

Submission ID: 13983

Supporting the use of underground cabling for all onshore works.

CPRE Norfolk is pleased to see the commitment to use of underground cabling for the onshore works. It is essential that this is implemented to avoid unnecessary harms to the landscape and residents.

Siting and impact of the new onshore substation.

CPRE Norfolk has campaigned for the use of HVDC rather than HVAC for the onshore cabling for offshore wind projects. This is due to narrower cable corridors for HVDC, meaning less disruption to the landscape and residents, because of there being less soil removal and therefore work. It was also the case that for earlier schemes, HVAC required the construction of a Cable Relay Station, close to the landfall site, which would lead to high harmful visual impacts in what would be rural locations, potentially within the Norfolk Coast AONB.

These projects (Sheringham Shoal Extension & Dudgeon Extension) are clear that such Cable Relay Stations will not be required for HVAC onshore cables for these projects, which is to be welcomed.

By using HVAC for the onshore cabling it is understood that the resulting substation adjacent to Norwich Main will be smaller than that which would be required if HVDC was employed.

Offshore lighting levels and type.

We make a plea to avoid any unnecessary lighting offshore (as well as onshore.) Only lights which are legally required by maritime and aviation authorities should be placed on the wind turbines and other infrastructure.

Traffic impacts in and around Cawston.

We note the commitment in the Project Description point 46 'to not route heavy goods vehicles for construction along the B1145 through Cawston', and 'locating the main construction compound away from Oulton / Cawston, which are already subject to increased traffic levels from other offshore wind farm projects'. It will be essential to include these commitments within any granted permissions. The cumulative impacts of construction traffic from numerous windfarm projects is unacceptable and must be prevented from worsening if these new projects are permitted.

Need for the option to be included in the application for a DCO of an Offshore Transmission Network for offshore connections and cabling routes to landfall in Essex/Thames Estuary.

CPRE Norfolk notes, although this is outside the scope of this application, the rapidly evolving work by the Offshore Transmission Network Review, which will hopefully result in a system for offshore connections such as an Offshore Ring Main. The huge advantages this would bring in terms of less disruption and potential harmful impacts to residents and countryside, should result in the pause of this project until such a system is in place.

Concern around the cumulative onshore impacts of this and other previously approved offshore windfarms, including battery storage facilities and the proposed East Anglia Green transmission route.

Again, this is outside the scope of this application, but we would like it to be noted that this should not be the case. It is hugely disappointing that central Government has allowed numerous offshore projects to progress under the current NSIP application regime, without considering the cumulative impacts of these projects, nor has it intervened to ensure that National Grid has the necessary infrastructure in place in time for when power from these projects comes onshore.

While 'green' claims are made for offshore wind, there are various elements which are clearly not so 'green', notably the need for huge battery storage facilities and the construction of new cabling and other infrastructure to take the power around the National Grid. With forethought, planning and legislation these elements could have been eased through offshore transmission systems and underground cabling.

We understand that the offshore wind companies have to work with the systems in place at the time of their applications, but it is a massive frustration and missed opportunity that more beneficial systems are not already in place.