East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Offshore Windfarms

Applicants' Responses to Examining Authority's Written Questions 3

Volume 7 – 3.10 Landscape and Visual Impact

Applicants: East Anglia ONE North Limited and East Anglia TWO Limited
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Applicable to East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO

Revision Summary				
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001	07/06/2021	Paolo Pizzolla	Brian McGrellis	Rich Morris

Description of Revisions			
Rev	**Page**	**Section**	**Description**
001	n/a	n/a	Final for Submission

Glossary of Acronyms

DCO	Development Consent Order
ExA	Examination Authority
LVIA	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
OLEMS	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System
WQ	Working Question

Glossary of Terminology

Applicants	East Anglia TWO Limited / East Anglia ONE North Limited
East Anglia ONE North project	The proposed project consisting of up to 67 wind turbines, up to four offshore electrical platforms, up to one construction, operation and maintenance platform, inter-array cables, platform link cables, up to one operational meteorological mast, up to two offshore export cables, fibre optic cables, landfall infrastructure, onshore cables and ducts, onshore substation, and National Grid infrastructure.
East Anglia TWO project	The proposed project consisting of up to 75 wind turbines, up to four offshore electrical platforms, up to one construction, operation and maintenance platform, inter-array cables, platform link cables, up to one operational meteorological mast, up to two offshore export cables, fibre optic cables, landfall infrastructure, onshore cables and ducts, onshore substation, and National Grid infrastructure.
National Grid infrastructure	A National Grid substation, cable sealing end compounds, cable sealing end (with circuit breaker) compound, underground cabling and National Grid overhead line realignment works to facilitate connection to the national electricity grid, all of which will be consented as part of the proposed East Anglia TWO / East Anglia ONE North project Development Consent Order but will be National Grid owned assets.
National Grid substation	The substation (including all of the electrical equipment within it) necessary to connect the electricity generated by the proposed East Anglia TWO / East Anglia ONE North project to the national electricity grid which will be owned by National Grid but is being consented as part of the proposed East Anglia TWO / East Anglia ONE North project Development Consent Order.
National Grid substation location	The proposed location of the National Grid substation.
Onshore development area	The area in which the landfall, onshore cable corridor, onshore substation, landscaping and ecological mitigation areas, temporary construction facilities (such as access roads and construction consolidation sites), and the National Grid Infrastructure will be located.
Onshore infrastructure	The combined name for all of the onshore infrastructure associated with the proposed East Anglia TWO / East Anglia ONE North project from landfall to the connection to the national electricity grid.
Onshore substation	The East Anglia TWO / East Anglia ONE North substation and all of the electrical equipment within the onshore substation and connecting to the National Grid infrastructure.
Onshore substation location	The proposed location of the onshore substation for the proposed East Anglia TWO / East Anglia ONE North project.

ExA. Question Ref.	Question addressed to			ExA. Question	Applicants' Response
3.10 Landscape and Visual Impact					
3.10.1	The Applicants			**Planting Proposals** Your answer to ExQ2.10.4 [REP6-063] states that no decision will be made on the provenance of trees which will be subject of a post-consent procurement process, with most planting not required until around 2024. Will local sourcing of required stock be weighted favourably in the procurement process? If so, could this be confirmed in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS)?	The Applicants intend to approach this in a slightly different way by stimulating the local supply chain and creating opportunities to ensure potential suppliers are aware of the timings and the Projects' needs. Due to supply chain rules this would be a far more effective means of ensuring appropriate supplies are locally available for suppliers to access. The ***Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS)*** (REP10-005) will be updated to state that the tender documentation will reflect the Applicants preference for regional tree stock.
3.10.2	The Applicants			**OLEMS** Your answer to ExQ2.10.5 [REP6-063] relates to planting and High House Farm. The ExAs note that you are seeking to balance the proposals in trying to not enclose historic farms while mitigating visual effects on people living in the area. Your answer states that the proposed planting close to the south western boundary of High House Farm is adjacent to existing woodland within the curtilage of this property. An annotated aerial photograph is submitted as part of the answer to demonstrate this point. However, the ExAs noted on their site visits [EV-007d, and as referred to in ExQ2.8.2] that the garden of High House Farm provided clear views across a largely open landscape to the Church of St Mary. This effect was increased by the removal of various ash trees in recent	The Applicants agree that the OLEMS (REP10-005) includes planting proposals adjacent to the southern boundary of the grounds of High House Farm. The new planting area proposed by the Applicant close to the south western boundary is proposed to provide additional screening of views to the south where the sealing end compounds will be sited. The Applicant notes the recent removal of various ash trees due to disease, which has resulted in more open views than at the time of the original assessment. The Applicant noted a mature vegetated boundary to the south-west of the property near Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Viewpoint 5 during its site survey work in the area in February 2019 (see photo below), which it considered would provide some screening and a basis from which to justify further planting around this boundary.

ExA. Question Ref.	Question addressed to	ExA. Question	Applicants' Response
		times due to disease [referenced in EV-007d] which would likely change the aerial photograph were it to be taken now. Given this do you wish to add to your answer ExQ2.10.5?	It is clear that trees were located to the south of the farm both historically (OLEMS Figure 1 (REP10-005)) and recently until their felling due to decline as a result of Ash dieback. Such trees would have prevented or filtered views to the south. The proposed woodland area alongside this would seem to be an appropriate bolstering of such a design intent however, the Substations Design Principles Statement (document reference ExA.AS-6.D11.V3) sets out that consultation with local residents will be undertaken to discuss their expectations for landscape work in the vicinity of their properties and this will be taken into account subject to agreement with other stakeholders. The OLEMS has been designed in outline to ensure that an appropriate framework is delivered. The Applicants recognise that this will have to balance various interests. It is important that there is a proper process to enable this to be done in a transparent way. The design process secured through the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) will facilitate this.
		Photograph from LVIA Viewpoint 5 towards High House Farm (the Applicants' photograph) 	

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3.10.3	The Applicants			**Combined effect of pylons and proposals** Pylons are often referred to as 'marching across the landscape', which partly could be a consequence of their height and form but also due to the open frame of the pylons themselves and the space that remains beneath them. SASES [REP6-133] state that the proposals would have the effect of making the pylons more dominant than they currently appear, due to the change in the landscape around them that the proposals would cause with an open rural landscape being replaced by a more industrial one. Respond to the above point.	The influence of the existing double rows of pylons and overhead high voltage lines can be seen clearly in Viewpoint 5 Figure 29.17a (document reference ExA.AS-4.D11.V1) in which they cross the landscape between Friston and High House Farm at close proximity. With reference to the photomontages from the same view in Figure 29.17b, the Applicant considers that to some extent the proposed substations may draw further visual attention to the electrical infrastructure, increasing the legibility of the function of the pylons/transmission lines in the landscape, however it does not consider that the substation proposals would render the existing pylons more dominant than they currently appear. The loss of open agricultural landscape as a result of ground level infrastructure is recognised, however this does not increase the visual influence of the existing double row of pylons, which already have a prominent influence traversing the landscape between Friston and Fristonmoor. It is the presence of the additional pylon in the view towards Friston (next to the larger sealing end compound with circuit breaker) which is more likely to contribute to increasing the visual influence of overhead pylons in the local landscape.
3.10.4	The Applicants			**Landscaping – Future** Your answer to ExQ2.10.8 [REP6-063] states: "*The Applicants are not designing the landscaping proposals to accommodate any future projects. Any potential future connections would need to work within the constraints of the Projects' onshore infrastructure and*	The Applicant would clarify that the OLEMS has been designed to provide mitigation where it is considered to be most effective for the mitigation of the landscape and visual effects arising from the Projects substations and the associated National Grid infrastructure only. The quote form the OLEMS (REP10-005) is poorly worded and was intended to highlighted that the strategic

ExA. Question Ref.	Question addressed to			ExA. Question	Applicants' Response
				landscaping and address this within their scheme design and consent application." The OLEMS [REP10-005] states: "*The planting and landscape scheme has also been designed in order to not sterilise land for potential future development associated with the National Grid substation.*" Explain the apparent difference between these two statements.	landscaping would not sterilise the ability for the National Grid substation from being expanded in the future. It is noted that as the Projects' Examinations have progressed the master planning has evolved, with the National Grid Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) basin now proposed in closer proximity to the western boundary of the National Grid substation. The final design of the onshore substations and National Grid infrastructure, in addition to the post consent stakeholder consultation, will also influence the final landscape design.