

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

Deadline 1: 20th FEBRUARY 2023

Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council

Construction Noise and Other Matters

Madam Chair, in relation to the DCO application under consideration for SEP and DEP, Barford and Wramplingham Parish Council would like to relay to you some specific concerns that we believe have not previously been drawn to your attention.

The proposed cable path route for these projects comes through our parish and a number of our residents are very worried about the nuisance from the noise created by construction and Horizontal Direct Drilling (HDD). This is a particular concern because we understand that HDD will be used to go:

- under the River Yare to the North of Barford
- under Chapel Street between Barford and Marlingford
- under the River Tiffey
- under the B1108 Road

All of these HDD sites are in close proximity of Barford. We are especially concerned to note from document App-266 that the noise levels associated with different aspects of the construction is classified as “high” at receptors CCR26 and CCR26A. This classification is predicted for these receptors for the following activities: Cable Duct Installation; Cable Pull; Installation of Temporary Access Track; Establishment of Temporary Work Areas; and Trenchless Crossing (receptor CCR26A only). Predicted Decibel levels are in some cases at the level of 90 – 100dB. We are further concerned that, in the case of the trenchless crossing, the noise will continue at night and over the weekends. The noise level is set to be well above the 40 dB level at which sleep is normally affected and is likely to be particularly disruptive. This may well impair the quality of sleep and affect the health and wellbeing of our parishioners. We understand these are predictions, but of course predictions could be high or low compared with the real-life situation which can be affected by wind direction, for example. This assault is set to affect a number of residents in our parish and also businesses such as the Swans Harbour Caravanning and Camping site.

We consider that the full implications of the construction of the cable path have not been brought properly to the attention of those likely to be affected. Furthermore, the Applicant has not yet provided clarity on precisely the route the cable path will take. The extreme proximity of the houses to the cable path East of Barford means the true impact of the development is hard for the occupants to assess. This is causing considerable distress to those affected. We have received a number of complaints from residents about not getting proper answers to their questions and about slow, vague responses from the Applicant seeking to dismiss their legitimate concerns.

We ask the ExA to request the Applicant to provide an assurance that fully appropriate compensation will be paid to the satisfaction of those affected by the noise and construction disruption.

We are yet further concerned about the leakage of the drilling fluid used in HDD which we understand contains a mix of polymers and other chemicals. We are not qualified to comment on the avoidance and mitigation measures that the Applicant has stated will be in place with regard to

this, but we ask the ExA to use their expertise to ensure that we can be confident that every appropriate precaution is taken to avoid contamination of soil and watercourses.

Thank you for your attention.