

## **WIND FARM UPDATE**

Monday 7th February 2022

### **1. Offshore Transmission Network Review**

The government held an online briefing event on Monday 31st January 2022, presented by the relevant departments (BEIS and Ofgem), together with National Grid ESO. It appears that these departments are still trying to persuade Round 3 offshore wind farm projects to co-operate with the review. No details were disclosed as to which projects have agreed to take part, and which have not. National Grid announced a three month delay to the design of an offshore transmission network.

### **2. Contract for Difference auctions**

The government's latest round of subsidy awards for offshore wind farms is now taking place. The auction process is managed by National Grid on behalf of the energy regulator, Ofgem.

### **3. Hornsea Three**

The government is still consulting on proposals for dealing with the effects of the offshore wind farm export cable trenches on marine wildlife along the Norfolk coast. The wildlife organisations are uneasy with the latest scheme and there is no indication of when this process will be completed. It is unfortunate that this was not resolved as part of the Development Consent Order application.

There is no further information about the proposed battery storage, UK-Denmark interconnector substation, or the new pylon route to London. None of these additional features were put before the Planning Inspectorate in the Development Consent Order application, and they do not seem to have been taken into account in the government's decision to give development consent for the project.

South Norfolk Council has granted approval for archaeological surveys along the onshore cable route, which would cross over the onshore cable route trenches for Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas.

### **4. Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal extensions**

The developer, Equinor, has begun requesting face-to-face meetings with parish councils along the onshore cable route. Mulbarton Parish Council has not yet received a request for such a meeting.

### **5. Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas**

In December 2021 the government approved a Development Consent Order application for the Norfolk Boreas offshore wind farm. The six week period for judicial review has now expired. There is no clear timetable for the Norfolk Vanguard project, which does not have development consent.

### **6. East Anglia One North and Two**

The deadline for a decision for these two wind farms off the coast of Suffolk, which lie within the same zone as Norfolk Vanguard and Boreas, has been delayed to Thursday 31st March 2022. A new round of comments has just taken place, resulting in a very large number of detailed objections.

For example, Snape Parish Council supports a 'split decision' allowing offshore construction to proceed, but withholding onshore consents pending proper consideration of offshore transmission.

### **7. Independent professional advice**

Mulbarton Parish Council is proceeding with the next stage of independent professional advice.