

**Kepier Power Station Letters, *Evening Chronicle*, 18 July 1944**

Some letters which have appeared in the press have suggested that those who are opposed to the building of a huge electrical plant on the outskirts of Durham City are, therefore, unconcerned for the industrial prosperity of the County.

This is a baseless suggestion. We are as deeply concerned for that prosperity as anyone can be. But employment would be equally benefitted by the selection of another site where the plant would be far less damaging to many amenities.

***ALWYN DUNELM (Bishop of Durham)***

*[NB. The Dean of Durham, Cyril Argentine Alington, was one of the founders of the City of Durham Preservation Society in 1942.]*

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Beauty is sacred – and there is so little of it left in England today – yet the materialists would convert the lovely historical city of Durham, which has in its Cathedral and Castle perhaps the finest architectural group in the world, into an industrial centre.

“Progress” has made Durham County a mess of pit heaps and ugly, identical houses. Is Durham City now to be sacrificed to the “commonsense” view?

Why does not the Office of Works quickly take over the planning of all England’s lovely places – quickly?

Industrial prosperity need not be sacrificed – there must be plenty of places where it can be developed without spoiling a beauty and atmosphere which gives a spiritual peace to those who appreciate it. What would the Americans not give for a city like Durham?

***DESPAIRING***

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The Dean of Durham paints a black picture of the proposed new power station at Durham, and states that Durham will be left with a definite and permanent nuisance, should the scheme go forward.

The permanent nuisance in Durham prior to this war was unemployment. The collieries were working on a rota system and as the new power station will use 1,500 to 2,000 tons of coal weekly, some Durham colliery will benefit from it.

***A CADEN, GATESHEAD***

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Surely enough destruction has already been done by enemy action to our ancient monuments and cultural objects. Without putting an electricity plant near Durham Cathedral. The desire to create work for the citizens of Durham is commendable, but it should be possible to find an alternative site.

***CONSETT, BERRYEDGE***

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The Bishop and Dean of Durham are well aware of the depressed state of Durham in the pre-war years. They should welcome a scheme in their midst which will reduce unemployment.

***NEWCASTLE, JANUS***

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