

By Email: 15 December 2020



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Attn: Mr Rynd Smith
EA1N and EA2 Planning Inspectors
Temple Quay House, Temple Quay,
Bristol, BS1 6PN



Dear Mr Smith,

RE: Response to the East of England Energy Group's (EEEGR) letter to PINS of 3 December 2020

We are writing to express our concern about a letter that may be sent to PINS re: EA1N and EA2.

It has been brought to our notice that in the [EEEGR's weekly newsletter of 4 December 2020](#) Simon Gray, CEO, is asking his members to sign a letter to PINS or to send in their own letter. Extract of Newsletter:

Show Your Support for ScottishPower Renewables' East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Projects



A 'call to action' from Simon Gray, EEEGR CEO.

Show your support for ScottishPower Renewables' planning application for East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two projects by becoming a signatory to EEEGR's letter of support to the planning inspectorate.

We desperately need these projects for our local economy in the post COVID-19 world, so please join Simon in adding your name to this letter by emailing office@eeegr.com or feel free to submit your own letter of support, which needs to be submitted by 15th December at the latest, to the address shown on the letter.

Click the button below to view the letter.



Help Shape the Future of the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor



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EEEEGR, based in Norfolk is a not-for-profit trade body to represent the energy sector and its supply chain in the East of England. A laudable organisation looking after East Anglia's businesses, jobs and skill sets along the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor. However there appears to be a conflict of interest with ScottishPower Renewables who is a noted [member](#) featuring regularly in EEEGR newsletters and website.

SEAS principal concern is that Mr Gray's letter (appendix 1) obfuscates the true picture here in Suffolk. As you already know SEAS are in support of Wind Power and we are also in favour of Skills and Job creation. However, the letter is a top line account of what could happen in the East of England generally and it does not clarify exactly what risks are involved with respect to the current plans proposed by ScottishPower and National Grid in a rural area. The letter merges the region as a whole and therefore fails to distinguish between areas that will make economic gain (urban) and areas that will fail to make any gain (rural). Rural areas will in fact suffer socially, environmentally and economically.

It is easy to write top line accounts referencing post-Covid recovery and the need for new Transition Energy projects. As ever, the devil is in the detail and the detail is totally absent in Mr Gray's EEEGR letter.

SEAS will be presenting detailed Representations with regard to the economic adverse impact at the ISHs in January 2021. For now, we can highlight the adverse impacts already referenced in our written submissions for Tourism and Economic decline:

1. The Suffolk Coast DMO Report of September 2019 (<https://www.thesuffolkcoast.co.uk/shares/Energy-Infrastructure-projects-to-impact-Suffolk-coast-tourism---Final.pdf>) shows that there will be a £40m decline in Tourism on an annual basis. This Report is possibly a little optimistic given that it was conducted in 2019, and the cumulative impact did not factor in



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an additional six transmission infrastructure projects almost certainly connecting to the grid at Friston.

2. We estimate that over a construction period of 15 years (minimum), the exponential adverse impact on Tourism and the Economy is of the order of £600m to £700m. The Tourism sector for this particular region is based on nature, tranquillity and beautiful landscapes. Visitors will be attracted

elsewhere if the assets of this region are eroded and the roads here are log jammed with HGVs (the A1094 is the major arterial road from the A12 to Aldeburgh and Thorpeness). This is essentially a rural single carriageway and not designed for industrial purposes. Changing the essential character of this part of the Coast, which is known as the Heritage Coast, will permanently undermine Tourism.

3. The inevitable commoditisation of what Tourism remains may lead to further decline of trades, hospitality services, retail and housing decay.
4. We wholeheartedly support the regeneration strategy for Lowestoft as a Green Energy Hub for the UK as a whole. We do not agree that the whole of the Suffolk Coast is renamed the Energy Coast. We think that there are two distinct areas and they should be nurtured in very different ways. The Lowestoft/Waveney Valley should be positioned as the Green Energy Hub and the Orford to Southwold Coast should be protected as a Nature and Heritage Coast, where Tourism is the main revenue earner. If planning permission was sought today for the Sizewell nuclear power stations, we do not believe that it would have been granted. We do not believe that this part of Suffolk coast should bear a further burden. It will be too great a burden for this fragile area. Tourism is always delicately balanced as we have seen through the Covid pandemic. Aldeburgh, Thorpeness, Snape and the surrounding area, will never fully recover from these plans for Thorpeness to Friston. 15 years of massive industrialisation will be catastrophic.



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As we have written in our previous Representations there are better places to site these substations. We have no issue with EA1N and EA2 wind farms and would urge the Inspectors to separate the offshore from the onshore in order that no delay is caused to the construction of the offshore wind farms. Mr Gray's Letter does not separate the offshore from the onshore. It is convenient not to separate them. The inconvenient truth is that the SPR and National Grid plans for this area are too destructive for the environment and for the economy. For your information, EEEGR have not attempted to consult with us or hear the views of local communities in the affected area with regard to SPR and National Grid plans.

I hope you will understand our concerns. SEAS wish the UK to "build back better" but how can the UK regenerate if we needlessly destroy the very earth that feeds and nourishes our habitats and our people?

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Yours sincerely

Fiona Gilmore

SEAS Campaign founder

E: info@suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk

Appendix 1: EEEGR letter, 3 December 2020

CC: Right Hon. Therese Coffey MP by email

Mr. Matthew Hicks, Leader Suffolk County Council by email

Mr. Steve Gallant, Leader East Suffolk Council by email

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APPENDIX 1



National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square Bristol
BS1 6PN
Via email to: EastAngliaOneNorth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
EastAngliaTwo@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

3rd December 2020

Dear Sir / Madam

Letter in support of East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two

The East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) is the 'all energy' sector lead organisation representing around 300 energy producers and developers, their supply chain and skills providers, across the East of England. We work across renewable, oil and gas, nuclear and energy infrastructure sectors hosting a number of events in region including the flagship SNS (Southern North Sea) conference, exhibition and workshops. For the first time this event was moved online in 2020 due to the global pandemic and we have continued to develop industry specific webinars and online events throughout to ensure our members are aware and actively engage with opportunities in the sector.

We write on behalf of the supply chain and skills providers from among our membership and beyond in support of ScottishPower Renewables and their East Anglia One and Two projects.

Our government has set challenging targets to achieve net-zero and these projects together with the other windfarms and renewable projects in the East of England form an essential and ever growing element of the nation's drive to achieve net-zero. The coast of East Anglia already hosts nearly 50% of the entire installed capacity for offshore wind in the UK and that percentage remains pretty similar to 2030 when we are due to have 40GW of capacity installed offshore around the coast of the UK.

In addition to the ever growing offshore wind presence in the region it seems increasingly likely that Sizewell C newbuild project may become a reality and studies on a major energy hub around hydrogen and Carbon Capture and Storage at the Bacton gas terminal and interconnector are looking increasingly encouraging. The East of England is gradually being recognised as the leading region for energy transition. Key to this transition will be the move to greater offshore wind capacity and approval of East Anglia One North, and East Anglia Two are essential to meeting these targets providing clean renewable energy for some 1.4 million households.

Whilst our key workers in the energy sector managed to secure energy provision throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the amazing workforce even managed to construct new windfarms (ScottishPower's East Anglia One was commissioned in July 2020 with around 20% of the turbine installation and around half the turbine connection work completed during the lockdown), investment in post COVID-19 recovery is essential to 'build back better' and the East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two projects are core developments in making such a recovery a reality.

The offshore wind sector has proven to be a key economic driver in the East of England, especially around Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft where a number of businesses have based themselves in order to help with the commissioning, building, and maintenance of offshore wind with a new Operations and Maintenance hub planned for Great Yarmouth and a Power Park project being championed in Lowestoft. The new Energy Skills Centre at East Coast College in Lowestoft is actively helping to produce the next generation of workers for this rapidly growing sector.

A Suffolk Chamber of Commerce survey recent found that approximately 33% of businesses may make 1-5 members of staff redundant as a result of COVID-19. At a time when young people are most likely to be on Universal Credit or made unemployed because of COVID-19, approval of offshore wind projects would have

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a major boost on our local economy and help our young people continue their career paths and training in order to work in the energy sector.

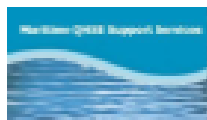
East Anglia One comprises of 102 turbines which in turn created some 3000 jobs in construction and will provide operation and maintenance jobs for up to 30 years, or nearly two generations of the workforce, this represents great value for money and demonstrates the major impact this can have on local jobs and career opportunities.

Energy is one of the three key pillars of the New Anglia LEP's Local Industrial Strategy and the importance of offshore wind is recognised not only in our local government structures, but also within our businesses and local communities which will rely on this project for the continued security and growth of our regions supply chain and skills providers as well as the local economy as a whole.

In closing I repeat that East Anglia One North & East Anglia Two will form a major part of our regions post COVID-19 recovery and form a major part of our nations drive towards net-zero. We commend these projects to you.

Signed on behalf of the regions supply chain and skills providers by Simon Gray CEO of EEEGR

Carl Ketteringham, MD, Offshore Digital Engineering Ltd
Mark Goodall, Senior Manager, Aker Solutions
Stuart Smith, Managing Director, People with Energy (PWE)
Dave Thompson, Business Development Manager, SSI Energy
Tom Beales, Director, Armultra
Adam Tucker, Business Development Manager, N-ERGISE



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