



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 9 – 15 April 2021

Comments of Suffolk County Council as County Planning Authority

1. Any requests to add supplementary information to documents submitted at Deadlines 5, 6 and 7.

1.1 Not applicable.

2. Comments on the Applicant's updated draft DCO (dDCO) submitted at Deadline 8 (D8).

2.1 Not applicable.

3. Comments on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Statement of Commonality received by D8.

3.1 SCC has made separate comments at Deadline 9 on the draft SoCG Version 04 (REP8-114) submitted at D8 in its capacities as lead local flood authority, as archaeological authority, and as local highway authority. This response addresses some over-arching matters. The draft SoCG records the Applicants' assessment of areas of agreement and disagreement as at D8 but is not a document that is agreed by SCC. SCC is working with the Applicants (and with ESC) to refine the text of the SoCG where there are areas of disagreement, with a view to a Final SoCG being submitted to the Examination at Deadline 12 in line with the (revised) timetable.

3.2 One specific matter to identify at this stage is that the text at paragraph 12 of the SoCG has not been updated to reflect the information that the Examination has received about other projects potentially co-locating at Friston. Whilst the wording will be a matter for further discussion with the Applicants and ESC, SCC is currently of the view that the text of the second sentence of the first bullet point of paragraph 12 should be revised to read:

'The Councils understanding is that some of these projects would or could connect to the new National Grid substation proposed at Grove Wood, Friston for which the Applicants are seeking consent, and that these future connections would result in the enlargement or extension of the National Grid substation. Since the commencement of the Examination, information has been submitted to the Examination to indicate that the promoters of Five Estuaries (Additional Submission accepted on 17 March 2021) and North Falls (REP7-066) are not now seeking a connection at Friston, but in all other respects the Councils' concerns remain.'

3.3 SCC also notes that within various of the table of the SoCG addressing individual topics (such as but not limited to Tables 7 and 13), there are cross-references to paragraph 13 of the SoCG which should be cross-references to paragraph 12. SCC would expect these to be corrected in the Final SoCG.

4. Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D8.

4.1 At D8 the applicants submitted an updated Substations Design Principles Statement (as REP8-083).

4.2 This does not include any additional design principle to reflect SCC's suggestion for flexibility/adaptability to be included in the design principles (a point made at para 6.3 of the SCC D5 submissions on landscape (REP5-056). The applicants said in their D6 comments (section 6, ID7 of REP6-027) that they thought the proposed wording was inappropriate and inconsistent with the need for the development to remain within the stated parameters and the Order limits.

4.3 SCC does not agree that the extra design principle would be inconsistent with either the parameters or the Order limits because it would be applied within those constraints (and already includes the words 'in so far as practicable').

5. Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline.

5.1 Not applicable.