



Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP  
Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Dear Mrs Leadsom,

Re: Energy projects planned for Suffolk Heritage Coast

We write to you on behalf of the undersigned 32 Parish and Town Councils in Suffolk to express our significant joint concerns and to urge you to immediately suspend the current DCO applications for EA1N and EA2 made by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR), and to conduct an urgent review of the impacts of all the seven major Energy projects currently planned for this area (including the DCO for EDF Energy proposals for Sizewell C expected in Spring 2020). The reasons and rationale for this urgent request are as follows:

We fully understand that there is a global emergency that requires a national transition in the UK away from fossil-fuelled energy and incorporates renewable energy opportunities. However, despite engaging in the various consultation processes in good faith with EDF, SPR, and more recently National Grid Ventures as individual councils, making what we regard as reasonable and balanced representations in response to the impact of each project separately and cumulatively, it is our joint view that our initial and continuing concerns regarding this unprecedented and unnecessary industrialisation remain largely unaddressed.

Specifically, we have consistently raised our concerns about:

1. the level of both HGV and other construction related traffic on our roads (both those in the immediate surrounding area, as well as the A12 and those within communities served by the A12)
2. the associated infrastructure required in such a small geographic location (see attached map) and the damaging environmental impact on our rural landscapes, our villages, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) one with both International and European designations,

all of which will also be a very real threat to the local tourist economy and inward investment from people who would otherwise choose to move here.

Please also see attached the recent Destination Management Organisation (DMO) report which highlighted the value that residents and visitors place on the "peace, tranquillity and natural environment" of the area - all of which it concludes is at significant risk from the projects as currently planned.

Our concerns are also shared by many, very well-respected local organisations: Suffolk Wildlife Trust said, speaking on the proposals for Sizewell C on 30/10/19, that it would mean "the loss of nationally important fen habitat...could hit water-levels, affect coastal erosion, harm rare bats and have a profound impact on wildlife" and that it was "unquestionable that the proposed development will have significant adverse ecological impacts which will be very difficult to adequately address". RSPB Minsmere on its website state "This could be catastrophic for wildlife. The building work may increase erosion, upsetting the delicate balance of the reserve.... impacting its rare wetland wildlife, which includes bitterns, otters and ducks. Once the construction is in progress, it may increase levels of noise and light pollution. Rare marsh harriers, breeding ducks, geese and wading birds are very sensitive to this. The effects will be long-term."

In addition, despite assurances given over the years that the cumulative impact of what could be in total up to 7 energy projects (and growing as we write) would be considered - there is no evidence so far of any meaningful attempt to make that cumulative assessment, nor coordinate even the consultation or the potential delivery. Without this cumulative assessment and a proper strategic plan, including the appropriate siting of any required infrastructure into brownfield areas which would not require the destruction of AONB, SSSI, rural landscapes and greenfield sites nor significantly damage the environment and economy of the communities served by our Parishes and Town councils - these projects should not be allowed to progress.

In conclusion, each project and its associated infrastructure is individually too big for the areas being considered. The cumulative impact of having six of these sequential industrial energy developments running in parallel with a proposed Sizewell C development will devastate the local environment, economy and the health and well-being of all those who live in, work in and visit our Parishes and Towns over a period of many years, impacting negatively on the whole of East Suffolk. The significant harm is not outweighed by any potential gain and we would request your robust consideration & urgent intervention. You would also be most welcome to visit.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Tim Beach (Chair of Snape Parish Council),

Snape PC, Church Road Snape, IP17 1SZ

on behalf of:

Aldeburgh Town Council,  
Aldringham cum Thorpeness Parish Council,  
Bredfield Parish Council,  
Bungay Town Council,  
Campsea Ashe Parish Council,  
Chediston & Linstead Parish Council,  
Chillesford Parish Council,  
Darsham Parish Council,  
Dunwich Parish Meeting,  
Farnham with Stratford St. Andrew Parish Council,  
Friston Parish Council,  
Hacheston Parish Council,  
Iken Parish Council,  
Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council,  
Kirtton & Falkenham,  
Knodishall Parish Council,  
Leiston Town Council,  
Levington & Stratton Hall Parish Council,  
Marlesford Parish Council,  
Martlesham Parish Council,  
Melton Parish Council,  
Middleton Parish Council,  
Rushmere St. Andrew Parish Council,  
Shottisham Parish Council  
Snape Parish Council,  
Sutton Parish Council,  
Sweffling Parish Council,  
Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council,  
Walberswick Parish Council,  
Westerfield Parish Council,  
Westleton Parish Council,  
Yoxford Parish Council.

Cc: Permanent Secretary Dept. of BEIS, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Parliamentary Candidates, East Anglian Daily Times.

Enclosed: DMO Executive Summary report and map of the cumulative impacts.