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**Subject:** Invitation from Secretary of State to comment on EA1N/2 as per letter of 2 November  
**Date:** 30 November 2021 23:53:57

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Dear Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng, MP,

In reply to your letters of 2, 17, and 24 November, I am writing to remind you of the concerning issues of this DCO application, with many of them remaining unresolved and still not addressed by ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), the DCO Applicants for a EAN1 and EA2.

## **FLOODING**

Firstly, I would like to endorse SASES comments on the Flooding in Friston which as a resident of Aldeburgh I have experienced firsthand to my detriment when trying to move around the area. I also fully endorse SEAS comments on flooding in the Aldringham and River Hundred area, Tessa Wojtczk's comments on Thorpeness hydrogeology risks to aquifers and ground water and Alde and Ore's comments on SPR's continued lack of regard for the crumbling cliffs they intend to bore through.

The area as a whole has flooding issues. Flooding events are not restricted to the substation site but are intrinsically linked between the River Alde and the River Hundred which reaches all the way to Framlingham in the west.

As a resident of Aldeburgh, I have grave concerns. The possibilities of the disturbance of floodplains, around and south of landfall do not appear to have been explored by the Applicant. The River Hundred's coastal floodplain in the north of Aldeburgh (The Haven Nature Reserve) has not been assessed for its vulnerability to the trenching of its wetlands, nor have the downstream possibilities of silting, flooding, and shifting drainage caused by the permanent removal of wetland and wet woodland in the valley of the River Hundred, been adequately explored.

DEFRA maps show how the River Alde is particularly vulnerable to tidal influences; Should Landfall cabling through the Coralline Crag and Thorpeness cliffs affect either tide and or the aquifers this would have a knock-on effect

down the coast to the River Alde's floodplain which again has not been considered by the Applicant; Aldeburgh Marshes are already vulnerable to overtopping events which also threaten the dwellings of the town.

I ask you, herewith, as the Secretary of State, to demand new surveys throughout the area or to reject SPR's inadequate plans completely.

On 2 November 2021, you issued a letter to EA1N, EA2, Statutory and Interested Parties requesting more information on Flooding, Badgers, Great Crested Newt, and Offshore Ornithology. Yet you have not addressed the lack of The Applicant's CIA (Cumulative Impact Assessment) on Biodiversity, Sociology, and Tourism. Nor did you address the fact that National Grid has not applied for their own DCO for a massive substation which is, in its own right, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. National Grid should not be hiding behind the skirts of a wind farm developer such as SPR.

## **BIODIVERSITY**

The ward of Aldeburgh and Leiston in Suffolk Coastal has AONB, SSSI, SPA which will all be affected in one way or another.

How can we afford to let ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) go ahead with its plans when there will be:

Destruction of the undisturbed wilderness!

Destruction of permaculture!

Destruction of water meadow!

Destruction of rare wet woodland!

Loss of natural pollution filters impacting SSSI downstream!

Loss of carbon capture!

Loss of natural flood plain protection!

Loss of habitat for over 800 species!

Destruction of 150-year-old oaks!

Destruction of 150-year-old beeches!

Destruction of monolith skeleton trees which provide rare habitat and hibernation for wildlife!

Loss of 67 ancient hedgerows!

Loss of ancient animal corridors!

Loss of rare bird habitat!

Loss of nationally important invertebrate corridors!

Loss of migration destination habitats!

Loss of migration destination forage!

Loss of dark skies!

Loss of quiet - as construction and transformer machinery interferes with bat navigation systems

## **AWARDS and ACCOLADES**


### **TOURISM**

Six award-winning Suffolk communities were named among the best to visit in all Britain





Four out of six of these communities are dotted along the poorly serviced northerly section of the A12 (already a congested artery of East Anglia) and within a 14-mile radius of Friston where you are considering to consent or reject two Scottish Power and one National Grid substations and a future massive Energy Hub for interconnectors, more wind farms, battery storage, hydrogen storage and more.

### **AONB**

 on 46 AONBs in the UK ranking Suffolk Coast and Heaths 9<sup>th</sup> on the list. Their choices were based on their own experiences of the destinations for their scenery, walks, wildlife, peace and quiet, visitor facilities, food and drink, tourist attractions, and accommodation.

Should you allow consent for Scottish Power's DCO application, you will be destroying communities and robbing them of their ability to thrive and enhance the economy and biodiversity of Suffolk Coastal. To survive up to 15 years of construction, traffic, pollution, and industrialisation is extremely doubtful.

### **ACTION**

Even our MPs recognise the impending devastation of EAST ANGLIA due to this 'gold rush' of energy projects and have set up , , consisting of East Anglian MPs and County Councillors, designed to ensure our precious landscapes and communities are better protected from

uncoordinated energy infrastructure. The group will scrutinise the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review and proposals to change the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning regime. Thank goodness that finally, someone is listening and defending us.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

As you know we are not the only area to be blighted by such ill-conceived onshore energy plans. I am not against wind power and applaud BEIS and Ofgem for the OTNR review looking at ways to bring the offshore power to the onshore grid, but please do not let it be your legacy to destroy the coastal towns of the UK's East Coast by allowing foreign energy companies to pressure you into making early decisions without completing the OTNR review thereby allowing technology time to create a better way. We have nine more years until 2030 and it can be done in that time.

Sir, you are an intelligent man, surely you can see that the present onshore plans of Scottish Power, Vattenfall, Orsted, et al do not outway the benefits of prime agricultural land, AONB, SSSI, SPA, ancient woodlands - our precious biodiversity. Keeping the lights on is essential but not at the cost of our food sources, our natural lungs, and the wildlife of our country.

Why not use these companies for the betterment of the UK and our energy infrastructure by mandating them to become 'Pathfinder Projects' and lead the way, rather than the system be developer-led by destructive forces. SPR's record to date is not to be applauded and sharp practice has been used in the Planning Inspector's DCO Examination in the form of NDA's. Absent Ground survey's, paramount for the Planning Inspectors in making an informed recommendation to yourself, were completed after the close of the DCO examination, and announced in their quarterly magazine on 29 November.

SPR now pretends to be biodiversity sensitive by bringing on an ex-member of WWF (shame on them both). And, just today, SPR and National Grid Transmissions have been fined £158m for delays to the Western Link.

In your next missive on these two DCOs, I hope that you will raise the lack of CIA and biodiversity surveys and take into account the omission of a National Grid DCO for an NSI substation at Friston.

Please, this cannot be allowed to progress in this way. I call upon you to

consider a 'split decision' allowing the offshore turbines to commence and the onshore infrastructure to be reassessed and moved to an appropriate location on a brownfield or industrialised site

Glynis Robertson

Aldeburgh Resident

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