

Offshore Wind Farms

EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH

PINS Ref: EN010077

and

EAST ANGLIA TWO

PINS Ref: EN010078

**SEAS Final Submission re:
CUMULATIVE IMPACT
Deadline October 6, 2021**

The ExA's recommendations to the Secretary of State BEIS

by

SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions)

Unique Ref. No. EA1(N): 2002 4494

Unique Ref. No. EA2: 2002 4496

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Further information with regard to Cumulative Impact and Nautilus Interconnector - 29 September 2021

1. On 14 September 2021 the Nautilus Interconnector Project Consultation was launched by National Grid Ventures¹.

2. The following resources have been made available on their website:
 - a. [Nautilus Interconnector Briefing Pack, NGV, September 2021](#)
 - b. [Nautilus Interconnector FAQs, NGV, September 2021](#)
 - c. [Nautilus Interconnector Information Sheets, NGV, September 2021](#)
 - d. [Nautilus Interconnector Maps, NGV, September 2021](#)

3. In the launching of the Nautilus consultations and the current planning application for EA1N (East Anglia One North) and EA2 (East Anglia Two) offshore wind projects we begin to see the true extent of National Grid's plans for rural East Suffolk.

4. An energy hub, on an enormous scale. To be the largest energy hub in the UK with a site the size of the Vatican City and the substations planned for SPR's projects alone nearly three times the size of Wembley Stadium.

¹ [Nautilus Interconnector, National Grid Ventures](#)

5. The harsh reality is that this is just the beginning. National Grid Ventures has recently confirmed that the consultations for Eurolink Interconnector and Sea Link (previously SCD1) begin next year, both with plans to connect to the National Grid substation at Friston²,. Further additional projects SCD2 and offshore windfarms Five Estuaries and North Falls are also widely believed to be planned to connect to the National Grid here. With the addition of Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station, this will become the largest complex of energy infrastructure in the UK. Nautilus is only the first of an onslaught of more projects now in the public domain and planned for this region.
6. For further evidence of future projects please read SEAS previous submissions on cumulative impact. (Deadline 13 Submission [[REP13-072](#)], Deadline 11 Submission [[REP11-183](#)], Deadline 9 [[REP9-087](#)], Deadline 8 [[REP8-242](#)], Deadline 6 [[REP6-141](#)] and Deadline 5 [[REP5-115](#)]).
7. Cumulative Impact Assessments are a legal requirement of the Planning Inspectorate's Examination procedure.
8. The Norfolk Vanguard wind farm Development Consent Order was overturned in a Judicial Review due to the failure to give full consideration to Cumulative Impact, which goes to underline the significance of the point.
9. Despite repeated requests from the Inspectors and Interested Parties, SPRs approach to cumulative impact was to ignore it or to provide the minimum possible information.

SPR has never provided a complete cumulative impact assessment of energy projects planned for the immediate area.

10. Cumulative adverse impacts include:

- 10.1 Multiple landfalls on a fragile coastline of coralline crag (which is sand-based and already crumbling) near Thorpeness.

² As confirmed by National Grid Ventures in a meeting with community groups in Thorpeness on 30 September 2021.

10.2 Multiple cable routes to run for approximately 9 km through the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), the Sandlings SPA (Special Protected Area) and multiple villages to connect to the National Grid at an energy hub located in the heart of the ancient village of Friston in rural Suffolk.

10.3 A converter station for Nautilus Interconnector with a height of up to 24 metres over a site of 12 acres. This could impact on additional communities including Theberton, Kelsale, Leiston, Sternfield, Snape and Saxmundham.

10.4 Research commissioned by the Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation (DMO), suggests that new energy projects on the Suffolk coastline could damage one of the UK's most successful nature based tourism centres by up to £40 million per annum. This will crucially lead to loss of jobs in hospitality and other tourist related businesses.

10.5 Intolerable noise pollution, light pollution and air pollution to local communities, wildlife and livestock.

11. This will become a substantial complex of industrial scale infrastructure in the midst of unspoilt rural Suffolk, unmitigable and indefensible given the alternatives available.
12. It is obvious to anyone visiting this area that the adverse impacts will outweigh any benefits to this region. Quite simply a catastrophe for the region.
13. To locate an Energy Hub, in the midst of one of the UK's most fragile nature-based tourism destinations will lead to: the decimation of a thriving tourism economy, a principal revenue stream for the Suffolk Heritage Coast; the destruction of biodiversity as multiple cable corridors cut through the protected landscapes of the Suffolk AONB and Suffolk Sandlings, and the decline of the health and well-being of those rural communities whose lives will never be the same. It is needless destruction when it is clear that there are more appropriate brownfield or industrialised sites such as Bradwell or Grain, which are better aligned with government policy.

14. There is quite simply a better, greener solution. SEAS endorse the Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP's proposal of a split decision which grants consent for the offshore infrastructure but the onshore infrastructure is rejected in favour of full consideration of better locations for this infrastructure where the adverse impacts are minimised at a brownfield or industrialised site. This gives time to enable Ofgem/BEIS to follow through on the aims of the Offshore Transmission Network Review and pivot to better solutions for onshore wind energy infrastructure using a reduced number of cable routes to a brownfield site.

End