

Andrea Leadsom, BEIS
1 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0ET



21st November 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

**Scottish Power Renewables: East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two
PINS ref: EA1N / EA2 Substations PINS Ref: EN010077 + EN010078**

We in the Suffolk Coastal area are threatened with construction chaos connected with the development of offshore wind farms.

Our small village of Friston is the site chosen by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) as the site for large substations for connection of the East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two offshore wind power projects to the National Grid.

In addition, we now understand that there are 4-5 other similar projects in the pipeline, as well as the prospective new nuclear power station, Sizewell C.

The proposed siting of the EA1N/EA2 substations at Friston will destroy the rural character of our village, transforming it into an industrial landscape, initially from the construction itself, including trenches dug across miles of Suffolk countryside from the coast, and then the hideous ironmongery installed at the Friston substations that will be some 50 feet high. SPR say this is "to the north of the village" but it is actually in the village; the owners of houses on the opposite side of the road to our lovely mediaeval church have been told that their houses may be required for compulsory purchase.

To inflict this damage on this lovely rural area would be an act of mindless vandalism, as would the trenching of cables over the AONB on the coast across heathland and ancient forest. The rural nature of this part of Suffolk will be gone forever. However, this tragedy could still be avoided by the use of brownfield sites or an offshore ring main.

This situation has arisen because National Grid decreed that these connections should be made in the Sizewell/Leiston area. No-one from the National Grid has attended any of the public meetings that I have attended to give an account of their decision. Indeed they seem to be unaccountable; even our (prospective) MP Dr Therese Coffey has been unable to get any satisfactory responses from them.

In particular, she and others have asked why the National Grid and the energy companies have not explored brownfield site options, including the existing grid connection at Bradwell.

We understand that an offshore "ring main" could be a technical solution and if so this would be very welcome, saving much unnecessary construction chaos in Norfolk and Suffolk.

If the National Grid has considered this ring main option and rejected it as "uneconomic", then they should certainly be held to account; such an assessment must clearly include a valuation of the damage to the environment associated with these substation projects in a AONB, the permanent damage to the village of Friston and to the businesses that will be impacted by the inevitable loss of tourism to the area. Who would want to go on holiday in a vast construction site? How did National Grid cost this? If they did not cost it, then their assessment is surely fundamentally flawed?

SPR has consistently ignored the views of residents and their consultations have been a sham. The first my wife and I knew about this proposal was Easter last year. Since then, SPR has paid only lip-service to the consultation process and have consistently disregarded our comments.

There is clearly no "joined up" thinking in these numerous construction projects and the beautiful Suffolk Coastal landscape may be destroyed, completely unnecessarily, in the name of renewable energy. There are other ways of doing this: the use of brownfield sites and/or an offshore ring main.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas B Winter

Copied to:

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