

Written representations

Dear Sir/Madam

Re; Proposed substation site at Friston

Derek Brough

[REDACTED]

Reference 20023584

Reference 20023585

In 2015 on a nice sunny day when my wife and I walked into Bedford's Estate Agents we had never heard of Friston and barely knew Suffolk. [REDACTED] I lived and worked almost 50 years in London, so on 1st May Friston and [REDACTED], our retirement home, was just a very small point on a map. We bought our house part of a small new development on the edge of the village in August 2015. Very soon we got to know our immediate neighbours and a wider circle by using the village pub and walking our two jack Russell's in the lovely accessible surrounding countryside. Friston quickly changed from being a strange place to being somewhere real, our community where we felt save to put down roots something we had never been able to do in London.

So when a couple of years ago I heard about Friston being considered as a site for the substation for the offshore windfarm, I couldn't believe it on many counts. It is miles from the coast, 15 minutes by car to Sizewell beach and one of the most attractive East Suffolk villages, with a village green, historic church, village pub etc.

At first substation sounds quite innocent. Something small tucked away in a corner but the full horror quickly became apparent. It would be the size of at least 16 concrete football pitches and some of the buildings 30 metres tall and all would be within sight and sound of the village green.

To Scottish Power I believe Friston is just a place on an ordinance survey map, not somewhere where real people in real communities live and have invested their hopes and dreams. I do not believe that a site like this has ever been located so close to a village and I could not believe why nowhere else was suitable.

I attended most of the so-called consultations organised by Scottish Power to tell them so. But they were a charade. It was not consultation, but being presented with a "fait accompli". None of the people from Scottish Power who ran the consultations had any power or much knowledge when asked a question. But of course they were paid employees and the experience was a bit like ringing a call centre or customer relations of a utility company. When asked a difficult question I felt that they were glossing over the truth.

I am not against Green Renewable energy. But the implementation of this project will not affect just people in our village but a whole swathe of people from the coast in terms of cabling, lorries, construction companies, noise, light pollution, run off of water and flooding. Our roads are not fit

for what is being proposed. This is a Green project with a massive destructive potential to all of us surrounding it. I don't think that the project should go ahead at the price of destroying a small village or by destroying a huge part of East Suffolk countryside. And if it is approved in conjunction with Sizewell C and other related projects it will blight and destroy the area. We are being sacrificed for private profit. Because if that were not so another place more suitable would be found to site it.

It is now becoming clear that the substation will only be the beginning; a toe hold for other projections run by Scottish Power and The National Grid. I don't believe they have been truthful in telling us what their long term intentions are although I believe they are already planning and I think that their failure to be honest about this is indicative of how we are being used by them for their own gain.

Yours faithfully Derek Brough