

Dear Mr Smith and Examiners

Re: DEADLINE 5 Submission - East AngliaOneNorth - EN010077 - Reference 20023458 & East Anglia Two Project - EN010078 - Reference 200023459

I suspect that this will be my final letter to you regarding the planned construction by Scottish Power and National Grid.

Having viewed the proceedings over the past 3 years I feel it is important to summarise below my reaction:

Friston was, with the exception of Snape Village, (which was totally overlooked by SPR) the last community to be addressed by Scottish Power and presented with their extraordinary plans for this exceptionally quiet and tranquil village. The village was STUNNED as we looked at a montage of a village we couldn't recognise.

Below is a list of the first presentations – why not Aldeburgh?

- Sizewell beach
- Orford Castle
- Southwold
- Lowestoft

At that presentation, which was farcical in its nature we were met by a body of PR people, some just out of university, who came bearing the good news that :

“we will straighten out your roads for you”

“there is not point in objecting to the plans as you won't win”

“I won't bring my children to either holiday or live in this village once we have constructed the substations”

“you are more intelligent than we expected!”

“the woodland will protect you from the impact” – That woodland is now being felled in large part by Ash Die Back.

Importantly we were asked “*Please suggest alternative sites*”? Can you imagine how shellshocked the community were, a group of approximately 50 people attended the presentation, mostly over retirement age? The community’s idea of substations and trenches at that point were rather limited – the size of a trench resembling those constructed by the gas companies or water providers, not the width of the M25 (including haul roads!). In addition, we most certainly did not want to proverbially drop our neighbours in it! In fact, I would suggest that all in the room agree with the fact that wind farms are absolutely necessary and welcome their development.

At that meeting and subsequently we were advised that SPR had fulfilled their legal responsibility to alert the public by advertising their plans in the press – I have to assure you that should a survey be taken no one in Friston reads the Fishing News or similar publication. Unlikely to read the Lowestoft Journal or the Eastern Daily Press.

So the nightmare commenced and has continued over the last two years. We are now facing the village looking more like the Somme than the tranquil village that it is and which you have come to know during the course of your visits. The loudest noise at present is the pigs squabbling and the farm vehicles passing speedily along the lanes.

We have heard that the site selection of Friston was due to the village being classed as “*urban industrial*” – How is it possible to describe Friston as “*Urban Industrial*”? Such a description makes me question whether SPR’s employees/consultants had sat down with Google Maps aerial views of the village, spotted the duck farm that sits on the far edge of the village and thought the buildings were a factory? This description was given by the same representative who said he wouldn’t want to holiday or live with his family in Friston. One of the few so-called experts that were present in the village hall on that first fatal day!

The Applicant and National Grid Ventures continue to hide behind the Rochdale Envelope – it was interesting to note how Mr Innes for the Applicant objected to the description of the FRISTON BUZZ – undoubtedly there will be a BUZZ and it will be at FRISTON so why pretend it won’t be present?

Cumulative Impact

As you are by now well aware the cumulative impact on the area will be immense and I will not go into the detail here. However, I thought you should be made cognisant of the following:

Scottish Power Ventures and National Grid claims that the building of the substations at Friston will create jobs. That may be the case for a very few in Lowestoft but certainly not for the local economy which is heavily reliant on the tourist industry and servicing the popular second home market in the surrounding area. I refer you to the map below that was Published: 7:00 PM June 1, 2021 in the East Anglian Daily Times – if this application is consented the repercussions regarding unemployment will be huge and Leiston in particular will experience even greater levels of deprivation.

Income deprivation in your neighbourhood

Deprivation is on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the most deprived

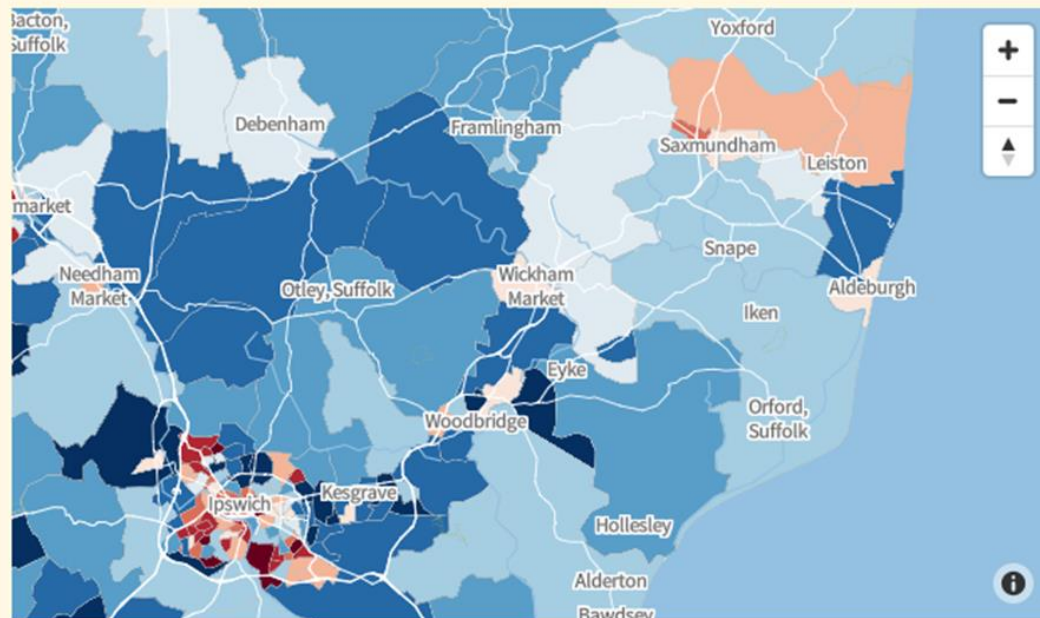
Neighbourhoods are ranked out of 32,844 in England

Income Deprivation

Top 50 most deprived

Top 50 least deprived

1 10



Source: Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

A Flourish map

Across Suffolk and north Essex, 76 neighbourhoods are among the richest 10% of the country - while 30 areas are in the poorest 10%.

In conclusion, I gather from The Applicants that should you consent the building of EA1 North and EA2 then we the residents of Friston will be consulted and listened to re the design/construction of the substation buildings – I seriously ask you to question the feasibility of this community to come up with a workable design, is this really a serious suggestion or yet another fudge? We as a village face annihilation, the current groundwork surveys that we are witnessing are little short of rape of the countryside we love and this is just the beginning.

I also will remind you that there is a serious risk of flash flooding in the village, having lived here for 34 years I have witnessed it at first hand over the years.

Yours sincerely

Sheridan Steen – Friston



Grove Road May 2021 (above) Grove Road
October 2020

