

SPR DCO for EA1N and EA2 - deadline 13 response on behalf of Aldeburgh Town Council

Aldeburgh Town Council wishes to confirm that their previously stated issues, and concerns shared - both at earlier ISHs and in writing throughout the Examination phase of the proposed development of EA1N and EA2, remain unanswered and unresolved. And that these issues and concerns have, in reality - increased as the DCO has progressed.

The following summary is representative of the views of the Town Council, our residents, and those who work in or visit Aldeburgh who have confirmed with 100% accord – that they are not in agreement with the DCO applications.

We continue to believe that the driver for the choice of this location is National Grid's connection offer, and that this is based purely on economic factors, and their publicly stated and well-developed plans to create a 'hub' for future projects once EA1N and EA2 are consented, should they be.

There is unrefutably, strong evidence that the construction of the on-shore infrastructure, and associated traffic, noise pollution, and risk of flooding will cause significant damage to;

- the natural environment and habitats, our fragile coast and our nationally-recognised AONB (which should have the highest protection) its wildlife and unique landscape
 - the physical/mental health and well-being of the people, and the heritage, sense of 'place' and cohesion of our coastal communities
 - the tranquillity and unspoilt rurality of the area upon which our tourism economy relies
- and this will also prevent other inward investment into the area way into the future.

This harm will not be temporary, and nothing the Applicant has proposed to date will fully mitigate this and the compensation which has been offered, will not compensate it. We foreshadow an extremely bleak and tragic future for this area, should this application be consented.

Aldeburgh Town Council does not agree that the cumulative impact of these projects (EA1N, EA2 and the NG substation) has been fully taken into account by the Applicant. Nor has the impact of potential new build at Sizewell C, and the other projects currently under development by National Grid Ventures and in the public domain, been considered.

We endorse the evidence submitted by SASES, SEAS, RSPB Minsmere, the Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation (DMO) and Aldeburgh Society and respectfully request that you give the greatest possible consideration to this - along with the submission of Dr Therese Coffey MP at the final ISHs, that "the onshore aspects of these projects must be rejected in favour of a grid connection which offers the capacity to integrate multiple projects without having a devastating impact on local communities and our precious landscapes."

In conclusion: Aldeburgh Town Council cannot support the application in its present form regarding the on-shore infrastructure elements (the proposed SPR and NG substations at Friston, the cable corridor and associated landfall site at Thorpeness).

We believe it would be reckless to come to any other recommendation to the Sec of State, but refusal. Unless it is possible to offer a split-decision: that is of approval for the offshore elements with recommendation that the location of the on-shore infrastructure is only on a brown-field industrial site, with specific and final approval delayed to enable the application to be fully subject to the forthcoming BEIS review - to incorporate strategic coordination, collaboration and improved technological solutions to reduce the adverse impacts.