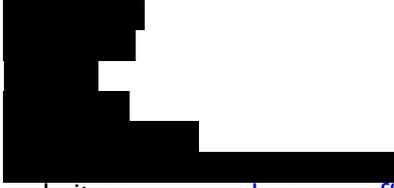


Reydon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Jean Brown



website : www.reydon.onesuffolk.net



National Infrastructure Planning

By email only to:

EastAngliaOneNorth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

EastAngliaTwo@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Our ref: 20024244 and 20024242

12.03.2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: East Anglia ONE North – EN010077 East Anglia TWO – EN 010078

Further to your emails of 21 February 2020 and attachments, I can confirm that Reydon Parish Council wishes to make an oral submission to the enquiries. Our submission will refer to both East Anglia ONE North (EA1North) and East Anglia TWO (EA2) and will deal with the issues and concerns set out below.

First, we would like to state that we support the development of green energy supply, including off-shore wind generation of electricity. As a coastal area whose shoreline and estuary are both under threat from rising sea levels and attendant storm surges, which will be exacerbated by climate change, we feel directly the need to end our current reliance on fossil fuels. We also welcome the positive impact these plans will have on the local economy.

However, we feel that, as currently proposed, the plans for EA1North and EA2 pose a significant threat to our coastal landscape, seascape and communities and that three key issues must be addressed through modification of the proposals undertaken after further modelling of some key aspects of the plans.

1. **Key Issue One: Impact on the seascape.** The proposals currently intend to install the largest turbines yet built as close as 20 miles from the shoreline of Southwold which, together with our parish of Reydon, makes up our local community. The impact on the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast must be considered, since the current undeveloped character of the seascape contributes to the setting of these designations. Our local economy is highly dependent on tourism and all its associated businesses and we are concerned that the loss of visual amenity created by the highly visible turbines when viewed either from the cliffs in Southwold or its beaches will have a significant negative impact on tourism. They will significantly reduce the wilderness and tranquillity of the seascape which is one of its key attractions. This will be further impacted at night by the illumination of the horizon created by the turbine warning lights. We believe that this impact should be mitigated by the use of a greater quantity of smaller turbines or by appropriate siting elsewhere in the area.

2. **Key Issue Two: Impact on habitats and bird and marine wildlife.** Our coast has areas of both high and medium ecological sensitivity or is classified as unknown. The North Sea is an important feature in the great northern and eastern bird migration flyway which includes many species vulnerable to wind turbines, including swans, geese, owls and flocks of passerines such as thrush, fieldfares, blackbirds and warblers. In addition, true sea birds such as kittiwakes, fulmars, gannets, petrels and skuas come to shore to breed, some passing the areas of EA1North and EA2. All these birds are at risk from the proposed windfarms. We believe that rigorous environmental and habitat assessments, including modelling of the potential effects of the location and size of various configurations of turbines, are vital to determine the least damaging scale and design of the installations. Similar modelling is required to address the impact on marine life. If this modelling suggests that larger turbines cause less risk, we think this should be balanced with the case for smaller turbines set out in Key Issue One so that the optimum compromise informs final decisions.

3. **Key Issue Three: Onshore impact on communities and the AONB or other significant natural features.** Although our community will not be directly affected by the provision of onshore installations to manage the conversion and input of power from EA1North and EA2 into the National Grid, we believe that the current proposals will have an unacceptable impact on the landscape and communities in the areas of Sizewell and, in particular, Friston. At risk is the peacefulness and well-being of Friston, the protection of important parts of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and an area of ancient woodland. There are already a number of existing and planned onshore structures in the Sizewell area that are affecting the AONB, including Sizewell A, B and C, and substations for Galloper and Greater Gabbard (and potential extensions to the latter). The cumulative impact of the proposed onshore infrastructure and the traffic generated in the construction phases of these major projects will have a substantial negative effect on the sensitivity both of the AONB and also of the other valued (and non-urbanised) landscapes further inland. We believe that an overall strategy is required for the management of the construction phase of all these projects so that their impact can be managed to limit congestion on local roads, including the A12 which is a vital route for our tourist economy.

Specifically in relation to the onshore infrastructure for the windfarms, we, along with others including North Norfolk and East Suffolk Councils, believe these impacts should be prevented and mitigated as far as possible. We strongly support the case these Councils have made for a different approach to be taken to ensure the most efficient, economic and environmentally responsible delivery of the new offshore capacity and infrastructure. We urge that consideration might be given to an offshore ring main to minimise the construction impacts on the coastal region in the short term and to rationalise grid connections for greater efficiency in the long term.

Our support for off-shore wind is informed by our direct experience of the effects of sea level rise and the attendant storm surges. These pose immediate and ongoing threats to our coastline and, very significantly, to our estuary and working harbour. We believe it would be reasonable for the developers and operators of EA1North and EA2 to contribute to the costs of protection of our estuary and harbour given the impact of their windfarms on the amenity of our seascape which will be significant even if our concerns in Key Issues One and Two

above are addressed. They could, for example, establish a Coastal Amenity Protection Fund to give grant aid to projects in the areas affected by their development. We would ask that this is given serious consideration by the developers and also taken into account as far as possible in any conditions of approval that may be recommended by the Examination.

We look forward in due course to receiving the timetable for the enquiries and your identification of the session(s) we should attend to enlarge on these points in our oral submission.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jean Brown
Clerk to Reydon Parish Council