

East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Windfarm Update – June 2021

Examinations

The examinations formally commenced on 6 October 2020 and were due to close on the 6 April 2021. However, the Examining Authorities (ExAs) requested an extension to the examinations, and this was granted until the 6 July 2021.

The current timetable for the examination is available here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/east-anglia-one-north-offshore-windfarm/?ipcsection=exam>

Following the granting of the three-month extension by the Secretary of State the remaining deadlines in the examinations include:

- Deadline 12 – 28 June 2021
- Deadline 13 – 5 July 2021

The Examining Authorities have utilised the extension of time to hold the following further Issue Specific Hearings and publish additional written questions to seek to address outstanding matters:

- Issue Specific Hearing 16 – The Proposed Substation Site
- Issue Specific Hearing 17 – Draft Development Consent Orders

The Examining Authorities confirmed previously that the remainder of the examinations would focus on the outstanding matters rather than re-visiting areas which have been settled or areas which remain the subject of disagreement (and are likely to remain so) but the Examining Authorities have sufficient evidence to make their recommendations. The focus has therefore been on:

- Biodiversity and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA);
- Consideration of alternatives and cumulative impact onshore;
- Flood risk and drainage; and
- Issues around the proposed substations site at Friston, including, but not limited to, considerations of landscape, design, historic environment, visual impacts, and proposed mitigations.

The last two bullet points in the list were the subject of discussion at Issue Specific Hearing 16. The first and second bullet points have been subject of written submissions.

The Councils have continued to provide relevant comments and information at the appropriate deadlines. Deadline 11 was on 7 June 2021 and provided the Councils with the opportunity to provide submissions in relation to the following matters:

- Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case from Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) 16 (Proposed substations site) and ISH17 draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)
- Comments on ExA's commentary on and/or schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required)
- Responses to ExAs Further Written Questions (ExQ3)
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received at D10
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline

The Councils submissions to Deadline 11 and all other submissions to the examinations are available on the project pages of the National Infrastructure Planning website, the links have been provided below.

Suffolk County Council's Deadline 11 submissions:

Covering letter

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005323-DL11%20-%20Suffolk%20County%20Council%20SCC%20Covering%20letter%207%20June.pdf>

Suffolk County Council as Archaeology Authority

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005322-DL11%20-%20Suffolk%20County%20Council%20SCC%20Archaeology%20Deadline%2011.pdf>

Suffolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005319-DL11%20-%20Suffolk%20County%20Council%20SCC%20Floods%20Deadline%2011.pdf>

Suffolk County Council as Local Highways Authority

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005320-DL11%20-%20Suffolk%20County%20Council%20SCC%20Highways%20Deadline%2011.pdf>

Suffolk County Council as Public Rights of Way Authority

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005321-DL11%20-%20Suffolk%20County%20Council%20suffolk-green-access-strategy-2020-2030.pdf>

East Suffolk Council's Deadline 11 Submissions:

- ESC's Response to Additional Information Submitted by the Applicants at Deadline 10 - [EN010078-005220-DL11 - East Suffolk Council ESC Response to Deadline 11.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/EN010078-005220-DL11)
 - Appendices A-F are available from the project pages of the National Infrastructure Planning website.
- ESC's Summary of Oral Case – Issue Specific Hearing 16 – [EN010078-005215-DL11 - East Suffolk Council ESC Written Summary of Case ISH16.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/EN010078-005215-DL11)
- ESC's Summary of Oral Case – Issue Specific Hearing 17 – [EN010078-005216-DL11 - East Suffolk Council ESC Written Summary of Case ISH17.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/EN010078-005216-DL11)
 - Appendices B and C are available from the project pages of the National Infrastructure Planning website.
- ESC's Response to the ExAs Commentaries on the draft DCOs - [EN010078-005221-DL11 - East Suffolk Council ESC Response to ExAs Commentaries on dDCOs.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/EN010078-005221-DL11)
- ESC's Response to the ExAs Third Round of Written Questions - [EN010078-005225-DL11 - East Suffolk Council ESC Response to ExQ3.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/EN010078-005225-DL11)

In addition to Deadline 11, the following publications by the ExAs have also been made:

- Publication by the ExAs of Amendments to the previously issued Reports on the Implications for European Sites (REIS) on 16 June 2021 - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005364-EA1N-Updated-RIES-June21FINAL.pdf>
- Procedural decision to accept changes to the applications on 16 June 2021. The changes made to the applications involved the reduction in the Order Limits near the landfall area specially to provide greater separation between properties and the construction works - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005346-APPROVED NonMat Ch 4 PD EA1N Plots10-12-13.pdf>
- Publication by ExAs of additional questions on 18 June 2021 in the form of a Rule 17 request for further information from the Applicants and eight specific Interested Parties requiring a response by Deadline 12, Monday 28 June 2021 - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-005366-210618 EA1N EA2 Rule 17.pdf>

Officers are currently working on responses to the submissions published at Deadline 11 which will be submitted at Deadline 12. The ExAs have provided the opportunity for the Councils to comment on the following:

- Comments on responses to ExQ3,

- Comments on the amendments to the previously issued Reports on the Implications for European Sites (if required),
- Comments on any additional information/submissions received at D11,
- Responses to any further information requested by the ExAs for this deadline.

Statement of Common Ground

Officers of both Councils have been working together with the Applicants to finalise the Statement of Common Ground. The purpose of which is to help the ExAs focus in on areas of disagreement that still exist. The Applicants will submit the agreed document at Deadline 12 (28 June). The latest version submitted by the Applicants at Deadline 8 (25 March) is available here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-004595-ExA.SoCG-2.D8.V4%20EA1N&EA2%20Statement%20of%20Common%20Ground%20with%20East%20Suffolk%20Council%20and%20Suffolk%20County%20Council.pdf>

Site/Ground Investigations and Archaeological Works

The Applicants commenced site investigation works in relation to the EA1N and EA2 projects in April 2021. The works have been carried out along the onshore Order Limits and have been and are continuing to be undertaken to inform the design of the projects and provide further information in relation to matters such as infiltration testing associated with surface water drainage and archaeological investigations.

Both Councils have received e-mails from local residents expressing concerns in relation to the works. The Applicants have also reported some alleged incidents against the contractors and equipment/machinery. The Councils are engaging with ScottishPower Renewables to establish an appropriate way to address the concerns raised by both the local community and developer.

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21 June 2021