

Applications by East Anglia ONE NORTH Limited and East Anglia TWO Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Offshore Wind Farms and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure

Response from Mary Shipman of Newton House, Church Path, Friston, IP17 1PR to the letter from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy dated 2 November 2021

Interested Party Nos: 2002 3179 and 2002 3176

22nd November 2021

Flood Risk

I wish to respond as a resident of Friston who is regularly affected by flood events, which occur several times a year. My house is adjacent to the Friston Watercourse at the point where it enters a long culvert and the area receives run-off from multiple directions including those of the proposed substation and haul road. Only by living and observing these events can the serious problem be really understood.

In 2021 alone we suffered multiple flood events in January and February, followed by a serious event on 18th June, on which I made submissions to the Examination (REP12-104 and REP12-105). Again in the first week of October a further flood event occurred, which I reported to Suffolk County Council and have a photographic record.

Scottish Power Renewables have never properly recognised the serious surface water flooding risk which exists in Friston nor have they surveyed the watercourse (including the culvert) to assess its ability to convey additional run-off from the substation site. In this regard the updated National Planning Policy Framework is particularly pertinent in that it makes plain that all forms of flooding must be considered, including pluvial flooding.

It is evident that there will be considerable additional pluvial run-off from the development of the substation site and particularly as infiltration has been shown to be largely unviable. During the type of intense rainfall now experienced as part of climate-change, it is inevitable that peak flows in the Friston Watercourse will increase. It has to be remembered that this watercourse takes surface water from all other parts of the village (which would include any run-off from the haul road as it enters the site across Grove Road) and is not dedicated to the substation area. This is extremely worrying to those of us who live here, particularly as the Applicant has not carried out any survey work of the watercourse or any rainfall measurement. The risk of flooding from the haul road during the construction period has not been evaluated.

Badgers

Whilst this question has been directed to the Applicant and Natural England, as a resident I can confirm that following the completion of Site Investigation Works by the Applicant during the summer months, the majority of the badger setts which had been in use for decades, have now been deserted or destroyed. I have reported this to Natural England but I am told that a Letter of No Impediment has already been issued. It is very disappointing that this protected species has been dealt with in this way before a formal decision has been made. Again I have a photographic record of the pre-existing setts.

