

Instead Party Reference number:- [REDACTED]

My name is Ken Bate and I live in Saxmundham.

World food security at risk

A cross party committee of MP's have concluded that UK food production could drop by more than a third by 2050. By 2050 due to climate change East Anglia will be unable to grow cereal crops and warmer countries such as Iran are already struggling with increased desertification, severe drought, higher temperatures, and soil salinisation, making farming increasingly challenging and threatening world food security. The wheat harvest in Iran is down 60% this year due to high temperatures and drought, likewise Spain and Portugal production this year is also down due to prolonged heat and drought.

In the coming years our arable land will be much needed to avoid world food shortages. With that in mind we shouldn't be using this most valuable commodity to build large scale infrastructure projects, they belong on brownfield sites and offshore.

If the converter stations get the go ahead here it will prove to be the equivalent of the "Californian Gold Rush". The attraction of cheap connectivity to the grid will result in large scale solar panel farms. These farms will obliterate our beautiful landscape and the construction of these monsters will bring our roads to a standstill. And of course it's not just Solar Farms but Data Centres and anything and everything that can be plugged in to this new dumping ground, no longer a green and present land. The A12 is already being ground to a near standstill at times and this is only the beginning. This coming on top of the construction of Sizewell C, the converter stations at Saxmundham, substations at Friston and now we hear that Essex & Suffolk Water are proposing another major infrastructure development around Saxmundham, these projects are clearly too much for our rural area and will impact greatly on local communities, our rural infrastructure changed inextricably. Our once green and pleasant land consigned to the history books.

If National grid did the right thing for our country they would build the converter stations offshore, leaving this precious land full of SSSI sites and our Best and Most Versatile agricultural land to nature and for growing the much needed food for all our futures.

It's such a pity that our government isn't like the Scandinavian governments. There the people have trust in their politicians because they have historically done the right things and listened to what the electorate want. By contrast our governments let's industry do as it likes. They don't listen to us they impose their ideas on us.

It beggars belief that anyone could think the Suffolk coastal area a suitable place for such an industrial complex. The Netherlands chose the Rotterdam area a world leading port and industrial area. Belgium chose the Zeebrugge area another large port and industrial area. The U.K. chose Friston!!! Really!

Plus of course they will use offshore converter stations when it's the right thing to do. Says it all really.

If lion link mirrors Nautilus and goes directly from Rotterdam to a brownfield site such as Grain closer to the need for more power in the U.K. then Sealink is completely unnecessary.

Thank