

KEY ISSUES FOR PHASE 3.5 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

SASES has had a number of requests concerning how to respond to the latest Phase 3.5 Consultation by Scottish Power. How residents respond to this consultation is of course a matter entirely for you.

However SASES intends to address the following key issues in its response to the Phase 3.5 Consultation, building on previous consultation responses.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive and there may well be other points which can be made.

Question 1. Onshore Substation Site Selection – Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 & 2.5

- RAG assessment has always been flawed, inherently subjective due to absence of weighting etc. A key example is the RAG assessment for road access is shown as Red for Sizewell notwithstanding the existing HGV route, but Green for Friston!
- Lack of transparency of the detail behind RAG assessment and other factors which SPR refuse to disclose at this stage.
- If Broom Covert is an option why is Zone 3 not being reconsidered?
- Absence of detailed landscape assessment by SPR. An independent landscape report shows that Friston has a high landscape value and is not suitable for development.
- Failure of SPR to conduct any detail design work for the substations, they will obviously look industrial and ugly but visualisations are inadequate and SPR still do not appear to have a substation design in mind.
- Short cable route to Sizewell or long cable route to Friston – there are major cost and disruption issues not just in the short term but in the long term – there is no evidence that these have been properly assessed
- Reptile habitat impact versus human impact – what about the people/community element who is more important?
- Have all advantages/disadvantages of Sizewell site and Friston been considered?
- Visualisations – differences from Phase 3 visualisations, limited viewpoints - more are required from Grove Road, from footpaths and overhead – as impact much greater than SPR visualisations indicate. (Misleading/confusing changes in visualisations from Phase 3 to 3.5).
- Absence of any analysis about the ability to develop on an AONB and the fact this is permissible as numerous previous developments at Sizewell demonstrate
- The detailed analyses and studies required, namely landscape, environmental, traffic, substation design etc. All these details are to follow after the site selection is made. How can any rational site selection decision be made on this basis? Furthermore how can the public make informed responses to this consultation with such a poor flow of quality information?

Question 2. East Anglia ONE North Masterplan Grove Wood, Friston

- Landscape and visual impact (numerous listed buildings etc) in a largely untouched and unspoilt landscape – There is NO precedent for industrialisation of this kind here. So this would be an unprecedented development in open countryside.
- Noise pollution – currently none - harvest time aside
- Light pollution – currently minimal
- Cable route – significant disruption and cost, archaeological impact, ecological impact for example the loss of ancient woodland either side of the Aldeburgh Road

- Friston existing flood risk – comment on flood mitigation approach, retention pond etc.
- Rights of way and public footpaths – well used public footpath runs through the middle of the proposed site Grove Wood, Friston.
- Economic impact – tourism and inward investment damaged
- Comment on impact on allotments.
- Close proximity to Friston - Community and wellbeing impact – Too close to a small rural village community and residents' homes.
- Construction traffic – unsuitability of public roads, many not even two car widths wide, extremely dangerous to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Rural roads/lanes here are not susceptible to “improvement”. Further environmental damage with the creation of unsightly “haul roads” across open, unspoilt countryside.
- Limited capacity of the site to accommodate further development of National Grid Interconnectors and further windfarm projects making situation far worse.
- AONB – Friston landscape greater merit than Sizewell – this has been supported by an independent landscape appraisal.

Question 3. East Anglia TWO Masterplan Grove Wood, Friston

This is essentially the same as Question 2 so far as project Onshore impact is concerned and could be answered as “Same answer as to Question 2 above” or similar wording. No answer may be taken as no comment or objection.

Question 4. East Anglia ONE North Masterplan Broom Covert, Sizewell

- Landscape and visual impact – there is existing large scale energy infrastructure (including large windfarm substations) and an industrial estate nearby.
- Noise pollution – existing large scale energy infrastructure
- Light pollution – existing large scale energy infrastructure
- Cable route – limited disruption and cost relative to using a location further inland.
- No known existing flood risks.
- Economic impact – minimal damage to local tourism and inward investment given existing large scale energy infrastructure and Leiston Industrial Estate
- Community and wellbeing impact – relatively limited given existing large-scale energy infrastructure and presence of Leiston Industrial Estate
- Capacity to accommodate further development for Interconnectors and further windfarm projects
- AONB – Friston landscape greater merit than alternative – this has been supported by an independent review.

Question 5. East Anglia TWO Masterplan Broom Covert, Sizewell

This is essentially the same as Question 4 so far as project Onshore impact is concerned and could be answered as “Same answer as to Question 4 above” or similar wording. No answer may be taken as no comment or objection.

Question 6. Broom Covert, Sizewell Site Considerations

SPR states “*SPR’s initial review confirms suitable habitats exist within the onshore study area*”

- How and when will SPR reach a final decision on alternative locations?
- Do Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust support moving to an alternative site(s) if a suitable site(s) can be found?
- Should sites in Zones 1 to 3 be considered for reptile mitigation?
- Should the Onshore Study Area be extended to allow larger area of search?

Question 7. **Traffic and Transportation**

Friston Site only

- Unsuitability of Sternfield site access (B1121) – we need confirmation that this route has been completely eliminated as a construction route
- Unsuitability of Knodishall access (B1069)
- Disruption and loss of landscape quality and woodland through the construction of “haul roads”, particularly ancient woods at Aldringham near the intended Aldeburgh road crossing.

Both Sites

- Suitability of Yoxford - Sizewell Gap Road as existing HGV access (B1122)
- Unsuitability of Friday Street – Aldeburgh – Aldringham – Thorpeness access (A1094 – B1122 – B1153) – major issues as you approach Aldeburgh with parking and particularly the roundabout. Closure of this road due to accidents would have major impacts for emergency vehicles. Major traffic congestion issues at peak tourist times.
- Disruption to communities, businesses and day to day life.
- No information about location and size of construction compounds. At Bramford and on the cable route from Bawdsey to Bramford these are very large and incredibly unsightly
- Noise, piling, construction vehicles, diggers, HGVs etc.
- Hours of working, effects of weekend work and work on bank holidays, also unplanned works and possible requests for unsociable working hours (evenings, early mornings).
- Anything else

Question 8. **Additional Feedback**

Comments as required on issues not covered by Questions 1 to 7 above e.g. poor consultation to date and short period of Phase 3.5 Consultation, concerns with SPR’s apparent unquestioning reliance on contracted-in professional advice.

Substantial damage to tourism given (i) ever increasing development in area noted for its peaceful rural tranquillity which is unsuitable for industrial scale infrastructure (ii) construction traffic could paralyse a road network which is already very overloaded with visitor traffic at peak times e.g. Easter, Bank Holidays, School Holidays, Aldeburgh Festival, Latitude etc.

Total failure of Scottish Power, other energy generators, National Grid and the Crown Estate to properly plan for the onshore impacts of large-scale wind farm development in the Southern North Sea. Where is the guidance and leadership from Government, Local Authorities and the Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board?

Complete lack of consideration shown by Scottish Power that it has blighted peoples’ lives and is causing a great deal of stress and anxiety.