

# THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
c/o PINS

30 November 2021

## **Invitation from the Secretary of State to comment on EA1/N1 as per letter of 2 November 2021**

Dear Secretary of State

The letter of invitation referred to certain wildlife and flood risk in particular, but you should be aware of a recent development in relation to the fragile geomorphology of the coast through which this project proposed to direct drill the entry for cables from the sea.

In its Winter 2021 Newsletter, 'The East Angle', issued on 29 November 2021, Scottish PowerRenewables described on page 8 the 'Geology Findings'. Their work took place almost entirely after the Examination by the National Planning Inspectorate was completed. During the Examination it was of great concern that the Applicant was not fully aware of the ground conditions through which it intended to drill.

The Newsletter says 'We now know the properties of each geological layer and that information can be used to help design and mitigate any risks related to ground conditions.'

This is far too late in the day when so much time and resources has already been committed despite the unknown but crucial facts. The Newsletter does not go on to say what it has found. How can any decision be taken against that lack of knowledge.

But the fact remains that what is proposed is to drill from under the sea through the cliff and emerge at the surface some 85 metres inland having drilled up through a geological layer that is little more than a slightly hardened sand dune. Much of it is termed Norwich Crag: but it is not a rock, crag being a Victorian term for a geological layer. It is difficult to see how such ground can withstand any vibration from drilling, which will go on for days if not months and for 24 hours a day, and for the cliff not to start disintegrating.

We know the cliff is fragile; after huge storms in 2017 some 20 foot in width back from the cliff edge simply slumped onto the beach below killing a passing walker. Any prolonged vibration such as is proposed can only result in a huge and premature collapse of the cliff to the detriment of the nearby coastline, coastal dynamics and settlements.

Please do not allow the cables to come ashore on this fragile coast.

Alison Andrews

Chairman of the Alde and Ore Association

*The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.*

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