

## **East Anglia ONE North & East Anglia Two DCO Applications for proposed EA1N & EA2– Comments on November 2021 Consultation Responses - Part 2**

ID 20023256 & ID 20023257

**To be read in conjunction with Part 1**, document split due to file size

### **Biodiversity around Gypsy Lane and the Hundred River**

The wildlife here is prolific and diverse.

On our land we quite often encountered adders, of conservations concern, on one occasion a male sunning himself literally outside our front door. Below is a photo of a female at the edge of the woodland near the house. Sometimes we encountered protected slow worm and frequently grass snake. Periodically we saw squashed adders, grass snake and slow worm on the B1122 between Gypsy Lane and Aldringham crossroads. Muntjac deer and of course pheasant also contributed to the unfortunate road kill count, as did smaller birds such as blackbird and black cap, all of which were present on our land.

We recorded 59 species of birds at Hundred Cottage, including woodcock on snowy days. Other species of conservation concern occurred including turtle dove, stock dove, marsh tit – one for a year then a pair for two years to 2018 and earlier a single tit for three years – grey wagtail, spotted flycatcher, song thrush, barn owl and tawny owl. Endangered mistle thrush bred in our oak trees, feeding each year in the water meadow opposite Aldringham Court Nursing Home, SPR's planned river crossing point, often seen and heard in the wet woodland at the north of Gypsy Lane, that proposed to be removed by SPR where they also breed. We were sometimes delighted by a kingfisher along the river and near our pond. Fieldfare and redwing visited every winter, the latter in flocks of up to 150 in our woodland after flooding subsided. A wonderful sight from our upstairs windows watching leaves being tossed by these enigmatic birds. In 2007 a flock of over 100 mixed finches visited, and one winter more than 80 siskins devoured our sunflower seed.

Little owls breed in the wet woodland by the water meadow opposite Aldringham Court Nursing home, frequently seen on fence posts along the field edge. SPR plan to plough through this woodland and meadow.

On quiet days at home in spring with the wind from the south east we'd hear bitterns booming in the reed beds at RSPB North Warren nature reserve which is fed by the Hundred River. Caught in the river one spring we rescued a young water rail returning it to its nearby family. Other submissions properly describe the wildlife at the reserve.

Starlit dark nights were enchanting, no polluting unnatural light, silent apart from a muntac or fox bark and the delight of red listed nightingales singing in spring in the wet woodland alongside the river north of Gypsy Lane. SPR propose to destroy that woodland as well as hedgerow and trees along Fitches Lane opposite where they also sing. SPR will pollute the night sky with light and obliterate the silence. The trees they plan to fell in Fitches Lane are protected by an East Suffolk Council Tree Preservation Order.

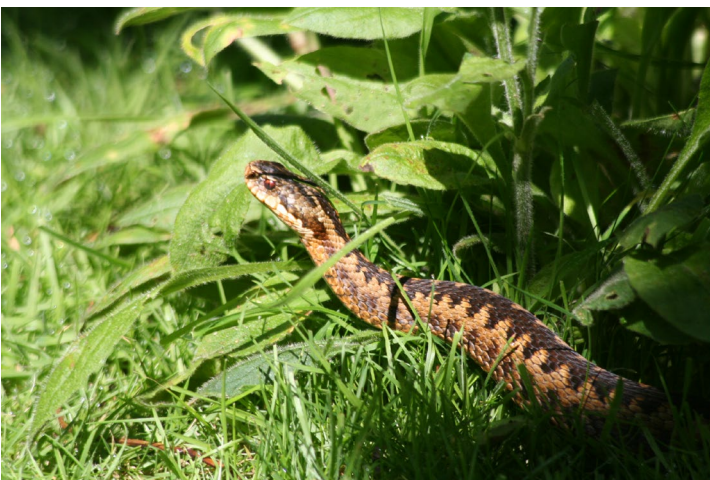
We weren't able to identify many of the protected species of bats around, despite our bat detector, but each summer were privileged to host a maternal pipistrelle (possibly soprano) bat roost in our attic. We told Suffolk Wildlife Trust when we counted 304 females leaving the roof near our chimney at dusk on 30 May 2015, each to produce one young. On 1 September 2011 we moved a brown long eared bat from our lawn to our dark sheltered woodpile (photos not good enough to include here).

On 7 December 2011 three protected red deer stags were in the woodland adjacent to the river about 20m from our back door long enough to be photographed. We saw them on other occasions and a red deer track ran alongside the river through the woodland.

Many other mammals delighted us including stoat, weasel, hedgehog, wood mouse, bank vole, water and common shrew and fox. We recorded 23 species of butterfly and uncountable moths, a veritable kaleidoscope of species in our bathroom one morning having left the light on and window open. Glow worms at night showed they loved a spot under our bird bath. Numerous dragon and damsel flies bred and visited each year, bumblebees burrowed in our lawn over winter and many other species came each summer. A variety of other insect species abounded. We encountered frogs, toads and common newts all around.

When we bought the property much of it was densely covered in Himalayan Balsam, 6-8 feet tall. Over three years we managed to clear it and damp preferring native flora began to show. Stinking hellebore grew at our northern boundary, many male ferns and fewer lady ferns grow throughout the land, wild flowers became numerous and wonderful. Red campions fill the woodland near the house, meadowsweet and tansy grows among the bulrushes and willow herbs along the river edge in the meadow area, flag iris, wild mint in damper areas, cuckoo flower in the moist lawn and woodland and pyramidal orchid beneath the oaks near Gypsy Lane. Honeysuckle and native blue bells grow profusely in the drier woodland, as they do in the woodland at the north end of Gypsy Lane. Cuckoo flower also grows in the water meadow opposite Aldringham Court Nursing Home, to be ploughed by SPR, as well as native blue bells in an area abutting the woodland planned for destruction by the B1122.

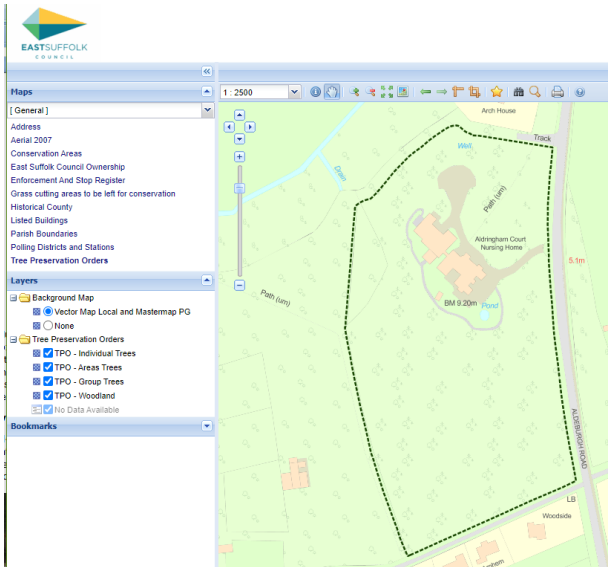
Tree species include many typical of wet land – aspen, alder, crack and goat willow.



Female Adder 21 June 2007



Marsh Tit 4 November 2016



Red deer stag 7 December 2011

Screen shot of East Suffolk Council map showing area protected by Tree Preservation Order around Aldringham Court including those north of Fitches Lane along the southern boundary.



Pyramidal Orchid

As amateurs we saw and loved all of this wonderful wildlife around us – it isn't just confined to Gypsy Lane, **it is all around in the Hundred River environs**. The Hundred River and Fitches Lane woodland are a wildlife corridor. By allowing the woodland at the north end of Gypsy Lane to be destroyed and the river to be dammed the biodiversity which has taken hundreds of years to evolve will be wrecked. Construction of the cable corridor will allow debris to be washed along the Hundred River through the grazed water meadows into North Warren nature reserve, thus damaging the clean water of the marshes and reed beds upon which so much wildlife depends.

Sadly we had to leave this idyll when the woodland became too difficult to look after properly as we age. Worsening ill health and other problems have made us remiss in failing to describe something of our wonderful years by the Hundred River before now.

**SPR have obviously not surveyed the Hundred River properly at the right times if they've not come across the incredible biodiversity here. SPR jeopardise it all.**

## **Cumulative Impact**

If SPR's proposals are allowed and their and National Grid's substations are situated at Friston it will open the floodgates for seven other wind power related projects planning to connect to the National Grid there.

SPR refused to acknowledge the cumulative effect of these multiple projects during the Planning Inspectorate's examination of their DCO applications so they were not properly assessed. National Grid refused to engage at all. SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions) have made multiple submissions to the Planning Inspectorate (([Deadline October 6](#), Deadline 13 [[REP13-072](#)], Deadline 11 [[REP11-183](#)], Deadline 9 [[REP9-087](#)], Deadline 8 [[REP8-242](#)], Deadline 6 [[REP6-141](#)] and Deadline 5 [[REP5-115](#)]) properly describing the affect of the many other projects intended to make landfall on our fragile coastline between Thorpeness and Sizewell, carve their own motorway width cable routes through our pristine countryside with massive, ugly substations at Friston or en route, taller than most of our trees, dominating whichever part of our wonderful flat landscape is found thought best (cheapest?).

Together with Sizewell C this part of east Suffolk would become the largest energy hub in the UK. **East Suffolk covered in concrete.**

**The lives of everyone who lives and works in this tranquil and special place will be ruined, our mental health damaged, our physical lives put on hold by clogged roads and closed footpaths.**

**SPR's and National Grid's deception must not be allowed to wreck a huge part of our beautiful and unspoiled countryside.**

## **Tourism**

The nature based tourist industry in this part of east Suffolk is its most important, worth £40,000 annually before the pandemic, undoubtedly worth much more in these staycation days. Numerous tourists are here now in our cold but often sunny days. There are even brave souls in caravans and camper vans. We encounter many people each day walking in our beautiful countryside, our roads are busy with out of area number plated vehicles. They're here to enjoy the peace and serenity of our lovely rural area. SPR plan to destroy all of that. They'll plough up the landscape from the crumbling sandy cliffs at Thorpeness, through the AONB, through Aldringham Walks, across the Hundred River destroying woodland there and along Fitches Lane and the scenic productive fields on the way to Friston. Our wildlife will disappear.

There'll be dust and light pollution along the poisoned ugly wide swathes of bare ground the length of the cable corridor as well as continuous construction noise. Our small rural roads will be jammed with HGVs and other vehicles damaging our poor and unsuitable road infrastructure (which we actually like, they're part of the attraction of our area).

Up to 400 tourism related jobs in the area will be lost, people's livelihoods taken away.

**SPR will ruin east Suffolk for tourism, its major business – who would want to visit countryside being wrecked for up to 15 years by them and the other destroyers heading for Friston?**

### **Protected Areas, Countryside & Rewilding**

Government has repeatedly iterated the importance of our protecting and enhancing our natural environment particularly over the last year or two. Government wants farmers to rewild their land not for it to be destroyed.

SPR's proposed cable corridor route will cross and destroy the protected Heritage Coast, the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Hundred River valley, as will those needed for the other planned projects. The Hundred River valley is an especially valued landscape in East Suffolk Council's Local Plan. All of the countryside, much arable farmland, proposed as the cable route from Thorpeness to Friston is also protected by East Suffolk's Local Plan in Policy SCLP10.4: Landscape Character:

"Proposals for development should be ... sympathetic to, the special qualities and features as described in the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (2018), the Settlement Sensitivity Assessment (2018), ...

Development proposals will be expected to ..... protect and enhance:

1. The special qualities and features of the area;
2. The visual relationship and environment around settlements and their landscape settings;
3. Distinctive landscape elements including but not limited to watercourses, commons, woodland trees, hedgerows and field boundaries, and their function as ecological corridors;
4. Visually sensitive skylines, seascapes, river valleys and significant views towards key landscapes and cultural features; and
5. The growing network of green infrastructure supporting health, wellbeing and social interaction."

The remaining paragraphs of the Policy include the importance of protecting and enhancing the tranquillity and dark skies.

**SPR's proposals violate all elements of the policy.**

We still live locally, nearer Friston where SPR plan to put their enormous landscape destroying substations and connect to the National Grid. The footpaths we walk around Snape and Friston will be ruined by the sights, sounds and pollutions of construction for the rest of our lives. Our 'primrose walk' around the proposed construction site is probably already devastated by surveying, no longer will the fragrant flowers litter the roadsides, ditches and footpaths quite specific to the area being surveyed. They won't grow in concrete. Hares and other wildlife will be gone from our fields. The fields will be gone. Our quiet dark nights will be shattered as light and sounds carry across our flat landscape.

**SPR's proposals will destroy our rural wonderland. They fly in the face of national and local governments' objectives to protect and enhance our countryside and natural environment.**

### **Split Decision**

**Allow the Wind Turbines, Refuse the Onshore Infrastructure – please.**

We're totally supportive of wind power. The UK needs wind power but not in the way SPR propose. Wind power is green clean energy. SPR's plans are to deliver dirty energy, destroying everything green on its way to Friston.

It's absolutely wrong to allow SPR to plough through our protected areas, destroying biodiversity along the way which has taken hundreds of years to evolve, through ancient woodland, wrecking hedgerows and pristine food producing countryside. Please don't allow them to accomplish all this destruction.

East Suffolk does not deserve to be so despoiled. It must not be so despoiled. We who live here do not deserve to have our lives, our health, our welfare, our livelihoods ruined. Please don't let it happen.

BEIS is already undertaking a review to assess the best way to deliver wind power to the UK. Please take the opportunity to make SPR and National Grid rethink their onshore strategy. Please make them connect at a brown field site in an already industrialised area or, better still, at sea.

**Please make SPR and National Grid deliver wind power properly, sensibly, responsibly, kindly, in a green, clean manner.**

Louise & Derek Chadwick