



SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS: DEADLINE 13 additional comments

Interested Party: Britten Pears Arts (BPA)
PINS Refs: 20024745 & 20024740
Date: 4th July 2021

Background

Britten Pears Arts (BPA), reg. charity 261383, was originally formed in 1948 with the creation of the Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts. Founded by the leading international composer Benjamin Britten and his partner Peter Pears, the organisation has evolved and grown in recent years to become a major employer and visitor destination, and one of the world's leading centres for performance and musical learning.

BPA employs 180 staff at its two sites; the world-famous Snape Maltings Concert Hall (with a range of music facilities, shops and restaurants), and The Red House in Aldeburgh, Britten's former home, where his archive is held.

Every year, more than 525,000 visitors come to the two sites. These visitors are crucial to the economic viability of the organisation, but also to other local businesses. Approximately half of the concert audience live outside Suffolk, and their visits have a substantial positive local economic impact. The experience of visiting the sites is unique internationally, being the combination of world class music performance set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. BPA is a tier 3 Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, and a national centre for musical excellence. Snape Maltings is 3 miles away from the Friston site.

BPA is a member of The Suffolk Coast DMO ('The DMO'), which is a key marketing partner.

Additional points for Deadline 13

BPA is grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute representations, and to speak at open floor hearings. There are two further points that we wish to make:

1. Pathfinder projects / split decision

BPA supports generating electricity through offshore wind turbines. However, the lack of joined-up planning for bringing this clean energy onshore will result in numerous and invasive cable corridors being dug and re-dug through East Suffolk's fragile landscape.

BPA believes there should be coordination between all developers of offshore windfarms, so that onshore disruption can be minimised and sensitively planned. BPA supports the arguments made by Dr Therese Coffey MP (Deadline 11) and SASES (Deadline 12) suggesting that the EA1N and EA2 projects adhere to the government's emerging policy for minimising disruption to the environment, and are adapted to become Pathfinder projects, perhaps connecting to an existing National Grid substation at Bradwell or Bramford.

2. New information from the Suffolk Coast DMO

As outlined above, BPA is a close marketing partner of the DMO. BPA is aware that the DMO has very recently commissioned an update to its 2019 tourism report and understands that the findings are concerning.

BPA gathers that the fresh data concludes that, even without the Sizewell C development, the two SPR projects could result in a 15% downturn in visitor numbers. BPA's business model relies heavily on tourism, as do those local businesses which its activities support, and so we strongly urge the planning inspectorate to share our concern about the onshore infrastructure plans, and our view that a joined-up approach is essential to minimising disruption.

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