

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North; East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: 20024766 - 20024769 post-hearing submission
Date: 16 November 2020 21:01:11
Attachments: [Horrocks-Hopavian oral representation 5.11.20.docx](#)

Hello,

Please find attached my post-hearing written submission.

Best wishes,
Nina Horrocks-Hopayian
on behalf of Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayian

Concerns over the construction of the haul road through Knodishall and Aldringham

Our first school was Coldfair Green in Knodishall. Our playground was surrounded by blackthorn bushes where we loved to play, and where nightingales sang every Spring. The school has now expanded to include ages 4-11, and the blackthorn bushes have been uprooted for the health and safety of the children, but nightingales still nest along Fitches Lane behind the school, in one of the last areas of the UK that provides a habitat for these iconic birds facing extinction. If Scottish Power's plans go ahead, the children of Coldfair Green School will never hear a nightingale. Their habitat will be destroyed and their song replaced with the cacophony of construction, just metres from the school. Large vehicles will thunder along the haul road on the other side of the hedge. The once safe and quiet playground will be flooded with toxic gases, filling growing lungs every day. As well as the well-recorded harm to respiration caused by ozone, recent research has found that even a slight increase in nitrogen dioxide, largely produced by diesel vehicles, heightened the risk of common mental disorders by 39%. For tiny particle pollution, which comes from burning fuels, and brake and tyre dust, the risk rose by 18%. But there will be no "slight" increase here — Scottish Power has proposed an increase of 109% traffic. Further research has discovered higher incidences of suicides and "huge" reduction in intelligence in children growing up in polluted areas. A global review in 2019 concluded that air pollution may be damaging every organ in the human body.¹ It has just been announced that 15% of all Covid-19 deaths worldwide are attributable to dirty air.² Supposedly, the movement towards green energy is to preserve the future of our children, to provide them with a sustainable, nourishing planet for generations to come. Will they thank us for purchasing renewable energy at the price of their physical and mental health?

It's not only our children who will suffer. Another study has found that exposure to air pollution — specifically, fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide — even at relatively low levels, was the cause of an estimated 6.1% of dementia cases.³ At the other end of Fitches Lane lies Aldringham Court, a residential home. When I was at school we would walk there to entertain the elderly residents, which was an enriching experience for young and old alike. Scottish Power intends to cut through the grounds of Aldringham Court, the new road coming within close sight of the building. What a soothing view for our grandparents in their final years, as they sit on the reduced lawn, watching the HGVs roaring by, while the fumes rob them of their mental function and memories!

¹ Damian Carrington, 'Small increases in air pollution linked to rise in depression, finds study', *The Guardian* (24 October 2020).

² Andrea Pozzer et al, 'Regional and global contributions of air pollution to risk of death from COVID-19', *Cardiovascular Research* (Oxford Academic, 26 October 2020).

³ Hong Chen et al, 'Exposure to ambient air pollution and the incidence of dementia: A population-based cohort study', *Environment International*, Vol. 108 (Elsevier, November 2017).

Besides air pollution, contamination of our rivers and of the land in a major farming area, we will all suffer from the introduction of noise and light pollution. Here, the whole village knows if a neighbour has left on a light in their house. My friends visiting from London couldn't understand our warnings about navigating country roads in the dark, because they had never known darkness. When they stepped out at night and looked up, they couldn't believe their eyes. They didn't know that it was possible to see the Milky Way from Earth. Light pollution is now considered comparable to climate change in its effects on the future wellbeing of the planet, recently dubbed by scientists, "bringer of the insect apocalypse."⁴

As for noise pollution, it will harm our population of rare bats and birds. Not only we will be unable to enjoy the nightingales' song, or the woodlarks', or the call of the bittern or cuckoo, they will not be able to hear each other, which is essential for them to breed. It will become as unlikely to hear a nightingale in Aldringham as in Berkeley Square.

There are other areas in East Anglia which would not be so drastically transformed by a project of this magnitude. There are other means of constructing wind energy that are not so destructive. Scottish Power are not without alternatives.

Suffolk is already under dangerous levels of pollution.⁵ The UK is already one of the most nature-depleted places in the world.⁶ Our little corner here is a haven for humans, flora and fauna alike. Don't destroy the little we have left.

Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayian
Nina Horrocks-Hopayian

⁴ Avalon C.S. Owens et al, 'Light pollution is a driver of insect declines', *Biological Conservation*, Vol. 241 (Elsevier, January 2020).

⁵ Andrew Hirst, 'Hundreds dying because of air pollution in Essex and Suffolk', *East Anglian Daily Times* (18 May 2016).

⁶ Josh Davis, 'UK has 'led the world' in destroying the natural environment', *Natural History Museum* (26 September 2020).

Questions

1. What will the applicant do to protect the health of the children of Coldfair Green Primary School from air pollution?
2. What will the applicant do to reduce the impact of noise pollution on the children of Coldfair Green Primary School?
3. What will the applicant do to lower the risk of accidents and ensure the safety of the children of Coldfair Green Primary School in close proximity to the haul road?
4. What will the applicant do to protect the residents of Aldringham Court from air pollution?
5. What will the applicant do to reduce the impact of noise pollution on the residents of Aldringham Court?
6. What will the applicant do to mitigate against the harm to wildlife caused by the introduction of light pollution?
7. What will the applicant do to mitigate against the harm to wildlife caused by the introduction of noise pollution?