

I would like to respond to your request for information related to what I said at the recent hearing.

You cannot have failed to notice the roadworks, diversions, and destruction of the countryside caused by the works for Sizewell C, National Grid and Scottish Power substations over this small area, much of which is an AONB. You'll have seen yellow signs all over the place and if you're local you'll wonder which road is scheduled for closure next.

And the tourists on whom our economy depends will see the same signs and the same devastation.

But this is just the start – it is now proposed to add SeaLink to this unplanned free-for-all of energy projects encompassing this small and beautiful area of East Suffolk. And, even in the couple of months since I wrote my Relevant Representation, we hear that:

- Benhall bridge is to be closed for many months – at vast expense and inconvenience - although that was not highlighted in the original SPR examination,
- and that we are in line for a large solar farm,
- and that there's to be a new water pipeline from Saxmundham to Sizewell C.

I'm all in favour of green energy – but planned green energy please – not this random series of proposals from different organisations which are only examined in isolation. Unless you look at the cumulative impact of these proposals, and the effect they will have during the long construction phase as well as the final result, you cannot make a properly focussed view of what is in store for this area, with its small villages and narrow roads. And yes, I know that part of the current upheaval is for a bypass – but that will just bring traffic more quickly to the area and not solve the transport problem within it, as big lorries try to navigate the sharp corners and tight bends.

The detail of these proposals and the role of National Grid – a plc – has been expressed by people with far more knowledge than I – Marianne Fellowes for instance – but what's going on in this area affects all of us, and there doesn't seem to be enough clarity to convince that the right decisions are being made.

So, as I said in my Relevant Representation, please can you consider halting this proposal and seriously consider the alternatives to this piecemeal approach to planning. Offshore Grids, with only the necessary structures onshore, on brownfield sites, are being used by all the other countries with North Sea windfarms. Only this country is proposing outdated, twentieth century methods of energy supply.

Of course renewable energy should be at the top of our power agenda – but unless you consider the cumulative impact, and halt these proposals before it's too late, this beautiful area will lose its beauty, lose its productive farmland, lose its attraction as a tourist spot – a major source of employment – and we'll have nothing but concrete to leave to our children and grandchildren.

Please can you include a wide-ranging study of the entire cumulative impact of proposals and current works for this area as part of your Examination Timetable. Only a full investigation will give you the knowledge to make an informed decision.

Thank you.

Alan Bullard