

Little Bromley Parish Council – Response to Five Estuaries Summer 2022 Public Consultation

Little Bromley Parish Council are very concerned and have strong opposition to the plans by Five Estuaries for development of onshore infrastructure in the Parish of Little Bromley.

Your proposed works of underground cable trenches and a 5 Hectare substation particularly affects our village. Your work is in addition to that proposed by National Grid, and we understand that North Falls Windfarm will be proposing similar works to Five Estuaries in the near future. These works combined place a massive burden on the village and parish area.

Your proposal will be a permanent disfigurement of the Parish of Little Bromley, will remove valuable Grade 1 arable land from production necessary for food security, generate significant construction and ongoing noise, affect residents and community amenities, and potentially drive down property prices. Our precious rural landscape will be industrialised by your substation, and farmland will be permanently affected by your underground cable routing. There seems to be no regard for the long term environmental, ecological and sociological impact of such a scheme. The quality of life for residents and impact on our village of Little Bromley needs to be the prime consideration and the impact on our village seems not to be considered.

Some specific concerns we have with your plans are as follows –

- The search areas designated for your substation are remote and rural with no major roads to allow immediate access. The associated installations and facilities such as temporary access roads, contractor facilities, equipment storage and more will be disruptive for many years.
- We question the decision to site a substation in Little Bromley rather than closer to main roads, on a brownfield site, and nearer to any onshore cable entry point.
- The potential areas proposed for your substation stretches to within 0.5km of Little Bromley village and even closer to properties on the edge of the village. Residents quality of life will be diminished and property values will be affected.
- Your proposed cable routes and tunnelling will have an enormous impact on large areas of farmland and in some cases residents gardens. Underground cables will impact agricultural land drains and irrigation systems.
- There will be a noise impact – electric substations ‘hum’, crackle and hiss especially in cold or damp weather. This is a rural area with very low levels of background noise which your substation will impact.
- There will be a visual impact by locating your substation in this area – we are very flat with no hills or features to hide such an industrial development. There is also potential for significant light pollution.
- The Grade 1 agricultural land being considered is key for our food security. This is a precious resource that needs to be protected.

We understand that your selection of Little Bromley is driven by National Grid selecting the area for its Connection Substation. There is a huge negative response to the National Grid plans across East Anglia, with Residents, Parish Councils, District Councils, County Councils and local Members of Parliament uniting in voicing their opposition. There was a debate in the House of Commons on the National Grid plans on the 19th July where this opposition was discussed.

We ask that Five Estuaries work with National Grid and other offshore energy providers such as North Falls to design an alternate fully offshore solution for power transmission – an undersea power grid.

Jonathan Buxton – Chairman Little Bromley Parish Council