

High Kelling Parish Council

Comments on the Offshore Coordination Project Consultation Report

In response to the current ongoing initiative to investigate and pursue an Offshore Ring Main proposal, High Kelling Parish Council wish to re-confirm and register our wholehearted support for this initiative.

It is clear from both the Government's developing strategy towards fully renewable electrical power generation in the UK and from the subject recent Consultation Report, that the number of offshore windfarm developments is set to increase over the coming decades, more so than was envisaged only a few years ago.

Offshore windfarms are no stranger to these shores and so North Norfolk has already experienced the extensive disruption caused by the laying of underground power transmission lines. With several past applications for further windfarm development now approved, several more currently in the application stage and the prospect of further acceleration in the rate of new applications, the earlier acceptance that the disruption was a price worth paying has now given way to a realisation that the impact of increasing demands for further discrete cable runs for each new development, is not a tolerable way forward. Fig 4 (Page 22) demonstrates the completely unsustainable disruption to the East and South East of England coast and hinterland would have to endure by 2050, or even by 2030 - Fig 3

Accordingly, High Kelling Parish Council, in supporting the Offshore Coordination Project, would recommend the following approach:

1. Step up Research and Development into any technology enablement needed to support the establishment of Offshore Ring Mains and their Integrated Network (Supporting) Infrastructure.
2. Make it a Contractual Requirement that any new Windfarm developments shall utilise this nationally provided infrastructure and be compatible with the integrated approach to all Users.
3. Work with future applicants to ensure an integrated approach which precludes bespoke four-walled solutions and avoids incompatibilities.
4. Accelerate the development of the Integrated Network Infrastructure to bring it more in line with the timescales of the recent Applications for Offshore Windfarm Developments around the East of England coastline; and amend the Contractual Terms and Conditions for their Proposals to require them to be compatible with the developing Integrated Network Infrastructure. Contractual agility will be the key here; and a strong-minded Customer.

Rising oceanic temperatures, shrinking of polar icecaps and accelerating global warming, are all indisputable evidence of the impact of our continued use of and reliance on fossil fuels. Fortunately, at last the swell of acceptance internationally appears to be growing, that the world must turn to renewable sources for its energy requirements, if we are to avoid irreversible harm to our world. Great Britain is an island with a huge reservoir of natural wind energy surrounding it. This initiative will enable us to grasp this dependable source of power and distribute it in the most physically environmentally supportable and socially acceptable way.