

WED 5TH SNAPE MALTINGS – SEA LINK –

My family have lived in the same house 8 minutes from North Warren [REDACTED] – we have contributed through cultural heritage, farming, fishing and with a fierce commitment to nature protection, because we understand its value and dependency on this beautiful coast. With rarity, comes fragility and the industrialisation of the East Coast will destroy it. ALL the communities here have worked to establish a nature reserve of incredible beauty and tranquillity under those dark skies and have protected it – but not National Grid. I am not here to quote facts and figures you have them, but they do not seem to be heard. The proposals in front of you are indefensible when you know there are other options, that are also cheaper and will not leave lasting irreversible damage onshore here.

Why onshore when an offshore transmission network is cheaper? why onshore on productive farmland and wetland nature reserves of significant importance in a nature depleted country like the UK, when an offshore network is already a reality demonstrated by Belgium who have operated their national grid offshore for 4 years, with Germany and Holland investing in the same infrastructure. There is no reason why the proposed routes are needed in East Suffolk when other viable brown field sites have been identified. The proposals have **not** demonstrated reasonable grounds for choosing this area when other options are available and we have not been presented with information as to why this route **MUST** be the one when National grid ESO's analysis- of an integrated offshore system for East Anglia demonstrates that it could save 2 billion. National Grid will cause economic damage here, not just during the construction phase but afterwards where restrictions will apply within specified easements strips along cable routes preventing deep root systems of trees and shrubs regrowth – ie nature's habitat - in particular to the income from nature tourism which has grown here precisely because of the investment in it by ALL the communities on this East Coast, with international significance for the work the RSPB have achieved since 1947 not far short of 80 years – the financial commitment over that time period amounts to possibly billions when you take into account the many interrelated industries – all to be swept away by National grids investors because of their unwillingness to entertain offshore grids – unlike our near European neighbours who are showing economic and forward thinking commitment to energy production and the protection of nature. **NOT HERE** though – it is shocking that routes within nationally and internationally important wildlife sites have even been proposed. The nature crisis we are in is being increased locally because infrastructure companies refuse to grab the opportunities available to them and presented to them. This area, in its care and protection of its heritage East Coast is exceptional making a significant contribution to the Governments legally binding commitments to the 30 by 30 Biodiversity pledge. National Grid however have selected an area of Red List species, rare and incredibly important wetlands, interlinking diverse environments providing rich species habitat, This area is designated as AONB/NL SSSI Heritage Coast –National Grid does **Not** **NEED** East Suffolk to be sacrificed in this way when offshore and brownfield sites are economically viable, and habitat destruction avoidable. Buildings are one of the main contributors to energy use – they are building multiple substations at great height and cost – adding to climate change. With noise emissions that are intolerable to humans and have been identified as the cause of mental health issues for those who live near them. If this were taking place in the amazon there would be global outcry over the destruction of habitat and species by shortsighted investors and lack

of incentives for developers, to use offshore grids. The destruction of environmentally sensitive legally protected landscape is indefensible. The damage will be permanent and unrecoverable. Now we find that there is the possibility of multiple power cable routes and multiple damage each time – this landscape will not recover from mass industrialisation – neither will its migratory visitors or native species, the noise and machinery alone. Thorpeness already shows damage to its fragile cliffs, and should large areas collapse the water will continue inland with flooding capacity – what madness is this – the opportunity for a combined off shore grid offers the solution.

My home with its dark skies and incredible bird life will be silent, the geese will no longer fly over and the treasure that is this area all along our coast will no longer exist – instead we will have an industrial landscape – [REDACTED] - at what point is the government advised to pause and move away from this outdated approach – which would be to the benefit of the UK power needs and the most nature depleted country – our European neighbours will be shaking their heads at the absurdity of this energy strategy.

I have seen those most rare turtle doves on the reserve, heard those most rare weird bittern calls and listened to Nightingales – now I ask you to listen to what is happening here.

Damaging developments which would affect a SSSI are normally only allowed as a last resort where there are no other alternatives, and this is not the case.

The APPROACH IS OUTDATED AND DESTRUCTIVE AND INTOLERABLE. IT IS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AND WILL CAUSE INTOLERABLE BURDENS TO WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES -YOU COULD BE THE CHANGE MAKERS AND LAUDED FOR YOUR FORWARD THINKING COMMITMENT TO THE UK.

TRY HUMMING ONE NOTE ALL DAY, EVERYDAY FOR EVER AND CONTEMPLATE WHAT THAT WILL BE LIKE for those living with substations.