

## Objections to SPR Plans for Substation in Friston

May 22nd 2021

**IP20023333**

A few weeks ago SPR put road signs on [REDACTED] and many local residents did not know why the signs appeared and then mysteriously disappeared 48 hours later. After contacting them about our concerns we received an explanation. We would have expected the community to be told in advance of the details of all investigative works instead of after the event. It feels like this is a foretaste of what is to come and how SPR treat our community.

We are concerned that if SPR plans are approved National Grid will have the opportunity to continue with additional substations blighting the area for many years to come.

SPR have failed to understand the fragility of the cliffs at Thorpeness and the existential threat to the village of Friston. The local community have no faith in the independence of the surveys carried out.

These works will destroy this part of Suffolk, it's quiet rural beauty, it's ancient woodlands , natural habitats and the life of its communities. The consultation process were simply roadshows with photo montages and empty promises. As a community we feel bulldozed by their attitude.

They want to do all they can to avoid being part of the BEIS review which is looking for a holistic and less damaging solution to the question of how to connect offshore energy to that National Grid. Any company that took their corporate responsibility seriously would want to engage in such a process.

We do not challenge the offshore location of the construction of EA1N and EA2 but we do challenge the proposed siting of the onshore infrastructure. Our local MP and Cabinet member has spoken of the "devastating impact" of SPR's plans. Therese Coffey is recommending that the Inspectors recommend a "split decision", allowing the construction of the wind turbines but giving more time for a better plan for the onshore infrastructure to be developed.

Boris Johnson in Prime Ministers Question Time last week agreed that an onshore grid is needed which would 'have minimal disruption for local communities'. We implore SPR, National Grid and the Secretary of State to look into to building an onshore structure that would not destroy the village of Friston and its communities as well as the natural fragile beauty of Thorpeness and the surrounding area.

Jill and Peter Donker Curtius

