

Oulton
Norfolk

20th October 2021

The Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng
Secretary of State
Dept. for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Dear Mr. Kwarteng,

Norfolk Boreas: submission on behalf of the Norfolk Parish Movement for an OTN

I am writing to you today in response to your letter of 22nd September 2021 regarding the Norfolk Boreas consultation.

I write on behalf of the **74 Norfolk Parish and Town Councils** who are currently signed up to the Norfolk Parish Movement for an OTN. This movement has experienced an unprecedented surge in membership over the past 6 weeks, as further information about the in-combination onshore effects of **all 5 offshore wind farm projects affecting Norfolk** has become apparent. These communities are drawn from the length and breadth of Norfolk, and are not just clustered around the cable routes. The understanding is growing, that this disruption will be severely damaging to the whole county in different ways - and that it is unnecessary.

The stated goal of the movement is: to promote by all means possible the rapid evolution of an Offshore Transmission Network for offshore wind farms, and to resist unnecessary onshore cabling and inland substations.

We endorse absolutely the submissions made to this consultation by Mulbarton and Necton Parish Councils. The arguments they put forward are compelling and incontrovertible.

In addition, the determination of Boreas should not proceed in isolation, but should be decided *after* the re-determination of Norfolk Vanguard – in accordance with planning law and the judgement handed down by Mr. Justice Holgate.

In light of the above, the Norfolk Parish Movement for an OTN urges the Secretary of State **to refuse** development consent to the Norfolk Boreas project in its current form.

Alternatively, the Secretary of State could:

- a) Defer the decision, given that the work of the OTNR is still at a critical stage; or
- b) Make a split decision - as recommended by so many Interested Parties in the recent Suffolk application for EA1N/EA2. This would mean consenting (perhaps) the offshore works, but deferring a decision at this time on the onshore grid connection.

The granting now of a full DCO with a radial connection to the grid would forever maroon *both* Vattenfall's projects from joining the OTN in the future.

Such a decision would result in the sub-optimal use of the significant amounts of renewable energy produced, and an unjustifiable cost to the consumer in unnecessary constraint payments.

The swiftest route to the most effective method of mitigating climate change will only be achieved by joining **all offshore wind farms** in the southern North Sea to the grid via an OTN. We commend this approach to you – urgently.

We are well aware of the current 'obstacles' to this obvious solution, in terms of the commercial sensitivities of in-flight projects, the time needed for regulatory changes etc. However, what is needed now is the real political courage to cut through all the seeming obstacles, that might have traction in a more ordinary situation, but which now need to be set aside in pursuit of a real solution to a global crisis.

There is a war on – and its name is the climate emergency.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Shaw

Oulton Parish Councillor
Convener of the Norfolk Parish Movement for an OTN
-for and on behalf of 74 Parish and Town Councils in Norfolk
