

EA1N - 20024202

EA2 - 20024203

This written representation is on behalf of Friston Parish Council for both Scottish Power Renewables applications.

Our first representation was a factual explanation of why Friston is not the correct site for this substation. This representation will give an outline of the reality for the residents behind those facts.

A Parish Council is the tier of government closest to the people they represent. We are statutory consultees in planning applications to bring on board local knowledge and the idiosyncrasies of the area. Many of our Councillors have lived in Friston a long time and know how the seasons pass and the land reacts to development. When a once-in-a-lifetime development is proposed for the village, the Parish Council is best placed to convey the residents' reactions and feelings towards this development.

Sometimes it can feel like there is not much to unite a Parish. Residents disagree over various matters – an overgrown hedge, careless car parking or blocked footpaths. This application has succeeded in doing just that. Residents are united in the opinion that Friston is not the place for Scottish Power's substation. The impact of this development will destroy the very reason people chose to live in Friston. The peace and tranquillity, the sense of a rural community.

Twelve years of construction will take its toll on the landscape and the people. To be subjected to the noise of construction and the increase of traffic on our quiet rural lanes will be unbearable. Those who chose to visit our special part of Suffolk will meet with a scene of such chaos, any thoughts of relaxation will be chased away. The impact of tourism on which our area relies so heavily, may be damaged beyond repair after already being wounded by COVID 19.

The environmental impact on our ancient woodland and flood sensitive area is going to be a legacy of disaster. Long after the construction companies have packed up and gone, residents will be dealing with a denuded landscape and construction scars that will never fade. To choose a greenfield site over possible regeneration of brownfield sites goes directly against the green ethos of carbon neutral power.

The impact of COVID 19 has thrown in to sharp relief the need for outdoor escapism, the possibility to change the air in your lungs and enjoy exercise in the presence of nature. The substation development threatens this. It cuts through ancient footpaths, places a blot on a once restful vista and forces people into their cars to enjoy unmolested countryside elsewhere. During construction, the question of how walkers and visitors will be able to safely use our single track lanes whilst dodging HGVs and an increase in traffic remains.

For the reasons above Friston Parish Council wholeheartedly supports the work done by the SASSES group. Their detailed analysis of why Friston should not be the site for the substation shows that Scottish Power have taken the easy option of choosing Friston instead of the right option. Dr Therese Coffey's robust and emotive speech at the open floor hearing stating that this part of Suffolk will be 'dumped on' is correct, she understands that residents feel they are being used and not listened to. The BEIS review into the offshore transmission regime is a step in the right direction and the Parish Council urges the Government to not use this as just a paper exercise to pacify Suffolk.

With the other energy projects that are also planned for this area and the ones that have already happened, unless conversations between energy companies and Government Departments start to happen, this part of Suffolk will be under siege for a generation. Leaving nothing for future generations except a legacy of poor planning and wilful destruction. Green Energy has to be the future but this development if built at Friston allows Scottish Power to profit from our future leaving us with nothing but an industrialised landscape and a shattered community. No mitigation can cover the cost of that.