

Revd Nichola J Winter



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PINS ref: EA1N / EA2 Substations PINS Ref: EN010077 + EN010078

Dear Secretary of State & Minister of State,

I have lived in the village of Friston for 28 years. In common with the majority of residents here and in the surrounding area I am writing to you regarding the energy chaos affecting the Suffolk Coast.

Scottish Power Renewables have now submitted their horrific plans regarding the substations referenced above. These two projects appear to be part of an overall energy scheme for the area which will transform and ruin a beautiful, valuable part of the British mainland.

We live in precarious times in which energy proposals need careful consideration and implementation. However, creating brown field industrial sites in an area of outstanding natural beauty is a betrayal. The desecration will be seen by future generations as a disastrous failure to safeguard a beautiful area which serves an important rural landscape and economy as well as a world-renowned area providing recreation, relaxation, refreshment and retreat for many.

We are faced with proposals for up to 7 NSIP energy projects in varying stages of process - pre-planning, consultation, or, shortly to apply for a DCO. **National Grid appears to have been directing all these projects to the Sizewell/Leiston area, whilst ignoring that the coast here is a designated AONB.**

Why is this even being contemplated? Many people have written before to express concern, myself included.

The proposed plans, if they go ahead, will obliterate fragile and vulnerable landscapes.

The threat of 'sixteen football pitches' worth of green land at Friston being covered in concrete to accommodate the SPR projects in particular is horrific. One has only to consider how recent heavy rain and subsequent flooding in the village illustrates the very real threat to this area.

On a wider scale, the damage and chaos that will ensue during the construction of this project is alarming. Heavy vehicles will cause chaos on small country roads. In the case of Scottish Power's EA1N & EA2 cable routes, these will make landfall on a stretch of coastline notorious for crumbling, unsafe cliffs, and then run across the AONB landscape with 60m wide, 10km long cable trenches, en-route to the massive onshore substations they propose to build less than 500 metres from our quiet and tranquil village of Friston. The light and noise pollution will be damaging to the environment and to the mental health of local residents and visitors. The effect on natural habitats that house the renowned RSPB site at Minsmere and the Suffolk Sandlings will be ghastly.

I appreciate that as we approach a General Election your mind will not be focussed on our particular predicament but it would be a sad reflection on National Grid and your government if history were to show you responsible for a man-made ecological and localised economic disaster here on the Suffolk Coast. The entire set of energy proposals needs a careful and urgent rethink.

Therese Coffey our current MP has, on a number of occasions, called for the National Grid and energy companies to explore brownfield options and locations. Obvious questions have been asked, such as why locations like Bradwell in Essex or other brownfield sites have not been upgraded and used? Why was Scottish Power not forced to connect these projects EA1N & EA2 at Bramford as originally planned?

National Grid make billions in annual profit and should be forced to respond to the accusation that they are not investing in old redundant brownfield sites. They exhibit no aptitude for safeguarding valuable resources by demonstrating sensible, strategic thinking and planning and instead show themselves to be complicit by encouraging Scottish Power and other energy companies to join them in systematic destruction of the Suffolk AONB and surrounding countryside.

This will not do. Please act now, dismiss the current proposals by SPR and encourage a rethink.

Yours sincerely,

Revd Nichola Winter