

Subject: DEADLINE 6 Submission 24 February 2021

PINS Ref: EA1N- EN010077 and EA2 - EN010078

My Ref: REF4-070 Aldeburgh Business Association

Dear Examining Authority

I am responding to Action Point 2, The Planning Balance from Open Floor Hearing 6 on behalf of Aldeburgh Business Association, which represents 80 SMEs in Aldeburgh, Snape, Thorpeness and Leiston. Our members are a successful network of small family businesses which support renewable energy but are threatened by the long term disruptive nature of the on shore construction process relating to EA1N, EA2 and further energy projects.

We have legitimate concerns about the consequences of the onshore construction work on this fragile area and its popularity with visitors, particularly as the energy infrastructure work proposed by SPR and National Grid will continue for many years and have a devastating cumulative impact. Tourism is the mainstay of the local economy and year after year of busy roads, closed footpaths, noisy and dirty construction sites will damage the highly successful harmony of hospitality, culture and enjoyment of the outdoors along this coastline. When jobs in the tourism sector are lost there is no other local industry to replace them, all the jobs created by EA1N and EA2 are in Lowestoft.

We recognise the importance of renewable energy but, due to the fact that there are some far more suitable alternatives for the cabling and sub-stations we are asking that the Examining Authorities recommend the offshore turbines for consent (provided that the relevant stakeholders' concerns have been met) and that the hugely damaging onshore infrastructure is rejected in favour of more sensible locations with fewer negative outcomes.

Having followed, and taken part in, the Hearings it is clear that there is fierce local opposition to these plans and that there is a palpable sense of unfairness that great harm is proposed to this area with no consideration for its residents, visitors, business owners, wildlife or landscapes. A split decision would enable the windfarms to go ahead while other, more suitable, sites for onshore infrastructure are investigated.

Kind regards

Sarah Whitelock

Gina Gow

Ella Roberts

Aldeburgh Business Association

24 February 2021