

From: Sue and Olaf Kirchner [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2022 09:56
To: Secretary Of State (Kwasi Kwarteng) <Secretary.State@beis.gov.uk>
Subject: Light Pollution from proposed site for Nautilus Interconnector

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to the danger of environmental damage that would be caused by light pollution from the proposed Nautilus Interconnector site in Suffolk.

Great Britain is leading the world in replacing fossil fuels with renewable power, and wind turbines in the North Sea are of great benefit in reducing our carbon footprint. When considering the environmental impact of this new technology, however, one factor that may be overlooked is the light pollution from the shore-based infrastructure.

The proposed site for the Nautilus Interconnector in Suffolk is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one of the rare dark skies areas remaining in the UK. In particular, the substations planned near Friston would subject the surrounding area to high levels of light pollution into the foreseeable future.

At first glance, light pollution would seem a trivial environmental cost to pay as we decarbonise the developed world. However, recent research has indicated that it may be far more damaging than was initially thought. Light pollution disrupts the light-dark cycles critical for natural processes, including migration behaviour, reproduction and the balance between prey and predator in night-active animals. Light pollution may be the major cause of the disastrous loss of insect numbers, around 50% in the last few decades, that has gone almost unnoticed until recently. The insidious effects of light pollution on human well-being, including our own sleep cycles and mental health, is just starting to emerge.

The good thing about light pollution is that it is easy to control. Technology already exists to control and minimise light pollution, while at the same time ensuring that the right amount of light is provided where it is needed. Obviously, such measures will also lead to lower operating costs for such lighting. Therefore, I urge you to ensure that decisions concerning the planning and construction of the Nautilus Interconnector also take into account the amount of light pollution produced, and how it can be minimised.

A newly built site with an obviously low level of light pollution would be clear evidence of the UK's commitment to a sustainable future.

Thank you!

Yours faithfully,

Olaf KIRCHNER
[REDACTED]