
CAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL Norfolk Boreas Offshore Windfarm Inquiry Deadline 14 Submission

Cawston Parish Council would offer this submission for Deadline 14. We are conscious of the request to avoid repeating points that have already been made and so this submission is relatively brief.

Comments on Deadline 13 documents

Cawston Parish Council's view remains that the proposed Cawston Highway Intervention Scheme is inadequate to mitigate the impact of the applicant's construction traffic on the village and its residents.

It is telling that, even after three Planning Inquiries, there remains a worrying, some might say suspicious, lack of clarity regarding the cumulative impacts on our village of cumulative HGV traffic volumes with other wind farm projects and the nature of that construction traffic, including possible abnormal indivisible loads. Without this information the impact on our community may not be properly assessed. Any claim of "technical feasibility" for the Cawston Highway Intervention Scheme made without a full analysis of cumulative impacts is premature and calls into question the motivations of those making such claims.

Responses to the ExA 5th round of written questions

Q5.4.0.1 –

It suits the Applicant to "kick the can down the road" and ignore the proposed Extension Projects, since they serve to undermine its repeated claim that impacts are "temporary and reversible". Cawston residents would not agree.

We find it difficult to understand how they can claim there is insufficient information to make any sort of assessment when this is a similar proposal to cut a cable trench (completing the encirclement of Cawston) and elsewhere they rely upon Boreas being a similar project to Vanguard.

Q5.4.0.3 – & Q5.4.0.4 - & Q5.4.0.5

We expect to comment on this topic in more detail once we have seen the Applicant's assessment of the worst case scenario, as we fear this will be somewhat different from our own.

The worst case scenario may extend if the present HIS were to be adopted and then, as we expect, fails, resulting in reduction of peak HGV traffic numbers for an extended, and potentially unlimited, duration.

Q5.4.0.7 – & Q5.4.0.8 - & Q5.4.0.9

We expect to comment on this topic further once the Applicant's responses are published.

At this stage we would suggest that a "rapid and effective response" should include powers to make real and urgent changes to the benefit of residents.

We would very much hope that the answer to "Are Parish Councils to be consulted on the content and details of the Communications Plan?" is "Yes", and that on this occasion the consultation will be a genuine exchange and not a box ticking exercise, characterised by restating the applicant's plans, hinting at community benefits post approval, whilst dismissing concerns and constructive proposals

Q5.14.1.1

We maintain our previous comments [REP13-019], which were not allayed by our meeting with the Applicant, and expect to comment on this topic further once the responses from the Applicant and NCC are published.

Q5.14.1.2 & Q5.14.1.3 & Q5.14.1.4 & Q5.14.1.5

We expect to comment on this topic further once the Applicant's responses are published, together with those of NCC and BDC.

Q5.16.0.1

REP13-025, Para 6.3, states that

Identical mitigation proposals, as set out in the Schedule of Mitigation, have been incorporated in the Norfolk Boreas proposals to those put forward by Norfolk Vanguard. These include all the mitigation measures noted by the Secretary of State in the Norfolk Vanguard decision letter (NVDL) including:...

Cawston construction traffic – highways intervention scheme (4.69, 4.73, 4.74 and 4.79)

The HIS presented in Boreas is not identical to Vanguard; it is a whole new scheme and is being examined here for the first time. Although the Applicant claims it has “evolved” from the previous scheme we would argue that it is a completely different scheme and should be considered as such.

Appendix 2 (page 11) Traffic & Transport – Cawston.

We suggest that this HIS is not “developed” from NV – it essentially starts again from the status quo plus a few signs and changes to road layout, which are then claimed to create a 20mph zone, with no improvements to pedestrian amenity.

In EV14-004, the recording of ISH5, discussing the proposed Equinor Extension projects, the Applicant suggests that they cannot do a useful Cumulative Impact Assessment now due to a lack of levels of information until early 2021.

We consider that, as the schemes are fundamentally similar projects, it should be possible to model an assessment, even if at a high level, to give an indication of the expected cumulative impact on our community over many years.

The Applicant’s approach to CPC’s continuing consultation responses continues to be negative and dismissive. It is difficult to see how the applicant can demonstrate that the proposals have been considered in the light of consultation responses received. The Applicant’s description of the Proposed Development is unclear, particularly in respect of cumulative impacts on our village community. The applicant’s approach and response in relation to the impact of construction traffic in Cawston calls into doubt their ability to demonstrate that the statutory requirements regarding consultation have been met.

Other comments

We welcome the ExA’s Section 17 Request for further information dated 18th August regarding noise effects in Cawston and note that the Applicant and BDC have been requested to comment for Deadline 14 and respond at Deadline 15. We also aim to respond at that time.

In the last few days Orsted Hornsea Three contacted CPC to request a meeting. Unfortunately, although we were prepared to make ourselves available, they were unable to arrange this before D14 and it is now planned for the 28th or 29th August. We have submitted some questions to them and will report back after the meeting.

We hope to submit all of our responses at Deadline 15, but with less than a week (including a Public Holiday) between the time D14 documents will be published and the next deadline it may be difficult for us, as volunteers with other commitments, to deal thoroughly with all the topics raised and some may slip to Deadline 16. We hope you will bear with us.

Cawston Parish Council
25th August 2020