

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Response from the Alde and Ore Association (Registered Charity number 1154583)

The Alde and Ore Association exists to protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits together with features of public interest. It has some 2000 members.

The Association OBJECTS to the plans for bringing electric cables onshore from the Scottish Power Renewables windfarms:-

a. The proposed site for bringing the windfarm cables on shore hits what is recognised to be a dynamic and fragile coast at one of its most obviously fragile points. The cliff lost over 20 feet in a single fall after battering by winter winds and a storm surge two years ago. Any tunnelling under the cliff from the sea bed will cause vibrations and lead to destabilisation of the sandy cliff land. Tidal swirls always occur where a slight indent in the coast appears exacerbating the erosion of the coast as would happen here. This would be in addition to the ongoing sediment drift patterns up and down the coast and, more recent research shows, flows directly in and off shore depending partly on dominant winds at any one time.

If the coast is rapidly depleted here, the impact on coastal drift could well lead to new or extreme erosion patterns further to the south affecting first the village of Thorpeness, then the town of Aldeburgh and moving south the important shingle sea wall that protects the Alde and Ore Estuary.

Discussions with SPR staff at the Consultation Open days has done nothing to give any confidence that this has been fully understood and thought through.

b. The proposed area for coming onshore and installing substations is part of an Area of Outstanding Natural beauty and the Suffolk Heritage Coastline. This area includes the Alde and Ore Estuary and it is part of the area which so many people come to visit and enjoy because it is not spoiled and industrialised.

c. The chaos and disruption which will occur locally during construction will damage the local tourism economy, as well as disrupt the lives of residents. At least during the period of construction people will also be put off coming to enjoy the beauty of the area. The likely traffic jams and heavy vehicle traffic along narrow country roads with bends and blind hilly dips on the straight parts of the road will make driving more hazardous.

The Association asks that ScottishPowerRenewables joins with other energy companies and the government to develop a coherent, plan for bringing power on shore to the best placed power distribution network without having to despoil many stretches of a vulnerable coastline and land behind.

Alison Andrews, Chairman of the Alde and Ore Association