



AONB office
Dock Lane
Melton
Suffolk
IP12 1PE
01394 445225

28 June 2018

Dear Mr Mackay,

Scottish Power Renewables EA1N and EA2 Projects Impact upon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

You will be aware of the letter we as chairmen of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty wrote to the Minister responsible for these outstanding landscapes on 1 Feb 2018. I have attached a copy to this letter for ease of reference.

That letter expressed concern about the cumulative impact upon the nationally designated landscapes of the proposed developments relating to energy production and transfer. This included potential impacts on natural beauty (the reason for designation), character and visual amenity. There is also concern about the impact on the thriving tourism industry in the nationally designated AONBs.

For the avoidance of any doubt both AONBs are included due to the likelihood that the strengthening of National Grid's Bramford to Twinstead transmission network (through the Dedham Vale) would lead on from the development of multiple new energy sources coming ashore along the Suffolk Coast.

We are pleased to note that Scottish Power Renewables have recognised the importance of the AONB in the site selection process for on-shore infrastructure for their proposals for EA1N and EA2. We welcome the fact that Scottish Power Renewables have selected their preferred site outside the AONB and seek to underground the cable network through the AONB up to the on-shore infrastructure.

While we still have concerns over the impact of the offshore infrastructure on the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, the impact of the construction phase and the potential for the Bramford to Twinstead project coming forward again, we acknowledge that Scottish Power Renewables recognises the importance of the nationally designated landscape of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB for the siting of on-shore infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

Robert Erith TD DL
Chairman Dedham Vale
AONB & Stour Valley
Partnership

Cllr David Wood
Chairman Suffolk Coast
& Heaths AONB
Advisory Committee
and Partnership

Cllr Nigel Chapman
Chairman Dedham Vale
AONB & Stour Valley
Advisory Committee

cc Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager



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1 Feb 2018

Dear Lord Gardiner,

Suffolk's "Energy Coast" Impact upon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

You will be aware of the exciting, nationally significant opportunities currently being considered on and off the Suffolk coast, which will help develop the 'Suffolk Energy Coast'. These developments will bring in important investment, jobs and prosperity to the area, as well as securing future energy supplies.

As Chairmen of the various Partnerships and Advisory Committees associated with the nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) we welcome the benefits these developments will bring.

However, the developments listed below will inevitably have a major impact on these AONBs.:

- EDF Energy's new nuclear build at Sizewell C
- Scottish Power Renewables onshore infrastructure associated with East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two
- National Grid Interconnector Holdings Limited's two 400kV Substations for the Nautilus and EuroLink Interconnectors at Leiston
- The potential need to increase National Grid's Bramford to Twinstead transmission connection, should the above proceed

These proposals will have an impact upon the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB around Sizewell where the new infrastructure could effectively cut the AONB in half. In addition, there is likely to be an impact upon the Dedham Vale AONB near Polstead and an area across the Stour Valley North of Bures where the Partnership has called for a boundary review. National Grid's transmission infrastructure power cables, whether overhead or underground, will need strengthening there.

Because there are substantial national benefits which accrue from these developments, the companies concerned should seek to minimise the serious negative impacts upon the environmental qualities of the AONBs. Many businesses also rely on those qualities and, of course, the quality of life for residents in the local areas concerned is threatened.

We understand that the proposals will be determined under different processes, such as the *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)* and under *the Town and Country Planning Act (1990)*. The development proposals will relate to different Government departments including the *Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy* and *the Department of Communities and Local Government*.

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As the impacts will be felt by the AONBs, *the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* will have an overarching interest, due to its role in the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of AONBs.

We believe that as these proposals are being developed independently, they will be determined in isolation so that the potential harm to the environment could be disproportionality high due to lack of co-ordination between different development proposals.

We believe a strategic mitigation approach should be developed to ensure the most efficient and co-ordinated offsetting package that the developers be required to deliver. As a result, the potential impact upon the only two nationally celebrated but vulnerable AONBs in Suffolk/Essex would be minimised.

The outstanding landscapes of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs are worth over £250M to the local tourism industry and support around 4,400 jobs. Residents of East Anglia are rightly proud of their beautiful countryside and are fierce defenders of the quality of life which it provides.

A masterplan could help to minimise the negative impact of the proposed developments on the designated landscapes and identify opportunities for enhancements.

We would therefore urge you as the Minister responsible for AONBs to call a meeting of Ministers responsible across other Government departments in order to develop a strategic masterplan approach. Such an approach could seek to minimise potential damage across development proposals. The current piecemeal approach is more likely to lead to serious and unintended adverse consequences.

If you should require any further detail in the thoughts outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

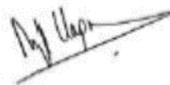
Yours sincerely



**Robert Erith TD DL
Chairman Dedham Vale
AONB & Stour Valley
Partnership**



**Cllr David Wood
Chairman Suffolk Coast
& Heaths AONB
Advisory Committee
and Partnership**



**Cllr Nigel Chapman
Chairman Dedham Vale
AONB & Stour Valley
Advisory Committee**

cc Dr Therese Coffey, MP
Peter Aldous, MP
Sandy Martin, MP
James Cartlidge, MP
James Cleverly, MP
Bernard Jenkin, MP
Cllr Colin Noble, leader Suffolk County Council
Cllr Ray Herring, leader Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Jennie Jenkins, leader Babergh District Council
Howard Davies, Chief Executive, National Association for AONBs
Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager