

Peter Chadwick Sandlings Resident

We live back in the house I was born in. This was built by my parents on the Sandlings Heathland area in the 1930s.

Both my parents were pioneers in treating nature and the landscape as a whole. In the 1950's my father Paxton Chadwick illustrated some of the King Penguin books - including British Reptiles and Amphibians, and British butterflies – He drew from life and many of the specimens he depicted were found virtually on our doorstep.

My mother Lee Chadwick went on to write In Search of Heathland. This book included a study of the unique Sandlings Lowland Heath of the East Suffolk coastal strip. This area was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.

Most of the Sandlings had been lost over the previous century and are very much under threat - even without the devastating continuing assaults from the proposed project.

The Sandlings AONB area around Sizewell and Thorpeness is home to many endangered species: Nightjars, nightingales, nesting skylarks, tawny owls, linnets, yellow hammers, meadow pipits, stonechats, buzzards, hen harriers - and rare stone curlews have returned. There are Red deer and other deer.

Butterflies such as silver studded blue butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies, and glow worms - along with adders, grass snakes, slow worms, lizards, rare

natterjack toads etc are all found here. As stated on an old British Energy info board, this is - Quote - “our rainforest.”

Bird watchers come to and from Minsmere following the Sandlings Walks created by the Heritage lottery fund to safeguard the Sandlings. The signposts on the walks have a nightjar symbol on them.

Visitors come here to enjoy the peace and tranquillity, the large open spaces - dark skies, fresh air and the feeling of escape and being off grid in our jewel of an AONB. But this is the very area that is now under threat from consecutive cable routes - the width of a motorway and the haul roads with heavy lorry and other traffic all around. There will be many associated public rights of way closures.

Allowing this project to go ahead would hasten the demise of the already endangered unique and precious Sandlings.