

Dear Planning Inspectors,

Ten years ago I moved to this delightfully inconvenient part of Suffolk. Now I foresee 15 years of evenly distributed disruption saturating this coastal area. The loss of peace and quiet is important to me personally but what is more important is the cumulative effect of so many programmes running concurrently yet autonomously on the environment and all local residents. Not to mention the not unreasonable prediction that the project will overrun costs and time frames to such an extent that future technologies will render this so-called investment a needless waste of funds, as the infrastructures will no longer be fit for purpose – unless the purpose was solely to transfer UK sovereign wealth to US shareholders.

Cost overruns? why worry? OFGEM have agreed to 48% UPFRONT funding of this project. Check-a-Trade would not approve.

The serendipitous circumstances of Sizewell and it's now confirmed C/D site go-ahead is no reason, other than profit to the US-based 'investor', to piggy-back all this infrastructure onto the one existing site – Sizewell C.

NGG inserted a Trojan Horse clause into the Friston Scottish Power Renewables proposed development plan granting it rights to co-opt a substation connection *even if* the Scottish Power project was denied. This is not the type of coordination of events one might hope for.

But as we residents are not permitted to consider the cumulative impact of all these NSIPS (Sizewell a different category according to the SoS Energy/Zero with differing regs and commitments) and as the Friston site has now received go-ahead, the NGG Trojan Horse is transparently visible as coattail to which other projects cling, such as:

- EA2
- EA1N
- National Grid Connection Hub
- National Grid Sea Link
- National Grid Lion Link
- Scottish Power Renewables

Not to mention the usual issues with telecommunications companies digging up roads, the Two-Village Bypass tearing up countryside for huge roundabouts and one in-process plus another in-the-pipeline Solar Farm placing greater and greater demands on the environs and communities.

These projects will overlap, extending the construction misery, and more than likely will offer many opportunities for the same roads to dug up and re-paved many times to accommodate various construction needs.

Specific objections?

Where is the comprehensive oversight and coordination of these projects?

Where is the rigor to enforce mitigation compliance 'sworn to uphold' as guidance only? There needs to be **an independent compliance officer post funded by ALL companies** applying for works *in* East Suffolk, *associated with* East Suffolk or *traversing through* East Suffolk, including through the coastal waters out to international waters boundaries and NOT to be affiliated with any of the energy companies themselves.

I'd like to share a conversation I had with Mike Elmer, Project Director for National Grid Ventures, at the November 2023 Aldeburgh Community drop in. Mike left NGG in 2024 after 17 years. He could not deny his financial duty was to National Grid US shareholders, not to the UK.

Mike agreed that self-certification does not work. So many promises documented by these companies are diluted and then washed out as 'not economically viable'. Bait and switch at its finest.

National Grid dismisses the viability of offshore substations because they lose an income stream: if they own the onshore stations, they get to charge other companies fees for connecting to their infrastructure.

Their feasibility studies are biased *against* offshore, due to alleged 'technical inefficiencies', despite offshore being a better solution for the environment and communities.

Did no one notice the image of an unknown sub-station in the Community Benefits Final Report from March 2024 as an example for the proposed Wood Farm site? Deceptively cropped, it shows only a small corner of a substation. Could this have been to mislead ministers as to the true extent of the site? Compare this to the image of the 37-acre Scottish Power substation (excluding the adjacent 15 acre converter station) in Burstall, near Bramford which is, by the way, exactly the same layout as that proposed for the Saxmundham sub-station.

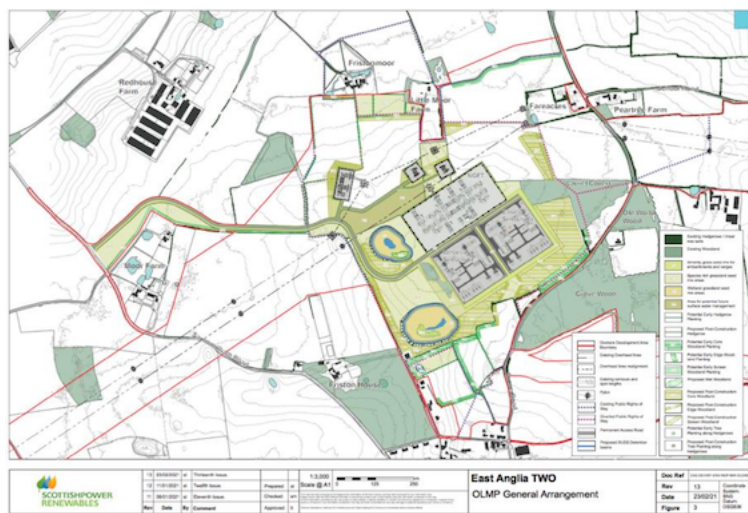
Image 1: Substation



Image source: [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#), report titled Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure – Social Research (PDF, 1.39 MB, 126 pages) Final report, prepared by BMG Research for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, March 2024, and accessed from the Research and analysis - Community benefits for electricity transmission network. As found on [gov.uk/government/publications/community-benefits-for-electricity-transmission-network-infrastructure](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-benefits-for-electricity-transmission-network-infrastructure)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-benefits-for-electricity-transmission-network-infrastructure> (this is not a live link - see P 20 of first .pdf for image of substation)

Yet on the image adjacent (NSIP/SPR dead link, below) the **actual** Friston proposed plan of the complete substation demonstrates just how deceptively the above view of a substation has been cropped



<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010077/documents?searchTerm=Substation+Action+Save+East+Suffolk+%28SASES%29&itemsPerPage=25&page=2>

Document title: Deadline 11 Submission - Responses to Applicants' D10 submissions concerning Ground Investigation Works and Quality Of Stakeholder Engagement (PDF, 1MB), From Substation Action Save East Suffolk (SASES) 10 June 2021

Remarkably this plan, almost perfectly matches the *existing* fully built-out version at Burstall in Suffolk, below, showing the extent of the 37-acre substation and adjacent 15-acre converter station:



Image source: Scottish Power Renewables News pages, onshore construction update

https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/news/pages/onshore_construction_update.aspx (not a live link)

The proposed footprint is bigger than built-up Saxmundham.

Mike Elmer admitted to me that there would only be about 30 full-time jobs at the Saxmundham site once it was commissioned. Another promise broken, as the rationale for significant jobs creation has been stripped of its veil.

Where is the oversight in the aggregate of NSIP projects? Or is this lack of oversight simply a convenience, paving the way to deflect the issues of 'community engagement'?

Specifically, look at the recent 'minor' proposed change to the DCO at Benhall Bridge. It is disingenuous at best to imagine this 'small change' wasn't deliberately held back from the original DCO. Such a literal bottleneck might well have scuppered the preferred Saxmundham site option.

Changing a bridge load from 46 tonnes to 300 tonnes is not insignificant. Can you really believe no one thought of this? Or no one paid attention, when Suffolk Highways raised this as a concern over a year ago?

Not to mention the careful timing of this application after the closing date for registering as an Interested Party for this hearing – the definition of disenfranchisement.

Why should we believe anything Sea Link promises? Either Sea Link is devious enough to attempt slipping controversial items through hoping for a lesser degree of scrutiny or they are simply incompetent (oops, we didn't think this bridge was that critical or maybe we thought nobody would notice we had re-categorized this change as a minor concern).

The thought of working hours being 24/7 for ten years is unbearable. Works MUST be restricted to normal (noisy) construction of 08:00-18:00 M-F, 08:00-13:00 Sat and NO Sunday.

Traffic is already becoming more difficult and will only be worse during harvest when tractors rightfully occupy the roads. Do you wish to be responsible for lorry/tractor collisions?

Cumulative impact I leave to others to iterate.

Joan Edlis