

Planning Inspectorate interested party registration number EA1N 20023298

I agree with and support all representations being made by Friston Parish Council, Substation Action Save East Suffolk (SASES) and Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) Groups.

I moved to Grove Road (approximately ½ mile north of the proposed substation site) in 2016, after moving from a busy developing town in Essex, where houses were being built close by with all the associated noise and dust, intending to spend the rest of my retirement in the peaceful Suffolk countryside.

I now face the prospect of years of noise, dust etcetera from the building of these substations 6 days a week from 7 am to 7 pm, along with the HGVs jamming up the roads for years to come. With the loss of valuable countryside, farmland and animal habitats including owls and badger sets [REDACTED].

From my garden, and some of the footpaths in the area Friston Church and mill can be seen – these views will be lost forever if the substations are built.

I regularly walk my dogs along footpath 17 that goes from High House Farm to Friston then returning from Friston to Little Moor Farm via footpaths 7 & 6, creating a circular walk with about 100 yards of road walking. These footpaths will be permanently lost, as will the footpath connection from anywhere north of Friston and the village itself. The alternative Scottish Power are suggesting is to walk alongside Grove Road which is very narrow and twisting in places, dangerous to walk along and will also pass the substation with its noise and visual impact. There are no pedestrian pavement nor grass verges to walk on. It is regularly used as a cut through to the various villages and towns and used by farm vehicles.

Whilst I am in favour of renewable energy and completely understand the need for it, I feel that the ad-hoc method of construction is **totally** unacceptable, with each development company building **massive** substations to connect to the national grid onshore. I believe that these projects should be nationally coordinated and **must** be included in the BEIS offshore transmission review, and National Grid ESO Offshore Coordination Project and therefore the applications should be **rejected**.

I object to the proposed development by Scottish Power of East Anglia One North on the following grounds:-

- Close proximity to the rural quiet village of Friston which includes several grade 11 listed buildings – one of which is one of the closest buildings to the site (Little Moor Farm). The severe visual impact this will have on the surrounding countryside, even with the 15 year view, mitigation planting will still leave the site highly visible. Some of the SPR visualisations are misleading as they do not show the close proximity to the village, and some viewpoints are shown on different scales, distorting the effect.
- Loss of circa 30 acres of valuable grade 2 and 3 agricultural land, trees and wildlife habitats plus the temporary disruption along the cable route.
- Noise pollution – during construction – just the type of noise we moved here to get away from, and during operation from the transformers and in particular the Harmonic Filters which have been identified as the noisiest 18m high structures that are not screened which will disturb both residents and wildlife. At one of the SPR meetings I recall SPR being asked about the noise from the substation and was told it's like rustling leaves – yet the residents

of Friston House have been advised to fit double glazing to lessen the noise (which cannot be done as this is one of the grade 11 listed buildings in the area!)

- Light pollution - The area is extremely dark at night due to the mainly agricultural use of the land, however light pollution both during the construction phase and during the operation for security, car park, maintenance etc will have a detrimental impact on the wildlife and residents of the area.
- During construction SPR have made assurances about HGV vehicles only using approved routes, but the workforce will be free to use any roads such as Grove Road which is extremely narrow and regularly used by local and farm traffic
- Deterioration in property values and people being unable to sell with such a massive project in the area. Reluctance of people to move into the area, because of site and its impact.
- Damage to tourism through spoilt countryside views, noise, etc. – potential loss of jobs and lost revenue for both local owners and town shops who rely on the tourist trade.
- Damage to local trades people who rely heavily on both tourism associated properties and second home owners for work
- Increased flood risk to Friston village
- Cable Landfall at Thorpeness with the crumbling cliffs, where a person was killed about 2 years ago due to the fragility of the cliffs.
- Permanent loss of woodland, and the temporary closure / rerouting of footpaths along the cable route.

Whilst I appreciate this is not the forum for suggesting alternatives, I would like to draw your attention to this extract from “Unlocking offshore wind” issued by National Grid in September 2020

The key to unlocking offshore wind

We believe that **multi-purpose interconnectors are one of the most efficient and effective tools to unlock the potential offshore wind.** At **National Grid Ventures, we have a pipeline of projects that can help realise this opportunity.** Combined assets make economic and environmental sense. They have the power to connect offshore wind more quickly and cheaply, and they place a lower burden on communities. Great Britain needs a plausible route to a clean energy future. Nobody has all the answers, but a smarter approach to offshore wind and interconnection could be a big step in the right direction.

How quickly could MPIS be in place?

The fact that MPIS build on existing technology means that they can be developed relatively quickly. They could be able to connect large volumes of offshore wind between North Sea region countries by 2030.

The full document is attached for your reference.

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/134211/download>

As stated by many others, on top of the SPR development there are several other substation projects that have been identified, with proposed connections in the Friston area. These proposals must be taken into account when reviewing this application, which in my view must be recommended for rejection to the Secretary of State.