

Andrew Turner

Good afternoon. My name is Andrew Turner. I have lived in Westleton for over 20 years. I have also been coming to the village since I was a child, as has my sister who with her husband now live part-time in Sternfield. We all love the sea, the coast and walking with mad dogs in the Suffolk Coastal area and in particular on footpaths around the fields of Sternfield. We cannot understand why the National Grid and the Government believes that turning this small corner of the country, which is deeply rural, into an industrial zone is acceptable. Certainly, it's an easy decision, but is it a good decision?

It may generate economic activity for a 15+ year period, but it will do so at the expense of the tourist sector which is mainstay of the local economy. And it will move labour from providing services to the local community to working for a short term infrastructure project, leaving the community short of skills and services it needs.

Is it a good decision to build the first of probably a few huge – 26 metre high - industrial buildings in a rural setting? Is it a good decision to deprive people who live in the countryside - of countryside? Walks around and life in Sternfield will never be the same – at first the backdrop will be HGV traffic on roads, cranes on the horizon, diggers and dump trucks rumbling away, and evenings will be plagued by light pollution. And then the backdrop will be a huge industrial building completely disproportionate in size to anything around. And then the process will be repeated because of the other projects which we expect will follow.

We understand there are other, more appropriate solutions to get this energy to where it is needed which wouldn't be at our, or anyone else's expense as it would use brownfield sites away from rural and urban communities. But these are being discounted. Why? And if it is deemed that there really is no better alternative, couldn't the buildings be sunk into the ground so that they do not tower over everything around?

But bottom line – my sister's family and I feel that the residents of this small part of the UK are expected to accept that our quality of life and our unique environmental habitat is an acceptable sacrifice for National Grid profit. This seems a wrong-headed and disproportionate approach and I hope the result of this Examination is that National Grid are required to rethink their plans.

Thank you.