

Offshore Wind Farms

EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH

Pins Ref ENO10077

EAST ANGLIA TWO

Pins Ref ENO10078

Written Representation by Sally Ann Sturridge

Unique Ref. No. 20023726

Introduction

In view of the growing size and scale of the National Grid / Scottish Power project this submission calls for the inspectors to reject the application for EA1N and EA2. It concludes that Friston is the wrong location for such projects and demands that Scottish Power and National Grid put their energy into a serious attempt to use offshore technology and/or brownfield sites instead. The size and scale and cumulative impact of what is proposed, with ever more being added, will be seriously detrimental to East Suffolk and only beneficial to Scottish Power. Allowing Scottish Power to compulsorily purchase land at agricultural prices, when it is worth so much more to them, is basically wrong and amounts to a land grab by private investors, with little benefit to local landowners or consideration of the socio-economic impact on the communities or damage to the environment of the East Coast of Suffolk.

1. Lack of meaningful consultation

There has been little real consultation on the true scale and nature of Scottish Power's plans at Friston. Most of the local residents really became aware of the threat just over two years ago and then only EA1N and EA2 were mentioned. Then the National Grid interconnector was introduced. I first went to a consultation at Friston over two years ago and there were large boards on the wall stating that there would be no impact on tourism in the area, in fact they said that there were only 5 hotels in the whole area. Aldeburgh alone accounts for these, let alone b&bs and pubs. Then at another consultation in Thorpeness they said that there would not be any problem with noise for local residents at Friston. One substation would just sound like a windy day. Luckily there was a man there who has a house in Thorpeness and just happened to be an expert in substations. He pointed out that noise increases exponentially, so if you were to multiply that by the cumulative effect of two with an added interconnector the proposed projects, it would be terrible for Friston. He also stated that this would be the second biggest such substation in the world. This was before we realised there would be others. It was only when SPR applied for permission and the DCO process began that we saw the proposed acreage for assessment for Nutilis and Eurolink, which roughly doubled in size the area to be industrialised. Then more and more became apparent. There has been a serious lack of consultation about the true nature of the SPR scheme to build a giant energy hub at Friston and industrialise most of the East Coast of Suffolk, including Heritage Coast, AONB, a special Protection Area and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

2. SPRs lack of investigation into alternative forms of Energy Transmission

Modular Offshore Grids and undersea cables have been largely ignored as alternative forms of Energy Transmission by Scottish Power, this is despite being referenced in previous government reviews of 2012 and 2016 and supported by

Ofgem and National Grid. On 30th September 2020 a National Grid report stated, “multi-purpose interconnectors (MPIs) could help Britain unlock the potential of offshore wind” <https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/134211/download>. They are now seriously considered by Government and Scottish Power for the future of energy transmission. National Grid also issued a consultation document on offshore transmission network . <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/projects/offshore-coordination-project/document>. The end date is 28th October 2020. The cost benefit of an integrated design for the whole of the offshore network is 19% lower than that of the individual substation model and the capital expenditure required for the eastern regions is 30% lower. In Annex 2 the cost Benefit ratio is calculated. <https://nationalgrideso.com/document/177226/download>

The promised upcoming BEIS review will be considering this as a feasible, more cost efficient and less intrusive way to transmit energy both around this country and to connect to the continent and enable wind power to be used as a valuable export. It is for this reason the inspector should reject Scottish Power’s application for EA1N and EA2 and allow it to be considered as part of the planning for the UK as a whole. Thus avoiding needless destruction of East Suffolk countryside.

Similarly Scottish Power have failed to truly evaluate brownfield sites as an alternative to Friston. There are compelling arguments to place EA1N and EA2 at Bradwell which is advocated by ██████████ MP. Also the Bawdsey to Bramford cable trench could be revisited to allow it to accommodate EA1N and EA2 as was originally planned but was changed by SPR from a high to a low current as it was cheaper. Once again it was a cheaper option for Scottish Power and resulted in a new site at Friston being put forward by National Grid, despite the damage to the countryside. Relaying the cables in wider or parallel trenches would be a far better option than Friston as most of the problems have already been resolved and it is much less invasive. Finally there is Lowestoft as an alternative. It would welcome the extra investment and needs input. It is here that Scottish Power has its main offices.

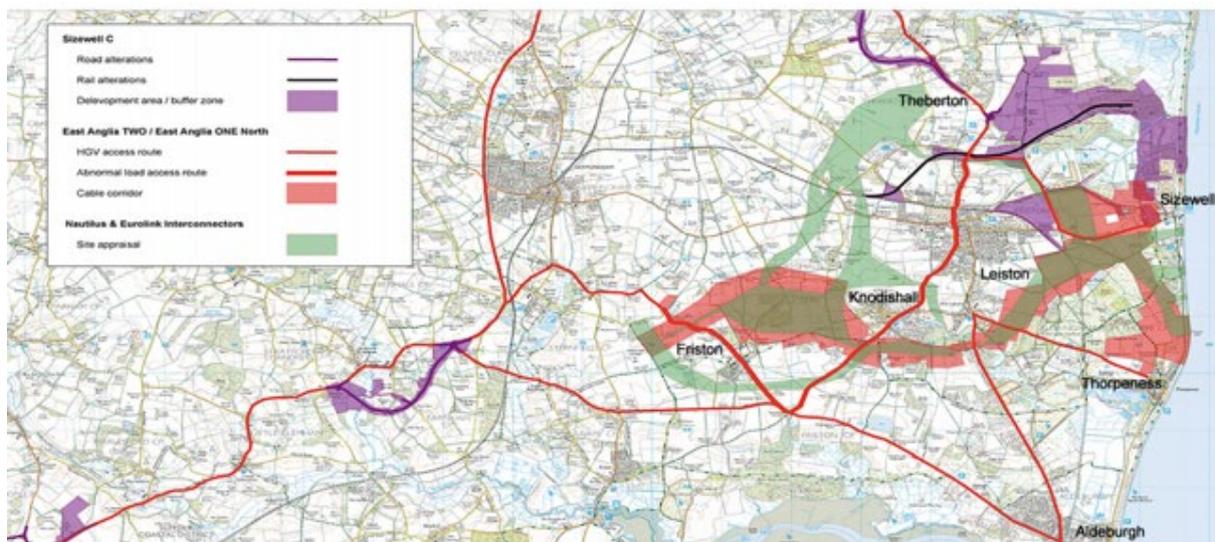
3. Effect on East Suffolk from decline in tourism due to substation construction.

Surely it is madness to destroy the most thriving and popular part to the county, with its popular seaside towns such as Aldeburgh, Southwold, Blythburgh and Walberswick, which all depend on the A12 to attract tourists throughout the year. The heavy duty traffic and associated smaller lorries, vans etc. will overwhelm the road network and cause tailbacks on the A12 in both directions. Walkers, bicyclists, holidaymakers and birdwatchers will all loose a beautiful and largely unspoiled holiday area. A survey by Suffolk Coast DMO for the impact on tourism of just EA1N and EA2 and Sizewell C and D found a loss to the tourist industry of 40 million pounds per annum because of traffic, perceived loss of amenity etc. If you add the other projects to this and the 10 to 15 years of heavy duty construction in the area these losses can only increase and the seaside villages quickly decline. The East Suffolk Coast has a lot to lose culturally from a decline in tourism due to traffic,

pollution and loss of nature and amenity. We have the acclaimed music at Snape Maltings, annual music, food and literary festivals at Aldeburgh and Southwold and a multitude of artists, writers and musicians living here. There are art galleries and shops which thrive on the tourist industry. In their wake are the hotels, pubs and b&bs which in turn employ managers, workers and cleaners etc. This is a fragile economy.

4. The hidden scale of the project behind EA1N and EA2

The size and scale of AE1N and AE2 and the National Grid interconnector will overwhelm the area far beyond Friston and have an adverse effect on the extended local economy without offering equivalent long term benefits, substations being unmanned. Since local people and businesses became aware of the project it has grown out of all proportion to the original scheme, as we knew it. It now appears that Scottish Power is planning a huge power super-hub at Friston, which, in a few years, it could sell for a profit. We now know that there are at least 8 other projects planned. SCD1 and SCD2 each requiring at least 12 acres, Nautilus and Eurolink and other Scottish Power projects and the expansion of Greater Gabbard and Galloper wind farms. <https://powertransmissiondistribution.co.uk/national-grid-project-news-projects-scd1-proposed-sizewell-to-canterbury=grid-interconnector-and-scd2-proposed-sizewell-to-sellindge-grid-interconnector/>. The cumulative impact of these projects should not be underestimated and should not have been drip-fed to the community in the way it has been, without proper transparency or consultation.



SUFFOLK WARNING – Up to 10 projects are proposed for this small area on Suffolk Coast.

EDF – Sizewell C1 & C2 | Scottish Power – Cable route and substations for EA1N and EA2 wind farms | National Grid Ventures – Nautilus & Eurolink Interconnectors and substations.

It will adversely affect an area far larger than Friston, see map of cumulative effect. It will encompass Minshire down to Aldeburgh and west to the A12. Friston, Aldeburgh, Snape, Thorpeness, Aldringham, Knodishall and Leiston will become virtual islands, cut off by construction sites, lorry parks, works dumps and substations for years to come. It includes ANOB and important wildlife sites, with ancient forests and rare animals such as Red Deer, Great Crested Newts, Stone

Curlew, Doormice, Adders, Toads, Hedgehogs, Hare, Turtle Doves and rare flora such as Fen Orchid and Crested Cow Wheat which should be protected. The inspector should reject the Scottish Power application for EA1N and EA2 on the basis that it actually represents a much larger project and one that has been planned by Scottish Power and National Grid for much longer than has been apparent.

5. The unsuitability of the road network to be used during construction of EA1N and EA2

Scottish Power has failed to properly assess the impact of EA1N and EA2, or any of the other aforementioned projects on the local road network and the A12, which is often just a single lane carriageway. Most of the other roads are B roads which are narrow, full of bends, fragile bridges, bicyclists, tractors and walkers and are completely unsuitable for heavy duty construction traffic.

6. The involvement of National Grid

Meanwhile National Grid, another privately owned company, is behind the scenes directing much of this. They seem to have avoided making their own application by hiding behind Scottish Power, but at the same time choosing Friston as the cheapest and easiest place to place AE1N and AE2 and of course their interconnector at the expense of the landscape, wildlife, local people and their way of life. We do not fully understand their modus operandi but more and more of the scale of it is slowly being revealed. The inspectorate should be aware that this is not just a Scottish Power application and keep in mind the cumulative effect of whatever National Grid wants to achieve in East Suffolk if they are allowed to connect all their projects onshore at Friston. The inspectorate should reject the Scottish Power application for EA1N and EA2 on the basis that it is not a true representation of the applicant as National Grid is also heavily involved and should have made a separate application.

7. The compulsory sale of East Suffolk land to privately owned companies

Benefit to the community is hugely outweighed by the downside. The idea of privately owned National Grid and Spanish owned Scottish power being allowed to compulsory purchase large swathes of the Suffolk countryside at knockdown agricultural prices is basically wrong. It is easy to see how Scottish Power would benefit and National Grid would make savings by taking the easiest path to their pylons. The effect of 12 to 15 years of construction and bearing in mind the ever increasing scale of the project would completely change the nature of East Suffolk and have a detrimental effect on Tourism, Wildlife, local people's mental health and the landscape. Friston would be a hellish place to live instead of the idyllic medieval village it is now, with light, noise and construction pollution on an enormous scale. We do not believe that either company has properly explored the alternatives, such as available brown field sites or the latest technology for off shore transmission. The upcoming energy review the government has promised will hopefully make the

overall energy picture much clearer and we are pressing to be made part of that review. This is another reason for you to reject the SPR application.

Friston is simply the wrong site for large scale industrialisation.