

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North; East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: Written Representation for deadline 5 Fiona Gilmore Open Floor Hearings
Date: 03 February 2021 20:38:40
Attachments: [Written Representation for deadline 5 Fiona Gilmore 20210203.pdf](#)

Ref : EA1N 20024391
Ref: EA2. 20024393

Dear Rynd Smith

This is the oral submission which I had prepared for the recent Open Floor Hearings and which I was unable to present given the intensity of the morning session. The virtual aspect did not help and it would have been easier to deliver in a physical Hearing at Snape Maltings.

I hope that you will please accept it for Deadline 5.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Gilmore

Sent from my iPad

Written Representation from Fiona Gilmore in respect of Deadline 5:

Introduction

I have lived here in coastal Suffolk permanently for the last five years and I have had a home in this area for over 30 years. I first visited coastal Suffolk as a choir member of the Cambridge University Choir. We sang Bach's Mass in B Minor at Snape Maltings before an audience that included Benjamin Britten, in the last year of his life. We picnicked on Aldeburgh Beach and I developed a bond with the place and its history from that day. Local residents may be polite and understated but ScottishPower's plans have caused deep distress to a significant number. The existential threat is scary.

The Geography points to the solution for siting onshore infrastructure at a brownfield site:

1. If we were starting with a blank canvas, Friston would **not** be regarded as a suitable site for a vast industrial complex of substations and inter-connectors. Janice Turner wrote about the lunacy of this in The Times on 29 October 2020 (<https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk/news/wasteful-windpower-firms-will-feel-the-force>), when she wrote: 'Such stupid vandalism. How can clean energy be so dirty?'
2. Comparing Friston with Bramford and Bradwell, we can easily show why the latter two places are better suited:

2.1. Friston

- 2.1.1. Location: Friston is more than 4 miles from the A12 along the A1094, to a winding, single carriageway of country lanes; parts of the A12 from Woodbridge to the south are also single carriageway.
- 2.1.2. Proximate to successful tourism destinations at Aldeburgh and Thorpeness
- 2.1.3. Quintessentially, rural village in a quintessentially, rural environment. Mosaic Data for Population Profile ascribes two classifications: 'A': Country Living and 'G': Rural Reality for Aldeburgh and Friston districts (*see Appendix One for a link to these classifications*).
- 2.1.4. Friston has a Pub and a Church, and no shops
- 2.1.5. Population size: 353
- 2.1.6. Population size of construction/traffic impacted route:
 - 2.1.6.1. Aldringham cum-Thorpe including Thorpeness 781
 - 2.1.6.2. Knodishall 790
 - 2.1.6.3. Friston 353
 - 2.1.6.4. Aldeburgh 2,418
 - 2.1.6.5. Snape 683
 - 2.1.6.6. Sternfield 113
 - 2.1.6.7. Leiston 5,751
 - 2.1.6.8. Saxmundham 2,509
 - 2.1.6.9. Total: 13,398 (*source: Suffolk Observatory 2020*)
- 2.1.7. There are pylons, but there is no connection to the grid and the pylons would need to be upgraded.
- 2.1.8. To get to Friston, the cable trench route will gouge through the Thorpeness Beach cliffs, the Sandlings, AONB, SSSI heathland, and wetlands, while running cheek by jowl with residential homes, PROWs, and a primary school. The proposed construction works will close main routes for access to amenities for village community groups at Thorpeness, Knodishall and Aldringham.

2.1.9. Friston village will be in a word, ruined. The proposed substation site is on top of the village within 30 metres of villagers' homes, not just disrupting life but invading the community's haven in every sense. The noise, light and dust pollution potentially over 12-15 years of construction will make life intolerable for many Friston villagers.

2.1.10. The construction site could be as large as 130 acres, slightly bigger than the Vatican City.

2.2. **Bramford**

2.2.1. Location: one mile from A14, a dual carriageway with easy access to the substation site and also close to Felixstowe Port for delivery of materials.

2.2.2. A medium-sized village, three miles west of Ipswich County Town (population c700,000) with a developed substation site at Bullen Lane.

2.2.3. EA1 has already been connected to the grid at Bramford. EA3 will be connected to the grid at Bramford. It was the original site planned for EA1N and EA2.

2.2.4. Bramford has some retail business including a Co-Op, a Grocers, West End Carpets. It will expand in size if housing proposals get the go-ahead.

2.2.5. Current population is 1,847.

2.2.6. Importantly, the substation site has spare capacity for more substations and it is located over a mile from the actual village of Bramford. It is concealed from houses and the surrounding villages. It is North of Burstall, a small village with a population of around 200. The cable trenches are already in place and with landfall at Bawdsey. The connection to the grid has already been upgraded.

2.3. **Bradwell**

2.3.1. A substation site owned by National Grid exists next to the defunct nuclear power station site. It is located close to the sea and therefore cable trenching would not be an issue. Transportation of materials would or could be by sea or by land. It is a purpose-built, semi-industrialised site.

2.3.2. The village of Tillingham is situated three miles south of Bradwell Substation. St Lawrence bay is situated 3 miles southwest of Bradwell Substation. Osea Island is six miles southwest. Bradwell Waterside is a small hamlet and Bradwell-on-Sea is about a mile away from the substation site.

2.3.3. Local Councils are backing wind energy in favour of a new nuclear power station for this site.

2.3.4. This site is closer to London where the power is needed. The connection to the grid would need to be updated but if this site was to become a site for at least eight substations and inter-connectors, the cost of upgrading would be negligible. Bradwell or Grain would be a more logical connection site for the new projects designed to connect with other countries. These projects include SCD1 and SCD2.

3. **Suffolk Heritage Coast and its Ethereal Beauty**

3.1. Friston is situated beside the Suffolk Heritage Coast, close to the Sandlings, the shoreline of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh.

3.2. The "Heritage Coast" classification scheme was initiated in 1972 to protect coastline of special scenic and environmental value from "undesirable development".

3.3. The region is endowed with an abundance of river estuaries, including the Alde and Ore, the Deben, the Blyth and the Orwell. The Alde and Ore is Suffolk's longest estuary at nearly 16 miles long. The Deben estuary is 10 miles long and is home to 40% of Suffolk's salt marsh. The River Hundred and the River Butley are located in this region.

- 3.4. A recently released film in 2021, “The Dig”, is a celebration of the unspoilt and spectacular countryside around Sutton Hoo, the River Deben, the Alde and Ore and the River Butley at Boyton Dock. We urge the ExA to see this film because it captures the spirit of this place more effectively than any Written Representation. This place is unique, partly thanks to the geography.
- 3.5. The variety of flora and fauna, rare habitats, rich biodiversity, the landscapes, moody seas and vast skies have inspired poets, musicians and artists through the ages. Benjamin Britten’s work is inextricably linked with the spirit of the place and the people, notably Peter Grimes, Curlew River, Albert Herring and Noye’s Fludde. “If wind and water could write music, it would sound like Ben’s”, said Sir Yehudi Menuhin. Maggi Hambling’s painting “Wild Summer Sea” conjures up the fascination and menace of the capricious seas off the coast of Aldeburgh. W.G. Sebald created an Elegy in praise of coastal Suffolk in “The Rings of Saturn”. Its hauntingly beautiful narrative mirrors the sights and sounds of Nature so typical of this region.
- 3.6. Tourism is the main business sector for the Suffolk Heritage Coast. This micro-economy is also under threat.

4. Fragile ecosystem which cannot be regenerated; its value is priceless

- 4.1. Many members of the local communities have referred to the fragility of the landscape, threatened by flooding and erosion. SPR’s plans pose a different kind of threat; this threat is man-made.
- 4.2. Many have referenced the risk to rare habitats. Cable trenches will cause untold destruction. Severed corridors over many years will dissect rare habitats. We will lose the pure red deer, nightingales, sky larks, badgers and bats. We will reduce the rich biodiversity at the banks of the River Hundred and in the Sandlings. We are individually and collectively responsible for any failure to protect these priceless assets.
- 4.3. A new Report was published on 2 February 2021 by Sir Partha Sarathi Dasgupta, the Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Cambridge, and states at its start, ‘Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature’. (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>). It is significant that the Final Report of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta has joined in the debate around the value of our Biodiversity, otherwise we may continue to side-line the question of safeguarding Nature for our descendants.
- 4.4. To quote this report further: “It is costly and difficult, if not impossible, to coax an ecosystem back to health once it has tipped into a new state”.
- 4.5. And further: “The solution starts with understanding and accepting a simple truth: our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it”.

5. How can the ExA take account of the true value of what is threatened, what is at stake here?

- 5.1. The White Paper, the Dasgupta Biodiversity Review, the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference (*due to take place on 12 November later this year in Glasgow*), all lead on to expect a transformation in actions, not just talk. We believe that the context in coastal Suffolk should be given a higher order of significance than ScottishPower and National Grid have awarded it. Anyone who has spent a short holiday in the region would know intuitively that these plans are ill-conceived and should be rejected in their current form.
- 5.2. In July 2019, we set up a community action group called SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions), since which time we now have thousands of supporters who believe that we should propose a constructive way forward. We support the UK’s goals to achieve 40GW of offshore wind energy by 2030, however we have deep misgivings about the way that the Applicant has had total disregard for the onshore environment in its plans for onshore substation solutions.

5.3. We urge the ExA therefore to consider making a ‘split decision’, in other words, to consent to the offshore elements of the Applicant’s plans but reject the onshore plans because the onerous adverse impacts of the Applicant’s plans outweigh the benefits, as we have stated in our Written Representations continuously during these examinations.

Fiona Gilmore

Snape

3 February 2021

Appendix One

For details of the Mosaic Public Sector classifications, please go to the following link and scroll down to page 11 to 15, in particular for category A, go to p11, and for category G, go to p13:

<https://www.experian.co.uk/assets/marketing-services/brochures/mosaic-ps-brochure.pdf>