



SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS

Interested Party: Britten Pears Arts (BPA)
PINS Refs: 20024745 & 20024740
Date: 31st January 2022

Background

Britten Pears Arts (BPA), registered 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 more than 200 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 lives 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 ('TSC'), which is a key marketing partner.

Additional comment for 31st January 2022 deadline

BPA supports generating electricity through offshore wind turbines. However, SPR's applications have failed to acknowledge National Grid's intention to build several additional energy projects, and BPA believes that the Examining Authority has not been presented with the true full scale of the possible industrial development.

The launch of consultation on the Nautilus Interconnector, and now the Eurolink and SEA LINK projects, are clear evidence that the proposal for the NGET substation, which is part of SPR's application for EA1N and EA2, is merely the foundation for an enormous energy hub near Friston.

These developments are entirely inappropriate for this unspoilt area that is reliant on tourism. TSC's studies, which have been submitted to PINS, have proved that the combination of Sizewell C and SPR projects could seriously harm the visitor economy. These additional projects will create even greater harm, and SPR has not adequately measured the impact.

BPA supports Therese Coffey MP's proposal for a split-decision that consents to the offshore turbines but firmly reject SPR's current onshore infrastructure plans in favour of an alternative location on a brownfield or industrialised site.