From:
To: Williams, Emre

Cc: <u>East Anglia ONE North</u>; <u>East Anglia Two</u>

**Subject:** Notes for walk, Accompanied Site Inspection 27 January,

**Date:** 13 January 2021 09:38:03

To the Planning Inspectorate.

Notes are in respect of both EA1N and EA2.

Dear Emre,

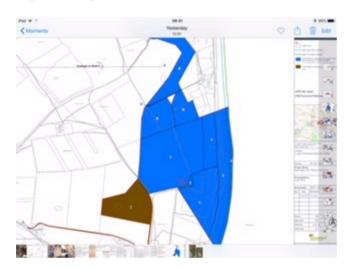
Here as promised are the accompanying notes for my part of the ASI.

Notes for walk, Accompanied Site Inspection Wednesday 27 January.

Wardens Trust, Paddocks, Plots 4,7,10,11,12,13

4 pages.

Figure 1. Map with Plot numbers for identification.



These notes are intended to pick up after the Inspectors have left the beach and crossed Thorpeness Common, assuming that the route then takes them directly to proceeding back along the By way as far as Shellpits towards the tunnel of trees mentioned by Paul Chandler at point 3 and back to Thorpeness.

I'd like to join the Inspectors' group at Plot 6, (marked on Map with Red Cross) just before moving on to Plot 4, until we reach and Wardens Trust.

After leaving the beach and crossing Thorpeness Common, you access the track via the stile/kissing gate or via the entrance a little further south. On turning right, you'll arrive at the intersection of Plots 8, 5, 6 and 7.

- 1. Note the thickets here, at Plot 6, one of the several regular nightingale haunts nearby. It's also host to tawny owls.
- 2. Here, at the large permanent puddle, the track leads towards (Please note that this point is one of only two pedestrian access points from the north to the south to access Thorpeness Common and all points beyond. Although this is not a public right of way, it is regularly used by farmers, livery owners to reach livestock, and the inhabitants of the cottages, away- break flat and visitors to Wardens. The only other access to the south for walkers/ cyclists/ riders, for leisure and daily practical use, is via the tree lined tunnel leading towards Shellpits, which you will walk later. That too will be partially

or entirely closed off. It is for this reason that I would disagree with The Applicants' position that only the Public Rights of way directly next to the Works are impacted, as they are all compromised.)

- 3. Here you will follow the track heading northward with Plot 4 (Landfall) to your right and Plot 7 to your left. Beyond Plot 7, to the west, is the SPA. From this point the mixed herds of deer, including red deer, emerge towards the sea to feed across plots 7,4,11 and 13. You will probably notice deer prints on this part of the walk. This open access will be prevented as far as the more built up area to the North, at Dower House.
- 4. As you pass Plot 4 (Landfall) with the sea beyond to your right, please note the wide naturally occurring pond that is regularly accessed by migrating flocks for refreshment where they rest for several days. Here we are close to the point of the Ness, a natural Landfall which is very active, situated between Minsmere and Aldringham/ North Warren bird sanctuaries.

  Walking onward to the north, you'll recognise the remarkable qualities of this peaceful coastal edgeland.
- 5. As you approach the intersection of Plot 4 with plots 10 to your right and 11 to your left, you will notice natural shrubs and vegetation lining the track, and some mixed planting of trees in an enclosure a little further. These tree were planted, with professional advice, by Richard Gimson in order to help to stabilise the soil and land here. As you can imagine, or may experience, the area is very exposed and vulnerable to wind and driven rain, and easily becomes a dustbowl or swamp depending on the season. This point was made by Richard Reeves of SOS at Issue Specific Hearing on Site Selection with relation to Biodiversity. it is proposed that all of these trees be removed, possibly as soon as February 2020 by The Applicant for the commencement of intrusive works, which will increase the problems of dust pollution caused on this land by industrial works and traffic.
- 6. Please also note the central copse, or roundel in the paddocks just where there is a little angle at the east of Plot 10. This larger feature, highly rich in species, was designed to perform the same function, as well as increase biodiversity. It attracts owls and is home to many other species. Significantly, it also offers protection for the horses stabled on the two paddocks here on this exposed site.
- 7. As you move along the track you will come to the long established field shelters for two horses. Grazing rights have been held here for decades. These were not originally identified in the Applicant's description of this area in the Environmental Statements. These horses are to be removed to accommodate intrusive pre Consent Archeological, geotechnical and site investigations due to commence next month, February 2021, or shortly afterwards, until 30 June 2022. It is not clear whether a pre-commencement Archaeology Execution Plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority as required in the Applicant's Draft DCO at Requirement 19, or a final detailed Outline Pre-commencement Archaeological Execution Plan has been produced in line with Requirement 19. These works bore holes, deep drilling holes, and in excess of 36 trenches. They will cover the route of the cable corridor in plots 10, 11, and 13.
- 8. Looking to the left, you will see the wide expanse of Plot 11. It is not clear why the relatively small area of Plot 10 is also necessary for these works.
- 9. Turning right eastwards at the end of this track towards Ness House, you are intersecting Plot 12, the ancient track. The triangular section of trees here is to be retained. Buzzards have nested here for many years.
- 10. You are now walking down the access to provide the provided Lane is diversity rich, attracting bats, varieties of moths, and many small birds. You may see deer tracks and evidence of badger activity.

  In summer this track is blooming with wild flowers.

| 11. On your left, Plot 13, is what is known as the asparagus field, where wild asparagus can still be found on the verges.   |
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| 12. You may also see another natural pond, a declivity which is another site attractant for migrating birds. I attach below a video of geese arriving in November. Typically they stay a few days, circling and exploring occasionally, to recuperate. Lapwings are regular visitors to these fields and paddocks.   |
| 13. Here at Plot 13, the field to your left, the cable corridor route takes a large angle to approach the cottages and Wardens playing field, angling back again to join a straight route along the second access to where we will also be compromised. The reason given for this in order to keep to the required distance from the SPA. This brings them in close proximity to residences and Wardens Centre. I understand there should also be a buffer zone from dwellings, of 250 metres, and would question if it is justifiable to bring the cable corridor works so close to human habitation, and the playing fields of brought here for the peaceful and naturally diverse setting, in order to favour ecological considerations.  |
| 14. As you move further along the track you'll see the second paddock to the right. These horses are rescue horses. One of them has been here for over 20 years. They have been brought to this site for its isolation and free access to a network of soft sandy bridleways.  |
| 15. As the track circles to the left around the two residential cottages, you walk under the trees whose thorny underbrush was inhabited by a pair of turtle doves last year. These rare birds, of which there are only 3, 600 breeding pairs in the country according to a RSPB survey of 2016, have been seen here over generations and were showing every sign of establishing themselves. A recent scheme invites farmers to create feeding plots and create habitats for the doves, which rely on seeds of fumitory, knotgrass, oilseed rape and cereal grains and thrive on untrimmed grassland. They nest in hedges such as those found here. According to DEFRA, they are a priority species for conservation, as they are in long term decline. They are precious inhabitants of this site. |
| 16. If you stand briefly at the intersection of the track and drive here, looking to the left you will see and Ilex House, a beautiful Victorian dwelling in a unique and peaceful setting.  |
| 17. Take a few steps northward adjacent to the pond on your left; on your right is Wardens Charitable Trust and its playing fields. You have heard, and will hear more of Wardens  |
| This marks the end of my part of this route. Inspectors may proceed from here along the other access road to Wardens, to join the by- way, turn left, and enter the tree tunnel at Shellpits to Thorpeness.  Wellingtons will be necessary.  |
| Please do let me know if any problems with attachments etc.  |

End.