

The Secretary of State  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

29th November 2021

*Re. Application by East Anglia One North Limited, East Anglia TWO Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed East Anglia One North, East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farms and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure (“the East Anglia One North project”, “the East Anglia TWO project”)*

Dear Sir,

My family has been here for decades; we moved here to provide medical care to the local population and have always lived among them. We experienced the construction of Sizewell B when it was the second largest construction project in Europe. We are therefore aware of the unseen human cost of large construction projects, like the current multiple energy proposals for the Suffolk coast.

Our medical practice oversaw the itinerant workers’ health and provided first response and management of major trauma caused by accidents on the site. Living in the centre of the tiny town of Leiston, we were also painfully aware of the huge increase in social problems brought by the project; some of these, like crime, violence, drunkenness, prostitution, illegal drugs, and illegal firearms, blossomed and left scars in the isolated community, never going away when the temporary economic benefits of construction receded.

It has taken more than 20 years for the local economy to recover, re-equilibrate and centre itself on tourism. Cultural and wildlife tourism have brought and continue to create many jobs in hospitality, food and drink, music and the arts, retail, and nature reserves. Tourism here supports the maintenance of some of the rarest and most important biodiversity sites in Britain, and one of the most important artistic communities in the world at Snape Maltings.

The area is peaceful. The population is sparse. The people have little wiggle room for weathering economic shocks and no infrastructure suitable for the ‘energy’ explosion proposed. Coastal Suffolk has one arterial road linking it with the next county — the A12 — which for much of its length in Suffolk is just a two-way highway. Local roads are B roads, many are single track.

As for our economic future, no-one will want to holiday in a construction site. Wildlife tourism will disappear with the species loss that the destruction of the AONB, SSSI and former SLAs will entail. As with former, proud, seaside towns down the coast in Tendring, Essex, blighted by wind farm construction, a return to viability will be hard. And the impact on the Arts and cultural tourism here is not predicted to be benign.

The 'energy coast' is not our concept nor an apt description of what it will bring. It means for us:

Biodiversity and climate change: permanent loss of many hectares of globally important sandling, woodland, hedgerow, wetland and riverside ecology, loss of notable species through habitat removal and landscape, removal of cooling ecology

Community hardship during construction: existential threat to the ancient village of Friston; division of Aldringham by the cable corridor; hardship and health threat for our school children and our elderly who will have haul roads constructed close to them; Leiston and Aldeburgh to lose access to each other's amenities — schools, doctor's surgeries, dentist, pharmacy, health facilities, shops, work access, etc.

Cumulative Impact: continual disruption over many years from multiple energy projects (EA1N, EA2, Nautilus, EuroLink, SeaLink (SCD1), perhaps also North Falls and Five Rivers et al).

National Infrastructure Principles of Feb 2020 require improving quality of life for people, benefitting the natural environment, mitigating emissions for the climate and providing benefits for the community. This project fails every one.

When Sizewell B was built, locals were sadly trusting that their sacrifice would be for the greater good and their beloved coastline would be restored to them: the CEGB was publicly owned after all. But the wind farm projects have always been privately owned, foreign entities, and the notion that what they do is for the greater good rather than shareholder profit is a fallacy.

The timing of the confirmation of Nautilus, EuroLink, SeaLink (SCD1), North Falls, Five Rivers et al., was the end of the Planning Examination for EAN1 and EA2.

Yet, no one I know voted to turn the Heritage Coast into the Suffolk Energy Coast.

Yours faithfully

Dr Gillian Horrocks

