

Position Statement – East Anglia Offshore Wind ONE NORTH and TWO Consultation 3.5

Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) have begun a consultation (running from 29th September 2018 to 29th October 2018) on the onshore substation location options for their ONE NORTH and TWO offshore windfarm projects. This consultation has been named Consultation 3.5 and follows Consultation 3 which ran between May and August 2018.

As part of Consultation 3, SPR's preferred onshore substation location was north of Friston. As part of Consultation 3.5 a further substation option at Broom Covert, between Leiston and Sizewell nuclear power station, has been identified. The land at Broom Covert currently forms part of the ecological mitigation land for the proposed EDF Sizewell C nuclear power station and is being managed for this. SPR have identified that any use of the Broom Covert site for substations would require new land to be made available to EDF to meet their mitigation requirements. Further details on this are available on the consultation pages for the two projects, ONE NORTH (https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/ea_one_north_phase_3_5_consultation.aspx) and TWO (https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/ea_two_phase_3_5_consultation.aspx).

Suffolk Wildlife Trust are currently considering the information that has been made available through the stage 3.5 consultation and are preparing a response.

As part of the Stage 3 consultation we raised concerns that the proposed Friston Substation option and required cable corridor has the potential to result in adverse impacts on a range of protected and UK Priority species and habitats, including (but not limited to) the Sandlings Special Protection Area (SPA), bats and great crested newts. The Stage 3.5 consultation introduces a potential alternative location for substations at Broom Covert, Sizewell.

The Broom Covert site is in close proximity to a number of designated nature conservation sites (including the Sandlings SPA and Leiston-Aldeburgh Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the south and Sizewell Marshes SSSI to the north-east) and has in recent years been under management to revert it from arable land and enable it to form mitigation land for EDF's Sizewell C proposals. Development in this location has the potential to have significant adverse ecological impacts and we will be making our response to SPR on these grounds.

Whilst we understand that the concerns that have been raised about the potentially significant landscape and visual impacts that could result from the proposed development, we are only able to comment on impacts where they relate to biodiversity. Other stakeholders, including Natural England, the Local Planning Authorities, the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB unit and Suffolk Preservation Society, we will be able to provide comment on landscape and visual matters.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust, October 2018