



Councillor David Wood
Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB
Dock Lane
Melton
Suffolk
IP12 1PE

e: saveeastuffolk@outlook.com

14th August 2018

Ref: SASES - Response to AONBs Letter to Ian MacKay Scottish Power EA2 + EA1N

Dear Chairmen,

I am writing to you on behalf of SASES.ORG.UK, the East Suffolk community action group fighting Scottish Power Renewables proposal to locate industrial substations on 35 acres of rural farmland adjacent to the villages of Friston and Knodishall.

Land to the north of Friston is totally unsuitable for this scale of infrastructure, the proposed 7-mile cable corridor that will plough through the AONB from Thorpeness Common to Friston, means SPRs proposal is not without effect on the AONB. In Friston the barns and ancient woodland around Zone 7 are home to 3 species of bat (including pipistrelle & long eared), badgers, barn owls, spotted fly catchers. The Sandlings Walk even runs alongside part of the proposed site. In many respects Friston warrants protection in its own right and should be included in the AONB. Indeed, we understand there are moves to request extending the boundary into this area. This would make sense given the Friston landscape has far more merit than the deeply compromised landscape around Sizewell. Therefore, you can imagine our disappointment and incomprehension that the AONB is supporting Scottish Power in the selection of zone 7 for EA2 + EA1N windfarms onshore substations. In protecting the AONB as it is now, we are concerned you are encouraging destruction of the bordering areas that many hope will soon be part of a wider, larger AONB or National Park.

Whilst we acknowledge you have a statutory obligation to protect the AONB in your capacity as custodians of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, we would hope that you also respect your 'duty to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities' and would not wish to be seen as the main driving force pushing out National Infrastructure Energy projects into random locations in the East Suffolk countryside. Do you realise Scottish Power are now using the AONB's position to support the case for development at zone 7?

Many would argue that there is already a precedent for energy infrastructure at Sizewell and although it is technically within the AONB, potential sites here, close to the electricity pylons are not exceptionally beautiful or unique as a result of the nuclear power stations and other wind power onshore developments. The obvious site for the new infrastructure would be on a parcel of EDF owned land that is already designated for industrial/energy infrastructure. This is the view held by both local authorities, as stated in their joint letter to HM Government (11th May 2018), which recommends land at Sizewell be considered for site selection.

We hope you are aware of the recent meeting between Energy Minister Claire Perry (BEIS), the local MP and local authorities. We understand EDF are prepared to engage in a much-needed coordinated process to find an alternative solution at Sizewell. With the prospect of ¼ of the UKs' energy requirements coming through this little part of Suffolk. We would hope the AONB will, also fully support the process of finding an acceptable solution at Sizewell.

Sincerely,
Michael Mahony
SASES.ORG.UK

Copies to:

Therese Coffey - MP, DEFRA Minister & Chair Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board

Andrew Reid - Councillor Suffolk CC

John Pitchford - Planning Suffolk CC

Lisa Chandler - Planning East Suffolk

Simon Amstutz – Manager Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB