



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Anna Graves
Chief Executive
Breckland Council
Elizabeth House
Walpole Loke
Dereham
Norfolk
NR19 1EE

Friday 14th December 2018

Dear Anna,

Contamination arising from disturbance of hazardous and radioactive military material

I am writing to you regarding the application for Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm – which, if granted the necessary permissions, would see another onshore substation constructed at Necton in my constituency. Extension works to the existing National Grid substation located there, along with enabling works for Norfolk Vanguard's sister project, Norfolk Boreas (which would see a further substation built in the village), would also be required.

As you will be aware, over the past twelve to eighteen months, I have held a number of meetings in Necton to discuss the need to ensure this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is sited in the appropriate location, and to make the case that, should it be allowed to go ahead, the surrounding communities must receive a package of proportionate community benefits (including, for example, improvements to the dangerous A47 Necton/Dunham junction). Necton Parish Council, Necton Substation Action Group, local district and county councillors, local business people, landowners and representatives of Parish Councils in surrounding communities have all attended – as has Norfolk Vanguard Ltd/Vattenfall UK's Project Manager, Ruari Lean, on two occasions.

Through these wider discussions, I became aware that the land in question was also the site of an F-16 fighter jet crash back in 1996, and that a significant military clean-up operation was required to try and remove hazardous fuel and radioactive substances that had contaminated the area. Farming was not permitted there for a number of years afterwards.

As a result, in a letter that I sent to the Planning Inspectorate back in September to formally put on record my strong opposition to this application on the basis of the current siting (copy enclosed), I shared and supported the grave local concerns in Necton and the surrounding villages about the potential for any construction on this site disturbing any remaining contaminants. I am also

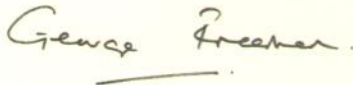
concerned that, despite Norfolk Vanguard Ltd/Vattenfall UK having been made aware of the circumstances, they appear still not to have taken steps in response to this information.

I have since received a substantial dossier, compiled by members of the Necton Substation Action Group and a local landowner, about the plane crash – which I understand Breckland Council has already been provided with, and are considering.

I am, therefore, writing to request an update on what, specifically, Breckland officers are doing to look into this very serious issue. Whereas initially it appeared that only the cable corridor would affect the crash site, it now appears that the contaminated piece of land may be much bigger, encompassing the whole area that Norfolk Vanguard Ltd/Vattenfall UK wish to use for their substation. Thus, the potential for disturbing any remaining contaminants is even greater.

I have copied in the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that they are all aware of this situation, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,



George Freeman MP

cc. The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP – Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP – Secretary of State for Defence
Planning Inspectorate

Cllr William Nunn – Leader of Breckland District Council, District Councillor for Forest Ward

Cllr Nigel Wilkin – District Councillor for Necton Ward

Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris – County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division

Ruari Lean – Project Manager for Norfolk Vanguard Ltd/Vattenfall UK