

THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 262239 www.aldeburghsociety.org.uk
47 Park Road
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The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1H 0ET

15 March 2022

OFFSHORE WINDFARMS EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH AND EAST ANGLIA TWO

With the deadline approaching for your decision on the DCO applications by Scottish Power Renewables, I wish to underline to you the strong opposition of the Aldeburgh Society to the proposed onshore installations in the vicinity of our historic East Suffolk coastal town. As the local civic society, we are deeply concerned by the threat which these proposals pose to our inhabitants, our environment, our economy, indeed to our way of life.

We played an active part in the Planning Inspectorate Examination of these applications and I do not intend to repeat here all the arguments we have put forward to SPR's proposals. We are confident that the Inspectorate will have reflected the very strong and well-founded local opposition in its report to you. We strongly support the development of offshore wind energy generation in the right circumstances, and we expect renewables to make a major and growing contribution in the progress towards net zero. We also recognise, now more than ever, the need to secure reliable energy supplies.

The core of our objection is threefold:

1. That this is a nationally protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty whose character would be irreparably damaged by the proposed large industrial structures and associated cable corridors;
2. That the construction and operation of these installations would cause serious traffic congestion on unsuitable roads; air, light and noise pollution; and damage to the year-round visitor economy of our town and the surrounding area;

3. That SPR's proposed installations are seen by National Grid companies as the focus for a series of up to six additional onshore cable connections with extensive industrial infrastructure, the scope of which has not been publicly explained or subjected to proper examination.

None of the above needs to happen. Viable means exist to create undersea cable connections from a series of windfarms and bring the power they generate together onshore to a brownfield site closer to where the power is actually needed. It is beyond our remit to set out specific proposals for such an approach but we are confident that the studies underway in your Department will demonstrate its viability.

Accordingly, we urge you to opt for a split decision, whereby the offshore proposals are granted consent (subject to relevant stakeholders' acceptance) while the onshore proposals are rejected and referred for re-consideration by means of a less environmentally and socially damaging solution.

We cannot believe that your Government, with its strong commitment to a green agenda, would wish to clear the way for seismic damage to a fragile and highly valued stretch of coastline when a viable alternative approach is achievable.

I urge you, on behalf of our community in Aldeburgh and East Suffolk, to heed the strong concerns which we and many others have voiced over the negative aspects of offshore wind generation, and to make a future-proof decision on these applications.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Mackie
Chair



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Katherine Mackie
The Aldeburgh Society
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30 March 2022

Dear Ms Mackie,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2022 addressed to the Secretary of State about the East Anglian ONE North and East Anglia TWO offshore wind farms. As I am sure you can appreciate the Secretary of State receives a large amount of correspondence each day. Therefore I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

about the East Anglian ONE North and East Anglia TWO offshore wind farms. As I am sure you can appreciate the Secretary of State receives a large amount of correspondence each day. Therefore I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

As you may be aware, on 6 October 2021 the Planning Inspectorate submitted its Reports to the Secretary of State setting out its findings and recommendations on the applications for the development of the proposed wind farms. The Secretary of State has until 6 January 2022 to decide whether to grant or refuse consent for the projects.

Given the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in determining the applications for development consent, you will appreciate that I cannot comment at this time on the specific matters you have raised regarding the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO proposals as this could be seen as prejudicing the decision-making process. Please accept this as confirmation that your email has been read and will be considered alongside all other matters that are relevant to the Secretary of State's decisions. However, I can point you to some information relating to your comments.

With regards to the Nautilus Interconnector, on 14 March 2019, National Grid Ventures requested that the Secretary of State exercise his powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to direct the UK converter station for the proposed Nautilus Interconnector between the UK and Belgium, as set out in the Direction request, be treated as development for which development consent is required. The Secretary of State's decision can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-grid-ventures-nautilus-electricity-interconnector>

As you will see from the decision letter and Direction itself, the Secretary of State reflects the fact that the proposals were at that time, at an early stage of development and that when further details are available, and before submitting any application to The Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO), National Grid Ventures may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the project and development which is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction has been given.

According to the Planning Inspectorate's National Planning Infrastructure project page: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/nautilus-interconnector/> the application for development consent is expected Q2, 2023. National Grid Ventures are therefore in the pre-application stage of the Planning Act DCO process. The DCO regime requires a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and pre-application consultation process prior to any application being submitted. I would encourage you to engage with National Grid Ventures whilst they undertake public consultation to make your views known. National Grid Ventures has set up a project page for the Nautilus Interconnector proposal on its own website, this can be found here: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/our-businesses/national-grid-ventures/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future/nautilus-interconnector>

Thank you for taking the time to write. I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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