

Re Scottish Power Renewables, Friston Substation

Campsea Ashe Parish Council submitting relevant representation with regard to the proposal to build a substation, potentially even a number of substations at or near Friston, Suffolk. The letter is a response to the general project including Anglian One and Two.

1. General

1 There is support for renewable energy generally in the village but the location of the site, potential impact on the environment and road network, levels of noise and air pollution, lack of consideration of the direct impact of the project on the villages in the area and especially around traffic impact in the wider area, undermine the proposals as outlined in the proposal.

2. Environmental

2.1 The grave concern regarding the proposals to build the substation are based on the impact the construction will have visually and environmentally, adjacent to an AONB and within an area of minor roads and villages.

2.2 We also noted the formal recording of concerns of both Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk District Council to the proposals in terms of the overall impact in an AONB and the lack of detail contained in various sections of the consultation document. The lack of detail within the document is a concern shared by Campsea Ashe PC with other PC's, given the length of time that has been available to SPR to construct and research the proposed development.

2.3 Campsea Ashe PC shares concerns around the details and quality of research on the impact of very significant levels of HGV and other traffic, both in terms the immediate neighbouring PC's but also all of the surrounding area including the coastal Parish of Aldeburgh

3. Transport

3.1 Whilst Campsea Ashe will leave comment on local issues to the appropriate PC's, we noted that there was no proper assessment of the impact of additional traffic at the junction of the B1069 with the A1094 in the village of Snape, no appropriate consideration had been taken to account for the holiday seasons, major cultural events at Aldeburgh / Snape as well as agricultural related peak traffic, often colliding at the same time.

3.2 Campsea Ashe is very concerned about the potential rat-running of HGV and LGV movements along the B1069/B1078 roads which are already hardly able to cope with existing traffic at times. Both B1069 and B1078 are 'short-cuts' should the A12 suffer major congestion. Both roads have multiple pinch points in Tunstall and Campsea Ashe (as well as between both villages) where even cars have to stop when trying to pass each other. It is already causing constant issues when HGV's/buses/Tractor trailer units tried to pass each other

3.3 Campsea Ashe PC is very concerned about the possibility of Bentwaters Park 'hosting' subcontracting companies, whose HGV's/LGV's and cars would use the B1069 / B1078 in increased numbers. As many neighbouring Parishes will attest, the local road infrastructure is not capable of supporting this.

4. Cumulative Impact of SPR Sizewell and related projects

4.1 The PC is concerned about the lack of material consideration of such eventuality. The issue of the potential damaging cumulative impact that would significantly impact if not destroy the vital tourist and farming industries that the area depends on currently for employment, was lacking any substantial detail. Although there was general reference to current Sizewell C work around the impact of traffic movements, there was no meaningful impact assessment of such eventuality. We refer to our points made above at 3. Transport, which will multiply an already difficult if not bad situation.

4.2 Similarly there seems to be no reflection on other potential energy infrastructure being developed in the area by National Grid.

5. Economic Impact

5.1 Recent research for the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership documented a value of circa £100 million per annum of tourism and farming to the immediate area subject to these proposals. The PC is concerned about the negative impact on these industries over a number of years by the current proposals.

6. Conclusion

We do not believe that enough work has been done to show appropriate mitigation with regards to the economic and environmental impact this proposal will have. The cumulative impact of further energy projects in the area will create irrevocable and questionable changes to our rural/coastal AONB. The infrastructure to support such large scale projects does not exist and will cause major disruption and irrevocable damage to the local environment. The PC believes that a more intelligent and integrated approach of connecting the energy projects to the grid could be embraced, especially if the government would choose to pro-actively lead such crucial infrastructure projects in a sustainable, future proof way.

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Clerk

Campsea Ashe Parish Council