



SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS

DEADLINE 8 – COMMENTS ON VIEWPOINT 5 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (REP7-062)

Interested Party: SASES **PINS Refs:** 20024106 & 20024110

Date: 25 March 2021

Issue: 1

Please see attached Landscape Briefing Note 8 prepared by Michelle Bolger.

Landscape Briefing Note 8

Project: 1080 East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two
Date: 24th March 2021
Purpose: Notes responding to SPR's Deadline 7 submissions
Reference: 1080 BN08 Responses to Deadline 7 submissions.docx

Submission Reviewed

EA1N Figure 29.37 - Viewpoint 5 Public Rights of Way, near Moor Farm (with National Grid GIS Substation) **REP7-062**

New Visualisations from Vp 5

1. Visualisations from LVIA Vp 5 have now been prepared to show the GIS National Grid (NG) substation. (EA1N Figure 29.37 - Viewpoint 5 Public Rights of Way, near Moor Farm (with National Grid GIS Substation) **REP7-062**) These can now be compared with the visualisations previously submitted from LVIA Vp 5 (EA1N Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Addendum - Appendix 5 - Viewpoint 5 **REP4-036**) which show the AIS NG substation. The following paragraphs set out the key issues raised by a comparison of the two sets of visualisations.
2. The AIS NG substation extends further to the west and contains a complex array of equipment, close to Vp 5 and also clearly visible from Fp 17 which runs south from Vp 5. This complex array of equipment is absent from the GIS NG substation.
3. Currently there are no proposals to plant within the area released by the smaller GIS NG substation. Although this area, to the north of the western substation, is outside the area restricted by the pylons, the extent of possible planting is already reduced by the location of the northern infiltration basin in this area.
4. As there is no additional planting proposed alongside the GIS NG substation, the reduction in the footprint allows views towards the western SPR substation beyond. Consequently, there is no significant reduction in the

overall extent of the view that it occupied by substation equipment. The land released by the use of a GIS NG substation could accommodate further planting and it could also allow for a redesign of the infiltration basin that is informed by potential landscape and visual effects. Despite the lack of additional planting there is a small reduction in visual intrusiveness as some of the visible equipment is further away from the viewpoint.

5. **REP7-062** includes 4 additional images (compared to **REP4-036**) that have the NG substation at the centre of the field of view. They are helpful as in the earlier visualisations the NG substation site is located at the 'join' between the two images; two images are necessary in order to encompass the horizontal spread of the whole substation complex when viewed from this location. The buildings within the AIS station, in particular are split by the join and so it is not easy to determine whether there is increased visual intrusiveness as a result of the larger GIS building.
6. In order to properly understand the differences between the visual impacts of the AIS and GIS NG substations from Vp 5 it would be helpful for the ExA to have a comparative set of images for the AIS NG substation; similar to the final four images in **REP7-062**. These visualisations should be presented in a single document in which the GIS visualisations alternate with the equivalent AIS images. This would not require any additional modelling.

Conclusion.

7. The GIS NG substation is visually less complex than the AIS substation and would remove an area of complex equipment that is proposed to be located close to Vp 5 and Fp 17. This would result in a small reduction in visual intrusiveness, although it would also reveal views of the western substation to the south. There would be a greater reduction in visual intrusiveness if the land released by a GIS substation was planted and the infiltration basins realigned.