

THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

(Registered Charity Number 262239)

Scottish Power Renewables

24 August 2018

Scottish Power House

320 St Vincent Street

Glasgow G2 5AD

Via email to eastangliatwo@scottishpower.com

eastangliaonenorth@scottishpower.com

Dear Sirs/Madams

East Anglia Two and One North Offshore Wind Farm's Public Consultation Exercise

Phase 3 Site Selection

The Aldeburgh Society remains supportive of the move to renewable energy but must object most strongly to the decision to site the substation to support these windfarms inland away from the coast and to the choice of Zone 7 (Friston) in particular.

As we said in our response to your earlier consultation, our focus is on the effect of your plans on the AONB in which Aldeburgh lies and we believe that the present proposals will severely damage the AONB and must be resisted at all costs. We also most strongly support the objections raised by the Friston community to be found at SASES.org.uk website particularly with respect to the height of the proposed installations and their impact on an existing rural community.

It is a matter that calls for governmental involvement at the highest level and cannot be left to competing commercial companies to decide in a piecemeal fashion.

There must be a consolidated response to the onshore installations that go with all the energy generation projects (including nuclear, interconnectors and off shore wind farms) proposed and to be proposed for East Anglia.

Our response to the consultation is therefore as follows:

1. The Society believes that the land-based substations will have a substantial and detrimental impact on the natural environment and must not be sited inland away from the coast and must not be sited in Friston (zone 7). We call instead for them to be sited at either Sizewell where there are already two nuclear power stations and the Greater Gabbard substation or at Bramford (via Bawdsey) where the EA1 (South) is to be placed. Using existing infrastructure wherever possible must be the answer. Placing the substations at Friston in

zone 7 will require the construction of an onshore cable route of approximately 10 Km and have a lasting and irreparable effect on the AONB and is not in any way justified. The NPPF states that development in an AONB should only take place in exceptional circumstances- the laying of cables involves the construction of trenches as wide as 50 metres which will blight the landscape of the AONB along the cable route. It is not possible to completely reinstate such protected land. Destruction of wildlife and habitat on this scale must not be allowed. No amount of mitigation can repair the damage this cable construction will cause. The disruption during construction itself must also be emphasised as the heavy industrial traffic required to build the cable trench will severely impact Aldeburgh and the AONB. There is also serious concern about the future proofing of the cables which will inevitably mean further work on the ground in the future.

2. Siting the substations in the rural community of Friston is most objectionable and we fully endorse the views expressed on the SASES.org.uk website.
3. We understand that it is more than likely that two additional substations will be required for two interconnectors to mainland Europe. Whilst these are not the responsibility of Scottish Power Renewables they will potentially use the same grid infrastructure. The design and placement of the substations required for these projects must be considered at the same time as those required for EA1(North) and EA2. It is irresponsible and the government must intervene to prevent the environmental degradation that these wind farm substations will cause.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Katherine Mackie

Chair

Cc BEIS Gov Uk enquiries@beis.gov.uk

The Planning Inspectorate: EastAngliaTwo@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Therese Coffey MP: therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk

East Suffolk Gov (Lisa Chandler): lisa.chandler@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council (John Pritchford) john.pitchford@suffolk.gov.uk