

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [East Anglia ONE North; East Anglia Two](#)  
**Subject:** EA1N & EA2 Written Representation  
**Date:** 02 November 2020 23:55:34

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**EA1N 2002 4525 and EA2 2002 4528**

Dear Examining Inspectors

I have lived in Aldeburgh for two years and come to love the wide-open spaces, and night skies of this beautiful area. Lockdown is upon us a second time and I feel enormously grateful that I live here, a place where I can freely walk the marshes, beaches and heathland for hours, should I wish to. Having come from a large city, I feel for those that live there right now. I know how claustrophobic it can be and even more so when you are in lockdown.

I have come to understand that the countryside are the lungs of the UK and to understand the importance of keeping them clean and strong. Unfortunately, if ScottishPower Renewables and more importantly National Grid get their way, we shall lose a large part of these lungs. In fact, the low heathlands that exist in Suffolk Coastal have been likened to our 'Rainforest'

*"Open heathland is rarer than rain forest. In the UK we have only about 16% left of the area that existed in 1800. That means that from an area similar to the size of Cornwall, only the equivalent of the Isle of Wight remains. The process of loss and disintegration has been particularly fast in recent decades. **However, this country still holds 20% (more than 60,000 hectares) of the whole world's lowland heathland.** Thus there is a need, not only to preserve and improve our remaining heathlands, heathlands, but if possible to re-create them in areas where they have recently been lost".* [publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/111041](https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/111041)

Suffolk Coastal is an extraordinary place, a rural place where agriculture, fishing and tourism are its main industries. Access is not easy, travelling cross country along the meandering single-track roads can take longer than taking a 20-mile detour down the A12 to Ipswich and back up the other side on the A14. In 2001 the A12 from Ipswich to Lowestoft was considered of no importance that Highways England de-trunked it and gave it back to Suffolk County Council. "... hence why this section [of the A12] is primarily single carriageway and poorly invested in, therefore the A12 ..... Northern half after the [A14](#) being deemed a non-primary extension, and a lesser important road." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A12\\_road\\_\(England\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A12_road_(England))

It beggars belief why ScottishPower Renewables and National Grid think that Friston is the best place to build a plethora of substations and converters when access for their massive HGVs is restricted to a '*poorly invested... non-primary... and a lesser important road*' and a set of crumbling cliffs.

The Inspectorate has asked for a list of all the proposed projects with intent to

connect Friston – here’s one I compiled at the beginning of the year, now updated.

## **HERITAGE COAST v ENERGY COAST**

East Coast Suffolk has always been called the “Heritage Coast”. Now it is being renamed the “Energy Coast” due to an onslaught of unsustainable energy projects. This is their status:

1. Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) EA1 – Wind Farm and Onshore transmission infrastructure completed and now Online
2. Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) EA3 – to start building onshore around the proposed time of EA2
3. Sizewell B – Judicial Review on District Council planning decision  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-50940974>
4. EA1N – SPR DCO Application submitted and going through the Examination period  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/east-anglia-two-offshore-windfarm/?ipcsection=docs>
5. EA2 – SPR DCO Application submitted and going through the Examination period  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/east-anglia-two-offshore-windfarm/?ipcsection=docs>
6. Sizewell C – Application submitted and going through the Examination period  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-new-nuclear-power-station/?ipcsection=docs>
7. National Grid Ventures - Nautilus – Informing stakeholder of their MPI’s and collaboration with Tene t, and intent of connecting at Friston whilst building 24m high convertors 5km away  
<https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/125601/download>
8. National Grid Ventures - Eurolink – Informing stakeholder that it is early days, but will follow the footsteps of Nautilus.
9. Greater Gabbard Extension – written to Stakeholders  
<https://sse.com/newsandviews/allarticles/2019/08/greater-gabbard-extension-successful-in-habitat-regulations-assessment-process/>
10. Galloper Extension - no information as yet, but will follow in the footsteps of Greater Gabbards
11. SCD1 Sizewell Kent interconnector - National Grid – this appears to have been sanctioned without it going through the DCO process.
12. SCD2 Sizewell Kent interconnector – National Grid say this will quickly follow on from SCD1

It is complete madness to bring 8 of these massive energy projects onshore at Thorpeness Cliffs each one carving a trench of cables to Fiston.

A friend sent me this today: **The onshore costs of these projects amount to nearly a £27billion industrialisation of Suffolk Coastal and makes it the fourth most expensive construction cost in the world ever. It is more expensive than the Channel Tunnel and the whole Apollo Space Program and is being planned for just five square miles of rural countryside with no road system, no infrastructure, no services and no facilities to match the impact of this expenditure.**

Whether his figures are right or wrong – it is still madness.

A recent article in The Times, "[Offshore wind blows hole in case for National Grid electricity role](#)" quotes Dermot Nolan, who led Ofgem until January this year, saying that offshore wind connections are already

*"creating political unrest in areas like Suffolk and Norfolk". "You'll have literally hundreds of cables going onshore, which is driving residents nuts, quite frankly. And you will probably build much, much more transmission link than you need to build."*

National Grid ESO's own report says that billions could be saved and halve the amount of digging required across coastal communities.

<https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/projects/offshore-coordination-project/documents>

Calls to protect Norfolk and Suffolk coastlines and countryside from being ripped up to accommodate offshore wind technology have been backed by MPs.

Thérèse Coffey, (Suffolk Coastal), George Freeman (Mid Norfolk), Jerome Mayhew (Broadland), Duncan Baker (North Norfolk) and James Cartlidge (South Suffolk) issued a joint response to National Grid ESO's consultation, arguing new rules must urgently be introduced.

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/norfolk-suffolk-mps-back-offshore-energy-reform-1-6910457>

Offshore developers are also calling for new legislation. RWE says outdated regulation is slowing investment in onshore electricity grid

*"The one thing that is delaying our projects is the onshore connections," said Tom Glover, RWE's UK boss. "It's getting quite serious. We are getting to the point of concern over whether that 40GW target can be met purely because of the onshore grid. It is only the onshore grid which could stop this happening."*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/01/uks-bid-to-power-every-home-via-offshore-windfarms-by-2030-at-risk>

It is obvious that Government legislation is urgently required, But who should be running the show, Not National Grid according to Dermot Nolan. He believes that ESO should be separated from National Grid and its associated companies and

goes on to say:

*“I think it is a good time to go for a fully independent system operator,” Mr Nolan said. “I think the perception would be that in order to build a large grid offshore, and continuing to build the grid onshore, the planner for that system should be independent of the existing network owner and of someone who will be competing to build new network, as well.”*

In Conclusion, the range of projects potentially connecting to Friston and with more to come from the Crown Estates round 4 will have a massive Cumulative Impact and should be fully considered and examined by PINS. The ‘B’ Roads are inadequate for EA1(N) and EA2 let alone another 6 Energy Projects plus Sizewell A decommissioning, Sizewell B relocation & Sizewell C & D’s Nuclear Twin Reactor. The air quality already exceeds DEFRA guidelines on the A12 arterial road to the East Anglia Coast by 340%.

For all the above reasons and more I urge the Examining Authority to reject the applicant plans.