Cawston Parish Council

This submission is in response to the Secretary of State's letters of 22nd and 24th September 2021 regarding Norfolk Boreas (NB), where he stated that he does not presently intend to hold any further consultations.

We have submitted detailed representations throughout the NB inspection process, together with the Norfolk Vanguard (NV) inspection. As we have previously stated, we feel that the two projects should have been submitted for consideration as one scheme. The Inspectors' report and recommendations on NB are not available to us, and so we are unable to comment on them, though we do note that the ExAs on both Hornsea Three and NV recommended rejection of those schemes.

The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) is now well under way, and a Holistic Network Design is due to be completed in January 2022.

Should the Secretary of State be minded to approve NB we would strongly urge him to consider a split decision, whereby the offshore part of the scheme is approved but the onshore part is deferred until the holistic, coordinated solution presented by the OTNR is available. This would be to the benefit of communities, the environment and consumers.

We would urge the SoS to take action to accelerate the OTNR process and drive these developers to take part, changing the regulatory framework as needed. This would show the world that the UK is serious about taking a leading role in the innovations around offshore wind.

If allowed to go ahead as currently proposed, the cumulative impacts of these schemes, together with the imminent SEP and DEP proposal, would be felt in Cawston and beyond for 8 years or more. This would be devastating for those communities.

Cawston Parish Council 21st October 2021