

**WRITTEN REPRESENTATION FOR
SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS (DEADLINE 1)**



Interested Party: Britten Pears Arts (BPA)
PINS Refs: 20024745 & 20024740

Date: 2nd November 2020

Issue: 1

Background

Britten Pears Arts (BPA), reg. charity 261383, was originally formed in 1948, with the creation of the Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts. The organisation, founded by the leading international composer Benjamin Britten and his partner Peter Pears, has evolved and grown in recent years, culminating in the recent merger of Snape Maltings and the Britten–Pears Foundation to form BPA in April 2020.

BPA employs 160 staff at two sites – the world famous Snape Maltings Concert Hall, with a range of music facilities, shops and restaurants, and at The Red House in Aldeburgh, Britten’s former home, where his archive is held. Although famous as an international composer and performer, Britten settled in Aldeburgh, largely because of the peace and tranquillity of the area.

Every year, more than 525,000 visitors come to the two sites. These visitors are crucial to the economic viability of the organisation. Approximately half of the concert audience live outside Suffolk, and their visits have a substantial positive local economic impact. The experience of visiting the sites is unique internationally, being the combination of world class music performance set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. BPA is a tier 3 Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, and a national centre for musical excellence.

BPA is an internationally significant cultural, heritage and tourism centre and major local employer. BPA is a member of The Suffolk Coast DMO, which is a key marketing partner.

Snape Maltings is poorly served by public transport so it is imperative that the road network (especially the A12) is running smoothly.

Summary of BPA’s concerns

TOURISM

1. As a member of The Suffolk Coast DMO, BPA notes the findings of the independent survey produced by BVA-BDRC in 2019, and is gravely concerned by the evidence that the two SPR projects and Sizewell C would provide a major deterrent for visitors.

A vibrant visitor economy is vital for the sustainability of BPA, which only has half a catchment area (the other half being the North Sea).

TRAFFIC

2. BPA's two sites are reliant on the smooth running of the A12, the A1094 and the B1069.

BPA notes that Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport of the Environmental Statement considers the junction of the A1094 and the B1069 at Church Common Snape to be a 'Collision Cluster' (Cluster 4) but doesn't consider this junction to be a 'Sensitive Junction'. This junction is crucial to the Snape Maltings site, and is regularly heavily congested.

According to studies commissioned by BPA from transport consultants Phil Jones Associates, twice as many cars travel to Snape Maltings from this junction as from the south (approximately 150,000 vehicles per annum). When carrying out a feasibility exercise in 2017 for its own construction project (tiny by comparison to EA1N and EA2), BPA commissioned a study to improve this junction. It is a failing that SPR has not considered the risk of congestion at this junction in its assessment.

Conclusion

BPA believes that the onshore infrastructure for the EA1N and EA2 projects should not be located near Friston as it will damage the visitor experience and will negatively impact the way the area is perceived. BPA believes that the local road network, which is already frequently congested at peak times, will become intolerable for visitors.

BPA is an internationally significant cultural organisation and objects to the projects because of the threats they pose. The Environmental Statements do not appear to assess the cumulative impacts of EA1N, EA2 and the proposed Sizewell C project.

BPA will attend the planning inspectorate hearings, which will be held at Snape Maltings, and is available for discussions with officers.

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