

I am Sally Osgerby. I live on Sunk Island which borders the western edge of Cherry Cob Sands.

I would like to ask if the proposed energy park is actually a **significant** development? The legislation<sup>1</sup> states that a project must have a **significant** impact on the Estuary before compensatory measures are considered.

a. The Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation is 36,657.15 hectares. The proposed development comprises about 52 hectares. i.e. 0.14% of the Estuary. Is 0.14% significant?

b. Also, will this development adversely affect the integrity of the Humber as a whole in a **significant** manner? The European Court of Justice has previously made a judgement<sup>2</sup> that states:

“ where...a plan or project has an effect on that site but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned”

Secondly, if we do have to provide compensatory habitat, why is the ratio of reclamation land to compensation habitat more than 1:1? Cherry Cob is 157ha, thus giving a 3:1 ratio. On a 1:1 ratio 52 hectares are required, so more land is being flooded than is necessary & this extra or surplus land cannot be 'banked' for future projects requiring compensation. English Nature state in their submissions that they do not have sufficient data to advise on the size of area required. So why go over the 1:1?

Thirdly, I have 2 questions about **the choice** of Cherry Cob as the compensation site.

a. The Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies conducted a breeding bird survey<sup>3</sup> on Cherry Cob. They found six species of the UK's 10 most wanted farmland birds<sup>4</sup>. 5 of the species found were on the Red List. Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent

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<sup>1</sup> paragraphs 48, 49 & 53 of the *Habitats Regulations 1994 (part IV)*

<sup>2</sup> *Waddenezee C-127/02*, para 47

<sup>3</sup> <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR030001/2.%20Post-Submission/Application%20Documents/Environmental%20Statement/File%2013-14%20-%20Environmental%20Statement%20Vol%202%20-%20Annexes/File%2014/35%20-%20Annex/35.5%20-%20Breeding%20Bird%20Survey%20-%20Fields.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/agents/elseoptions/birds.aspx>

action. So DEFRA is encouraging farmers to provide habitats to attract these birds. So why does the survey conclusion state that the area is “ of low to moderate ornithological value”?

- b. But my final, & most important point, is about the use of fertile farmland.

My husband & I came to Sunk Island because it had some of the highest yielding, rainfed soil in the world for growing wheat, oilseed rape & barley. There are few areas in Europe with such valuable soil. We were astonished to hear that there were plans to drown this exceptional farmland, particularly when the government has prioritised food production<sup>5</sup> and when food security is becoming an issue.

Last year, Professor Sir John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, published “Foresight. The Future of Food and Farming (2011)”<sup>6</sup>. A major conclusion of this report is the critical importance of interconnected policy making. He argues that, “policy in other sectors outside the food system also need to be developed in much closer conjunction with that for food.” ....“Food is such a critical necessity for human existence with broad implications for poverty, physical & mental development, wellbeing, economic migration & conflict, that if supply is threatened it will come to dominate policy agendas & prevent progress in other areas.”

I believe that food security will become more of an issue as the world population increases and as changing weather patterns affect production. This UK harvest has been dramatically reduced because of weather. The USA is short of grain due to a severe drought and Russia is considering restricting exports following a bad harvest.

In these times of impending food shortages we should be cherishing our fertile farmland.

Thank you

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<sup>5</sup> The Sustainable Development Commission <http://www.foodpolicy.co.uk/?p=524>

<sup>6</sup> Foresight. The Future of Food and Farming (2011) Executive Summary. The Government Office for Science, London.