

From: [REDACTED]
To: NorfolkVanguard@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Norfolk Vanguard Project - EN010079
Date: 14 February 2019 22:18:49
Attachments: [PINS Open Floor Hearing 6 Feb.docx](#)

Dear Sir or Madam

Registration identification number is 20012181.

I am not sure if you will accept further comments at this stage but I attended two of the hearings in Norwich and wish to briefly comment, please find attached.

Thank you

Patricia Lockwood

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Norfolk Vanguard Project - EN010079

Regarding the Open Floor Hearing, Norwich, February 6th 2019

Registration identification number is 20012181, Patricia Lockwood

Mr Houghton, speaking on behalf of the applicant, said their consultation was “Not a tick box exercise”, and the consultation had shaped the site selection. I would like to make the following points regarding these comments.

Why was the site selection for the “world’s largest substation” limited only to different areas around Necton, a small village in rural Norfolk? Has this fully discharged their obligation to look at alternative sites? I have not found any detailed surveys or studies carried out by Vattenfall of any other areas, other than a dismissive response of a few paragraphs regarding a feasible site suggested by Necton Substations Action Group.

Vattenfall states that Necton was chosen for ease of connection and economic advantage. Adding Boreas soon after Vanguard gives strategic advantages regarding environmental impact. But they have not considered the overbearing visual impact of this saturation of industrialisation in a rural area. Rural Norfolk is a haven for people to take holidays, retire and live a quieter lifestyle if they so wish. Infrastructure of this size cannot be disguised with planting alone as suggested by the applicant. They are not considering topographical solutions such as earth banks or bunds as out of character for the area! How can they argue this when it is their project that is totally out of character for this area and cannot be adequately hidden from view by planting alone!

During the two years before the community consultations Vattenfall had decided on and researched Necton (even though it is approx. 40 miles away from the onshore connection) as the area for the substations giving reasons and statistics to back up their one-sided viewpoint, as it had not been shaped by local knowledge or opinion. They underestimated the impact on people as their research is mainly environmental, based on historical data and site surveys. They dismiss the holiday let businesses, the busy A47 junction, flooding, property blight, risk to health and the visually overbearing impact as all being negligible. I know this area well so find it an astonishing conclusion. How accurate is their methodology? Necton and rural Norfolk needs protecting from this mass industrialisation.

Ivy Todd, (a small hamlet of Necton), already floods and I was horrified to learn that Vattenfall say, if after construction flooding worsens the onus is on the residents to prove the applicant is responsible! This seems unreasonable, as their construction will alter the water table of such a sensitively drained area. In their glossy handouts Vattenfall say they will enhance the village! but are not prepared to ensure residents are protected from increased flood risk of their making.

What was the point of the consultation, other than informing the public of their intentions? There is no flexibility to make any significant change as the decision has already been made without local knowledge. How was the information gathered from the consultation used to adjust or shape the site selection for the “world’s largest substation” when the adjusted location is still just as close to Necton! It seems to have been carried out only to discharge their obligations to consult. Have they been truly diligent in selecting the best site for the substation, surely a better location away from populated areas and sensitive receptors could be found somewhere in the 40 miles between Happisburgh and Necton? Or better still put this on hold until an offshore ring main can be constructed to preserve Norfolk and Suffolk.