.

This perception arises because just 30 months ago we knew nothing of the Applicant's proposal, yet now we are faced with a total of TWELVE potential projects in this area and that includes the two nuclear reactors of Sizewell C, the construction of which over twelve years will be transformative. How did all this happen?

Behind all this is the opaque role of National Grid/National Grid Ventures which has not been involved in any public consultations about their various proposals, let alone been required to produce its own Development Consent applications.

Yet it is clear that the driving force for these is the need for extra connectivity.

It is quite apparent that this has been recognised by Government in establishing the BEIS Offshore Transmission Review.

Such investment should be diverted to existing facilities, brownfield sites or other areas needing investment as part of the Government's 'levelling up' policies. Certainly, it should not intrude on or disrupt a valuable natural and national asset, necessitating far-off supply chains polluting the environment.

Additionally, it is strongly felt locally that the process has resulted in a lazy and indifferent application – written by consultants in far off places, taking off the shelf their last template and filling in the boxes with little apparent understanding of the area and human concerns for the environment.

This has led to the fear of the unknown and distrust in the Applicant being equipped to deliver the project, if consented, in a timely and sensitive manner.

CONCLUSION

Assessing all of the above, there are the opportunities, and more than that, the need to preserve and manage the area for the young and future generations – that they may come to enjoy all that we have appreciated in our lives. And current Government policies urge us to do that.

We have endeavoured to set out better opportunities and alternatives for the common good and urge rejection of the two applications.





S8 Human Impact – SAFETY AND HEALTH

Summary

This small area of the East Suffolk Coast is well populated with characteristics which make it an attractive area in which to live and similarly for visitors. Accordingly, existing traffic levels are high and the safety concerns arise from the uncertain levels and magnitude of traffic and equipment movements arising not just from the current proposals but also from the cumulative projects already in the public domain and Sizewell C pre-construction work prior to new infrastructure being put in place.

Accordingly, the traffic management proposals require greater clarification and scrutiny and these extend to safety issues identified along the cable route/haul roads.

Friston is exposed to the greatest safety risks given its proximity to the development site and creation of pre-construction and permanent access routes. This is due to the narrowness of its few lanes restricting movement of residents. (see photographs...)

The overlapping and cumulative impacts are such to isolate Friston and it risks becoming an unattractive place in which to live and thereby threatens its future sustainability.

Legislative Framework

In sum, the Applicant's proposals are contrary to the National Planning Framework as presented in February 2019:

- The promotion of social interaction in Friston is reduced.
- Friston becomes less safe and accessible.
- Removes and reduces substantial open spaces for recreation, including public rights of way.
- Fails to guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities.
- Anxiety of the uncertain impacts has resulted in mental and physical stress being detrimental to health, social and cultural wellbeing.

Area Traffic and Equipment Risks

There are major concerns for safety and wellbeing arising from prospective increases in traffic flows in the area. These are in addition to daily traffic flows into the area arising from

- Sizewell workers
- Building and maintenance trades working on other sites and developments in the area
- Daily public and visitor traffic. This is not especially seasonal since the area is attractive to day/short-stay visitors throughout the year.
- Suppliers to the hospitality sector and increasingly delivery vehicles as a result of increasing on-line shopping.

During the pre-construction and construction periods there will be





- HGVs accessing the haul roads
- Other construction traffic (suppliers, workers, sub-contractors etc) for whom controls cannot be enforced will seek to exploit whatever alternative routes offer the quickest and easiest access to avoid congestion elsewhere.
- Existing users seeking likewise alternative routes.

The period of disruption is uncertain but can extend to at least ten, possibly fifteen years depending on the sequencing of

- The proposals under consideration
- The added impacts of those infrastructure projects already in the public domain: eg. National Grid Interconnectors.
- Potential traffic relating to the Sizewell C project, especially in the pre-construction phase before new infrastructure has been installed.

Traffic is likely to be congested for extensive periods; the unfamiliarity with and the narrowness of roads which delivery drivers and visitors especially encounter additionally creates frustration and potential for 'road rage' and dangerous driving. Not only are these fears for safety but will become a deterrent for future visitors thereby reducing the income from tourism.

We identify the major safety risk points and concerns as follows:

- A12/A1094 junction at Friday Street. This is the preferred entry point to the area and already an accident 'blackspot'.
- A1094 Friday Street to Snape Crossroads which is narrow and does not have sufficient space for HGVs passing.
- Snape Crossroads (A1094/B1069 to Snape Maltings, and scenic route to Orford and Woodbridge) and by-road to Sternfield with then options to Friston or Saxmundham. This is a heavily accessed junction and prone to delays for traffic exiting the B1069.
- A1094 Snape to junction of B1121 (Aldeburgh-Saxmundham Road via Friston). This is a straight stretch of road subject to speeding and the curve and drop down to the junction which can be dangerous for users of the B1121 to traverse and then follows the
- A1094/B1069 Blackheath Corner junction which is a busy junction with blind spots. This will be the main access route to the Construction Consolidated site at Knodishall.
- That site will be a safety risk area as it is the crossing point for the cable corridor and haul road and close to Coldfair Green School and facilities of Knodishall.
- A1094/B1122 junction/roundabout at Aldeburgh. This is the main route out of Aldeburgh to Leiston and heavily used. It is especially narrow and difficult at the Aldeburgh end which is residential with on street parking. The increased traffic and navigability are major concerns to Aldeburgh residents. The concern is that construction traffic





(even if HGVs are excluded) will be substantial since it will be the route to the corridor/haul road crossing outside Aldringham and an alternative access route to the onshore entry site at Thorpeness.

- The cable corridor crossing at Aldringham is seen to have safety issues with residents concerned for the health and safety of children walking paths to the Coldfair Green School at Knodishall and the proximity to the cable route/haul road.
- Sizewell residents have expressed concerns relating to the disruption caused by the creation of the cable corridor to the by-road from the B1353 to Sizewell which is seen as integral to the Sizewell Evacuation Plan.
- The cable corridor and haul roads which cross a great area of walking routes – 26 PROWs are to be closed temporarily or diverted and the works over a period of years will be a hazard to walkers and cumulatively a deterrent for visitors.

Friston Specific Safety Issues.

Given the proximity of the village of Friston to the proposed site, the community is exposed to many unacceptable risks.

It is not at all clear from the Applicant's DC application how traffic and access is to be managed within the village in the pre-construction and main construction phases.

The fear is that the ability to 'move around' the village freely and safely will be limited to the point that the village becomes isolated. These fears are substantiated by the experiences of residents at other sites such as Bawdsey.

The outer boundary is marked by the A1094 and then the B1069 from Blackheath Corner to Knodishall

The inner boundary starts at the by-road off the A1094, Mill Road to the Old Chequers Corner and straight across to Grove Road and following that north to Church Road/Church Lane which provides access to the Church, village hall and homes.

These are single lane roads with no pavements. Pedestrians currently compete with traffic, especially farm machinery

This route is already known as being a 'cut through' to the B1119 Saxmundham-Leiston Road and also to Sizewell by-passing Leiston. The route is especially popular for cyclists avoiding main roads.

The B1121 through the village is the 'main' Aldeburgh – Saxmundham Road. It is popular as a route to the supermarkets at Saxmundham and is prone to flooding, excess speeding and associated risks. Efforts for speed reduction have not been successful. This is the only stretch of road which has a pavement, but it is not a walking route other than for homeowners to access the centre of the village, the village hall, church and walking areas.





The most popular of the walking areas is the footpath going north from Church Road which is to be closed if the Applicant is granted development consent.

The other much used footpath leads from the junction of Church Lane/Grove Road towards Knodishall. However, that is adjacent to a proposed pre-construction road to access the cable route and consolidated construction site at Knodishall. Should the route become established, it will still disrupt the footpath. And it will hardly be a scenic walk with noise and fumes.

It is unacceptable that the Applicant has not been open-handed about its aims and the impacts on residents. Nobody has been consulted about the creation and use of this pre-construction access because it creates many hazards and potential risks to safety. Fears are derived from uncertainty as to the nature and magnitude of equipment and traffic to be directed through this narrow stretch of the village with no passing places, residential properties and no pavement.

There are concerns that Church Road / Lane is not used as a cut-through to this access point. It is single lane with no pavement. It is crucial that this is preserved and not subject to alterations since it protects the ambience and tranquillity of the area of the church and village hall and nearby properties.

In addition, it is proposed to construct a permanent access road from the B1121 to the proposed development site. Quite how traffic and machinery will be routed along narrow country lanes to this new access road is not apparent.

It does mean that those residents north of the village will lose the pedestrian walking footpath across to the centre of the village.

That leaves the footpath leading from the village towards Snape and Snape Maltings, but that will be hazardous because it requires traversing an increasingly busy A1094.

Conclusion

Putting all the above together, there are overlapping and cumulative impacts brought on by the siting of the development. Overall, Friston becomes an unattractive place to live. That has serious implications for sustaining the community with the fear that it will wither away.





The narrow roads and Lanes of Friston



Mill Road from Old Chequers junction



Church Road / Lane



Mill Road from Old Chequers junction



Junction of Chase's Lane and Mill Road (note tight bend!)





The Old Chequers junction, Mill Road Grove Road divided by Aldeburgh Saxmundham Road



Friston Mill



Mill Road





S9 Noise

The outer boundary of the construction works associated with EA1(N), EA2 and National Grid substation build is just 25 metres from the fabric of St Mary the Virgin in Friston. All that separates the church from possible encroachment is the narrow lane (Church Lane) and the burial ground.

Maps showing site access, indicate that a pre-construction road will start at the junction of Church Lane and Grove Road, which is a mere 100 metres from the eastern boundary of the burial ground. The termination of the haul road, which services the whole cable corridor is just 250 metres from the church. This means that the church, which is a Grade II* listed building, remains vulnerable to incursion from noise, dust and the close proximity of civil engineering plant and HGVs servicing the site. The only restriction to traffic encroachment appears to be an assurance by the Applicant that no HGVs will be allowed to enter the road network in Friston Village: no assurance has been given regarding all other vehicles.

The church occupies a peaceful setting and typical daytime background noise is in the region of 30-35 dBA. The Applicant has chosen 65 dBA as the target limit for construction noise received at surrounding buildings. However, this is just an 'average' value over an 18-hour working day. Short term noise levels could rise to 75 dBA or more. Substantially higher levels still might be expected when piling is taking place. This will destroy the quiet peace and quiet of the place during services and will be highly intrusive during interments with adverse effect upon mourners in their grief.

The church remains open during the day and offers parishioners and visitors alike a place of rest and quiet contemplation: it is frequently used by local musicians for recordings and performance. This will be lost if the development goes ahead.

Regarding substation noise during the Operational Phase, lasting perhaps 25-30 years, it is suggested that noise in the vicinity of the church (see Plate A25.5.3) will not exceed 25 dBA. However deep concerns remain regarding the deep, intrusive "hum" associated electricity substations and how this might adversely affect evening services.

In summary, all this is at risk as a consequence of an industrial development so close to the church.





S10 Historic Context

S10.1 EAST SUFFOLK CABINET REPORT RE EA1 NORTH AND EA2 OFFSHORE WINDFARM PROPOSALS – 7TH JANUARY 2020 EXTRACT RE ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH

‘12.10. The Church of St Mary is Grade II* listed. The Councils are concerned that the substations developments to the north would challenge the dominance of the church as a landmark building in the village and would therefore cause harm to the significance of the asset. Village churches were built as landmark buildings within settlements; the tallest building which would be a prominent feature in views from within and around the village. Due to its height the church also helps to connect the outlying farmhouses and other buildings to the core of the village, the inter-visibility between the church and other buildings surrounding the village centre is an important part of the church’s significance. The proposed development lies to the north of the church and would block views of the church from the farmhouses that lie to the north of the settlement core on the edge of the historic common land.

12.11. The historic parish boundary between Friston and Knodishall runs directly through the middle of the proposed substation locations. This is represented on the ground by a trackway that is a PRow. This route connects the historic common land to the north to the village core surrounding the church. There are clear views of the church when approaching the village from the north following the PRow. Further research has been completed to ascertain the age and significance of this feature. The PRow is proposed to be re-routed. The Councils are concerned about the destruction of this historic route and loss of an important view of the Grade II* listed church’.





10.2 St. Mary's Friston - A unique building

Friston is a medium-sized village out in the rolling fields beyond Saxmundham and Leiston which seems to have an air of quiet self-sufficiency about it. The train at Saxmundham was an hour off, but I headed south again, from the Saxmundham to Leiston road, under the vast chain of power lines that links the Sizewell nuclear power station with the rest of the country. I recalled vividly coming this way back at the start of the century, on that occasion a darkening afternoon in late November. I had cut a swathe along roads which ran like streams. All around was water, after the wettest autumn for 250 years. The power lines sizzled and cracked as I threaded through the pylons and beneath them, the sound of 10,000 quintillion volts of nuclear-generated electricity urgently seeking the shortest possible path to the ground. This concentrated my mind somewhat, as you may imagine.

And now it was 2019 I was here in spring, the trees *coming into leaf like something almost being said*, and it took me a moment to recognise the lane up to the church, in its huddle of houses with the curiously urban hall opposite.

It must be said that the tower of St Mary is rather striking. The tower seems to be a Victorian rebuild, and quite a late one. Mortlock generously considers that it is an exact copy of what was there before. In all honestly, I would find this doubtful, if it were not for the fact that the architect was Edward Bishopp, a man not best remembered for his creative imagination. The most striking features are the niches,





one in each buttress, and a possible rood group above the west window. This is a bit like the same at Parham and Cotton, and the buttresses like those at Wetheringsett, so they may be original, or perhaps just based on those other churches. The body of the church must be Norman originally, judging by the blocked north door, but there are so many late Perpendicular windows, I wonder if it wasn't entirely rebuilt retaining the doorway sometime in the early 16th century.

As with all the churches around here St Mary is open daily, an evocative and intimate space which you step down into to be confronted by the Parish of Friston's most famous possession. This is the massive James I coat of arms. It is fully eight feet wide and six feet high, carved from boards six inches thick. The story goes that it was found in pieces in the belfry by Munro Cautley during his trawl of Suffolk churches in the 1930s. In his capacity as Diocesan architect, he insisted that the churchwardens repair it, and restore it to its rightful place. However, since the chancel tympanum where it had hung had been removed by the Victorians, this presented the churchwardens with an interesting problem. So, they solved it by attaching the arms to the north wall of the nave, level with the tops of the pews, where it remains. It is not in great condition, but it is rather extraordinary to be able to see it at such close quarters.

The nave is long and narrow, under an arch-braced roof. The 19th century font stands on an upturned medieval one as its pedestal, with a rather good early 20th century font cover. At the other end of the church is something rather remarkable, an unspoiled late Victorian chancel. So many of these have been whitewashed in the last fifty years or so, but this is utterly charming, the walls painted and stencilled in pastel shades, and an ornate text running around the top of the walls. The finishing touch is Powell & Son's lush Risen Christ flanked by Mary and John in the east window. Another nice detail is the Mothers Union banner. Thousands of these were embroidered from kit form in the early 20th Century, but as at neighbouring Knodishall the one here has been customised with a hand-painted central image of the Blessed Virgin and child.

A memorial board reminds the parishioners of Friston that *In the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven, the Reverend John Lambert bequeathed to the parish the sum of two hundred pounds, to be placed in the 3£ per cent consols, and the interest thereof to be distributed by the churchwardens every Christmas ___ for ever:*





to poor Housekeepers who should not for twelve months preceding have received Pay of the Parish. The missing word must be Day or Eve, but it has been eradicated at some point, perhaps for legal technical reasons, possibly because of the difficulty of getting to the bank in Saxmundham on a public holiday.

Two hundred pounds was a fairly large amount of money in 1811, roughly equivalent to forty thousand pounds today, and for ever must have seemed an enticing prospect. However, consols were effectively bonds, their value remaining the same but offering a guaranteed return (in this case three per cent) based on the perceived annual growth in the economy. Like endowment mortgages, they would turn out to be a fairly short-sighted enthusiasm. The safe return from consols came to an end as a result of the great depression of the 1870s and 1880s, and inflation thereafter reduced such holdings to almost nothing. The Reverend Lambert would have been better off investing in land or gold, but such is the gift of hindsight, of course.

Simon Knott, May 2019
www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/friston





10.3 CHURCH OF ST MARY

www.historicengland.org.uk

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II*

List Entry Number: 1287864

Date first listed: 07-Dec-1966

Statutory Address:

CHURCH OF ST MARY, CHURCH ROAD

Statutory Address:

CHURCH OF ST MARY, CHURCH ROAD

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Suffolk

District: East Suffolk (District Authority)

Parish: Friston

National Grid Reference: TM 41350 60488

Details In the entry for:-

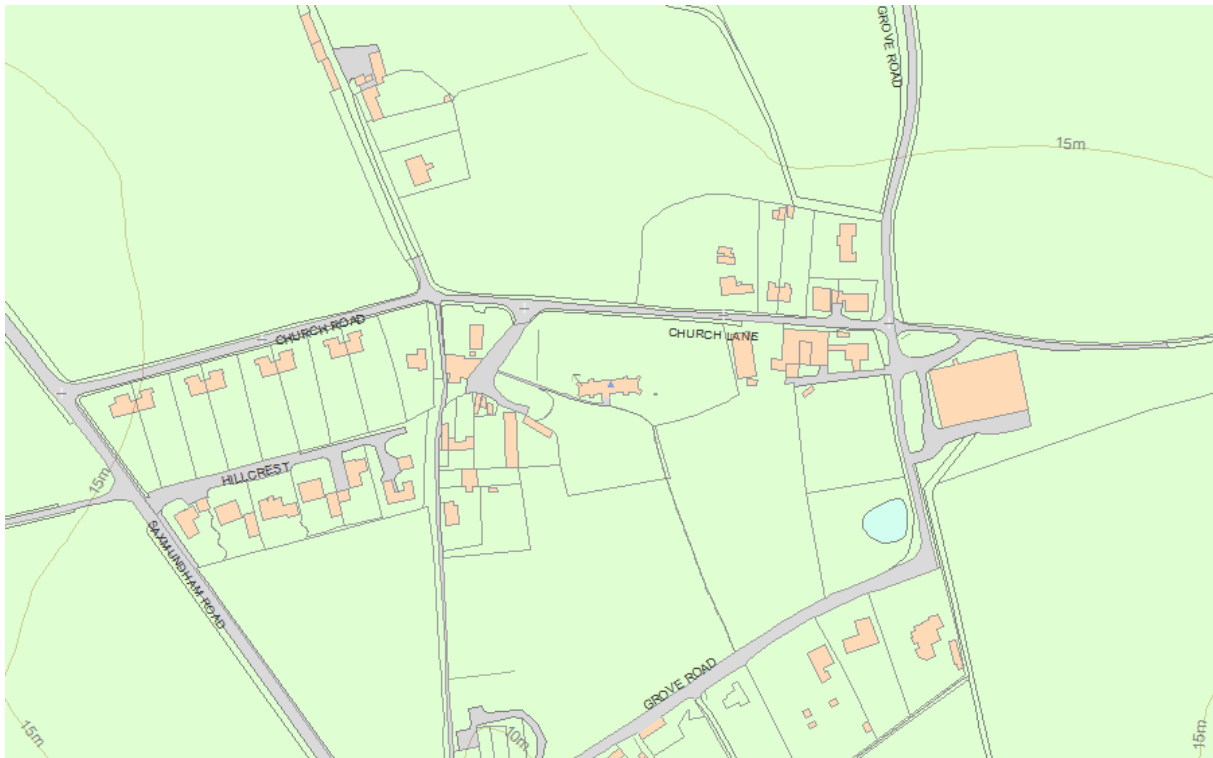
TM 46 SW FRISTON CHURCH ROAD

4/8 Church of St Mary

GV 7.12.66 II*

Parish Church. Remains of C11 structure in north wall; some C12 work; Main body of the church C14 and C15; post-Reformation additions of several dates, detailed below; restorations and redecorations of the late C19 and early C20 concentrated at the west and east ends respectively. Flint with cement rendering; brick porch and buttresses; roof of tile with lower verge of slate. Chancel of three irregularly spaced bays; nave of seven bays; west tower of three stages with broad, setback angle buttresses; west organ loft of wood. The chancel is not set off from the nave by an arch, being demarcated by a single step to choir area; this level change as well as the painted decorations in the chancel date to 1913 and are, according to a brass fixed to the single lancet in the south side of the chancel, a memorial to Emily Sophia Hills; the timber framing to the roof appear to date from this refurbishment. Chancel with three-light window, curvilinear tracery is late C19 work and is filled with memorial glass dated 1895. Arched timber principals to nave, the area above the collar plastered, like the underside of the roof wall plate moulded. The mouldings on the roof suggest a late C15 date; there is also some suggestion that the timbers may have been reused from another structure, perhaps in the late medieval period. Pair of two-light C15-styled windows to north wall of nave; lancet with Y tracery on line between chancel and nave to south; two-light Perpendicular window to side of entrance porch and a two-light Decorated window to the other side. Entrance to south of the nave dates to the C12. Segmental pointed arch to tower. Interior fixtures and fittings include: benches to nave of mid to late C19; choir stalls of same date partly removed; octagonal font at west end, centre of aisle; sacrarium enclosed by a wood and metal rail and elevated; painted wood reredos dating to early C20. Fine





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wood coat of arms of James I to the north nave wall; early C17 pulpit mounted on a C19 or C20 base, may perhaps be a married piece; holy table by main door; in 1988 new window installed by Mrs. Vernon Wentworth of the Blackheath Mansion Friston.

Excavations in 1983 and 1988 have revealed two new features of note: in the north nave wall a round-arched door evidently of C11 date; to the east of the south door a staircase dating probably to the C14. No evidence for the latter visible from outside or from within; the former left exposed but blocked. Exterior features of note: south porch of brick with wood verge boards and pointed diaphragm arch of C18. West tower rebuilt in facsimile in 1900-1, its three- light west window with reticulated tracery; grouping of trefoiled arches and bell louvre to top stage, an unusual feature; two-light bell louvres to each of remaining top stages of tower. The nave is noteworthy for having been very little restored in the nineteenth century.

----- TM 46 SW FRISTON CHURCH ROAD

4/8 Church of St Mary 7.12.66

GV II*





Parish church. Mainly C14 and C15, much restored C19 and early C20. C18 south porch. Flint, with cement render to nave and chancel and brick buttresses; plain tile roof. South porch of brick, pantiled roof. Early C14 west tower, entirely rebuilt 1900-1 as exact replica of old; 3 stages, diagonal stepped buttresses extending above parapet. West face has 3 trefoil and cinquefoil headed niches in upper stage; a further trefoil headed niche to upper face of each buttress. Nave south doorway is C12; south side of nave and chancel with windows of C13 and late C14/early C15. Nave has medieval arch-braced roof; chancel restored C19 with painted walls and ceiling. Fine wooden coat of arms of James I on north nave wall, restored. Early C17 pulpit; C17 holy table by main door. Graded for surviving medieval work.

Listing NGR: TM4135060488

LEGACY

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: 400999

Legacy System: LBS

LEGAL

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

End of official listing





PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

S11.1 Submission to planning authorities re SPR development in Friston by Rev Mark Lowther

I am the Rector of the Alde Sandlings Benefice – that's made up of the parishes of Aldeburgh, Aldringham, Friston and Knodishall. All four of the parishes will be affected by the proposed development by SPR but Friston will, of course, be by far the most seriously disturbed.

You will have heard from people much better qualified than I am to speak about technical matters and about environmental matters. But when I was licensed by our Bishop to be the incumbent of the four parishes five years ago I promised to share with him the 'cure of souls' of everyone living there. 'Cure' means 'care' - and I really mean of everyone – not just those who come to church. That's the joy and the responsibility of being a Church of England parish priest. So I'm here to talk specifically about people and the effect that the development will have on them and their everyday lives.

In preparation for this submission I opened the local Ordnance Survey map and looked at the distance between Friston village and the coast – it's almost 6km as the crow flies. I looked at the length of the proposed cable corridor which is, of course, considerably longer. And I looked at the proximity of the proposed development to Friston village – the corner of the huge proposed substation would be about 400 metres from Friston's Grade II*-listed church and the houses in Church Road, and the parcel of land allocated for development considerably closer – as little as 100 metres from the churchyard and at the end of some peoples' gardens. And the more I looked, the less sense it all made. Yes, I've heard all of the technical explanations about why the site makes sense to Scottish Power Renewables but I simply don't think the people of Friston have been taken into account in anything like the way that they deserve – I'm afraid the expression 'collateral damage' came to mind.

The population of Friston is predominantly on the older side, with many having chosen to retire there. Investments (and I absolutely don't just mean financial) have been made in the village and its community. Those investments will suffer irreparable harm should this development go ahead. And if the development itself is bad then its construction will be even worse. It's all very well to say that 'in time' things will calm down again, construction roads will be removed, the impact will be reduced etc etc but that doesn't help someone in their retirement years who will have to live through the worst of it all.

People matter. No amount of money can adequately compensate a life turned





upside-down by a home taken away. I am already aware of people who are so worried and frightened by what might happen that their health (both physical and mental) is becoming affected.

One further matter for concern – tourism. Again others will have gone into detail about the tourist industry but I think primarily of the people working in that industry – battered by all of the recent losses caused by Covid-19 (and with who knows what still to come on that score) and now also looking at a future where – well, think about it. If you were looking for somewhere to rent a holiday cottage for a week or two, would you choose somewhere where the local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was being dug up to build a cable-run for a substation? Where does that leave those whose income depends on those tourists? Not just those who own cottages but those who work in the local pubs and restaurants (and, my word, they've suffered enough recently, wouldn't you think?). Those who work in the shops that depend on visitors for their trade (and they've had a pretty hard time too, haven't they?) And once those tourists have gone elsewhere there is no guarantee that they will ever come back. More lives ruined. Once again, people matter.

I'd also like to add my voice to those who have been critical of the timing of this proposed development. The government's ongoing 'Offshore Transmission Network Review' is of vital importance to the way offshore power – and the Prime Minister's recent pledge that in 10 years' time all homes will be powered by offshore-wind-generated electricity – goes ahead. Surely it makes sense to put the brakes on SPR's proposals until the outcome of this review is available.

Finally, and I know that others will have covered this in much more detail, it's not that there are no alternatives. It absolutely doesn't have to be this way. Solutions are available that would mean that less people suffer. And surely, if that is the case, then alternatives to a scheme that will really really hurt people, must be looked at.





PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

S11.2 Address to open floor planning hearings - 8th October 2020 by Peter Fife, Churchwarden

My wife and I expressed an interest in this meeting and said that we wanted to hear what was being said and to speak, if called upon to do so. It was with some surprise that I was asked to speak, but I am, nevertheless, grateful for the opportunity. I do not claim any expertise in these complex planning matters, but I speak as one who has some common sense and has grown to love the village of Friston and the surrounding countryside during the 15 years we have peacefully lived here. I have become increasingly distressed by the impending devastation that this proposed development would bring and want to add my insignificant voice to oppose it. I will speak on three of the matters which concern me most and will leave technical matters to those who are qualified to do so.

Firstly, the Church.

I declare an interest here as a churchwarden but I am sure my comments will be shared by many in the village, whether they are churchgoers or not. The church of St Mary the Virgin is a beautiful building standing in a slightly elevated position near the village green. It dates back to the 14th century although parts of it are probably much older. When you think about it, one of the most notable things about the 14th century was the Black Death which resulted in the death of about one third of the population of Europe. This puts the Covid 19 pandemic into perspective, at least so far! The placing of a huge series of transformer stations overlooking the church, let alone in sight of much of the rest of the village, is commercial vandalism of the worst kind. An alternative must be found

Secondly, environment and the view.

If you walk from the church in Friston up a public footpath to the north, you will pass through fields as you go towards Saxmundham. It is really one of the loveliest walks you could imagine, now more frequently used because of the Covid lockdown. You will see wild flowers of all descriptions in their season (including, so my wife says, orchids) and, if you are lucky wild animals including foxes, badgers and even red deer (I am told that this area contains the largest population of red deer in Britain outside Scotland). If the proposed development goes ahead, one's path would be blocked by steel fencing surrounding the enormous development which Scottish Power and National Grid have planned. Never again would people be able to enjoy this priceless amenity. Once it's gone, it's gone.





Thirdly, traffic and the roads.

At the present time, the roads in the area are narrow, often with passing places, designed and sufficient to service the local population and visitors. Any so-called 'improvement' of these roads would destroy much of the landscape which has developed over the centuries. In answer to the question 'Wouldn't you like a better road system?' most local people would reply 'No, we're content with what we have'. In order to cope with the huge increase in heavy traffic during the construction phase of 10 years or so many of these narrow roads would need widening and straightening which would destroy much of the character of the area.

To conclude, there is a point I would like to mention:

Please do not place too much reliance on all the photographs and maps Scottish Power have provided in support of their case. They may not be all they seem. I do not suggest they have been 'doctored' in any way but I have lived here for many years and had difficulty identifying what is shown. They have been cleverly taken and prepared to show countryside but the houses in the village and the Grade II* listed church are just off picture.



Reflections from a Suffolk Village

Warm sun on cool stone a church tower stands amongst patchwork fields. Furrow and ditch, brambled verge and ancient mound. Native hedgerows and ancient walkways through woodland and heath: spiky hawthorn and Field Maple, gnarly Oak and golden Bullace. Whispers of people past: farmer, miller, shoemaker, thatcher, blacksmith and soldier. Bowater, Hambling, Smith and Wright; voices of families past and present
– DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY.

Buzzard soaring on thermal winds, darting Hobby and quivering Kestrel. Rook Crow and Jackdaw, corvid murmeration, family ties. Summer visitors, speedy swallow and swift, glide through midges dancing above waving grass. Skylarks' liquid song rising high in the sky. A big Suffolk sky reaching down to the Alde, silvery in the light, slipping and sliding on its long journey to the sea. Whistles and wails of Curlew and Lapwing: sad lonely sounds through the rustling reeds, whispering
– DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY.

Up, along and down: Grove Road, Low Road, Chase's Lane. Past Long house, brick cottage, thatched roof, schoolhouse. Armless Windmill standing high under the Suffolk sky. The big Suffolk Sky. Springtime garlands of Daffodils dancing and smiling in memory of those loved and lost. Ivy-thick trees buzzing with life, rabbit hole, molehill, spidery webs and newty puddles. Open spaces, hidden paths; Donkey Lane, Mill Road, Church Path and St Mary's standing serenely, warm sun on cool stone –
DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY.

Visiting gardens tucked behind charming cottages, hidden gems and nurtured plots with strawberry and sweet pea, towering hollyhock and lavender alive with bees. New ventures and old time experience – neatly mown lawns and wildlife haven. Hot summer days of beautiful old motors: polished silver, shiny paint, leathery seats and leathery faces. Smiles and laughter with glasses of bubbles, sandwiches in hampers, cream teas, beers and burgers. Classic vehicles chugging and purring, coughing and roaring
– DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY.

Quiet summer evenings, silence broken by a gnawing wasp and a rustling hedgehog. Bright stars, distant planets, dark Suffolk skies. The silent ghostly shape of a Barn Owl, the familiar 'twit' and 'who' of Tawnies in the churchyard. Bats flitting down country lanes and through gardens. Winter wind and muffled nothingness in the snowy trees. Music from the church: organ, harp and familiar carols sung with joy amongst friends. Festive lights and mulled wine, wood smoke and a late Robin singing wistful in the night
– DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY FROM US. IT CAN NEVER BE REPLACED





Appendix: 1 Schedule of Related Projects Supplied by SASES.org.uk

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION FOR SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS (DEADLINE 1) SCHEDULE OF RELATED PROJECTS

Interested Party: Friston Parochial Church Council

PINS Refs: 20023636 & 20023639

Date: 26 October 2020

Project Name	Sponsor	PINS Reference	Published references	Likely Activity Dates (rough)
East Anglia 1 North wind farm	Scottish Power Renewables	EN010077	DCO Application	2021-2027
East Anglia 2 wind farm	Scottish Power Renewables	EN010078	DCO Application	2021-2027
NGET Leiston 400kV Substation	National Grid	Part of EN010077 & EN010078	Refer to page 20 para 2 of https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/document/132296/download	2021-2025
Nautilus Interconnector	National Grid Ventures	Pre-Application	https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/what-we-do/national-grid-ventures/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future/nautilus and http://sases.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/National-Grid-Briefing-Note-Interconnectors-Sizewell.pdf	2022-2028
Eurolink Interconnector	National Grid Ventures	TBA	http://sases.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/National-Grid-Briefing-Note-Interconnectors-Sizewell.pdf	2022-2028
Sizewell B Relocation	EdF	N/A	https://rlfsizewellb.co.uk/	2022-2028
Reconductoring of Sizewell to Bramford OHLs	National Grid	NA	Refer to para 5.1 of https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/userfiles/file/National_Grid_COIN_Process_Connection_Assessment_Note.pdf	2025-2027
Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station	EdF	EN010012	https://www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/edf-szc4-sumdoc_digital_compressed.pdf	2023-2035
Greater Gabbard Extension wind farm	North Falls	TBA	Event dates for https://www.northfallsoffshore.com/ Grid connection granted or pending	2022-2030
Galloper Extension wind farm	Five Estuaries	TBA	https://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/united-kingdom/project-dates-for-five-estuaries-uk4i.html	2022-2028
SCD1 Interconnector	National Grid	TBA	Appendix 1 of https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/document/134036/download NOA Page 100 refers to SCD1 https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/162356/download	2022-2028
SCD2 Interconnector	National Grid	TBA	NOA Page 100 refers to SCD2 https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/162356/download	2025-2032
Other projects targeting "Sizewell"	TBA	TBA	NGET Investment Decision Pack Page 17 refers to East Anglia Offshore Wind connections: https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/document/132296/download NGESO Review document page 112 refers to Sizewell https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/177221/download	2025-2035



