

WIND FARM UPDATE

Monday 2nd August 2021

1. Offshore transmission

Mulbarton Parish Council has continued to submit contributions to the government's urgent review of an offshore transmission network. This could avoid the need for any wind farm substations to be built in South Norfolk. The latest online event took place on 22nd July, with representatives from several government departments, the wildlife organisations, National Grid, and many other bodies.

Contributions submitted by Mulbarton Parish Council have been seen by the relevant government minister. The judicial review of the Norfolk Vanguard decision has also had a significant effect on government policy. Although success is still perhaps unlikely, there are some encouraging signs.

2. Dogger Bank

Equinor is a leading partner in the construction of the Dogger Bank offshore wind farm, which will be the largest in the world when it is completed. It has recently announced a new design of offshore substation for the Dogger Bank project. Parish councils across Norfolk have challenged Equinor to use its expertise to make a contribution to the government's offshore transmission network review.

3. Hornsea Three

The Hornsea Three project will bid for subsidies in the next Contract for Difference Allocation later this year. Commercial fundraising would then take place in 2022, with construction of the onshore substation starting in 2023, in a field alongside the B1113. Mulbarton Parish Council has proposed that subsidies should not be paid unless the project agrees to take part in the government's offshore transmission review. It appears that the government may now contact the project developer, Ørsted.

National Grid has confirmed that if the Hornsea Three substation is built at Swardeston, then a new pylon route would be needed from here to London. This would require a new planning application.

4. Norfolk Vanguard

Planning consent for the Norfolk Vanguard project was overturned by judicial review in February of this year. Mulbarton Parish Council, along with many others, has submitted formal comments on the government's proposals to put matters right, and the government has accepted that the offshore transmission review should be taken into account. There is no timetable for any new decision.

5. Norfolk Boreas

As a result of the judicial review of Norfolk Vanguard, a decision on this project has been delayed to 10th December 2021, and it will not now be able to bid for subsidies this year. This delay may automatically bring this project within the scope of the government's offshore transmission review.

6. East Anglia One North and Two

The planning inquiry for these two projects, which are in the same zone as Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas, closed on 6th July 2021. The inquiry accepted two representations from Mulbarton Parish Council relating the projects to the offshore transmission review and climate change considerations.

7. Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Extensions

Mulbarton Parish Council submitted a formal response to the statutory consultation for this project, which would need another substation in this area. There has been no reply so far from Equinor.