

PINS reference 20023569 and 20023571 - Margaret Knight

EA1 N and EA2 – Written Representations following Open Floor Hearings October 2020

I have lived in Friston for 22 years and came here like many other residents to escape the noise, dust and pollution of a big city. The area offers peace, tranquillity and beauty of the surrounding countryside and most of all quality of life. The village of Friston has a wonderful local community and holds many events each year including fund raising for the church and local charities attracting a substantial number of tourists and visitors. It provides valuable quality of life for both young and old.

I strongly object to the proposal submitted and agree with the written representations of SASES PINS reference 20024106 and 20024110, the Parish Council and the County Council. I am in favour of green energy, but the proposal is entirely inappropriate on the site chosen.

1. It is totally baffling to me why the site selection is being proposed on the edge of Friston and situated right next to the church which is centuries old, a Grade 2* listed building and central to the village community. The vast area of fields behind it will be turned into an industrial eyesore of 100 acres which will blight the landscape, the village and the heritage coast as well as local villages affected by the construction. This proposed industrial development will be seen from the village green, an aspect which will not be mitigated. A better solution must be found which should be an area well away from houses and local communities and reduce environmental impact. The need to bring the cables many miles inland from a wind farm in the sea via endangered cliffs at Thorpeness and the construction of huge haul roads devastating more of the landscape could be eradicated.
2. The local roads in the area and specifically the ones from the A12 to the proposed site are narrow and in places have dangerous bends. As such they are totally unsuitable for construction traffic.

These roads are essential for local people to use for travelling to work, shopping etc and for emergency vehicles and are too small for the volume and size of vehicles to be used for the development. The traffic noise will be constant, and sound carries a long way in this part of the country. The proposed changes to the roads are totally inadequate, will cause even more chaos and congestion and accidents.

3. The whole area of the Heritage coast will be damaged as its beauty and tranquillity will disappear together with much of the wildlife things which many people visit the area to see and to visit the nature reserves. The cumulative impact of other infrastructure projects such as Sizewell C and this development at Friston with the proposed addition of interconnectors, would turn the area into what frankly will be an industrial wasteland.
4. It is important to be able to enjoy long walks something that has been invaluable this year. The proposed development will result in the loss of several footpaths surrounding the village. The most used one, the circular walk, will be lost forever. There are others connecting to villages such as Snape and Knodishall and to the town of Saxmundham. I walk these footpaths as do many local people and tourists and they are very well-known walking routes for hikers.
5. Sound travels a long way due to the flatness of the terrain so noise will be of great concern not only during construction but will be a permanent feature together with light pollution which will destroy the famous dark skies. These are major concerns which will affect individual lives considerably.

The problem is that although there have been several consultation events held by the applicants in the village hall these concerns have never been addressed or commented on by the applicants and have been ignored. These events were held because they had to be as part of the process and were not designed to engage with local people or their concerns.

This proposal has been hanging over us for two and a half years and as time has gone on more and more additions are being made. If it were not for the action groups tireless work and research much of this would still be unknown to us.

This proposal has caused untold stress and in some cases illness to the residents. A lot of people came to Friston to enjoy their retirement, this is not the case at the moment nor will be if this proposal goes ahead.

With more and more projects proposed by the applicants and National Grid and all planned to be sited at Friston the future for the village is unthinkable.

This is not Nimbyism. As I have stated before I am in favour of Green energy but this whole proposal is a major concern for the village and indeed the whole heritage area.

There are alternatives which seem to have been discounted but if one is not found for this proposed development this historic village of Friston will be lost forever.