



Tuesday 24 February 2021

PINS Ref: EA1N-EN010078

My Ref No: 20023133 and 20023080

Deadline 6 Submission

Dear Mr Rynd Smith and the Examining Authority

I am responding to Action Point 2 The Planning Balance from Open Floor Hearing 6.

I urge the Planning Inspectorate to recommend to the Secretary of State a Split Decision (see Triton Knoll).

1. The offshore turbines are recommended for consent with the proviso all installations are acceptable to stakeholder concerns over the statutory purposes of the AONB affected by these proposals.
2. The **onshore infrastructure is rejected** in favour of full consideration of better locations where the adverse impacts are minimised at a brownfield site such as Bradwell in Essex.

I have participated throughout these hearings, meetings, physical and digital for the last two years and it is overwhelmingly clear to all concerned that the adverse impact of the onshore location outweighs the benefits. The degree of damage to an environmentally sensitive diverse and legally protected landscape full of biodiversity is unacceptable.

These proposed energy projects would impact the local tourist economy by as much as £40 million annually.

In light of the Energy White Paper (page 80) stating “To minimise the impact on local communities, we will implement a more efficient approach to connecting offshore generation to the mainland grid”.

It would therefore be indefensible to grant permission for SPR's massive substations and cable routes just 30 metres from gardens, a grade II listed church, a care home, a primary school and a mediaeval village. There is real risk of further destabilisation at Thorpeness Cliffs as a consequence of drilling. Especially the fragile Coraline Crag under threat from sub-sea cable work. The recent discovery on the beach at Thorpeness of an 18C shipwreck after the storms illustrates the instability of this coastline. This could wreck havoc on the proposed cables exposing them, which would then endanger local fishermen.

As you should now be fully aware a precedent has been set as the recent DCO for the Norfolk Vanguard Wind Farm project has been overturned and quashed. No longer will developers be able to hide behind NSIPs without **fully considering the cumulative impacts on the environment and alternatives for their projects, which they were actually always required to do so by law.**

We were shocked to learn that SPR had to carry out an ecology survey on the River Hundred during the week of the recent heavy snowfall illustrating how much they have left to do in spite of having had three years to prepare. I cannot imagine that survey being a shining example of accuracy!

There is still plenty of time before meeting the government's 2030 offshore wind targets to connect the numerous and successive wind farms off the coast of East Anglia to NETS by the integrated OFFSHORE system known as OTN or the Offshore Ring Main. This is a full blown Government project, namely The Offshore Project not just an idea.

I quote 6 November 2020, Mr Kwarteng SoS BEIS: "There is a shift in the industry towards integration. Technology **is** available to build an offshore integrated network. The argument for offshore network has been won".

Therefore I appeal, I urge you to refuse SPR's DCO for onshore infrastructure.

With kind regards

Sarah Courage