



The Planning Act 2008

East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) Offshore Wind Farms

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EA1N – EN010077 & EA2 – EN010078

Deadline 5 - 3 February 2021

East Suffolk Council's Summary of Oral Case - Issue Specific Hearing 5

Issue Specific Hearing 5 (21 January 2021) – Social, economic, land and sea use effects

Examining Authority's Question		East Suffolk Council's Summary of Oral Case
Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, introductions and arrangements for these Issue Specific Hearings 5		
Agenda Item 2 – Offshore social and economic effects		
a) Shipping, navigation, sea-use b) Fishing c) Recreational and other sea-uses		ESC has no comments to make in relation to offshore matters and defers to the Marine Management Organisation and Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
Agenda Item 3 – Onshore social and economic effects		
a) Economic benefits including at a macro and micro level. This agenda item will draw on answers to, amongst others, the following ExQ1 questions: 1.17.2, 1.17.4. - 1.17.8. and subsequent responses submitted at Deadlines 2 to 4.		As detailed in ESC's joint Local Impact Report with SCC (REP1-132), the Councils have been working closely together and to avoid unnecessary repetition during the examinations we agreed that each authority will lead on different topic matters. Responses to questions posed by the Examining Authority on agenda item 3 were therefore divided, with SCC leading on responding to 3a) and ESC leading on responding to 3b), 3c) and 3d). ESC supported the comments provided by SCC in response to this question.
b) Potential economic disbenefits, including tourism, land use, and arts and culture and including potential in-combination and cumulative effects, considering: i. Effects during construction phases		<i>Land Use</i> A significant proportion of the Order Limits is agricultural land. ESC has provided comments in relation to land use in the Local Impact Report (Section 17, REP1-132). The Council sought clarification as to why the significance of the impact on permanent and temporary changes to land use was based on

ii. Effects during operational phases

regional level impact and not site level. The Council also sought clarification as to why the magnitude of effect resulting from the loss of permanent agricultural land was identified as low within the Environmental Statement (ES) and not high in accordance with the definitions provided in the chapter. The Applicants provided a Land Use Clarification Note in response (REP1-022) which amended the significance of the impact at local level to major adverse which ESC agrees with. We also accept that the revision will not materially affect the primary mitigation which involves the Applicants entering into private landowner agreements.

ESC still considers that the significance of the impacts on land use is more appropriately assessed at the local level in order to deliver the aims of NPS EN-1 and minimise the impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land. We however understand that this will be a matter for the Examining Authority to determine.

In terms of impacts on land use during construction, ESC considers that the measures outlined in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (OCoCP) and secured by Requirement 22 are sufficient to help minimise the impacts on agricultural land. ESC welcomes the Applicants commitment that if the projects are constructed sequentially, the second project will lay its ducting at the same time as the first lays its cables. This commitment will help to minimise disruption caused.

Tourism

The Council believes that there could be negative impacts on the local visitor economy as highlighted in the 2019 Destination Management Organisation

(DMO)/BVA BDRC Visitor/Business Survey. The majority of visitors are drawn to the area because of the beauty and tranquillity that it offers with the Heritage Coast and nationally designated landscape of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). With a number of major energy projects being developed along the coast at the same time as EA1N and EA2 (in particular the proposed Sizewell C new nuclear power station), it is likely that this key target market could be significantly impacted.

The DMO/BVA BDRC survey addressed economic impacts on the AONB area during the onshore construction periods of both EA1N and EA2 projects and Sizewell C. The results demonstrated a likely net negative impact of -17% on people's propensity to visit the area as a result of the negative perception of the construction phase of the projects (in combination and cumulative). This equates to an estimated annual loss to the visitor economy of between £24m and £40m. This negative perception impact could translate to a permanent reduction in people's willingness to visit in the future even after onshore construction is concluded.

As stated, the study considered the cumulative impacts of EA1N, EA2 and Sizewell C and it is not possible to disaggregate the findings to identify the extent of impact from one particular project. The study also did not include further pipeline energy projects from National Grid and other offshore developers which it is assumed will increase the likelihood of a greater negative impact on visitor perceptions.

The Council has been engaging with the Applicants on this matter in relation to seeking a Tourism Fund which could be utilised to support marketing campaigns to the promote the area during construction.

		<p>In terms of the operational impacts of the wind turbines, the Councils has no evidence to demonstrate that, once constructed, the turbines would provide a visual deterrent to visitors. There is however a concern that the impact during construction on perceptions could translate to a reduction in visitors during the operational period of the development as discussed. The impact from EA2 on the AONB designation and its Special Qualities will be discussed at a later hearing and is a separate matter.</p>
c) Construction - local labour markets and local issues (accommodation etc) including consideration of other potential employment heavy construction projects.		<p><i>Employment and Skills</i></p> <p>Employment opportunities will only be maximised if strategies are put in place in order to ensure the appropriate skills are available in the local labour force. The Councils continue to engage with SPR to build upon and strengthen strategies created for EA1 and EA3.</p> <p>It should be noted that the employment generated during construction will be short term and only a proportion of this being associated with the cable corridor and substation construction with a larger share likely to be based in ports such as Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth for the offshore construction. The longer term opportunities are often created in areas a considerable distance from the communities experiencing the permanent effects of the onshore substations and infrastructure.</p> <p>Through the continued dialogue the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) promotes with SPR and, when contracted, its associated supply chains we will agree clear approaches and strategies to ensure local and regional companies</p>

have the best opportunity to secure work in both the onshore and offshore construction, thereby benefitting the regional economy and communities. We will also continue to work with SPR to enhance their commitments to working with regional stakeholders to ensure more people have the opportunity to access higher skilled roles on the project and the long term operations and maintenance roles.

Of real importance, however, is that the skills strategies of all of the local energy projects – Sizewell C, SPR, Vattenfall and others – are not developed in isolation but considered against the wider demand for similarly skilled workers in the region. This includes a consideration of the labour demands of other significant infrastructure projects such as the third crossing in Lowestoft and their common competency requirements. This will ensure that we develop skillsets in our local workforce that have long-term applications across our economy.

The Technical Skills Legacy for Norfolk & Suffolk report by Pye Tait Consulting, commissioned by Suffolk Growth Programme Board and Norfolk County Council identifies the key skillsets that will have an enduring legacy and ensure the county maximises local employment opportunities associated with significant investment forecast in major infrastructure projects.



Technical Skills
Legacy for Norfolk &

		<p><i>Accommodation</i></p> <p>ESC considers that accommodation requirements from the work force associated with the EA1N and EA2 projects can be accommodated without causing a significant impact on local tourist accommodation availability.</p> <p>ESC has previously raised concerns in relation to the cumulative effects on accommodation if the projects are constructed at the same time as other energy projects such as Sizewell C. There could be negative impacts on visitor perceptions if the workforces associated with multiple energy projects utilise the accommodation that a visitor would normally seek to secure.</p> <p>The Applicants provided a Socio-Economic and Tourism Clarification Note (REP1-036) which sought to address the cumulative impacts of the projects with Sizewell C on tourist accommodation. ESC provided a response (REP2-029) accepting the Applicants conclusions.</p>
<p>d) Social effects, including access to services and on the tranquillity of the countryside during construction phases.</p>		<p>The construction works associated with the projects will cause disruption and disturbance to local communities and local environment. The nature of this disruption has been discussed during previous Issue Specific Hearings. For example, the noise impacts of the constructions work and implications for air quality from the construction traffic and machinery were discussed at ISH4. In relation to these matters ESC is engaging with the Applicants to seek appropriate controls in order to minimise the impacts arising from the construction works.</p>

		<p>ESC welcomes the provision of a community liaison officer and the submission of a stakeholders communications plan which is secured through the CoCP. This will help to provide effective lines of communication with affected communities and businesses. It is recognised that maintaining effective communication can help to reduce risk perceptions.</p> <p>ESC advocated for the inclusion of an outline of the engagement strategy with the local community to be included within the design principles statements. The Applicants have now provided a Substations Design Principles Statement which includes this detail in outline form in Appendix 1 (REP4-029). This is welcomed.</p> <p>The Council also considers that the establishment of a community liaison structure during the operational phase of the development would be beneficial. This is considered especially relevant given the future projects known to have connections offers at the Friston site. At present, the arrangements for the long term management of the site remain unclear. It is considered that securing information regarding the long term management of the site and a community liaison structure with the affected community would help to provide appropriate channels of communication during the operation phase and with the exchange of information could help to reduce concerns and anxieties around the projects.</p>
Agenda Item 4 – Any other business relevant to the Agenda		
The ExAs may raise any other topics bearing on socio-economic matters as is expedient, having regard to the		

<p>readiness of the persons present to address such matters.</p> <p>The ExAs may extend an opportunity for participants to raise matters relevant to the topic of these hearings that they consider should be examined by the ExAs.</p> <p>If necessary, the Applicants will be provided with a right of reply.</p>		
Agenda Item 5 - Procedural Decisions, Review of Actions and Next Steps		
<p>The ExAs will review whether there is any need for procedural decisions about additional information or any other matter arising from Agenda items 2 to 4.</p> <p>To the extent that matters arise that are not addressed in any procedural decisions, the ExAs will address how any actions placed on the Applicants, Interested Parties or Other Persons are to be met and consider the approaches to be taken in further hearings, in the light of issues raised in these hearings. A written action list will be published if required.</p>		
Agenda Item 6 – Closure of hearings		