

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see below a representation that responds to the Secretary of State's Norfolk Vanguard consultation letter of 11th October 2021.

We urge the Secretary of State to defer their decision on the Vanguard offshore wind farm until the completion of the Government's urgent offshore transmission network review. We are not requesting the offshore wind farm to not be developed, we are merely pointing out that there are much more efficient and environmentally friendly ways of implementing offshore wind within East Anglia, such as the offshore transmission network. This solution has been repeatedly brought to your attention over the course of the last few years in the DCO applications for Vanguard and Boreas. We cannot sit back and watch the destruction of one environment to save another when there are better alternatives for climate change going forward. Why does our government only look at the short term goal for the environment rather than an efficient system to integrate all the off-shore wind farms into an integrated grid, known as the Offshore Transmission Network – OTN .

An OTN would save miles of destructive cabling, the damaging effects of which we have witnessed first hand, to the land, local and natural environment. At the beginning of October 2021, five years on from the installation of the cables, work is still being carried out to rectify this extensive land damage. Offshore Wind companies try to hide the immense damage caused to the countryside, which has a continued detrimental effect on food produce and soil health. This in turn hugely impacts the wider environment and its habitats. On top of the soil damage we have seen a huge loss of mature trees and hedges; natural habitats which will not return for years to come. Conservation of the countryside should be the priority, not inflicting long term damage to hundreds of kilometres. The applicant cannot ignore or argue against the clear, evident destruction which is still in place to this day.

Additionally, as local residents, we are fearful that the cumulative impacts of Vanguard and Boreas are not acceptable. The impacts of hundreds of kilometres of cabling repeatedly crossing the countryside is adding to the climate change problem. We respectfully ask for the Secretary of State to ensure that the environmentally best option of connection through an OTN is selected for the Vanguard DCO through acceleration of the regulation changes and delay to the Vanguard DCO approval unless the Applicant selects the pathfinder route.

Questions have to be raised to Vattenfall as to why they don't want to select the pathfinder route, it would be far greener and is the glaringly obvious solution for all involved. The environment would greatly benefit if Vattenfall went for the Pathfinder solution, but it is clear that the environmental impacts are a secondary consideration of theirs, with maximising profit being their main concern and goal.

Norfolk Vanguard's DCO was quashed in high court through a judicial review on the basis of an incompetent assessment on the environmental cumulative impacts of the project. We feel these cumulative impacts have still not been competently assessed for Boreas and Vanguard, with the impacts themselves far outweighing the potential benefits. The site selection for both Vanguard and Boreas, were concluded and decided upon with a commercial bias rather than the environmental impacts being considered as the weighting factors that they should have been. Their site selection was also carried out independently from one another, had they carried out the selection with both projects in mind would they have ended up in the same location?

In conclusion, to allow individual projects to carve up the countryside would be unjust and unreasonable. The Applicant and the EXA must consider the OTN as the only viable alternative to

ensure the environment and countryside is protected and safeguarded. We are writing to you from experience, the destruction and loss is catastrophic and the countryside is still suffering from past projects, unnecessary cabling is only adding to the climate problem, not helping to solve it.

Yours faithfully,
Lucy Sheringham
Paul Haddow