



I met the energy minister, Claire Perry MP recently to convey residents' concerns on the Scottish Power Renewables proposal for a substation near the village of Friston.

I was joined at the meeting by councillors Geoff Holdcroft and Andrew Reid as well as the heads of planning from both the district and county councils.

The proposed energy generation and transmission projects suggest that our small bit of Suffolk will be responsible for a quarter of the country's electricity supply in the 2030s.

In addition to Sizewell C, the cumulative impact of huge pieces of highly visible infrastructure, with no additional local jobs once built, without changes would clearly be visible on our flat landscape and be unacceptable.

As Scottish Power Renewables have decided to place their substation at the very end of their corridor of search in Friston, five miles of countryside will needlessly have to be dug up for cables to reach the substation and there may be multiple huge buildings. We spoke about other options that could reduce the impact, including moving the proposed transmitters elsewhere to other energy hubs.

The minister has taken this back to her department to consider carefully. She cannot express a view else she will have to remove herself from the decision making process. I will keep working with councillors and officials on this important issue.