

Mrs Lesley Walduck

29 November 2021

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng
Secretary of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear Kwasi Kwarteng

As you are aware, our Suffolk coast is currently subject to a number of offshore energy proposals by Scottish Power Renewables and National Grid. This includes a new NG connection hub at Friston. This was embedded in the Scottish Power applications without public consultation. If consented, the onshore infrastructure for these projects would lead to the irreversible industrialisation of the rural, fragile and beautiful area in which we live and work, and severely damage our nature-based tourism economy.

We urge you please to recommend a split decision when making your decision on Scottish Power's EA1N & EA2 projects and the National Grid connection hub. This would mean that the offshore turbine installation could commence without delay while providing the necessary time to:

- fully evaluate the cumulative impact of all the energy projects proposed for this area, including the Sizewell C project
- develop a plan to maximise connection infrastructure out to sea, or under the sea, in order to minimise the amount of onshore construction
- choose a grid connection on a brownfield or pre-industrialised site
- ensure that the grid connection is chosen in line with the government's own commitment to protect AONBs and provide more protection for the environment
- ensure that the opportunity is taken now to get this right

National Grid Ventures have already begun their non-statutory public consultation for their Nautilus Interconnector project with a connection at Friston that hasn't yet been consented. It is clear that consent for SPR's EA1N & EA2 onshore proposals would start a domino effect that would have dire consequences for the protected landscapes of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths area and the lives of everyone that live here. We therefore urge you, please, to take this opportunity to pause before it too late so that onshore solutions can be found that minimise the destruction of the environment and our communities. Neither SPR nor NGV consulted Snape village about their proposals and had to be 'encouraged' to meet with the parish council and residents at meetings arranged by Snape Parish Council.

The huge problem remains that, like the offshore wind projects, the current interconnector projects are being done under the current radial system because it's in the energy companies' financial interests to do so with total disregard for the environment or the community. The system is not fit for purpose and I believe the government acknowledges that. However, government seems to be buying the energy companies' argument that it's too late to change the system for the current tranche of projects. I disagree and I think that while they sort themselves out the power companies should be told to use existing industrial sites or brownfield sites for their onshore infrastructure.

We who live on the Suffolk coast are very supportive of wind power but believe the unnecessary large-scale industrialisation of our area is too high a price to pay when viable alternatives exist.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP(Energy Minister) [REDACTED]
Rt Hon Michael Gove (Communities SoS) [REDACTED]
Rt Hon Therese Coffey (Suffolk Coastal MP) [REDACTED]
BEIS Offshore Review [REDACTED]
Nautilus Project [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Suffolk Council Leaders: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]