

THE ALDEBURGH SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 262239 www.aldeburghsociety.org.uk



OFFSHORE WINDFARMS EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH AND EAST ANGLIA TWO

DEADLINE 9 STATEMENT CONCERNING SPR's PROPOSED ONSHORE INSTALLATIONS

As the civic society for the historic coastal town and cultural centre of Aldeburgh, the Aldeburgh Society has registered its grave concern over these DCO applications. The objects of the Society are to encourage public interest in and care for the character of the town and its surroundings, and the preservation, development and improvement of general public amenity in the area. Scottish Power Renewables' proposals conflict with the fulfilment of these objects.

The Society strongly supports the development of renewable energies, including the generation of offshore wind energy in suitable locations. We have followed the Examination of Scottish Power Renewables' applications with keen interest and we value the calm efficiency and thoroughness with which it has been conducted. Nothing we have heard or read has convinced us that the proposed substations at Friston and the associated landfall site and cable corridor via Thorpeness would be anything other than irremediably destructive of a fragile landscape, much of it located in a nationally protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We have been taken aback by the decision to extend the deadline for these hearings and we reiterate our objection to the extension, voiced to you in our support of the letter to you from SEAS of 7 April which was sent in our name as well as that of other concerned groups.

The construction of these installations would inevitably have a seriously damaging effect upon the tourism business and the cultural offerings for which Aldeburgh is renowned and upon which its local economy is largely based, with significant numbers of visitors coming to the Heritage Coast throughout the year. We set out in our deadline 8 statement what our primary concerns were and nothing we have seen or heard since has allayed those concerns.

Once again we repeat that the cumulative effect of these proposals, and also in particular with EDF's proposed large nuclear power station development at Sizewell C, would be too much for this fragile and highly prized area to bear. You will know that the hearings into the Sizewell C plans have now begun which if nothing else should draw attention to the reality of the perfect storm the cumulative effect of these projects will unleash.

In view of the above, we reiterate our view that the Planning Inspectorate should split its consideration of the DCO applications as between the offshore elements and the onshore installations. A 'split decision' as envisaged above would mean that no time is wasted with respect to the construction of the offshore turbines, once cleared with stakeholders, with their welcome job creation prospects for the Suffolk Coast. There would then be the opportunity

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to rethink the onshore aspects of this project, including the options for alternative (preferably brownfield) onshore sites or the scope for connection via an undersea grid currently under consideration as part of the BEIS Offshore Transmission Network review.

The Aldeburgh Society remains firmly of the view that SPR's proposed onshore installations – together with the cumulative effect of projected additional grid connections and the Sizewell C project - would be excessively damaging to our area, its natural and built environment, its inhabitants, its businesses, and its visitors. Green energy cannot be allowed to wreak such seismic trauma in our collective march towards net zero.

15 April 2021