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THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

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The Aldeburgh Society's response to Phase 4 / Section 42 Consultation on Draft Environmental Statement – East Anglia Two and One North Offshore Wind Farm

The Aldeburgh Society, as a civic society, repeat our view that while we recognise the potential benefits of offshore electricity generation in the North Sea, we cannot understand why the energy generated by the various windfarms cannot be brought ashore in a single location nearer to existing development as was originally envisaged.

We object to the piecemeal approach to energy infrastructure development being adopted by Scottish Power Renewables and EDF who are consulting at this very same time on the Sizewell C and D nuclear power stations. The effect of both projects going ahead together would result in up to 12 years of major construction work on our heritage coast in the AONB. This is clearly unacceptable and we have called on central government to examine the development of the East Suffolk energy hub in a holistic way in consultation with the local councils.

In relation to this Scottish Power Renewables consultation we reiterate that the Society remains opposed to the proposals particularly as they relate to Traffic and Transport issues.

In particular:

We object most strenuously to the proposed transport routes for the construction traffic associated with these projects. The plan to route HGVs used in the construction of the landfall site at Thorpeness from the A12 down the A1094 to Aldeburgh and up the B1122 to the B1353 and to Thorpeness makes no sense and is clearly unacceptable.

The current proposals involve up to 110 HGV movements a day coming into Aldeburgh down the Saxmundham Road and turning at the Tesco roundabout to take the Leiston Road. SPR claim that the route is wide enough to allow two way HGV traffic. This is not credible. The roundabout is already a pinch point, always congested and used by schoolchildren on their way to and from Aldeburgh primary school, residents going to the two supermarkets and the pub as well as those using the Jubilee Path. This area is already the most heavily-used pedestrian and vehicle access route in the town.

If the Saxmundham Road were to be blocked by construction traffic, Aldeburgh residents would be denied access to transport to Ipswich Hospital and there would be no access to Aldeburgh Hospital and the Garrett House nursing home. This attack on the safety of Aldeburgh residents cannot be allowed.

The proposed A1094/B1122 route would require substantial reconstruction of the approach roads to and fro the roundabout which would bring chaos to the town causing wholesale disruption, pollution and adversely affect the town's key tourist industry.

Thought must be given to accessing the landfall site by sea and/or (if Thorpeness has to be the landfall site) using the Sizewell Gap Road once the eastern section of the cable corridor haul road is constructed (as stated in your Traffic and Transport Factsheet.)

The Society remains very concerned that whichever site (Friston or Sizewell) is chosen the land-based substations will have a substantial impact on the natural environment in that they will consist of three large tall buildings including one to be constructed by National Grid. Buildings of this type should not be built in an AONB and the NPPF states that development in an AONB should **only take place in exceptional circumstances**. We note that the substations for EA1 (South) are being placed many miles inland. Ideally the substations should be sited on brownfield sites well away from villages and well screened. We repeat that we do however think the Sizewell site is superior to the Friston site in terms of its impact on the local environment provided that its impact is minimised in terms of screening and height.

Finally, we cannot emphasise strongly enough how imperative it is for a comprehensive strategy for all energy projects to be adopted to stop each development being considered in this piecemeal way. The combined projects are likely to have a considerable adverse impact on the communities, environment and businesses in the area and on Aldeburgh in particular.

Yours faithfully

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