

This is my final chance to object to this project. I had asked to speak on 29th July but was not given the opportunity. Quite frankly, this is all a very complicated process for laypeople like myself to navigate and to understand, where and when to comment/speak.

I have attended, or viewed via the online links, all of the hearings. I also attended the site visits starting at Margaret Mason's on [REDACTED] through to the National grid at Penwortham.

During this time I have been aware of, to say the least, sloppy, ambiguous and false representations from the applicants and their representatives.

The vagueness of the plans is shocking. To discover that the designs of the substations are not yet complete at this late stage, shows a wilful disregard for the public whose lives and livelihoods are about to be decimated.

Had the applicants sincerely wanted to demonstrate the will to inform the public with transparency, they would have made a better effort of introducing their plans by widespread, significant and clear advertisements. A small leaflet tucked inside a pile of junk mail, was not adequate. I was not aware of the project at that juncture because that publication, along with the rest of the myriad of junk notifications goes directly from my letterbox to the recycling bin, as is the case in many households.

The applicants have repeatedly been asked, by myself and other concerned residents, to supply us with a scaled down model of the substations and sites, but to no avail. It is obvious to me that, had the public been given the opportunity to visualise the scale of the structures, instead being shown dozens of complex maps, the outcry would have been significantly louder and bigger. I believe the applicants are fully aware of this, hence their reluctance to produce such a model.

I only fully understood the size and size impact of these monstrosities when, on the site visit, I walked the length of just one of them on the dairy farm belonging to Mr & Mrs Fare and even then, we failed to calculate the depth because the posts, planted to demonstrate that measurement were so far away, and on such a huge decline they were not visible to us at all.

In contrast, Mr Coney, the Fare's representative was clear and coherent and spoke in a language we could all understand. He perfectly demonstrated the thoughtlessness and ignorance of the planners, with regard to the Fare's livelihood. What was also abundantly clear was the applicant's representative's was ability to offer a response.

This project is ill thought out, devoid of any concern for our green spaces, our greenbelt, our graveyards, our hedgerows, our wildlife, our protected species, our migratory birds, our nesting birds, our children's mental health, our children's education, our children's outdoor activities, our agriculture, our dairy farms, our tourism industry, our rural identity and our heritage to name but a few.

As the applicants have already commenced work in our fields, I suspect they are confident of getting their projects passed. This, despite the fact that they have been so long in the planning they are almost obsolete, new technologies are overtaking them. This produces a new concern, that the projects will commence, the damage will be done and the projects will be abandoned, similar to huge areas of the HS2 rail link.

I pray that this is not a fait accompli.

Sincerely