

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council and local residents of the parish of Blawith and Subberthwaite. We are within the South Lake District National Park, near to, and therefore impacted upon by National Grids proposal to construct large scale pylons down the west coast of Cumbria from SILECROFT through the DUDDON VALLEY and then down the entire FURNESS PENINSULA to BARROW IN FURNESS.

This is the southern connection of the 400 KeV system.

The parish council have campaigned against the construction of the large pylons since the first proposal from National Grid.

We are very heartened by Ofgem's statement that the " decision between NGET'S favoured use of a tunnel under Morcambe Bay and the alternative approach of using subsea cables around the bay is relatively finely balancedthe subsea cable option could be better value for customers".

The subsea cable we support is from SILECROFT to Heysham in Lancashire i.e. eliminating the need for pylons and the Morcambe bay tunnel.

The effects and impacts of these pylons upon the actual National Park and its parishes and people will be very significant - this is not fully understood and appreciated by National Grid or other official agencies.

We would like to demonstrate this to you.

1). National grid believe and have stated that because their pylons are outside the National Park (in some instances by a few meters) and they will not intrude on the sustainability and economy of the entire area. This ludicrous situation has been imposed by National Grid on local people, communities and economies -it is both erroneous and damaging.

National Grid believe that the pylons will not be visible to tourists when they look into the national park, they appear to have no concept re the real situation and that the boarder of an area is an integral part of the whole and we believe that the " buffer zone" of the Lake District is a continuation of all the unique fauna and flora, physical characteristics eg fells, woodlands, bridal paths, footpaths, rivers and streams. It cannot be sectioned into distinct areas. We also have a combined history, economy and way of life.

Tourism is a mainstay of our economy and we depend on visitors, they have to be able to reach us, enjoy their stay and want to return. They have to come into and out of Lakeland as do local people.

The Duddon Valley, many " buffer " villages and areas are on a par with the Lake District in their original character and beauty.

We need to protect, conserve and enhance landscape character and features, this means that planning applications outside the National Park can be refused because their zone of influence can have an impact on locations many kilometres beyond the location itself. National Grid seek to ignore all these facts.

We are a continuum of businesses, hills, mountains and valleys with the many areas of the Furness peninsular and areas of scientific beauty eg the Duddon Valley that National Grid intend to turn into an industrial landscape.

2). In outstanding scenic areas such as the National Park and its buffer zones, the visitor numbers are increasing, the employment and economic benefits that are associated with this trade are motivated by the drawing power of wonderful landscapes.

We fear that the World a Heritage Award will be denied to us because of the pylons, this award will bring enormous economic advantages for years ahead, and is economically incalculable to our future.

Blawith and Subberthwaite parish has many trades and small businesses that are directly connected with the tourist trade, local cafés, specialist shops, art and craft centres, ancestral houses, guided walks, various and famous people and their homes eg John Ruskin house and arts centre, the gondola on Coniston and other similar businesses.

Donald Campbell is a great tourist attraction as is Beatrice Potter.

We have a thriving industry teaching large groups of school children to canoe, sail, climb. Whole businesses are built around this.

There are many other examples eg the enormous industry around caravan parks, camping parks, hire of boats and the boost to local buses. Thousands of people are employed and this in turn feeds into the local community making us stronger and more cohesive,

This area is rich in inventiveness and originality which compliments our wonderful landscape. The economic benefits of a healthy tourist industry is incalculable. We feel this is threatened by National Grids pylon proposal. Visitors do not come to drive past pylons, they have other places they can holiday in. Local people fear that their incomes and businesses will be adversely affected by the pylons construction.

Visitors come in their thousands to walk and climb the hills and mountains, these people fill the pubs, cafés, hotels, holiday homes, caravans and chalets. They do not come to view pylons.

We believe the subsea proposal will mitigate the significant environmental and economic impacts and will protect and retain the land for both businesses and recreational benefits.

3) The years of construction and the dire effects on the roads will impact negatively on the social, business and tourist economies. It is unimaginable what many years of heavy construction vehicles, many complex construction points, many contractors and storage areas will inflict on narrow country roads and bridges. Local people will be unable to leave the area to reach jobs, local towns, hospitals etc. Visitors will not come to stand in traffic jams and be prevented from freely moving around.

We live here and will be handicapped, for many years, by constant disruptions in order to leave and return to our homes.

An over -run of projects will cause significant problems to the socio-economics of the area.

We do not believe that National Grid have listened to our concerns or considered the impacts on local people and life. We believe they have always been determined on one course of pylons, despite the alternatives. We believe that they have not been prepared to explore other ideas, despite giving them " lip service".

We ask that you explore the undersea option which would prevent all these problems.

Thank you.

Diana Rutherford (on behalf of Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council.)