



**SCOTTISHPOWER  
RENEWABLES**

# **East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Offshore Windfarms**

## **Applicants' Comments SEAS' Deadline 11 Submissions**

Applicant: East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North Limited  
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**Applicable to East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO**



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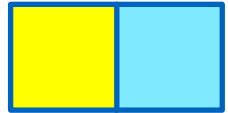
## Glossary of Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
ESC	East Suffolk Council
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ISH	Issue Specific Hearing
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
NGESC	National Grid Electricity System Operator
NGV	National Grid Ventures
NPS	National Policy Statement
RoC	Review of Consents
OFTO	Offshore Transmission Owner
OFTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SEAS	Suffolk Energy Action Solutions
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area



## Glossary of Terminology

Applicant	East Anglia TWO Limited / East Anglia ONE North Limited
East Anglia ONE North project	The proposed project consisting of up to 67 wind turbines, up to four offshore electrical platforms, up to one construction, operation and maintenance platform, inter-array cables, platform link cables, up to one operational meteorological mast, up to two offshore export cables, fibre optic cables, landfall infrastructure, onshore cables and ducts, onshore substation, and National Grid infrastructure.
East Anglia TWO project	The proposed project consisting of up to 75 wind turbines, up to four offshore electrical platforms, up to one construction, operation and maintenance platform, inter-array cables, platform link cables, up to one operational meteorological mast, up to two offshore export cables, fibre optic cables, landfall infrastructure, onshore cables and ducts, onshore substation, and National Grid infrastructure.



## 1 Introduction

1. This document presents the Applicants' comments on Suffolk Energy Action Solutions' (SEAS) Deadline 11 submissions as follows:
  - New Evidence from National Grid that Friston is Destined to Become an 'Energy Hub' should EA1N and EA2 be Approved (REP11-183);
  - BEIS Review of Consents for Major Infrastructure Projects and Special Protection Areas (REP11-181);
  - SEAS Response to the Examining Authorities' Written Questions and Requests for Information (ExQs3) 20 May 2021 (REP11-179); and
  - SEAS Habitats and Biodiversity Written Submission (REP11-180).
  
2. This document is applicable to both the East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North Development Consent Order (DCO) applications, and therefore is endorsed with the yellow and blue icon used to identify materially identical documentation in accordance with the Examining Authority's procedural decisions on document management of 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 (PD-004). Whilst this document has been submitted to both Examinations, if it is read for one project submission there is no need to read it for the other project submission.

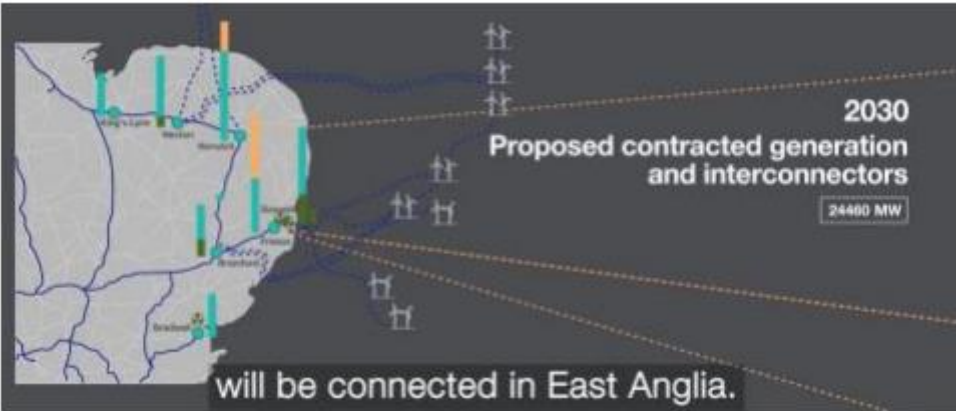


## 2 Comments on SEAS' Deadline 11 Submissions

### 2.1 New Evidence from National Grid that Friston is Destined to Become an 'Energy Hub' should EA1N and EA2 be Approved (REP11-183)

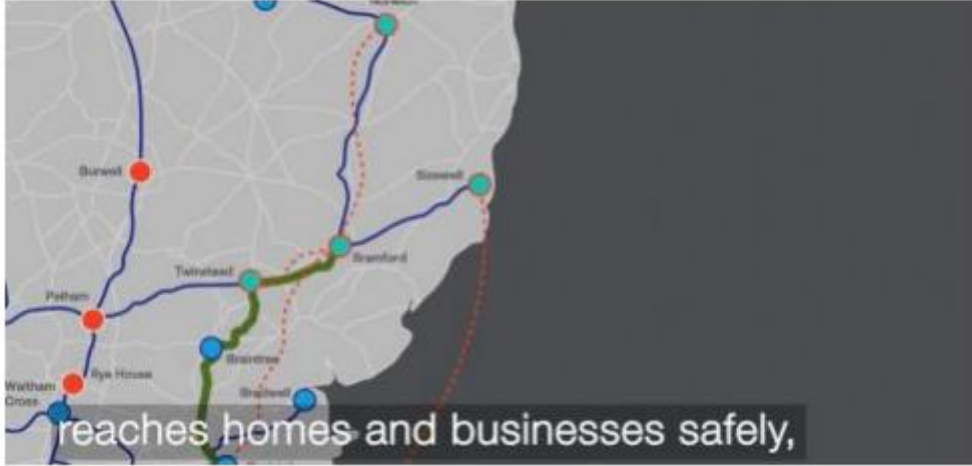
ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
<b>Introduction</b>		
1	<p>1. In this representation SEAS presents further new evidence from National Grid that Friston is destined to become an 'Energy Hub' should EA1N and EA2 be approved.</p> <p>2. We have not sought to repeat the content of our submissions made at deadline 9 (REP9- 087), deadline 8 (REP8-242) and deadline 5 (REP5-115), in addition to our original Written Representation submitted at Deadline 1 (REP1-328) on this topic. We maintain the position set out in each of these submissions.</p>	Noted.
<b>Further Evidence of Additional Grid Connections in the Friston Area</b>		
2	<p>3. The Applicants 'appraisal' of additional projects to connect to the Grid should EA1N/EA2 be approved is wholly inadequate.</p> <p>4. We stand by the position that to act in accordance with the requirements of NPS EN1 and the EIA Directive, the Applicant is bound to provide considerably more information. This should include comprehensive detail of all energy projects that are expected to be developed if EA1N and EA2 are consented.</p> <p>5. Evidence for these additional projects has already been submitted in detail. Further evidence came to light on April 22 2021 when this video <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjazSaOKmpo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjazSaOKmpo</a> was uploaded onto National</p>	<p>The Applicants maintain their position on this matter. Cumulative impact assessment (CIA) requires an understanding of different projects' potential impacts and how their zones of influence may interact; detailed knowledge on location and potential impacts is crucial to this. Of the projects again raised by SEAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Grid Ventures' (NGV) Deadline 3 submission (REP3-112) states that while it has engaged in early discussions with stakeholders and maintained a dialogue with National Grid Electricity System Operator, at no point has this translated into a confirmed grid connection at Friston for Nautilus or Eurolink. NGV's Deadline 11 submission (REP11-119) states that a grid</li> </ul>



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	<p>Grid's website, quite clearly showing National Grid's intention to make Friston into an Energy Hub.</p> <p>6. On extracting a screenshot from this video (see below), two interconnectors can be seen to be connecting at Friston (presumably Nautilus and Eurolink) and multiple wind farms (not just EA1N and EA2). Please note Friston is hard to see from this screen shot but very clear from the youtube video.</p>  <p>7. A further screen shot (see below) shows another interconnector connecting in the 'Sizewell area' which must be SCD1.</p>	<p>connection at Friston is an assumption in its site selection process for these projects. Public consultation on this site selection process will not commence until late summer 2021 and Environmental Impact Assessment scoping will not occur before the first quarter of 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been confirmed that Five Estuaries is pursuing a grid connection away from the Friston area (AS-100); and</li> <li>• It has been confirmed that North Falls is pursuing a grid connection away from the Friston area (REP7-066). Additionally, there is currently <u>no information</u> regarding possible locations for the North Falls infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Should any future projects plan to connect to the grid at Friston they will have to consider the Projects as part of the CIAs they will be required to submit with their DCO applications.</p>





ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	 <p>8. This is just the latest of many pieces of evidence that show Friston is destined to become an energy hub for more than EA1N, EA2, Nautilus and Eurolink.</p> <p>9. In light of this new evidence, <b>SEAS believes that the Examining Authority should re-ask NG-ESO to submit into the Examination full information with regard to the future possible grid connections via the National Grid Infrastructure at Friston should EA1N and EA2 be approved.</b> This should include SCD1 Interconnector and in the absence of any evidence from NGESO to support any other confirmed grid connection offer, North Falls Offshore Wind Farm. See SEAS Submission Deadline 9 Submission (REP9-087).</p> <p>10. <b>It is imperative to fully understand the cumulative impacts of known future connections at this stage, as these current applications seek consent for the National Grid substation which, if approved, would identify Friston as a highly likely connection point for future projects and set a precedent in relation to later development.</b></p>	



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	<p>11. As SASES say in their deadline 9 submission (REP9-075) "<i>if the National Grid NSIP was promoted as a separate DCO, any environmental assessment would necessarily have had to consider the cumulative effects of the energy projects which would connect to it. The approach to assessment cannot be different simply because the National Grid NSIP is promoted by Applicants for specific generating stations.</i>"</p>	
<p><b>Alternative Grid Connections Must Be Made Available</b></p>		
3	<p>12. Regulation 14(2)(d) of the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 requires an Environmental Statement to provide a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant. The question that must surely be asked is what is the new location of the Grid Connection for Five Estuaries and is it a suitable alternative site for connection of EA1N and EA2.</p>	<p>As noted by SEAS, an Environmental Statement (ES) should include a description of all reasonable alternatives considered. The process that the Applicants have been through for the Projects is set out in detail in <b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (APP-052).</p> <p>Any grid connection offer / agreement with National Grid will take into account the forecast network constraints and opportunities on the national electricity grid at the time the particular project is seeking connection. National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) identifies the overall most economic, efficient and coordinated connection option considering planning and environmental considerations. This will vary from project to project depending on the connection date sought and the corresponding constraints of the network (existing or planned) at the relevant time.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p>		
4	<p>13. This will become a substantial complex of industrial scale infrastructure in the midst of unspoilt rural Suffolk, unmitigable and indefensible given the alternatives available.</p>	<p>No further comments. As now noted in numerous submissions to the Examinations, the National Grid substation for which the Applicants are seeking consent relates to the Projects only.</p>



## 2.2 BEIS Review of Consents for Major Infrastructure Projects and Special Protection Areas (REP11-181)

ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
<b>Introduction</b>		
1	1. SEAS would like to draw to the Examiners attention the <u>Review of Consents for Major Infrastructure Projects and Special Protection Areas</u> (Appendix A), published on May 20 2021 by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). (See Appendix A)	The Applicants note that the draft version of this report was discussed previously in the examination. This was the subject of ExA Q1 1.2.9 and both Natural England (REP1-159) and the Applicants (REP1-107) responded.
2	2. This report reviews the impact of consents for energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) on Special Protection Areas (SPAs). It assesses whether offshore wind farm projects will have a likely significant effect on newly designated, and extensions to existing designated, protected sites for birds, that is, Special Protection Areas (SPAs).	The draft report <sup>1</sup> excluded further consideration of the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) as the Applicants noted at the time. Natural England stated that it disagreed with the conclusions of the draft report and that the Outer Thames Estuary SPA should be considered further in respect of red-throated diver.
3	3. The Review document identifies potential harms to protected sites from infrastructure schemes and states, " <i>Where a competent authority reviews a decision, consent, permission or other authorisation under these regulations, in the form of Appropriate Assessment (AA) it must affirm, modify or revoke it</i> ".	The Applicants note that the revised version of the report appended by SEAS does now include the Outer Thames Estuary SPA for consideration in the Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken by BEIS (see Table 2 of the report) . However, this site included for effects on Common tern, not red throated diver.
4	4. The review picks out sites affected by individual projects that are now going to be subject to new assessments. The sites include the Outer Thames Estuary SPA which has been the subject of many submissions within this Examination.	Therefore, the Review of Consents (RoC) process remains irrelevant to the Projects.
5	5. According to the <u>ENDS Report</u> (Appendix B), " <i>Additional environmental mitigation measures for a raft of offshore wind farms could have to be devised...</i> " (See Appendix B)	The ENDS Report article discusses the RoC. As stated above, the continuing RoC process remains irrelevant to the Projects.

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/912429/spa-roc-for-energy-developments-in-england-and-wales-draft-for-consultation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912429/spa-roc-for-energy-developments-in-england-and-wales-draft-for-consultation.pdf)



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
6	6. The Outer Thames Estuary is not the only protected area to be harmed by these projects as the onshore cable route will pass through the Sandlings SPA and the Leiston – Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) plus the Suffolk AONB.	It has been agreed (as concluded in the <b>Updated Report On The Implications For European Sites</b> (PD-051)) that there will be no adverse effect on integrity of the Sandlings SPA.
7	7. This latest report adds weight to our position, that the adverse impacts of this particular onshore site location substantially outweigh the benefits of the application when taken as a whole.	<p>Impacts upon the Leiston – Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are avoided through the use of a trenchless technique to install of the offshore export cables at the landfall and Natural England has agreed that the mitigation (as set out in the <b>Outline Landfall Construction Method Statement</b> (REP8-053) is sufficient (see row NE-607 of the <b>Statement of Common Ground with Natural England (onshore) - Version 02</b> (REP8-108)).</p> <p>With regard to construction impacts through the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Applicants note that it was agreed with Natural England in their statement of common ground (REP8-108) that significant effects on AONB special qualities are limited to the temporary construction activities associated with the onshore cable route, occurring within or close to Section 1 of the onshore development area.</p>
<b>Appendix A</b>		
8	[Refer to Appendix A of REP11-181 for the Review of Consents for Major Infrastructure Projects and Special Protection Areas]	See above.



## 2.3 SEAS Response to the Examining Authorities' Written Questions and Requests for Information (ExQs3) 20 May 2021 (REP11-179)

ExQ Ref	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Ammonia emissions on Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI and Sandlings SPA</b>	
3.2.8	<p>SEAS has responded to REP6-032 in the 'Air Quality Representation: Deadline 8' document dated 23 March 2021, REP8-244.</p> <p>This indicated a number of areas which have not been considered in sufficient detail in REP6-032 to allow a conclusion on potential effects to be reached. We would like to reiterate that our concerns have not been addressed by SPR. This includes concerns about air quality impacts on the ecological designations and air quality impacts on human receptors. To date, the Applicant seems largely content to provide a broad brush response to our queries.</p>	<p>The Applicants responded to the items in REP8-044 in their Deadline 9 submission (REP9-014) and maintain their position as stated. The Applicants also note that all air quality matters are now agreed with the East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, including those relating to ecological designations (document reference ExA.SoCG-2.D12.V6).</p>




## 2.4 SEAS Habitats and Biodiversity Written Submission (REP11-180)

ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
<b>Devastation from Pre-Construction Surveys</b>		
1	<p>Please see as evidence the following videos - Appendices 1 to 5 via wetransfer link - <a href="https://we.tl/t-48JAzB0wsk">https://we.tl/t-48JAzB0wsk</a>:</p> <p>Appendix 1, Drone footage of Friston, 4 June 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2, Drone footage of Friston, 4 June 2021</p> <p>Appendix 3, Driving down Grove Road South at 10mph (audible nightingale), 5 June 2021</p> <p>Appendix 4, Driving down Grove Road North at 10mph (audible nightingale), 5 June 2021</p> <p>Appendix 5, Ground footage of Sloe Lane, Coldfair Green/Knodishall showing sprayed stripe of cable corridor</p>	<p>The Applicants refer to <b><i>Applicants' Statement regarding Ground Investigation Works</i></b> (REP10-029) submitted at Deadline 10 which sets out why these surveys are being undertaken.</p>
2	<p>Screen shots of Friston on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (these do not convey the extent of the devastation – please look at the videos <a href="https://we.tl/t-48JAzB0wsk">https://we.tl/t-48JAzB0wsk</a>;) )</p>	<p>The Applicants were not able to access the videos as the link provided had expired.</p> <p>The screen shots provided by SEAS show trial trenches in targeted areas within existing agricultural fields within the onshore development area. The scope of which has been developed and agreed in advance with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services (SCCAS). Site investigation works are only being undertaken on land where voluntary agreement with the relevant landowner has been obtained.</p> <p>The Applicants categorically disagree that there has been encroachment on residents gardens as a result of these survey works.</p>



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
		



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	 <p data-bbox="271 986 1144 1054">These substation survey works are very close to the village of Friston and actually encroach on some resident's back gardens</p>	
3	<p data-bbox="271 1082 1196 1321">ExA should know that <b>Suffolk County Council asked SPR to call a meeting with local representatives in response</b> to the disturbances caused by their investigations. In fact, SPR complained about local dissatisfaction at Deadline 10. SPR's communications officer, Joanna Young, organised attendance by senior team members and by local groups on 14-5-21. The reasons for the meeting were that locals are deeply upset by the preparatory works. These involved sterilising the whole site of the Friston substation and much of the</p>	<p data-bbox="1229 1082 1989 1327">The reason for the meeting was to discuss the Applicant's approach to the management of ecology, which included clarification of the role of the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) during the works. During the meeting, the Applicants made it clear that it had not instructed any spraying of land. The Applicants also sent an email to subscribers stating that it had not instructed spraying. Spraying of land is a regular activity</p>





ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	<p>cable corridor as a strip through arable fields, plus fields that would be inaccessible during the investigation, during the week commencing April 12th.</p> <p>1.1 Works took place without comprehensive notification</p> <p>1.1.2 Spraying took place when arable species were nesting</p> <p>1.1.3 Hedgerow was removed when species were nesting</p> <p>1.1.4 In consequence, locals were concerned that wildlife crimes were being committed and called the RSPB, Natural England and the Police.</p> <p>1.1.5 Animals along the route were frightened unnecessarily by plant movement and processes — both domestic horses and wild deer.</p>	<p>undertaken on the intensively farmed fields and is not related to the Applicants onshore site investigation works.</p> <p>At the meeting, the Applicant stated that no trees or hedgerows had been removed as part of the investigation works</p> <p>Information about the onshore site investigation works was posted on the Applicant's website under the East Anglia Latest Updates section on 12th March 2021, over a month before the start of the works.</p> <p>This was followed by an initial notification informing of the onshore site investigation works on the 17th March 2021, three weeks before the first site investigation surveys took place. This was distributed via each project email to over 1,250 recipients, to those who have engaged with the project throughout the pre-application stages and subscribed for updates via our website in line with GDPR. This included every parish council across the cable route and on the local road network, key interest groups and county and district councils.</p> <p>Site notices informing of the works were also placed at various locations along public rights of way with details of how to get in touch with the project team on 31st March.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the intrusive element of these onshore site investigation works, a letter drop in the local area was conducted on 15th April to 2,044 addresses. This was distributed to Royal Mail subscribed residential and business properties in Sizewell, and the parishes of Aldringham- cum- Thorpe, Knodishall and Friston - the areas directly affected by the investigations.</p>




ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
		<p>Regular updates have been and will continue to be provided to the development area parish councils, key interest groups and other individuals as requested/relevant to advise of any large traffic movements and other key activities.</p> <p>The Applicants contacted the horse owners in question who have since commented that our contractors have been very considerate of them.</p>
<b>1.2 Contractors on the ground</b>		
4	<p>While individuals approached by distressed locals / landowners / horse owners and/or police may have responded helpfully, this does not alter the fact that contractors were placed in an unenviable position by SPR because there was inadequate notification and no proper preparation of the local area either within SPR's own contractual structures or in the community</p> <p>1.2.1 There is still no visible management structure for comprehensive oversight of the activities of contractors, and no line of accountability. What has been happening is firefighting and this should not take the place of thorough preparation.</p>	<p>See above response on notifications in ID3.</p> <p>The Applicants disagree and consider there is a clear route for reporting issues via the two project mailboxes and the stakeholder team. The Applicants' contractors are managed by an experienced management team.</p>
<b>1.3 Targeted, unseasonal spraying</b>		
5	<p>SPR's land agents denied they had asked farmers to spray, although they do not say what the agricultural contractors were actually told, or asked, to do. Yet, the Friston substation site was sterilised; only the cable corridor at Sizewell was sprayed, across the middle of a crop; and the Aldringham land adjacent to Fitches Lane was sprayed as far as the borders with Aldeburgh and into Knodishall. All this took place in the same week commencing 12th April.</p>	<p>There has been no instruction by the Applicants to landowners to spray in advance of, or during, the onshore ground investigations. Spraying of land is a regular activity undertaken on the intensively farmed fields and is not related to the Applicants onshore site investigation works.</p> <p>In response to the image titled "poor safety management, Thropeness". It appears to show Heras fencing with acoustic barriers and casing to enable cable percussion drilling. It</p>




ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	<p data-bbox="271 323 1120 384"><b>The aerial image below shows the sprayed cable corridor between Fitches Lane and Sloe Lane.</b></p>  <p data-bbox="271 839 1187 900"><b>Below is the view westwards towards Friston – the cable corridor is still visible at 6-6-21</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="1240 323 1998 596">appears be similar to photographs supplied by a local resident on Friday 21st May 2021 at 18:03. The Heras fencing and acoustic barriers were left set-up on a borehole drilling site following completion of drilling and before collection of the remaining equipment. The fencing and acoustic barriers had blown over following a weekend of strong winds. The fencing and remaining equipment were collected and removed on return to site the following week.</p>




ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	<p data-bbox="275 323 1216 352">View to the east (Fitches Lane and Coldfair Green Primary School on left)</p>  <p data-bbox="275 804 853 833">Closeup of sprayed field margin, Thorpeness</p>	



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	 <p data-bbox="271 981 763 1013"><b>Poor safety management, Thorpeness</b></p>	



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
		
6	<p>1.3.1 Whatever message local contractors received from SPR via land agents, and when, all these fields were sprayed when maximum damage would be caused to breeding wildlife, and also without following nationally recommended practice to protect pollinators. At the meeting, Rory Daines, SPR's contracted Environmental Clerk of Works, dismissed the importance of arable fields, specifically of the invertebrates supported by and supporting them, which is contrary to national recommendation and acceptable practice. The consequence of this ignorance was also that no local beekeepers were warned</p>	<p>As above – no instruction was given by the Applicant to its contractors or landowners to conduct spraying. Spraying of land is a regular activity undertaken on the intensively farmed fields and is not related to the Applicants onshore site investigation works.</p> <p>The statement by SEAS that the importance of arable fields and invertebrates is misrepresentative, this was not dismissed and</p>



ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	about the spraying so they could not protect pollinators as they would normally try to do.	as advised, ecological inspections are undertaken ahead of ground investigation works being undertaken.
<b>1.4 Inadequate management</b>		
7	Working through contractors requires clear, enforced, tested protocols, feedback mechanisms, and an adequate timescale that is sensitive to the local environment. Having an ecologist on site is, of course, reassuring, but that is not the problem here. Prior planning, preparation and lines of responsibility are lacking. This does not bode well.	The required mitigation measures were put in place prior to to and during investigation works. Robust processes and protocols are in place and the applicant has no further comment to make on this matter.
<b>1.5 Devastating Timing for Wildlife</b>		
8	A variety of protected species depend on the cable corridor and will lose their habitat or suffer active harm from disturbance and chemicals. Skylarks, for instance, nest away from field margins in spring and breeding is only successful if there is no cutting between early April and the end of May. Woodlarks nest early and appreciate wide field margins around spring barley (as in the Aldringham field). These species are already likely to have suffered harm as a result of the spraying in early April. Nightingales also returned to Fitches Lane, Grove Road Wood, and to the hedged field margins in Aldringham as well as to the riparian woodland. Two can be heard on the ground-level footage of Grove Lane (Appendix 3 & 4). Whether they will be able to produce viable young thanks to the devastating loss of forage this year remains to be seen. Rare reptiles, invertebrates and bats also will also have lost a season's forage – again this bodes ill for their reproductive abilities and future survival. This important fact should have been factored into planning the works, especially as planning consent has not yet been granted. SPR's action has already stacked on another year to the removal of habitat and forage for local, threatened species by the proposed development, bringing local extinctions closer.	<p>Robust procedures and processes are in place which ensured that mitigation measures were implemented and enforced. Continuous surveys are undertaken and updated frequently to ensure that the site team are fully aware of the ecology of the area and what levels of mitigation need to be followed to minimise any ecological impact.</p> <p>Please refer to ID3 with regard to notifications.</p> <p>The Applicants would note that any interactions with the police to date has resulted in the authorities confirming they are satisfied with the precautions being implemented.</p>




ID	SEAS' Comment	Applicants' Comments
	<p>1.5.1 Adequate notice of works should have been given to the landowners/contractors so that SPR could be seen to minimise these risks to the protected populations, even if they have licenses.</p> <p>1.5.2 SPR has lost credibility in these bungled preparations. Concerned locals will continue to complain and call the police if they feel wildlife crimes are being committed. It is up to SPR to implement a visible management structure with clear timetable, which follows good practice.</p>	
<p><b>1.6 River Hundred and other water bodies</b></p>		
9	<p>SPR admitted at this meeting that it did not know that a number of dwellings in the River Hundred valley in Aldringham-cum-Thorpe are reliant on well water. They have not contacted the residents about how piercing the water table and aquifers may affect them.</p>	<p>The Applicants are aware the area is within source protection zone 1 and 2 (REP1-092 ) and that at least one well is present within that. The ground investigation in the area of the Hundred River comprises trial pits and window sampler boreholes to a maximum depth of 5m below ground level. The investigation is designed to investigate the ground including the potential presence of groundwater, its level and quality. The investigation is not abstracting groundwater. A task-specific risk-assessment is used to assess the risk from ground investigation including mitigation for fuels spills from machine excavators for example.</p>
<p><b>1.6.1 Flooding</b></p>		
10	<p>The potential for flooding at the crossing of the River Hundred has not been assessed.</p> <p>1.6.2 The usual response that actual construction will deal with this flexibly and depending on topography at the time of construction (<a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wpcontent/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005120- EA1N%20ISH16%20S2.html">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wpcontent/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005120- EA1N%20ISH16%20S2.html</a> minute 11 ff, now cannot be taken seriously or left to chance.</p>	<p>Flood risk associated with the crossing of the Hundred River is assessed in the <b>Appendix 20.3 Flood Risk Assessment</b> of the ES (APP-496). The <b>Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement</b> (REP11-074) includes more detail on the measures proposed to ensure the crossing works do not exacerbate flood risk to the surrounding area. Additionally, a Flood Risk Activity Permit will be obtained from the Environment Agency prior to the</p>





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	<p>1.6.3 The risk, during construction, of flooding is not to be discounted since long term de-vegetation will take place and will include trees, like the banks of alder, which are traditionally used to protect and strengthen soft riverbanks and remove surplus water from both watercourse and the wet riparian soils.</p> <p>1.6.4 The proposed widening and narrowing of the corridor to accommodate water collection as necessary is far from clear or possible at the River Hundred as we have seen no proper plans for the width of the corridor at this point. This does not inspire confidence. In fact, this crossing has not yet been comprehensively or credibly assessed.</p> <p>1.6.5 While it may seem clear that properties immediately downstream are at risk, properties upstream also have suffered from the river overtopping, including Burrell Cottages in Knodishall and Leiston Road, Knodishall. Proper flood assessments must be made, and credible mitigation planned and proposed.</p>	<p>crossing works proceeding and this will be based on the final design.</p>
<p><b>2 The River Hundred and Riparian Woodland surveys</b></p>		
<p>11</p>	<p>The meeting with SPR on 14-5-21 produced some interesting viewpoints from the ecological contractors, who were keen to share the richness and diversity of the sites outside the SSSI, to reassure residents that they had accounted for the biodiversity that we know exists. This is an interesting divergence from those surveys that have actually been presented to ExA which downplay the presence of important species like nightingale, turtle dove, nightjar, even within the SSSI.</p> <p>2.1 The ecological contractors are constantly monitoring the area, we are assured. However, the riparian woodland is a rewilded area and so is now largely inaccessible. The image shows how nettle and cleaver (to the right) have reached over a metre high and Himalayan Balsam is growing strongly (around a metre high at present) in the foreground. This could be expected in a</p>	<p>The Applicants are fully aware of the biodiversity of the area, have fully assessed this in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (<b>Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology</b> (APP-070)). and have incorporated mitigation measures where appropriate as agreed with Natural England. .</p> <p>Ecological inspections are being undertaken by qualified personnel using safe points of access ahead of the onshore ground investigation works to ensure these works are undertaken without disturbance to protected species.</p>



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	<p>W6, <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> – <i>Urtica dioica</i> woodland, with a soil that reads wet on metering (JNCC guidelines).</p>  <p>2.2 The Applicant's observers can also be observed: residents have witnessed young people strolling by on the other side of the river in pleasant conversation. This may give the ecologists or students a view of the bank, but is it good practice, and how can it produce a credible survey of the inaccessible woodland?</p>	
<p><b>3 ESC, NE's latest response to the Riparian Woodland – an objective or political intervention from ESC?</b></p>		
12	<p>East Suffolk Council intervened directly with Natural England to assert that the woodland is not W6, despite the fact that the ecologist's observations were</p>	<p>The Applicants have undertaken a further survey of this area in May 2021 during the optimal survey period, using appropriately</p>



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	<p>from several hundred metres away, and in February, and under partial snow (our elected representatives found out exactly where the Councils' ecologists stood on their visit). Indeed, the Council ecologists refused to confirm that they had examined the site in adequate depth to the ExA, saying they had merely scoped it. (Deadline 9 SEAS Habitat and Biodiversity, 4 1.3 1.3)</p> <p>3.1 We conclude that this has become a political issue, which is lamentable. We suggest that ESC wants this project for the benefit of its northern constituency, as two out of three of our own, local, elected representatives have resigned since.</p>	<p>qualified ecological surveyors and in line with habitat survey guidance (reported in the <b>Hundred River Ecology Survey Report</b> (REP11-063)) and have again demonstrated that the woodland to the west of the Hundred River is semi-natural broadleaved woodland.</p>
<p><b>4 Responses to SPR's arguments</b></p>		
<p>13</p>	<p>Re. <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wpcontent/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010078/EN010078-004773-ExA.AS10.D9.V1%20EA1N&amp;EA2%20Applicants%20Comments%20on%20SEAS'%20Deadline%208%20Submissions.pdf">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wpcontent/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010078/EN010078-004773-ExA.AS10.D9.V1%20EA1N&amp;EA2%20Applicants%20Comments%20on%20SEAS'%20Deadline%208%20Submissions.pdf</a> - Applicants Comments on Suffolk Energy Action Solutions Deadline 8 Submissions</p> <p>Applicant: East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North Limited</p> <p>Document Reference: ExA.AS-10.D9.V1</p> <p>SPR Reference: EA1N_EA2-DWF-ENV-REP-IBR-001039</p> <p>Date: 15th April 2021</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>4.1 Microtunnelling</b></p>		
<p>14</p>	<p>SEAS clearly requested microtunnelling beneath the River Hundred <i>and</i> the protected woodland on both sides of the B1122. Therefore, we envisage the caissons on agricultural land clear of the protected areas on both sides of the river, as we described in some detail in 'Issue Specific Hearings 14 (ISHs14)</p>	<p>The Applicants have previously stated its position on the use of trenchless techniques at the Hundred River, which would require</p>



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	<p>The case against the open trenching of the River Hundred.' The Applicant here reiterates old arguments without addressing the points we made, which included protecting the inhabitants of the Nursing Home and Fitches Lane as well as avoiding Net Biodiversity Loss. (SPR32).</p>	<p>an extensive entry pit at on the eastern bank of the Hundred River and one on agricultural land to the south of Fitches Lane.</p> <p>SEAS understanding of the baseline sensitivity of this area is incorrect, as evidenced by the Applicants' Hundred River Ecology Survey Report (REP11-063) which identified the woodland to the west of the Hundred River as semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, in accordance with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and which is supported by East Suffolk Council (ESC), Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Natural England This area is not wet woodland as suggested by SEAS.</p> <p>The comprehensive mitigation measures presented by the Applicants within the <b>Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement</b> (REP11-074); the <b>Outline Code of Construction Practice</b> (document reference 8.1); and the <b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> (document reference 8.7) will ensure that impacts associated with the works in this area are minimised and mitigated, the key measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced onshore cable corridor widths (from 32m to 16.1m for a single project or from 64m to 27.1m where both Projects are progressed (excluding the area within 40m of the Hundred River);</li> <li>• A 10-year adaptive management period for trees and shrub mitigation planting;</li> <li>• Construction of Construct the ducting for the second project at the same time as construction of the first (subject to consent) under a sequential delivery strategy;</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of a new area of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland is planted within Work No. 24 to offset the section of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland that will be removed within Works Nos. 20 and 21;</li> <li>• Provision of an Arboricultural Clerk of Works who will work in line with the British Standard (BS) 5837,2012 – (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction recommendations) to reduce the number of trees to be removed and to protect trees situated in or adjacent to the working width. This is particularly important for the woodland to the west of Aldeburgh Road given the significant amount of areas with no tree coverage or small tree coverage within this area.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicants maintain their position that a trenchless technique is not feasible at this location and an open trench solution is both deliverable and acceptable in environmental terms.</p>
<b>4.2 Poor surveys</b>		
15	<p>Again, the Applicant reiterates old statements from its own early surveys without addressing our valid objections (and even their own late assessment of the woodland). Please see SEAS Deadline 9, Habitats and Biodiversity, 14 1.6, where examples of the consequences of inadequate assessment of the river and riparian environment are given. (SPR33-38)</p> <p>4.2.1 Why did the Applicant survey the River Hundred crossing point in April 2018 if it had no notion of taking cables to Friston until December 2018? (SPR44).</p>	<p>The Applicants' assessment of the woodland at the Hundred River crossing location cannot be considered late, having occurred in April 2018 prior to the decision on the grid connection location and well in advance of the October 2019 submission of the Applications.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives in EIA requires the identification of options which then need to be appraised. At an early stage in development of the Projects, the Applicants identified Friston as an option for a grid connection location along with six other locations. The Applicants consulted the</p>



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		<p>public on a study area that included Friston from October 2017 and then more specifically on all seven possible grid connection locations from March 2018, with an eighth option (Broom Covert) being added in May 2018. Detailed information on this process is clearly set out within <b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> of the ES (APP-052).</p> <p>As noted in previous submissions to the Examinations, surveying the location of the Hundred River crossing was partly necessary to appraise the viability of a grid connection location at Friston.</p>
<b>5 Spin</b>		
16	<p>Quote: Re. East Anglia TWO Limited (PDF, 499 KB) Deadline 9 Submission - EA1N&amp;EA2 Deadline 9 Topic Position Statements - Version 01 EIA / Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) "<i>Outside the SoCG process NE has made representations regarding classification of the woodland adjacent to the proposed location of the Hundred River crossing.</i>"</p> <p>5.1 This is because the Applicant did not acknowledge or plan for the felling of a hectare of broadleaf riparian woodland in its proposals. Its acknowledgement came very late in the examinations. It has not proposed mitigation for it and has no fit site to replace it.</p> <p>5.2 We continue to hear contradictory accounts of how wide the trenching would be or needs to be at the river and in the woodland, including glossing over the actual width of the trench if both projects are constructed together. AUDIO ISH14 Day2 Session1, 17 03 2021, 1hr 12 and following. Mitigation for flooding has not been considered. Leaving it until construction happens is too late, as we have seen from the bungled testing (above, 1).</p>	<p>The Applicants have already thoroughly rebutted SEAS' continued assertions regarding the woodland at the location of Hundred River crossing, as raised here once again.</p> <p>As stated at Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 7 and since noted in several submissions to the Examinations (most recently REP10-021), the Applicants identified the area of semi-natural broadleaf woodland at the Hundred River crossing location during the April 2018 survey (<b>Figure 22.4c</b> within APP-277). Felling of this semi-natural broadleaf woodland is assessed within <b>Chapter 22 Onshore Ecology</b> (APP-070), with Work No. 24 being identified for replacement woodland planting. The Applicants note that SEAS' previous assertion that Work No. 24 is not fit for replacement woodland planting were based on there being wet woodland at the Hundred River crossing location, something which has now been disproved (most recently by the Applicants' May 2021 survey (REP11-063)).</p>



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	<p>5.3 The Applicant again brings in the opinion of the local Councils on the nature of the woodland. The council ecologists visited the site at the same time as the Applicant: <i>“this is supported by the Councils who have undertaken their own independent site visit. However, NE continues to reserve judgement on the matter by stating that February is a sub-optimal time to undertake habitat surveys (most recently REP8-162).”</i></p> <p>5.4 However, even the Council ecologists refused to confirm that they had examined the site in adequate depth. (Deadline 9 SEAS Habitat and Biodiversity, 4 1.3 1.3)</p> <p>5.5 We suggest that this optimistic set of conclusions presents a rosy picture of the state of the Biodiversity case, since it rests on the initial Application surveys, which were not comprehensive and contained errors, and smooths over the evidence and objections brought to the Examination since (SEAS, Deadline 8 ISH 14 HABITATS and BIODIVERSITY, The quality of biodiversity surveys).</p> <p>5.6 The Applicant then claimed broad agreement between NE and themselves on most matters. NE’s Risk and Issues log (deadline 9) is not quite so rosy. NE recorded 155 ongoing issues of concern in offshore and terrestrial ecology. 89 out of these 155 issues remained unresolved, which is, of course, the majority — around 57%.</p> <p>5.7 The Applicant’s destruction of many hectares of biodiversity at the beginning of spring 2021 calls into question the foundations of their surveys, their planning procedures and their methods. A theory should be judged by its practice: their practice plainly contradicts what they claim.</p>	<p>Throughout the Examinations the Applicants have refined their design of the Hundred River crossing with the specific aim of reducing the footprint of the works and the required tree felling. The current proposals are clearly set out in <b>section 4.8</b> of the <b>Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement</b> (REP11-074).</p> <p>The Applicants strongly disagree with the claims from SEAS that the surveys undertaken in support of the Applications were not comprehensive and contained errors, particularly when the surveys undertaken during the Examinations have returned the same results as those gathered in April 2018. The Applicants have now dealt with this matter in several submissions (most recently summarised in their Deadline 10 submission (REP10-021)).</p> <p>The Applicants note that the items within Natural England’s risk and issues log are not weighted and cannot be tallied as SEAS has attempted.</p>
<p><b>6 Comments on the Changing Policy Environment (REP8- 235)</b></p>		
17	<p>The Applicant continues to ignore Government Policies other than the Energy White Paper 2020. Surely, they should be looking to achieve a synthesis of</p>	<p>The Applicants have developed the projects primarily having regard to the policies set in National Policy Statement (NPS)</p>



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	<p>policies rather than place one policy on energy in opposition to other Government Policies on energy, like the BEIS review, and the Dasgupta report, and even the declared support of the Prime Minister for an offshore transmission grid (PMQ, House of Commons, 19-5-2021).</p>	<p>EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5. In addition, the projects have been brought forward in the context of the legal and regulatory framework established through the Electricity Act 1989. The Government have established the Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) regime and this has specific provisions relating to the development of grid connections. The White Paper and associated Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) have occurred post application. The White Paper provides updated policy which supports the early deployment of further renewable electricity and a future ambition to alter the offshore grid. The strategic changes to the grid will not be in place during the lifetime of the current consents. The White Paper does not suggest that further deployment should be delayed until this might happen. The clear policy objective is for an acceleration of deployment. In the interim consideration is to be given to the potential for pathfinder projects. The Applicants have assessed the suitability of the Projects for alternative forms of grid connection. The technology options had already been assessed through the CION process and would be further evaluated by OFGEM during the OFTO divestment process. The alternative locations proposed by SEAS were considered during the CION process and rejected as they did not meet the relevant criteria.</p>