

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North](#); [East Anglia ONE North](#); [East Anglia Two](#); [East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: WRITTEN REPRESENTATION AGAINST SPR
Date: 17 November 2020 18:18:43
Attachments: [Save Friston.docx](#)

East Anglia ONE North – EN010077

Your reference: 20023206

East Anglia TWO – EN010078

Your reference: 20023207

Dear Sir/Madam

We were unable to attend the recent Open Floor Review Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate and vocalise our dismay at Scottish Power's planning application to build a Substation at Friston.

Please find attached our "speech".

I will follow with some video footage which should be of interest too to support my written representation.

Best wishes
Helen & Nick Cook

Our names are Nick and Helen Cook and we live in Friston. The family has strong ties with the Village as Helen's mother [REDACTED] lives there as well. Throughout my childhood having been born and bred in Suffolk, I have been visiting the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Its beauty and tranquillity is the reason why my family and I now live here and so as a family we have enjoyed all that this area offers for many many years.

We support zero carbon emissions and the end of fossil fuels. The prospect of a green future for our heritage coast and our country as a whole is an exciting one. However the applicant, Scottish Power, have deliberately ignored the vast majority of the stakeholders that would be affected by these projects and in doing so they have caused immense **anxiety** and **stress** to great swathes of the Suffolk community.

We are against the building of the proposed substation by Scottish Power in Friston. There are many aspects that have already been highlighted by other speakers (with huge passion and visible emotion) such as the road system, traffic, emergency services, flooding, noise effect on the wildlife, pollution, and tourism and I would like to reinforce some of these issues, with an emphasis about Scottish Power's intentions, the landscape, infrastructure and flooding.

Scottish Power

We do not believe SPR have considered fully or indeed care about the lasting damage this project will cause to the countryside and the environment.

Scottish Power has been invited to participate repeatedly in the **Jericho Chambers**, an activist consultancy for troubled times and delivering programmes on public policy issues (www.jerichochambers.com) and in this instance, discussions looking to build a coherent forward view for Suffolk and yet **Scottish Power** have **point blank refused** whilst others for example EDF have willingly participated. This is indicative of an organisation that simply does not care or wish to engage with the community it operates.

The approach right from the outset by Scottish Power has been purposefully misleading and divisive. There was an opportunity to involve all stakeholders namely the energy company themselves, local government, local villages and communities, businesses, residents and the wildlife trusts. A collaborative and joined up approach with open dialogue seeking a common and sustainable goal should have been the way forward. Yes this would have taken more time but it would have given all the stakeholders the opportunity to potentially benefit from such a huge infrastructure project.

SPR have talked about the lasting benefits these projects will create for future employment. History tells us otherwise. Since Sizewell B was built with a promise of long lasting and sustainable employment, that claim has failed. One only has to look and see at the lack of investment and deprivation that

exists in the community that surrounds Sizewell, hardly a road map for the way forward.

Furthermore, when I listened to a representative of Scottish Power at the first open floor meeting, I witnessed their representative simply read out his spiel so quickly that it was impossible to comprehend, digest and make sound judgement on what their intentions were. In the early town hall meetings this tactic was often evidenced through misleading answers to very real concerns raised by community residents. In fact I would go as far to say that SPRs' representatives were utterly dismissive of any concerns that were put to them. It was abhorrent to witness.

The Landscape and Wildlife

Please can we ask the Planning Inspectorate to investigate the data of how many gardens, parks, fields, and woodlands the applicant is intending to dig up for the cables to be laid from the wind farm to the substation?

The Government have proposed to give money to charity as part of the Government's green economic recovery plan... "some £40 million will be given to charities in England to restore the environment and for work to address biodiversity loss and climate change. A range of projects will receive funding to restore habitats, create woodlandNew areas of outstanding natural beauty will also be unveiled next year..." If areas of natural beauty (such as this area) are preserved then taxpayers money is not wasted on creating new areas. As we know it takes generations to create an extraordinary environment such as ours. The Prime Minister said: "Britain's iconic landscapes are part of the fabric of our national identity – sustaining our communities, driving local economies and inspiring people across the ages." (*Sunday Telegraph 15 November 2020*). Please could we ask the Planning Inspectorate to take note of Mr Johnson's comments?

How on earth does this marry with SPR's proposed cable trenches and onshore substations carving through Suffolk's unspoilt landscapes?

The Heritage Coast is already a vulnerable coast and the wider area is constantly at threat of erosion (highlighted by the tragic events in Thorpeness 2018) and more recently photos have been shared by Bill Turnbull the former BBC Newsreader on social media on 15th November after the recent heavy rain and winds. Clearly massive infrastructure projects including trenching and dredging will render our coastline unstable.

The **RSPB** and the **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** have joined together to publically denounce the plan for these enormous energy infrastructure projects, as they are a disaster for Suffolk's wildlife. As experts in their field it is clear that the applicant has blatantly ignored their views, once again showing a total disregard for the wellbeing of the Suffolk Heritage Coast and wildlife in their pursuit of profit.

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMaloGyojBA&feature=youtu.b)

The light pollution from the substation will undoubtedly ensure that this area is no longer on the watch list of the RSPB – the bird life will disappear.

Infrastructure

Please could we ask the planning inspectorates to drive up and down the A1094 and see for themselves how the road winds, narrows, have bridges to go over, and cross roads to pass?

Have the planning inspectorate counted up how many turnings off there are on this road?

At the start of the A1094 road (off the A12) there is an area on the left which is used by the public for car-boot sales and events such as a circus. Thereafter there are many cars entering this road which include anything from busy junctions to Saxmundham and Leiston, country roads to Gomford, Sternfield, Friston and Knodishall, and a cross-road at Snape, farm tracks, dirt tracks, cul de sacs, lanes, driveways and of course access to the shops including Friday Farm Street, Petrol station, golf course, public parking to walk the Sailors Path, Coop, Tesco's, Dry cleaners, etc.

Between the entrance of the A1094 up to the B1069 Leiston turnoff there are no less than **59** entrances to this road and between the Leiston turn off and Aldeburgh Tesco's roundabout there are **132** entrances, that is a total of approximately **191** entrances that the public are using on a daily basis – which is not conducive for heavy goods vehicles!

The **A1094** is a fragile road and not equipped for carrying 7.5 tonnes of HGVs. The HGVs over 7.5 tonnes are only meant to go to Black Heath corner then turn left to Knodishall. Any 2 axle HGVs will undoubtedly travel down to Tesco's roundabout – and it will become a rat run for the white van man, other service vehicles and workers to get to where the cable trenches are being dug.

Recently when we were driving down the A1094 towards the B1121, we witnessed an ambulance trying to pass a tractor and of course there was traffic coming the other way. Should you approve of this application, please can I ask you to fast forward this incident and think what the consequences could be from a build up of traffic and the ambulance not getting to the patient in time? I will send the video of this incident under a separate email for review by the planning inspectorate.



The junction at B1121 is so dangerous too as cars approach the A1094 with cars approaching from a blind corner. In summer the A1094 is a very popular family bike route to and from Aldeburgh. It is dangerous enough as it currently stands, let alone with 10 ton trucks haring up and down. There is no doubt in our mind that in such circumstances a fatal incident is unavoidable.



Flooding

Flooding has been well evidenced and research suggests the Substation at Friston will likely increase the flood risk to surrounding villages materially.

Scottish power intend to concrete the land – what do you think will happen to the village?

I would like to show you FOUR video footages what happens when it rains in Friston (videos will be sent under a separate email to back up my written representation)

As you know on 6th October 2019, Friston experienced a significant flood event which led to flooding of access and egress roads including Saxmundham Road, Grove Road, Aldeburgh Road and Low Road

On the day of the flood event, both local residents and Suffolk County Council obtained detailed photographic evidence of the flooding occurring. Please see photo below and I would like to show you two videos .



Matt Williams from the Suffolk County Council submitted a report of the 6th and 21st October 19 “recommending that Natural England, local farmers and NFU to encourage the uptake of improved agricultural practices with a view to reducing surface water runoff rates and volumes”. If a substation is to be built then that will undoubtedly increase significantly the surface run off!

Please also view two further video footages from February and April this year 2020 (will send under separate email for the inspectorates to review again).

During the morning of 29th October 2020 the cross roads at Friston quickly filled with rain water:-



The Future

Please can we ask the inspectorate to ask Scottish Power to explore the OFF SHORE option? A group of 18 leading environmental organisations, including the RSPB, Friends of the Earth and the Wildlife Trusts, that have written to the prime minister to call for better coordination of offshore wind farms to ensure the minimum of environmental disruption. ["Big UK offshore windfarms push, risks harming habitats, say campaigners"](#). (The Guardian 14th November 2020)

With the ever-constant development and innovation in the global energy sector more time should be considered to be looking into further advances in technology and infrastructure for off shore substations. There is clear evidence all over the world that onshore substations are not required to the scale the applicant is proposing and this decision is be driven by cost. Studies have been shown that offshore substations are viable and clearly in this instance it would lead to far less disruption to the Suffolk heritage coast. Boris Johnson government is set to quadruple the amount of wind energy produced OFFSHORE, as a part of the government's green agenda, which promises to be carbon neutral by 2050 – LET'S BE PART OF THIS AGENDA!

Conclusion

We need a more considered and collaborative approach. Were such an approach adopted then this project should pause. We all need to understand what further innovation might do to retain the Suffolk Heritage Coast in its current form but to allow us to adopt a green energy future. This all feels like big business brushing aside small communities in the race for profit.

Wind energy has seen huge innovative developments since the first wind farm was built in the UK in 1991 but we are still not there yet - wind farms were paid up to £3 million per day to switch off their turbines and not produce electricity following a major outage in a power line that transported energy from Scottish wind farms to England (*The Telegraph 19th January 2020*). A study conducted in December last year by the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF) found that the UK handed out a record high £136 million to 86 wind farm owners last year in "constraint payments" when the grid was incapable of handling the energy flow.

From all the evidence and passionate statements that have been made, it is clear that the panel must only conclude that the applicants planning permission must be refused and that all stakeholders are given the opportunity to come together in a more realistic timeline so that we can achieve our desire of a greener future for Suffolk, East Anglia and the wider UK.