

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North](#); [East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: Written submission re Planning Application for East Anglia 1 North & East Anglia 2
Date: 16 October 2020 17:40:54
Attachments: [Written submission.docx](#)
[Simon "s Knott"s description and photos of St Mary Friston.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern

Please find attached a written submission from me to the Examining Authority for the East Anglia One North and East Anglia 2 applications from Scottish Power Renewables.

After submitting verbal evidence recently I was asked to supply more information about the historic nature of the Grade 2* listed church of St Mary the Virgin, Friston. With his permission I have attached an article by Simon Knott, taken from his 'Suffolk Churches' website. It includes some history, some personal observations and several excellent photographs. I know of no better single document that sums up the historic nature of the church building.

If asked to state which parts of the applications I agree with and with which I disagree I would have to say that I disagree with the fundamental principle of both applications. The siting of the substations and the routing of the cable are both totally unsatisfactory and (as I state at the end of my submission) unnecessary.

The Revd Mark Lowther

Rector of the Alde Sandlings Benefice (Aldeburgh, Aldringham, Friston & Knodishall)

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SUBMISSION TO PLANNING AUTHORITIES RE SPR DEVELOPMENT IN FRISTON

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 2*-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.

St Mary, Friston



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www.suffolkchurches.co.uk - a journey
through the churches of Suffolk



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. In 2010 I had been here on the hottest day of the year so far, nearing the end of a meandering bicycle tour of the north and east of Suffolk. 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







In the Year of Our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and eleven The Rev. John Lambert, bequeathed to this Parish the sum of Two hundred Pounds to be placed in the 5/ 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. By of the Parish.

