

OPEN FLOOR HEARING – 29th MARCH 2023

Barford and Wrampingham Parish Council

Madam Chair, on behalf of Barford and Wrampingham Parish Council we wish to draw your attention to our concerns following receipt of emails from a local resident. The resident farms land to the East of Barford (between noise receptor points CCR25 and CCR26C) which will be impacted by the proposed cable route for SEP and DEP. The proposed cabling is destined to go through their land, then through and across our Parish including under two chalk streams, the rivers Tiffey and Yare.

Their concerns, as well as those of others in our Parish, illustrate the depth of feeling in this rural community about the dismissive attitude of the Applicant (Equinor) and their agents and we find they are supported by statements made by Chris Hays-Smith at the Open Floor Hearing held at Gresham's School in Holt on 29th March 2023.

1. We are concerned that ecological surveys for the cable route around our village may not have taken account of local knowledge and are missing important information. The ecological survey report for the area has been repeatedly promised to the landowner but has not been provided.
2. In part of the route, the cabling is possibly going to disturb historic farm dumps which may lead to pollution issues. Geophysical surveys have been done, but apparently the reports have not been provided. We understand from the landowner that Equinor have given written assurance they accept liability. However, money will not address decimated fish stocks and downstream native crayfish. Furthermore, the presentation by Chris Hayes-Smith suggests that the likely selling on of the cabling infrastructure may make any claims difficult to administer. Who will own the liability?
3. We are very concerned at the potential disturbances that villagers will face as our small country roads are beset by construction traffic, affecting access (by other local villages such as Colton and Marlingford) to our Primary School, and by children in our village to schools elsewhere.
4. We remain, as per our previous submission, extremely concerned about the impact of noise on local residents and businesses and the possibility of pollution arising from HDD.