

# East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North

## Summary and Approach to Site Selection

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## 1 Introduction

ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) has recently concluded work in order to inform our onshore site selection process and ultimately inform the decision of a preferred zone for the location of two SPR substations, (one for East Anglia ONE North and one for East Anglia TWO, and one National Grid Energy Transmission (NGET) substation).

This technical work has been done in parallel with phase 2 of our consultation process where we received feedback from members of the public to inform our site selection. A report has been produced which summarises the feedback we have received at the Public Information Days and up to the end of phase 2, which concluded on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. This report can be found **here**.

A summary of our technical and public consultation process is shown below.

## Public Consultation

## Technical Consultation

October  
2017

**Phase 1** Public Information Days, Introduction to the project,  
Consult on onshore constraints,  
Introduce visual aspects of the offshore wind turbines.

November  
2017

Scoping submission, **Phase 1** Public Information Days,  
Introduction to the project, Consult on onshore constraints,  
Introduce visual aspects of the project.

December  
2017

Scoping Opinion received,  
Production of draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and review by LPAs  
and the Marine Management Organisation.

January  
2018

Landowner engagement , respond to general requests submitted via project website or  
post, parish council briefings ongoing.

February  
2018

Landowner engagement , respond to general requests submitted via project website or  
post, parish council briefings ongoing.

March 2018

Publication of the SoCC, **Phase 2** Public Information Days, provided further information  
on onshore study area, seeked opinions on viewpoints for offshore infrastructure,  
consultation feedback requested by April 17<sup>th</sup>, landowner engagement , respond to  
general requests submitted via project website or post, parish council briefings ongoing.

April 2018

Landowner engagement , respond to general requests submitted via project website or  
post, parish council briefings ongoing.

May 2018

Landowner engagement , respond to general requests submitted via project website or  
post. Share update to SoCC. Website updated with further information on site selection.  
**Phase 3** Week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> May onwards – Parish council briefings to inform of  
the preferred substation zone. Indicative onshore development area to be shared with  
parish councils at these briefings.

June 2018

Public Information Days, update on the proposals and presentation of the indicative  
onshore development area, consultation on potential mitigation options in relation to the  
proposals. **Consultation on Phase 3 will conclude 28 days after the last PID (last  
PIDs will be end July so Phase 3 consultation would close end of August)**, Parish  
council briefings ongoing.

Site selection workshop with LPAs to present Onshore Substation Site Selection RAG  
Assessment,  
Site visit to eastern substation zones.

Site selection workshop with LPAs and statutory consultees to present AONB special  
qualities impact appraisal, feasibility of crossing Aldeburgh Road and updated RAG  
assessment, site visit to western substation zones.

Communicate PID feedback and project updates to statutory consultees. Expert Topic  
Group (ETG) meetings with onshore topic leads to agree method statements. Meet LPA  
on 30<sup>th</sup> April – communicate preferred substation zone.

Ongoing ETG meetings to agree method statements, communicate preferred substation  
zone to statutory consultees. End May - present cable route and substation arrangement  
options (communicating onshore indicative development area) at site selection workshop  
with key stakeholders (draft development area issued 2 weeks in advance. Key  
stakeholders to comment on workshop materials.

Communicate formal development area to statutory consultees.

### Key

Completed Activities

Upcoming Activities

**Phase 4** Public Information Days to coincide with Section 42 consultation including on the Preliminary Environmental  
Information Report

Consultation will be for a 42 day period (longer than the statutory requirement)

### DCO Application Submission

Consultation period is as per the Planning Inspectorate's procedure: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/part/6>

## 2 Summary of Site Selection Process

Our site selection process has been informed by various work streams.

Firstly we undertook a Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) assessment carried out by our expert advisors Royal Haskoning DHV in consultation with key stakeholders. The assessment concluded that Zone 7 (please refer to the map below for substation zone locations) was the most appropriate development opportunity when evaluated against environmental, social and economic constraints based on the professional judgement of our industry leading consultants and using available data. These constraints were also considered as part of our Scoping Report. In addition for our Section 42 consultation we will submit a Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which will include a full and detailed summary of the process.

The outcome of the RAG assessment is summarised below;

<b>Zone 4</b>	2 x red	18 x yellow	26 x green
<b>Zone 3</b>	3 x red	21 x yellow	22 x green
<b>Zone 1</b>	8 x red	12 x yellow	26 x green
<b>Zone 2</b>	9 x red	10 x yellow	27 x green
<b>Zone 7</b>	2 x red	7 x yellow	37 x green
<b>Zone 6</b>	2 x red	15 x yellow	29 x green
<b>Zone 5</b>	3 x red	16 x yellow	27 x green

The scoring shows that all of the western zones score three or less Red scores in the RAG assessment. Of these, zone 7 is preferable to substation zones 6 and 5 due to fewer Yellow scores and more Green scores.

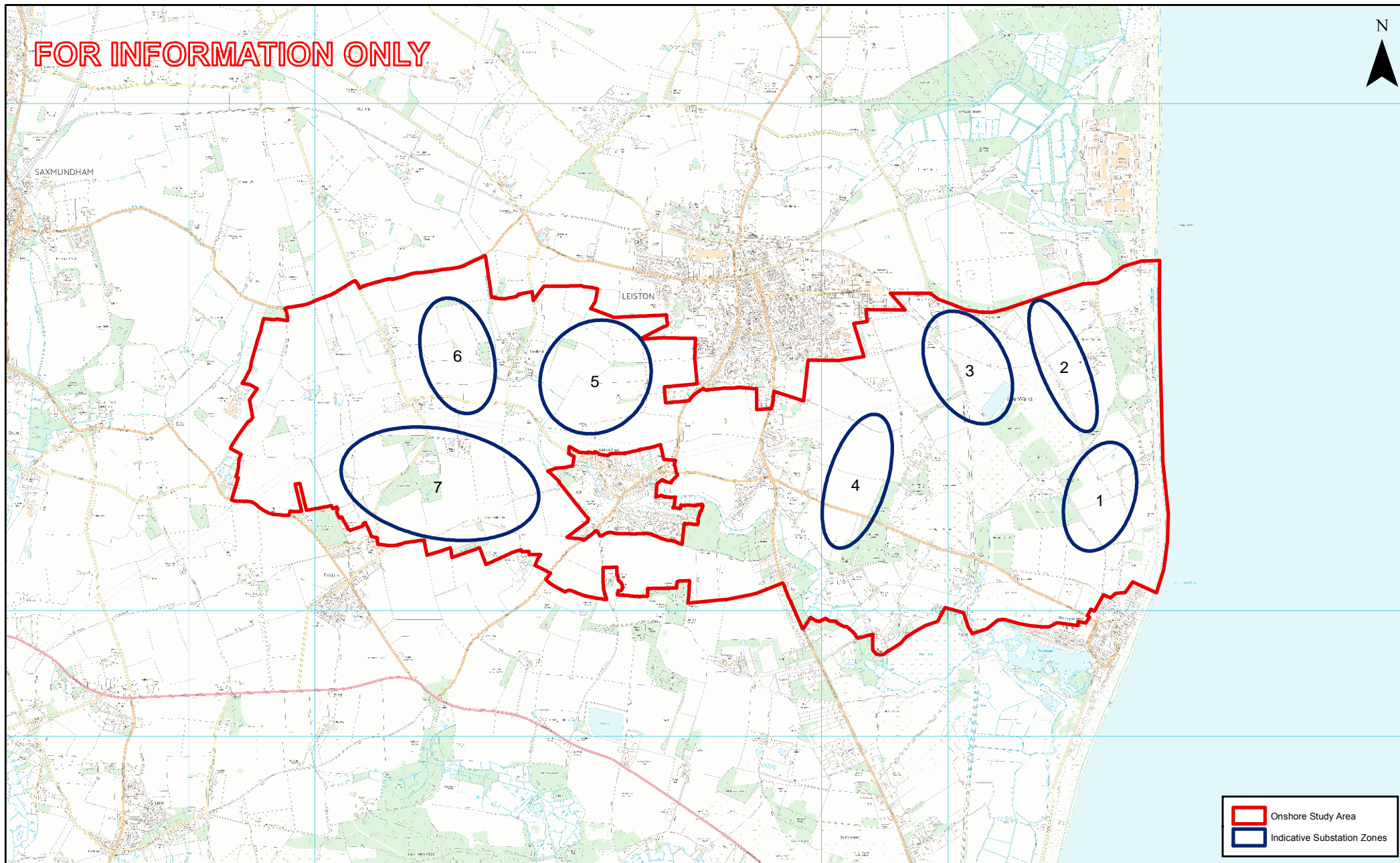
The overall scoring is presented below;

The scoring also shows that substation zone 4 scores 2 Red scores, matching the Red scores of substation zones 6 and 7. Substation zones 6 and 7 have fewer Yellow scores and more Green scores than substation zone 4.

With regard to the siting of the National Grid substation, where practical and feasible, co-location is preferential.



FOR INFORMATION ONLY



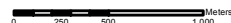
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Rev	Date	By	Comment

Prepared:	AK
Checked:	DB
Approved:	IF

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1:40,000  
Scale @ A4



**East Anglia ONE North and TWO Windfarms**  
**Leiston Onshore Study Area and**  
**Substation Zones**

Drg No	EA2-GEN-DG-IBR-000241	
Rev	0	Coordinate System: BNG Datum: OSGB36
Date	14/02/18	
Figure	N/A	

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In addition to the above assessment there are a number of “key themes” that have arisen through discussions with stakeholders and the public during the progression of our site selection process. These themes are listed and discussed below;

- Site selection relating specifically to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- The specific landscape and visual impacts of the proposed substation infrastructure.
- Construction impacts relating specifically to access to the substation zones.
- The crossing of the Aldeburgh Road to facilitate a cable route to the west of Leiston and other pinch points along the cable route, including in particular effects on setting.
- The inclusion of Sizewell land within our Onshore Study Area, and
- Cumulative assessment in relation to National Grid Ventures (NGV) projects.

To address these key themes, SPR have undertaken the following work;

We have undertaken an AONB special qualities assessment which concludes that development within or in close proximity to the AONB could result in significant effects on the special qualities of the AONB. This relates to zones 1 to 4 as shown in the map. Development in the western zones (5 to 7 on the map.) would, however, be likely to avoid significant effects on these special qualities. The overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) states the following in relation to development within the AONB;

*“National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection and which the IPC should have regard to in its decisions. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given substantial weight by the IPC in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas.”*

It also states development may be granted in exceptional circumstances. SPR do not consider exceptional circumstances to be in place as there are viable zones for siting onshore infrastructure outside the AONB and as such there is not a requirement to site infrastructure within these nationally designated areas.

We have also undertaken a high level landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) on siting substation infrastructure within the zones we have identified. This work concludes that Zone 7 affects fewer landscape and visual receptors overall when compared to zones 2 and 3. This assessment also identified that Zone 7 benefits from substantial screening as a consequence of existing woodland. In addition, there are notable opportunities for further effective mitigation in the form of new woodland planting.

The AONB report can be found [here](#).

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We have also undertaken a high level transport assessment which confirms that construction access to all zones is feasible. More detailed work is ongoing into the issue of transport and access and we are working closely with the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to inform this work, and will communicate to you the findings and options in future phases of consultation.

The crossing of the Aldeburgh road is a key area that SPR have investigated in relation to ensuring a cable route is feasible to the western zones. Through our work we believe that the SPR projects can cross the road with no significant residual impacts on ecology or cultural heritage. In summary this means that SPR believe there would be no lasting significant impact on the ecology or cultural heritage of the area to the south of the Aldringham Court Nursing Home. This would be achieved by applying appropriate mitigation such as a reduced cable swathe and appropriate replanting.

Throughout our site selection process we have been asked whether we can use land owned by EDF and Magnox. We have produced a report to address these matters, which can be found **here**. This report confirms that EDF and Magnox land is not available or appropriate for acquisition.

Through discussions with EDF, SPR understands that the land is not available for voluntary acquisition. EDF has already earmarked the majority of this land for ecological mitigation to mitigate the effects of its own Sizewell C project. Outside of this identified ecological mitigation land there is no reasonable opportunity for the development of the East Anglia TWO and ONE North substation within the EDF land due to Sizewell marshes SSSI, other environmental constraints (such as the flood zone 2 and 3 land) and most significantly EDF's operational and future plans which are important for the energy supply of the UK. As EDF are unlikely to enter into a voluntary agreement, SPR would therefore need to seek the land rights it requires for its projects compulsorily through the DCO process this would be a complex matter as EDF are a statutory undertaker. Further details in relation to this CPO process are presented in the previously mentioned report.

The land owned by Magnox is subject to lengthy and complex nuclear decommissioning associated with the Sizewell A site. As a result EDF and Magnox land at Sizewell is not available or appropriate for acquisition

We are working collaboratively with National Grid Ventures (NGV) regarding their two interconnector projects. Our engagement with NGV seeks to ensure that we don't sterilise any development opportunity for them and such they can make the correct development decision at the right time. We will continue to assess the impacts of their projects in terms of cumulative impact with our development in accordance with guidance from The Planning Inspectorate (Planning Advice Note 17) on the basis of information available at the time.

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### 3 SPR's Onshore Site Selection Decision Making Approach

The outcomes presented above have subsequently informed SPR's onshore site selection process. SPR must take a balanced view toward site selection at all times, using the advice of our industry leading legal advisors whom draw on National Planning Guidance, and our industry leading technical advisors, in addition to our own significant project experience.

This advice is then considered in the context of the comments and consultation feedback of both statutory and non-statutory consultees, the public and potentially affected parties.

As well as carrying out meaningful consultation, we also seek to minimise local impacts through our decisions. We have a demonstrable track record of this in Suffolk where we have led the industry by installing onshore electrical ducting for East Anglia THREE at the same time as the cables for East Anglia ONE, therefore minimising local construction impacts.

### 4 Conclusion and Next Steps

It is SPR's position based on extensive expert advice and stakeholder engagement that zones to the West and in particular Zone 7 offer on balance the most appropriate options for further development.

This position and proposal for Zone 7 is based on the policy guidance presented within the overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN -1, and specifically the guidance relating to development within National Parks, the Broads and AONBs only being granted in exceptional circumstances. There are also land availability constraints in eastern areas as discussed above, in relation to land owned by EDF and Magnox. This is balanced against less significant constraints in the western areas and in particular Zone 7. This is despite the fact that the cost of going west is higher.

SPR is now progressing Phase 3 of our consultation process, where we will consult on our Indicative Onshore Development Area, and specifically the mitigation that is required within this area. Specifically we will present a development area which will include our landfall location, preferred substation zone and the broad cable routing required to connect these two areas. This information will be presented to Parish Councils, at planned Public Information Days and is available on our website.

Further details of our Phase 3 consultation process can be found in the summary flow chart shown below and in a video on our website.



# Phase 3 (16<sup>th</sup> May- 28<sup>th</sup> August)

May 2018

- Preferred substation zone and indicative onshore development area to be shared from May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Parish Council Briefings ongoing
- Ongoing Landowner engagement and responses to general requests
- Website updated with Public Information Days (PID) details, further information on site selection including preferred substation zone and indicative onshore development area
- Leaflet drop with PID details and information on the indicative onshore development area and preferred substation zone
- *Ongoing technical consultation to agree method statements for impact assessment*

June 2018

- Public Information Days (over 3 weekends at 7 venues) - Presentation of the indicative onshore development area, consultation on potential mitigation measures
- Parish council briefings ongoing
- Ongoing landowner engagement
- *Ongoing technical consultation and feedback evaluation*
- Phase 3 feedback form available online

July 2018

- Public Information Days (over 3 weekends at 7 venues) - Presentation of the indicative onshore development area, consultation on potential mitigation measures
- Consultation on Phase 3 will conclude 28 days after the last PID (last PIDs will be 28<sup>th</sup> July therefore Phase 3 consultation will conclude 28<sup>th</sup> August)
- Phase 3 feedback form available online
- Ongoing landowner engagement
- Parish council briefings as requested



Phase 4

DCO Application Submission

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has participated in the various events we have held and provided feedback to help us shape our project so far. We hope that you will continue to engage with us during Phase 3 by attending the upcoming Parish Council meetings, Public Information Days and by contacting the project team at any time.