



SAVE OUR SANDLINGS

Offshore Wind Farms
EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH PINS Ref: EN010077
&
EAST ANGLIA TWO PINS Ref: EN010078

Deadline 8 Response
from

Save Our Sandlings

Issue specific Hearing 14

**Biodiversity and
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)**

The following is a response and comments to Issue Specific Hearing 14

Biodiversity & HRA Day 2

Agenda Item 12 Terrestrial Ecology

- a) Following the applicants submission at Deadline 7 (*REP6-036*) *SPA Crossing Method Statement*, in Appendix 1, Figures were marked confidential and withheld from publication on the Planning Inspectorate project webpages.
- **Figure 4: (Confidential) Species Observations (2009 – 2019) within 200m Buffer of Sandlings SPA / Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI**
 - **Figure 5: (Confidential) Nightjar, Woodlark, Turtle Dove and Nightingale Observations (2009 – 2019) within 200m of Sandlings SPA / LeistonAldeburgh SSSI**

A request to ScottishPower Renewables for release of these documents to Save Our Sandlings has resulted in no response or acknowledgement from SPR of the request up to and including the Deadline 8 submission date.

Save Our Sandlings explained the documents are required to confirm the applicant has recorded the locations accurately of the species identified. We are concerned that all locations have been correctly identified and any mitigation required has been properly assessed, especially in light of the applicants previous comment relating to any species found during pre-construction inspections that cannot be mitigated will become a casualty of construction.

Save Our Sandlings also confirmed that release of the documents to this organisation will not result in the disclosure to any third parties. SOS are extremely conscious of the sensitivity of this data and the consequences of this data in the wrong hands.

Save Our Sandlings are extremely disappointed no response from the applicant acknowledging our request, or subsequent delivery of the requested information has occurred. This does not bode well for the applicants much vaunted community liaison communication activities. We can't help but feel this deafening silence is a portent of things to come during construction and operation.

Agenda Item 13 Any Other Business

We submit the following article excerpt published in the East Anglian Daily Times website Saturday 20th March 2021

We consider this has particular relevance in this examination especially as quoted sources are the RSPB and Marine Management Organisation with an additional comment from the World Council for Nature.

Much has been discussed on the effects these projects will have on seabirds and marine mammals, protecting the habitats of guillemot, razorbill, kittiwake, red-throated diver and gannet. There has been little or no mention of protection of their food source; sand eels are an important component in their food chain, and must be considered.

'Irreversible losses': Wildlife expert fears for North Sea habitat



Richard Cornwell

[Article Link](#)

Published: 8:00 AM March 20, 2021 East Anglian Daily Times

The North Sea off Suffolk could be facing "irreversible wildlife losses" because of the impact on its environment of the growing number of windfarms.

RSPB policy officer Helen Quayle told a Parliamentary sub-committee that the energy industry was destroying habitats and food sources.

The House of Lords EU Environment sub-committee is examining the environmental impact of energy developments in the North Sea as the government calls for more offshore wind turbines to provide a four-fold increase in electricity generation from wind power.

Suffolk already has sizeable windfarms off its coast and the [Planning Inspectorate is currently assessing applications for ScottishPower Renewables' \(SPR\) application for a Development Consent Order](#) for its plans for the East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) offshore wind farm.

The two projects would cover more than 400 sq km of the North Sea, with a 142 turbines, generating 1700 megawatts of power, enough electricity for nearly 1.5 million households.

Ms Quayle said infrastructure in the North Sea was having an impact on a wide range of wildlife.

The sea was in a "poor state" with declines in species populations and breeding success, and habitat loss and displacement and a reduction in food availability. Creatures such as harbour porpoises, sand eels and kittiwakes were suffering particularly.

She said: "The North Sea is now is littered with cabling from energy infrastructure and this changes the habitat of the seabed.

'So for example if you had a sand bank, and you put cabling through that that is then covered with rock armouring to protect the cabling.

'If you're a sand eel and you need to live in a seabed that's a big problem, it's modified your environment.

'Sand eels are really important species in the North Sea, they're a keystone species part of many food webs for other fish species for our seabirds.

"What we have started to see in the North Sea is this picture of threats and issues arising at every level of the food web and every part of the habitat. We are now at the stage where we face irreversible wildlife losses."

The sub-committee is drawing up a report on the North Sea and hearing evidence from a wide range of witnesses.

Trudi Wakelin, director of licensing, marine planning and Blue Belt at the Marine Management Organisation, said a wide range of issues needed to be examined, including the interaction between various sea users, including shipping, and the impact of displacement activity caused by new uses.

Comment

GeorgeRH

"BIOFUELS, BIOMASS and WINDFARMS are destroying wildlife habitats at great speed, yet they do not produce any environmental benefits at all. They are remedies that are worse than the illness and should be abandoned immediately.

If the planet is at risk, it is from the corrupt alliance of "green" charlatans, subsidy-sucking speculators, and politicians. Together, they have created a monster which is causing more devastation worldwide than there has been in 5,000 years of civilisation."

The World Council for Nature