

Offshore Wind Farms

7th December 2020

Hornsea Three

If this project goes ahead as currently planned, there will be a big new electrical substation – a very large industrial building about six stories high – and a new compound full of electrical equipment alongside the B1113 just south of the A47 flyover. During construction of the substation there will be a doubling of heavy goods vehicle traffic on the B1113, and trees and hedgerows will have to be removed to allow abnormal loads to get into the site.

There will be more disruption when the cables from the wind farm are being laid in trenches across the fields between the A47 and the Lakenham Hewitt sports ground, across the B1113, and on to the National Grid substation at Dunston. The cable route will also be used as a haul road by some of the heavy goods vehicle construction traffic.

The Hornsea Three wind farm itself will be built out at sea, off the coast near Grimsby. The project was recommended for refusal by the Planning Inspectorate, but is now due to be approved by the government by 31st December this year. It is being challenged by The Wildlife Trusts because of the harmful impact on sea birds.

Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas

This is a pair of very large wind farm projects off the coast of Norfolk. The first one, Norfolk Vanguard, was again recommended for refusal by the Planning Inspectorate because of its effects on wildlife, but it was approved by the government on 1st July this year. This decision is now being challenged through the courts by residents of North Norfolk. The planning enquiry for the sister project, Norfolk Boreas, has recently closed and the Planning Inspectorate's report is not available.

If these two projects go ahead, there would be another very large substation building at the North Norfolk village of Necton. This has displaced the Hornsea Three substation down to Swardeston.

The cable trenches for these two projects, coming in from west to east, would cross over the cables for Hornsea Three coming down from north to south, with devastating effects on local communities.

Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Extensions

This is another offshore wind farm project that is now looking for a substation site near Dunston, because there is no space for it at Necton. If it goes ahead as planned, the cables coming down from the Norfolk coast will have to cross over the ones for the other projects, and would then cut across the B1113 midway between Paddock Farm and the Wood Lane estate just south of Swardeston.

Is there another way?

Communities in both Norfolk and Suffolk, supported by local MPs, are pressing for the wind farms to be connected up as far as possible offshore, with just a small number of onshore substations, and without the need for the crossing cable trenches. An official government review is now looking into these alternatives, and there is still time for local people to express their views.

For more information, and to support the Judicial Review, please see:

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/offshore-wind-power-without-de/>

You can also write to Richard Bacon, MP for South Norfolk at:

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