



The Planning Act 2008

East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) Offshore Wind Farms

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EA1N – EN010077, EA2 – EN010078

Deadline 6 – 24 February 2021

**Issue Specific Hearing 8 (18 February 2021) – Seascapes**

**Summary of SCC Oral Case**

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Examining Authority's Question	Suffolk County Council's Response	References
<b>Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, introductions and arrangements for these Issue Specific Hearings 8</b>		
<b>Agenda Item 2 – Visibility</b>		
Production, use of and interpretation of seascape visualisations	Natural England has made substantial representations on this issue, including Appendix E of its deadline one submission, and SCC defers to Natural England on this matter.	<a href="#">REP1-157</a> paras NE3.2.1 - NE3.3.4
<b>Agenda Item 3 – Onshore seascape effects</b>		
a) Overall findings and interpretations of the ES SLVIA, including consideration of geographical extent and comparison with other offshore wind farms.	SCC defers to Natural England; see also SCC and ESC draft SoCG with the Applicant.	Draft SoCG dated 2/11/20 - ExA.SoCG-2.D1.V2 <a href="#">REP1-072</a> : LA12.24; LA12-13
b) <b>East Anglia One North</b> i. Visibility ii. Night-time effects iii. Effects on the AONB	The issue of night-time effects is understood to have been resolved.  SCC is content that construction and operation of EA1N offshore infrastructure has <b>no significant project alone or in combination effects</b> on the natural beauty or special qualities of the AONB.	<a href="#">REP1-072</a> LA-12.15

<p>c) <b>East Anglia Two</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Good design</li> <li>ii. Visibility</li> <li>iii. Night-time effects</li> <li>iv. Effects on the landscape receptors within the AONB – including, but not limited to discussions concerning Areas A and D of Landscape Character Type (LCT) 06 Coastal Levels and LCT 29 Covehithe Broad and East Broad.</li> <li>v. Effects on the AONB special qualities</li> <li>vi. Effects on viewpoints and visual receptors within the AONB – including but not limited to Sizewell Beach and Orford Ness.</li> <li>vii. Effects on the Suffolk Coast Path.</li> </ul>	<p>(i), (ii), (iv); (vi); (vii): SCC defers to and endorses the views of Natural England.</p> <p>(iii): This is understood to be resolved.</p> <p><u>(v) Effects on the AONB special qualities.</u></p> <p>This is the key issue from SCC’s perspective. SCC fully endorses the advice and conclusions of Natural England. It is important to note that there are two distinct issues to consider here:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The effects on the <u>individual</u> special qualities of the AONB, which have not been accurately assessed.</li> <li>2. The approach of the Applicant in assessing <u>overall impact</u> on the AONB special qualities.</li> </ol> <p>SCC further highlighted that the special qualities of the AONB are the expressions of the very reasons for its designation, and one needs to therefore take a particularly robust approach to any assessment.</p> <p>The historical background to the designation of the Suffolk Coast and Heath AONB is set out in the <i>Designation History Series</i> published by the Countryside Commission in 1999, which SCC has appended to this summary (along with a brief commentary).</p>	<p><a href="#">REP1-072</a>  LA12.04; LA12.05;  LA12.13; LA12.20;  LA12.23; LA 12.24</p>
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<p>d) Cumulative Effects</p>		<p>SCC considers that the Applicants should provide an update to their CIA to take into consideration the Sizewell C DCO submission material (as noted in the draft SoCG). SCC emphasises that in light of the new information about Sizewell C that is now available, given the nationally designated landscape status, and given the sensitivity of the receiving environment, a degree of robustness is required. This is not therefore an unreasonable request.</p>	<p><a href="#">REP1-072</a> LA 12.21</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 4 – Any other business relevant to the Agenda</b></p>			
<p>The ExAs may raise any other topics bearing on seascape as is expedient, having regard to the readiness of the persons present to address such matters. The ExAs may extend an opportunity for participants to raise matters relevant to the topic of these hearings that they consider should be examined by the ExAs. If necessary, the Applicants will be provided with a right of reply.</p>			
<p><b>Agenda Item 5 - Procedural Decisions, Review of Actions and Next Steps</b></p>			
<p>The ExAs will review whether there is any need for procedural decisions about additional information or any other matter arising from Agenda items 2 to 4.</p> <p>To the extent that matters arise that are not addressed in any procedural decisions, the ExAs will address how any actions placed on the Applicants, Interested Parties or Other Persons are to be met and consider the approaches to be taken in further hearings, in the light</p>			

of issues raised in these hearings. A written action list will be published if required.



**Agenda Item 6 – Closure of hearings**