

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Norfolk Boreas](#)
Subject: Specific Hearing on onshore effects to the countryside
Date: 20 January 2020 08:24:07

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am unable to attend on Tuesday 21st January for the Issue Specific Hearing on onshore effects to the countryside. I would like to if I may highlight two major impacts to this proposal. Firstly, the extensive cabling needed across the county and secondly why the proposed site is unsuitable.

Extensive Cabling

We experienced in 2016 along with 45 other farmers the impacts to this extensive cabling. Cables were laid across 6 of our fields, 3 years on and this land still has not been fully reinstated or anywhere near recovery. We witnessed first-hand the damaging effects wind farms cause the countryside and its environment.

Vattenfall's proposal would impact the livelihoods and wellbeing of farmers who rely on the land to make their business profitable and make their living. Listed below are the specific impacts and images that this project will cause to a large number of farmers and to Norfolk residents.

- Cables heating up the soil impacting on future crop production
- Junction bays have to be installed resulting in further loss of crop and arable land
- The cable corridor will prevent access to fields and segregate certain areas of fields leading to crop loss
- It will cause years of unnecessary mental and financial suffering to farmers and landowners
- Destruction of fully established trees and hedges
- It would force wildlife out of their habitats

The devastating impact along the 47km cable will cause unnecessary unrecoverable damage to the environment. All these environmental issues are going to be repeated on a much larger scale therefore this proposed project is far from green.

This project would bring a huge negative impact on Norfolk communities with years of onshore construction which would massively effect people's lives, homes, business' and livelihoods. The construction phase could last for years and once completed the lasting damage would continue to affect farmers and landowners for further years to come, much like the suffering experienced from the Dudgeon development.



Figure 1 Soil damage in the wide cable route areas





Figure 2 Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm cable corridor



Figure 3 Land drains will have to be cut to lay cables, leading to flooding in areas in and around the cable corridor



Figure 4 Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm cable corridor – 32 land drains cut in just one field

Unsuitable Site

Necton, Ivy Todd, Fransham, Holme Hale and Bradenham will be left with its countryside and homes blighted by the largest substations in the world on their doorsteps, not failing to mention their visibility to tourists from the very busy A47 entering and leaving Norfolk. The Dudgeon development as you know is very visible on top of a hill and very noticeable for miles, extending it to an even greater size and building two further substations would be an atrocity to so many resident's in Norfolk.

After witnessing Dudgeons development and the chaos it caused throughout the county especially in Necton where the HVGs vans and cars caused bedlam and made local residents' lives (including ourselves) a misery.

When the Dudgeon Wind Farm was being built the access point did not allow vehicles to turn right into the site due to the dangerous entrance. All traffic was redirected to Dereham to turn around and come back to Necton. A large number of signs were put up along the A47 trying to explain this instruction. Our driveway (Corbetts Lodge - Moor Lane) ended up with 129 vehicles including HVGs, lorries, vans and cars coming down it, due to people trying to cut out having to drive all the way to Dereham and back. Another reason for so many ending up down the driveway was because the postcode for the surrounding area which includes the substation is the same. Numerous people would end up either stuck in HGVs at the bottom of the drive or tried to turnaround on the grass causing large amounts of damage which on one occasion resulted in the grass having to be re turfed by Dudgeon contractors. This existing entrance is still going to be used for the proposed National Grid extensions and we fear the same problems will happen again on a much larger scale.

The lay-by Vattenfall have selected as their new entrance is used frequently by members of the public and farm machinery, a lay-by should not be allowed to become an entrance to one of the largest substations on such a dangerous stretch of road. An accident only recently occurred near the proposed new entrance which you will be able to see on your site visit. I fear that people arriving to the site early, late or at night will park in it blocking it for other users or drive further along the road past Moor Lane entrance where there are several residential properties and farm buildings, causing disturbance and pollution for those living in the area. This happened on numerous occasions to the Canary and Linnet pub which is situated in Little Fransham. The owners had to close off their car park at night to stop people parking there and experienced regular vehicles turning around trying to access the site avoiding travelling 8miles in the wrong direction.

To bring a substation so far inland with catastrophic effects is reckless, why not temporarily put it on hold to allow for proper consideration and planning of an Offshore Ring Main? This consideration along with other alternative offshore grid connection arrangements would eliminate these damaging effects on people's lives. During the applicant's consultation they stated at their drop in sessions that an Offshore Ring Main is the way forward for wind farms. With a future 10 more developments looming surely joined up thinking would suggest halting these developments until National Grid has put an offshore connection in place. It would be horrific to witness this development be built knowing a far better alternative could exist which National Grid having now said it is possible. Surely this is the best time to enforce this before any construction work has started. Joined up and future thinking is what Norfolk needs as I can't sit back and watch this devastation happen again on a much larger scale.

The applicant claim their project is green and National Grid are supposed to consider the 'most economic and efficient' means of making a connection, now is the time to act on the only suitable solution and push for an Offshore Ring Main for this and future projects.

An Offshore Ring Main is essential to safeguard rural villages and the countryside. I ask the Planning Inspectorate to please consider refusing this project, (given the issues already highlighted by Norfolk residents) or put them on hold until an offshore connection can be constructed.

Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,
Lucy Sheringham