



Planning Inspectorate  
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

## Hearing Transcript

<b>Project:</b>	Sea Link
<b>Hearing:</b>	Transcript of Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) – Session 2 Part 1
<b>Date:</b>	5 November 2025

**Please note:** This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

It is not a verbatim text of what was said at the above hearing. The content was produced using artificial intelligence voice to text software. It may, therefore, include errors and should be assumed to be unedited.

The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:07:24 - 00:00:09:26

Good evening, everyone, and welcome.

00:00:11:15 - 00:00:45:05

Can I just confirm that everyone can hear me clearly. Good. I also confirm with the case team that the live streaming and recording of the event has commenced. Yep. So it's now 530, and the open floor here in relation to the ceiling project is now open. Thank you all for attending this hearing. My name is Mr. Steven Ranney. I'm a planning inspector and a charter town planner. I'm going to ask my fellow panel members, who have also been appointed by the Secretary of State to examine this project, to introduce themselves.

00:00:45:27 - 00:00:47:06

Firstly, Doctor Hunt.

00:00:47:24 - 00:00:53:11

Good evening. My name is Doctor Richard Hunt. I'm a planning inspector and a chartered environmentalist.

00:00:54:29 - 00:01:05:00

Good evening. My name is Sarah Holmes. I'm a planning inspector and a chartered civil engineer, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:06:26 - 00:01:13:01

Good evening. My name is Nancy Thomas. I am a planning inspector and a chartered town planner.

00:01:15:26 - 00:01:21:06

Good evening. My name is Luke Regan. I am a planning inspector and a chartered transport planner.

00:01:23:09 - 00:01:53:24

Okay. I can confirm that all members of the examining authority have made a formal declaration of interest. And there are no known conflicts of interest with regards to us examining this application. Together, we constitute the examining authority or as it's abbreviated to for this application. For those who are present in the room, you may have already spoken or heard from Louise Haraway, who is a case manager for the project. Miss Haraway is accompanied by one of our other case managers, Amina Khan, and our case officer, Emma Smith.

00:01:54:04 - 00:02:27:18

For those who have joined us virtually, You will have spoken to our other case officers, Caroline Allen and a happier court. Together they are the case team for this project. And if you have any questions or queries then you should. They should be your first point of contact. Their contact details can be found at the top of any letter that you've received from us, or on the project page of the National

Infrastructure website. Before we consider the items on the agenda this morning, we need to deal with a few housekeeping matters.

00:02:27:20 - 00:03:00:09

I will get through these as quickly as possible. Firstly, can everybody, everyone attending, please make sure your phone is switched off or turned on to silent? There are no fire test planned for this evening. Should an alarm sound, it is an emergency and we will need to vacate the building. Emergency exits are located on the side of the room and including the doors with which you entered. The fire assembly point is in the lawn garden area to the side of the building also. Toilets are in the foyer area along with some drinking water.

00:03:00:11 - 00:03:44:08

If anyone needs assistance, um, can you please let the case team know? As far as I'm aware. No requests to be made for any special measures or arrangements to enable participation in the meeting, such as the need to take a break for medical reasons or having to leave the event at a certain time. For example, if anyone does need a break or extra support later on, then please do let the case team know. This event has been live streamed and recorded. Our letter of 19th of September, which we will refer to as the rule six letter, explained that because we retain and publish the digital recordings, they form a public record to which the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, applies.

00:03:45:12 - 00:04:18:19

The Planning Inspectorate publishes and retains recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the Development Consent order. So if you participate in this meeting, it's important that you understand that you will be recorded and that and that you consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording. However, we are aware of a number of people who have let us know that they do not wish to be filmed. The audiovisual team are aware of this, and those people who have have been seated in a location which is not covered by the cameras.

00:04:19:27 - 00:04:52:23

This will also be taken into account for those speaking in the hearing. We will only ever ask for information to be placed on the public record. That is important and relevant to the planning decision to avoid the need to edit the digital recordings. What we would ask is that you try your best not to add information into the public record that you would normally wish to keep private or confidential, such as your address, financial circumstances, or details of any medical conditions. If you do feel the need to refer to something that is private and confidential.

00:04:52:25 - 00:04:59:09

Could you please discuss this with the case team first, just to explore whether this could be submitted in writing and redacted.

00:05:01:12 - 00:05:05:14

Could I ask if there's any members of the press in attendance today?

00:05:08:15 - 00:05:13:16

Okay. Does anybody else intend to film or record the meeting?

00:05:17:27 - 00:05:18:12

Okay.

00:05:22:08 - 00:05:56:12

Um, for those attending virtually. Um, can I repeat the request made in the arrangements conference? Uh, that to minimize background noise, you make sure that your phone is switched off or turned on to silent and that you stay muted with your camera off unless you are speaking. I would also ask that if you want to speak, you switch your camera on and either use the raise hand function in Ms. teams, or speak or ask to speak at the appropriate time. Can I also remind people that the chat function on teams will not work? So please do not try to use this to ask questions or make any comments.

00:05:57:12 - 00:06:19:27

For those people watching the live stream, uh, should we at any point adjourn proceedings this evening, you will have to stop the live stream to give us clear recording files. As a result. At that point, at the point in which the at which we start the meeting and the live stream, you will need to refresh your browser page. We will remind you of this again should we need to adjourn.

00:06:21:23 - 00:06:53:03

I just wanted to say a little bit about the conduct during the hearing. We understand that people have strong feelings about the proposed development, but it's important to recognize that we have a process to follow. We therefore ask for good manners and respect to be shown to each other throughout this hearing. As such, we want people to have the opportunity to speak. Please don't talk over anyone when they are speaking. Additionally, we ask for no clapping, cheering or booing or anything similar as we need to be able to hear what the people are saying.

00:06:53:18 - 00:07:16:13

So please be polite to each other as everyone deserves the same level of respect, even if you don't share the same views. We also understand that a few people may be feeling nervous when having to speak in public. Please be reassured that we understand and if you stumble over any words or feel the need to repeat something, that really isn't a problem.

00:07:18:00 - 00:07:21:18

Are there any comments or questions of any of the points I've made so far?

00:07:23:08 - 00:07:23:28

Okay.

00:07:26:21 - 00:07:58:07

Okay. This hearing is split over five sessions, this being the second session, and will generally follow the agenda that was published on the project page of the examining of the National Infrastructure web page on the 24th of October, 2025. A copy of this can be found in the examination library at reference EV 4001. So thank you. And for that. And I will move on to the item two of the agenda, which is the purpose of the open floor hearing.

00:08:00:08 - 00:08:24:07

Normally open floor hearings are held at the request of interested parties. However, we've called this open floor hearing because we want to hear firsthand from interested parties. Your thoughts at this early stage of the examination. It will also help us to form a view about what we want to discuss in more detail at later. At later issue specific hearings and with our own written questions.

00:08:25:29 - 00:08:56:14

We are familiar with your representations. So when speaking you don't have to repeat these. What we are seeking is for you to provide further detail or evidence to help us understand these issues, to make the best use of the time. And while not wishing to limit contributions, It would be a great assistance if points were not repeated if made previously. You can rest assured we will have understood the points made first time. We are aware that the applicant is attending this evening.

00:08:56:16 - 00:09:07:18

We will ask the applicant to respond to everything they have heard through all the open floor hearing sessions in writing. It is not the purpose of this hearing to enable the applicant to make their case.

00:09:09:09 - 00:09:13:02

I will now hand over to Miss Holmes on item three of the agenda.

00:09:14:11 - 00:09:46:01

Thank you. Due to the numbers of people who wish to speak at this open floor hearing, you'll have seen for the agenda that we split the hearing into five sessions with. The next session starts at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. It's our intention to hear from interested parties who are pre-registered to speak, and who are listed in the agenda for this hearing, after which the time permit. We will hear from any interested party who is not pre-registered but wishes to speak, and then any other persons or non interested parties who wish to speak. However, time is tight and this will be at the discretion of the examining authority.

00:09:46:29 - 00:10:18:15

If time is not available during these open floor hearings, then parties can request further open floor hearings during later hearings, and we're also happy to hold them if we need to do so. Due to the number of parties wishing to speak today, we have set a time limit per person. We've agreed a maximum of six minutes for those representing groups, which includes memberships, organizations, clubs and societies, and three minutes for individuals. When you are speaking, you must take account of the time remaining shown on the monitor, which will be in front of you at the table here.

00:10:18:25 - 00:10:43:26

For those attending virtually, I'll let you know verbally when you have one minute left. Please try to finish in your allotted time, as we want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard today to ensure we can hear from as many people as possible. We won't ask any questions once you've spoken, but be assured that if we have questions for you, we'll send them in writing after the event. Can the applicant please now display the speaking list for this session?

00:10:46:27 - 00:11:23:06

Thanks. So the order in which you'll be invited to speak before the agenda we're now displaying. We'll ask people to come forward to the table in the front five at a time. If you've. Informed us that you do

not want to be filmed, you don't need to come to the front. And instead we'll be given a roving mic to speak from where you're currently seated. Although some speakers in the group of 5th May be attending virtually or not, coming to the table at the front will still ask each of you to speak in turn based on your allocated time. When we've heard from all five, you're welcome to return to the general seating area, and then we'll call the next group of five forwards.

00:11:23:16 - 00:12:01:03

Once you've returned to the general seating, please feel free to depart the venue if you wish, but please do so quietly for the purposes of the recording and respect for those still speaking. It would assist us if written summaries of anything that you say are submitted by deadline one A which at the moment is Tuesday the 26th of November, 2025. These can include any additional points of further detail you may wish to make, but were unable to do so due to time constraints this evening. Please be reassured that when coming to our conclusions, we give equal weight to both oral and written submissions, and there is no disadvantage to of not having presented something orally here today.

00:12:01:28 - 00:12:07:01

So can I just check with the list currently displayed? Is that everyone who's ready to speak in this session

00:12:08:19 - 00:12:14:18

might need to be made just a little bit bigger. If you could possibly zoom in to the top half first so people can see it.

00:12:19:09 - 00:12:20:10

Is that visible?

00:12:31:18 - 00:12:33:28

And then scroll down to the bottom half, please.

00:12:38:13 - 00:12:39:09

Thank you.

00:12:43:03 - 00:12:51:09

Can I check if the list being displayed is showing everyone who's registered to speak? There's only one thing that has registered that isn't on that list.

00:12:54:14 - 00:13:04:20

Okay. Thank you. So, does anyone have any questions on the speaking process before we move on? Anyone in the room or online?

00:13:08:20 - 00:13:12:26

Okay. Thank you. I'll now pass back to Mr. Rennie for item four.

00:13:15:03 - 00:13:51:02

Okay. Um, I'm now going to invite those listed in the agenda to speak when I have read out your names. If you are in the room. Uh, come to the table at the front. And if online, please turn your

camera on when it is your turn to speak. Please turn on the microphone. This is the central front button on the microphone. Stand for those in the room, and start by introducing yourself and, if relevant, who you're representing. A timer will be displayed in the room. Um, and, uh, Miss Holmes will let those know online if when you have a minute remaining.

00:13:53:08 - 00:14:22:29

And can I just remind you again not to supply any personal details when speaking here today? For example, do not state your home address, your age, or any medical conditions you may have. If you feel that you need to supply such information to us, please talk to the case team about how this could be done without going on the public record. For those attending virtually, if you do not want to appear on screen to be recorded, then you can keep your camera off. Also, please let us know if you need a microphone to be brought to you where you sit if you have any mobility issues.

00:14:25:13 - 00:14:39:00

So the first people I'm calling forward are Councilor Charlotte Fox. Box, Mr. Richard Cooper, Councillor Geraldine Barker and, uh, Miss Louise Fincham.

00:15:01:10 - 00:15:09:04

Okay, welcome. Um, so firstly, firstly. Councillor Charlotte Fox Bennell and Stanfield parish Council. Um, you have

00:15:10:23 - 00:15:18:07

uh, before we start. Just to note, there's a hand up on the screen. Um, just, uh, could I go to that person?

00:15:19:10 - 00:15:34:19

Yes. Sorry. Um, I was moved to, um, today's session. I don't see my name on the list that you've put up there. And the chat's being disabled, so we can't put any commentary in there. Uh, could you confirm that I'm on the list, please?

00:15:34:21 - 00:15:36:13

Is it Helen Napier? Is it?

00:15:36:19 - 00:15:37:23

Yes. That's correct.

00:15:37:25 - 00:15:43:15

Yes. You're you're number 24 on the list. So you'll be, uh, with the last.

00:15:43:17 - 00:15:48:22

Of that list, you see, because it's the last. What? An amendment about a week ago. Sorry to disrupt the procession.

00:15:48:24 - 00:16:13:07

That's all right. That's all right. Yeah, you will be. It will be coming up then. So you've got a little while yet, though. Okay. Thank you. Um, so. Yeah. Sorry. Councillor Charlotte Fox Bennell and, uh,

Stanfield Parish Council. Oh, just to say, could, uh, could Miss Deepa just put the camera off? You still got your camera on there until you're back on. There we are. Thank you. Sorry, Miss Fox.

00:16:15:16 - 00:16:50:22

Thank you. Hello. Uh, before I start, I would just like to bring it to your attention that although the converter station site is referred to as the Saxmundham site, the B1 121 one that will be accessing the site runs through Bennell, and the Sealink converter station will sit wholly within Sternfeld. Lack of holistic long term planning is leading to a chaotic imposition of infrastructure in East Suffolk, with little or no regard for the disproportionate and unacceptable burden that this is imposing on the local population.

00:16:50:27 - 00:17:21:05

One twin reactor nuclear power station is enough for this region, but in addition to size will see. East Suffolk is also set to host two substations a connection hub, at least two converter stations, hundreds of new homes, an industrial retail unit, A1000 acre solar park, major water and road network upgrades. And it won't stop there because more and more projects, such as multiple battery storage units and a 600 megawatt solar park are already on the horizon.

00:17:21:14 - 00:17:53:27

So how on earth did we get here? Initially, the output from all four ScottishPower offshore wind farms was due to be transmitted to Bramford by via a single cable route, but a short sighted decision to reduce the cost of this cable route meant that only half of Scottish Power's electricity could be transmitted to Bramford after all. Thus, a whole new connection point had to be identified at which to connect. The other half of the electricity and National Grid's connection point at Friston was born.

00:17:54:02 - 00:18:26:03

It is this connection point that is at the heart of everything, because it can act like a gigantic socket into which any future electricity projects can be plugged. When summing up after the substation examinations at Friston, the examiners stated that the adverse impacts of Scottish Power's projects were so substantial that it was only just possible to mitigate for them, and that caution would have to be applied. Were further projects to be added at the connection point in the future. ceiling is being added now.

00:18:26:14 - 00:19:08:27

Caution needs to be applied now. Sealink will not produce a single amp of electricity, nor will it connect directly to any source of electricity generation. It will simply move electricity between East Suffolk and Kent. Like an extension cable taking excess electricity that has been brought into or generated here where it is not needed. Down to the southeast where it is. Well, Sealink has the capacity to lift the lid on electrical infrastructure development in East Suffolk, with a local supply set to become 20 times greater than demand, and 30% of the country's electricity due to be generated in or transmitted through this region.

00:19:09:21 - 00:19:44:17

Saxmundham wasn't even considered as a potential converter station site originally, and even though it is basically inaccessible and it is way too close to the local population, it suddenly popped up as the preferred option. Had it been scrutinized in the same way and at the same time as the other sites? And



had it already been established that construction of the Sizewell link road was guaranteed to proceed? Maybe a different site, such as the Leiston airfield, would have emerged as the preferred option instead at drop in events.

00:19:44:19 - 00:20:17:12

Stone field has previously been identified by National Grid as an industrial agricultural location, but this title is not justified. Yes, we do have duck rearing barns and a cold storage unit. And yes, despite the totally unsuitable roads, we do have HGTV's coming into Stone field to access these sites, but the agricultural scale of this is miles away from being industrial. Therefore, please don't be misled by our barns and the HGTV's traveling through our village.

00:20:17:14 - 00:21:02:15

Sternfeld is not an industrial site and remains a small rural agricultural village with considerable heritage, history and charming landscape appeal. Bernal stands to be significantly disrupted by construction of Sealink, as a result of the transport of super heavy loads over the railway bridge and increased traffic flows, especially of JVs on the B117 as it runs through the village, had the worst case scenario. Principles of the Rochdale envelope been applied to the problem of transporting loads weighing 300 tons over a railway bridge, only able to withstand loads of 46 tonnes, would the Bengal route still have emerged as the preferred option.

00:21:02:17 - 00:21:37:20

And since the word on the street is that line link may well adopt a northern approach to the converter station site, should the northern route that was excluded in favour of the burial route during the sealing statutory consultation be put back on the table now or better still, should the Saxmundham site be taken off the table altogether? Shoehorning such large scale infrastructure so close to established communities in this small area, served by its constrained rural road network, is already resulting in cumulative impacts that are affecting our day to day life.

00:21:38:04 - 00:22:00:14

At what point does cumulative impact become cumulative chaos? Proceeding with construction of Sealink when the area is under such duress threatens to push us over the edge. Please take great care to recognise when enough is enough, and acknowledge when the harm of development threatens to outweigh the benefit of the project. Thank you.

00:22:00:16 - 00:22:01:15

Thank you very much.

00:22:05:05 - 00:22:12:09

And Miss Fox. Um, as an individual, you also have three minutes to comment also.

00:22:12:27 - 00:22:44:00

Thank you. Our local community is being overwhelmed by major infrastructure development. We're told that we have a voice and we can engage with the planning process, but very few people truly understand what's actually going on here. Clear, understandable information is distinctly lacking, and we are confronted with lengthy documents that are almost impossible to navigate. Even media coverage gets in a muddle.

00:22:44:02 - 00:23:18:22

And just this morning, for example, we were told on the BBC news that Sealink will be bringing wind power onshore at Aldeburgh. But of course, Sealink will be just that a sea link between Suffolk and Kent, and won't connect directly with the wind farms at all. How can we possibly get our voices heard or make informed decisions if we aren't informed in a meaningful, transparent way? You may not know this, but this region is currently undergoing radical local government reorganisation and devolution.

00:23:19:00 - 00:23:51:04

It would be enough to be addressing this massive issue on its own, but dealing with it alongside multiple major infrastructure projects is leading to an untenable workload at all levels of local government. People are spread too thinly and compromise has become the name of the game. We are all shocked at the increasingly profound impact that construction of Sizewell C is already having on our region, and since the nuclear power station site itself hasn't even been accessed yet.

00:23:51:08 - 00:24:25:14

This is just the tip of the iceberg. What will East Suffolk look like when there are 10,000 workers on site at Sizewell, and when construction of all the other projects is added on top of that as well? This question really matters to us, but we fear that we are being written off as NIMBYs simply for asking it. And more, and with and more and more infrastructure will continue to be crammed into this little corner of East Suffolk until the cumulative impacts of so much concurrent construction in one small area becomes overwhelming.

00:24:26:18 - 00:25:13:17

Worrying about this is significantly impacting our mental health and well-being as well as our physical health. And we exist with a constant background level of stress and anxiety. Please listen to our local knowledge about what it's like to be living in what already feels a bit like a construction site, and weigh up whether the considerable socio economic and environmental costs of building sealing in this unique, richly biodiverse, agriculturally productive tourist destination is actually worth it, especially when a holistic, long term, strategic alternative solution to transmitting offshore wind power is available and is already being employed by our North Sea neighbours.

00:25:13:19 - 00:25:14:17

Thank you.

00:25:14:20 - 00:25:16:05

Thank you again. Thank you.

00:25:18:02 - 00:25:27:25

Um, can I ask Mr. Richard Cooper, chair, Middlesbrough Parish Council, I thank you online if you would like to make your comments. You have six minutes also.

00:25:30:02 - 00:25:35:19

Thank you very much, sir. I am Richard Cooper, chair of Marshall Parish Council.

00:25:37:14 - 00:26:07:19

Malmesbury Parish Council objects to the application in its current form. We support all reasonable efforts to reach the goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions, but we are concerned that the application has been submitted prematurely and without full assessment of other options for the transmission of power generated by East Anglia's offshore wind farms and the onshore generation from Sizewell C.

00:26:09:15 - 00:26:54:23

Parish Council is very concerned by the adverse cumulative impact of the applicant's proposals, alongside the existing impacts of Sizewell C and ScottishPower renewables. Friston projects. Miles is severed by the A12 and whilst we are grateful for the mitigation committed to buy Sizewell C and Scottish Power, it will do nothing to alleviate the increased volume of traffic passing through over 50 properties in Milford and Little Glenarm, a 20m or less from the A12 carriageway, and they already experience noise and vibration as a result of existing traffic.

00:26:55:13 - 00:27:00:21

This has an impact on residents quality of life and affects mental health.

00:27:02:07 - 00:27:29:12

This council does not subscribe to the apparent argument of the applicant that because its traffic is over a baseline of already increased traffic, particularly of HGVs being generated by sizeable sea and Scottish power, the effect of its own traffic will be negligible or minor. That will not be the perception of the A12 residents in this village

00:27:31:02 - 00:28:07:28

as a result of the applicant Sealink proposal, together with other energy projects. Oxford Parish Council believes that this part of Suffolk is paying a very high price in order to deliver benefits which apply across the whole country. We do not believe that the benefits to this area are balanced by the negative impacts. One topic that appears to attract little discussion is the vulnerability to attack of concentrating around 30% of the country's energy production on the east Suffolk coast.

00:28:08:06 - 00:28:18:28

We are surely laying ourselves open to hostile attack. An East Suffolk residence could be part of the collateral damage in the in the event of any such attack.

00:28:20:15 - 00:28:45:07

Turning now to traffic based survey, traffic data was captured by the applicant during January and February 2024. These are not recognised as neutral months, and the data is thought to show traffic flows below those that would be expected in neutral months. There is therefore a built in underestimate of current traffic in the area.

00:28:46:25 - 00:29:22:00

This or this part of Suffolk. This part of Suffolk experiences significant holiday peaks in traffic flows during July and August. There is no recognition by the applicant of the effect of seasonality, but the combined effects of holiday traffic and the applicant's traffic, plus that from other projects, will have a

material impact on highway capacity. In Milford, we are particularly concerned about three junctions in the village that give access to the A12.

00:29:22:16 - 00:29:43:20

Residents already experienced difficulty in right turning from these junctions, despite the future mitigation being provided by Sizable Sea and ScottishPower renewables. The volume of traffic, even within the new 30 mile an hour limit, will make it even more difficult for vehicles to join traffic on the opposite carriageway.

00:29:46:10 - 00:30:16:18

Turning to mitigation miles, Stafford Parish Council does not consider that the applicant has done enough to mitigate the adverse aspects of this scheme. In the event that consent is granted and the scheme goes ahead. This council request that the applicant be put under an obligation to provide the following mitigation contributions toward improvements of the A12 footpath between Milford Road, Milford and Sizable Sea.

00:30:16:20 - 00:30:34:25

Southern Park and Ride funding of road markings and other traffic calming measures in areas most impacted by the applicant's project. Funding for a programme of traffic monitoring already in place and currently being funded partly by Sizable Sea.

00:30:35:00 - 00:30:36:20

You have one minute left.

00:30:37:02 - 00:31:11:11

Thank you. Funding of signage on roads most vulnerable to rat running. Elimination of Sunday and bank holiday working funding to help town and parish councils respond to inset discos and examinations. And finally, this council has worked effectively and collaboratively with Sizable Sea, and has participated in community discussions designed to deliver agreed mitigation and adapt certain aspects of their project to better meet local communities needs.

00:31:11:22 - 00:31:34:19

If if permission is granted for this DCO, we would ask that the applicant is required to engage in an all energy projects forum to ensure that all projects coordinate their developments where they overlap, for example on transport. Such a forum would help to dispel the public perception that.

00:31:34:29 - 00:31:36:27

Sorry, that's the that's the time up.

00:31:36:29 - 00:31:48:29

Sorry sorry but thank you. I mean, if you if you have uh, you can also submit any comments that you might not have got. Uh, to this this evening. And you can submit that in writing to us. But thank you very.

00:31:49:01 - 00:31:50:00

Much to the end.

00:31:50:03 - 00:31:51:07

Oh, there we are then. Okay. Thank you.

00:31:51:09 - 00:31:51:27

Great.

00:31:52:15 - 00:32:01:11

Um, now, could I ask, uh, Councillor Slur barker. Saxmundham town council. Um, you have six minutes also.

00:32:02:01 - 00:32:02:21

Thank you.

00:32:02:23 - 00:32:38:04

Yes, I'm Geraldine Barker from Saxmundham town Council. Saxmundham Town Council stands by our comprehensive, relevant representation. But today we're looking at issues that we consider unresolved and we're not particularly happy about. And that's construction noise, vibration, working hours and traffic implications of proposed road diversions starting with noise. We note that the applicant has now included the addresses of properties deemed to be hotspots.

00:32:38:15 - 00:33:12:00

However, with the exception of Wood Farm in Saxmundham, there are no other town properties included on this list. Therefore, we still have issues with this. I'll just highlight these. Um, Herts Hertz Hall is not considered a hotspot and we question this hurts hold. At one point, it's only 250m away from the proposed access road and new bridge, and will undoubtedly suffer noise and vibration.

00:33:12:02 - 00:33:57:01

And it's even worse because it's in a rural location. So the background noise is obviously less, and they will suffer from increased sound, both levels doing both construction and the use of the road. Um, the next one is Mana Gardens. This is a development from that is only 250m approximately away from the proposed compounds S0 two, and the residence here will be subjected to sustained levels of noise, dust and light pollution through the construction period.

00:33:57:12 - 00:34:37:25

The applicant's own document Coordination Document 7.10 states that B4, which is now S0 two, presents a challenge for mitigating noise and vibration and highlights that there is acoustic sensitivity to Manor Gardens. They are not considered a hotspot. Uh. Then we go on to extended working hours. Whilst the applicant has considered reducing weekend working the alternative Saturday Sunday alternative weekends and other combinations.

00:34:38:20 - 00:35:10:11

This was designed to reduce the average noise level. We still consider that there should be no Sunday working as per other nationally significant infrastructure projects, i.e. Sizewell and Scottish Power Renewables. It is important at this stage to also note regarding Sunday working that it is not those in

the very close proximity of the project that will be affected, but also those in many parts of Saxmundham.

00:35:10:13 - 00:35:48:29

Those living on the High Street, South Entrance, Chantry Road, Wrentham Road, Churchill Church Road, North entrance. They will suffer because of the traffic and I'm talking about workers vehicles like goods, vehicles that will be going to site early in the Sunday morning. I personally live in that centre of Saxmundham, and I can tell you that traffic starts at five in the morning with people heading towards sizeable sea, and it is only on Sunday where it is quiet until about 10:00 when the supermarkets Markets open.

00:35:49:23 - 00:36:29:27

And this is also going to be even worse with the extended working hours. You know, we would expect to see eight, 2 or 5. But no, it's far more than that. And the last thing I'm going to talk about is the road diversion which is outside the noise. I'm not going to go and talk about Ben or Bridge, because that's obviously subject to the new consultation. But there has been no diversionary route to put in the DCO paperwork, except for something I found on a right of way map.

00:36:30:01 - 00:37:03:24

Now, just to realize that when that particular road is closed, the route will then have to go more or less through Saxmundham and it will pass through residential roads, very narrow streets. Listed buildings, and also increased traffic along routes used by primary school children, a care home, a potential new send provision, the fire, an ambulance stations and a level crossing that closes twice an hour.

00:37:04:13 - 00:37:32:13

We consider that this would be safe, so we wish to see some form of agreement on diversionary routes for when the road is closed to accommodate works to ban or bridge this. Otherwise we will have severe traffic congestion within Saxmundham, at our crossroads, our traffic lights and it will bring the town centre to a standstill. Thank you.

00:37:34:25 - 00:37:35:10

Thank you very.

00:37:35:12 - 00:37:36:28

Much. Um.

00:37:37:28 - 00:37:44:00

Next I've got, uh, Louise Fincham. Hello. Thank you. Three minutes.

00:37:44:10 - 00:37:45:02

Hello.

00:37:45:16 - 00:38:18:06

For seven years, this terrible blight has affected us. Our lives have been turned upside down as we see how privatised utility companies run roughshod over our land. These companies that, by law, have to put maximising their return to shareholders above everything else, care nothing about us or our land.

We are expected to believe their bold statements about there being no alternative, and this being the cheapest option. We know and can prove that this is simply not true.

00:38:18:28 - 00:39:08:15

One look at the list of proposals that are being lined up for this area shows that a coordinated approach is needed to tackle the issue. Does National Grid really think that the governments of Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands decided to go for a more expensive option when they planned their infrastructure offshore? Of course not. Anyone can tell you that clever accounting can make one plus one equal whatever it is you want it to equal. How does National Grid analyze cost? Do they account for the permanent loss of prime agricultural land? Do they account for the loss to the tourist industry and local businesses as visitors stay away? And do they take any account whatsoever to the physical and mental toil? All of this is taking on us, the people who live here.

00:39:09:06 - 00:39:41:16

The answer is a resounding no. National grid didn't even have the courtesy to turn up to the Scottish Power hearings. Even when asked to attend by the inspectors. This is the type of company we are dealing with. This is the kind of company that will run rings around this hearing and ask you, the inspectors, to take them at their word when they promise to take issues raised into account and do their best to address our concerns. Hollow words. I wished they asked the inspectors to listen.

00:39:41:19 - 00:40:19:00

Really listen to what we are saying. Please do not treat us as upset. Locals who just need these hearings to get things off our chest. There is real expertise and knowledge here amongst us. We don't want it there. They're pat on the head. We want you to really challenge the assumptions and bold statements made by National Grid, and give equal weighting to the expertise and evidence presented by Cies and other groups. That is your job. Successful successive governments have lost control of utility companies as they carve up our land and pour sewage into our waterways.

00:40:19:02 - 00:40:49:03

We are relying on you to reclaim it. Privatised utility companies will do nothing to come up with better solutions unless they are forced to by inspectors, regulators and the government. The mental strain on all of us is intolerable. The destruction of so much land is intolerable. The injustice of all this work been squashed into this small area is intolerable. We know there are better solutions, and we must force these private companies to accept that.

00:40:49:07 - 00:40:54:29

I support all the work and evidence provided by Seas, and I thank you for your time and attention.

00:40:55:19 - 00:41:08:21

Thank you very much. Thanks to the first group. Um, if I could call for the second group now. Um, I've got, uh, Sarah Clarke, Malcolm Watson, David Argent pulled the wrath, uh, and Andrew Turner.

00:41:25:11 - 00:41:33:20

Okay. Thank you and welcome. Um, firstly, um, Sarah Clarke, uh, which you have three minutes. Thank you very much.

00:41:33:22 - 00:42:04:19

I'm a member of Ipswich Ramblers and I live in Aldborough. I'm a keen walker and regularly lead walks for between 10 and 30 people. I'm particularly concerned about two areas of the plans and the effect it will have on our mental and physical health. Firstly, is the area where the Sealink route crosses the disused railway line between Thorpe Ness and Aldeburgh. This is part of the King Charles the Third Coastal Path, a very popular circular route between the two places.

00:42:05:03 - 00:42:36:15

The construction will destroy ageing trees and wildflower habitats, especially in the field between the railway line and the B11 22 Leiston Road. It is an important habitat, two for deer, marsh harriers, hobbies, nightingales, winter geese and spoonbills, to name a few on the nearby nature reserve. Noise levels, light levels and construction work will disrupt flight paths, food sources and habitat for breeding.

00:42:36:29 - 00:43:07:12

The permanent access route will damage the countryside. No one will want to go birdwatching or walking there. Be their local residents or visitors. Secondly, I have concerns about the area around Chapel Barn Farm and the Shandling's Path, a long distance path from Lowestoft to Ipswich based on ancient sheep drovers routes along the unique habitat known as the sand lings, which around East Bridge has already been decimated by Sizewell construction.

00:43:07:22 - 00:43:39:29

Similar to the old railway line, footpaths in this area form another well-used circular route around north east Aldeburgh, going across the old aerodrome and golf course and giving spectacular uninterrupted views across the River Alde during construction. These routes, many of which are based on ancient pilgrims routes to the nearby chapel, will be redirected in an unsatisfactory satisfactory way and the whole road will be built nearby. Destroying all that is good about walking in that vicinity.

00:43:40:21 - 00:44:12:02

After construction, it will take a long time for the flora to reach the original degree of maturity and for the damage done by construction to heal. Walking in beautiful countryside is good for our physical and mental health. The noise of construction, traffic and boots walking on redirected, artificially made paths of gravel surrounded by hair of fencing is not good for us. The need to experience greenery, fields, wildflowers, trees and shrubs is why we walk here.

00:44:12:08 - 00:44:20:04

The sound of birdsong, deer rutting and wind rustling through leaves is an important part of that. Let's keep it that way.

00:44:24:09 - 00:44:34:07

Okay. Thank you very much. Um, next, uh, is Mr. Malcolm Watson. Uh, got three minutes. Also, I think you're online.

00:44:34:12 - 00:44:35:12

Yeah. I'm here.



00:44:36:06 - 00:44:39:00

Yes. If you want to start. Yes, I can hear you. That's fine.

00:44:39:02 - 00:45:24:03

Great. Okay. Thank you. Um, yes, I'm speaking also from a personal point of view, like the previous speaker. Um, I'm a resident of Saxmundham. Um, I work locally, and I commute to work every day on a bicycle. And that takes me through the beautiful countryside, where on a regular basis I see buzzards, I see deer, I see hares, I see sunrises, I see sunsets, and I experience nature in its full beauty. And I'm concerned that the cumulative effects of all these different building projects, which we are threatened with, are going to severely threaten my enjoyment, my, my, the well-being I derive from the countryside around me.

00:45:24:06 - 00:45:55:03

Um, the, uh, the threat to the quality of life is palpable. Um, and as a cyclist also, I'm particularly concerned. Um, recently the the railway line has been on replacement buses. Um, due to works that have been going on and, uh, I rely on the, on the bicycle as a means of transport, and, um, obviously the bicycle can't go on a replacement bus, so. So that in a sense limits my, my freedom of movement.

00:45:55:05 - 00:46:26:24

And when I found out recently about the plans for the or the possible plans, if the project goes ahead for the, uh, the bridge at all, um, and that that might entail possible, uh, weeks or months of closure or affecting the line. Um, these small things which are seen individually don't seem like major hardships accumulate, uh, cumulatively come together and bring a sense of foreboding and concern.

00:46:26:26 - 00:46:45:14

On, um, uh, the local area and the way that we interact with the local area. Um, and this is also compounded by, by confusion, which another speaker mentioned. Um, I, I went to the, um, the local, uh, show about the plans, and you've.

00:46:45:16 - 00:46:46:20

Got one minute left.

00:46:46:22 - 00:47:32:04

Thank you very much. And was told that, um, as part of the conversation I had that, um, some of the, the, the intended sort of, um, function of the, of the ceiling or possibly one of the other substations is to be a trading centre where electricity can be traded between the UK and between other countries. And this may or may not be true, but this, uh, contributes to the confusion. Um, and I think it's extraordinary that a sort of trading platform. Um, which is there to, to generate profit could be, um, put into the countryside and that we would then, as local people have to bear the brunt of that while basically sort of, um, underpinning, um, a commercial company's, um, opportunities to trade electricity and make money.

00:47:32:12 - 00:47:42:29

Um, so, um, in terms of local resident and in terms of, um, somebody who enjoys the Suffolk countryside, I strongly oppose this project. Thank you.

00:47:44:00 - 00:47:54:11

Thank you very much. Uh, next we have up, um, Mr. David Argent. He's here. Yes, sir. You have three minutes also.

00:47:54:13 - 00:47:54:28

Thank you.

00:47:55:00 - 00:47:55:15

Very.

00:47:55:17 - 00:47:56:02

Much.

00:47:56:04 - 00:48:31:11

Good evening. I oppose ceiling. It's the wrong solution in the wrong place. It will cause irreversible damage to protected habitat both immediately and for generations to come. Ceiling is being advanced in the absence of any coherent national offshore transmission strategy. It proposes vast onshore infrastructure, converter stations, substations, cable corridors through some of the most sensitive landscapes in Suffolk. While options for offshore coordination, the favoured approach of our European neighbours remain unexplored or sidelined.

00:48:31:27 - 00:49:03:15

This is not grid modernisation, it's grid fragmentation. It risks locking us into a piecemeal approach that ignores the efficiencies and environmental benefits of an integrated offshore grid. The proposed development cuts through the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AoNB, a legally protected landscape of national importance. It threatens rare habitats including ancient woodland, marshland and coastal ecosystems that support species found nowhere else. It drives a coach and horses through the Treasury supported.

00:49:03:17 - 00:49:43:20

2021 Dasgupta Review and the Environment Act of the same year. The construction phase alone would bring years of disruption, noise, light, traffic and ecological stress, not to mention the catastrophic long term effect of the area's vital tourist industry. But the real tragedy is permanent industrialization of a cherished rural corridor, with concrete and steel replacing biodiversity and tranquility. The incoherence of the whole you suffered farrago is demonstrated by the fact that multiple projects are underway already, whilst the supporting infrastructure construction has hardly begun.

00:49:44:04 - 00:50:14:28

No wonder the hundreds of HGVs caused such a delay and disruption. This isn't just about East Suffolk, though. I speak as someone who was born here and knows and loves the area. It's about the principle of stewardship. Once we allow protected land to be blithely sacrificed to expedience, we set a precedent that risks fatally undermining every future designation. Sealing is not a strategic necessity. It's a strategic failure.

00:50:15:17 - 00:50:33:01

It's not a green solution. It's greenwash. I urge the examining authority to reject this application and call for a pause until a national offshore transmission strategy in place, one that respects both energy needs and environmental duty. Thank you very much.

00:50:35:19 - 00:50:43:00

Thank you. Next, also in the room I have Mr. Paul Bongo's giraffe from the Aldabra Society.

00:50:46:18 - 00:50:49:19

Sorry, your microphone is off there. Thank you.

00:50:50:07 - 00:51:21:06

Mr. Roff. And I represent the Auber Society, which is the civic society for the unique and historic coastal town of Aldborough. We have about 350,350 households, mainly residents, but also some businesses and holiday home owners in our membership. And our task is to protect and enhance the town's environment, which is something of a challenge with all these energy projects around. Oba has a long history. Uh, there was shipbuilding. There was.

00:51:21:08 - 00:51:53:08

And there's still a bit of fishing. Uh, more recently, it's become a big center for the arts. And, uh, Benjamin Britten lived here with Peter Piers for most of their adult lives and founded a festival, annual festival of music of the arts, which is still going very strong. Aldeburgh also hosts annual festivals for literature, for poetry, documentary film, um, and food and drink, and it also promotes the popular triathlon, a carnival, uh Boxing Day swim and hosts of community events.

00:51:53:15 - 00:52:23:20

All these events, in addition to the traditional appeal of the beach and the serene coastal and estuary environment, uh, attract visitors from far and wide and are the foundations of our economy. We boast for hotels, numerous restaurants and cafes, and a wide range of accommodation. Also a renowned yacht club, a championship golf course, a mixed programme theatre, a cinema, a library and I could say more. And a vibrant high street with many independent shops.

00:52:24:01 - 00:53:01:03

It's no wonder, then, that the overall society is profoundly worried by the onslaught of energy projects targeting the Heritage Coast. Visitor surveys show that people are attracted by the unsullied environment, the dark skies, the peace and quiet, and the rural hinterland rich in flora and fauna. Construction, traffic. Much mentioned already today on the very inadequate A12 and unsuitable rural roads is already making travel to Aldeburgh more and more difficult. Many people are likely to choose alternative destinations at high costs to our visitor economy.

00:53:02:00 - 00:53:38:29

The astonishing thing about the present situation is that Albert and the neighbouring coast, in both directions, are in an Area of outstanding natural beauty. A national landscape your examiners site. Inspections of the area will have revealed that large parts of the area north and west of Aldeburgh have been scraped bare as part of the Sizewell C project already. Still more destruction is starting now with onshore works for the office for the offshore wind farms. Ironically, householders wishing to

make even quite minor changes to their properties in Aldeburgh are required to seek planning permission because we're in the AoNB.

00:53:39:19 - 00:53:47:04

How on earth can it be seen as acceptable for the developers of energy projects to trample wholesale over this national landscape?

00:53:48:25 - 00:54:25:23

Turning to the details of the Sealink project. Our members have very specific concerns over what is being planned. The cable landfall at Haven Beach would, we are told, be carried out by underground drilling with no visible impact on this much loved recreational area close to the scallop statue honouring Benjamin Britten? Is this really true? What if the fragile coastal structure, demonstrated by the need to demolish two fine houses on the cliff at Thorpe Ness in recent weeks? What if that makes open trench drilling unavoidable? What a mess that would make of a fine recreation area.

00:54:26:15 - 00:55:03:02

Next, the underground drilling is supposed to track under the North Warren Nature Reserve wetland. Again. Would this actually work? The plan then leads into the wide cable corridor to reach the converter station at Saxmundham, destroying or displacing rich flora and fauna. As many others have emphasised, and Saxmundham is outside our area. The thought of a giant industrial building overshadowing that small, historic market town is hard to bear. More destructive cable corridor then continues to the National Grid substation, overshadowing the medieval village of Friston.

00:55:04:02 - 00:55:47:08

The big question being asked by the Open Society is whether any of this horror is actually necessary. It seems absurd to us to bring power generated by offshore wind farms. A shorter Friston, only for it to be shipped out again to south east England where it's needed. Surely it would make much more sense to link offshore wind farms to interconnectors under the sea, and to learn the power close to where it's required. It's deplorable that national government has continued to allow so many one off developer led projects to proceed without, um, apparently any forward plan to create the undersea grid, which is so clearly needed.

00:55:47:12 - 00:56:22:28

There have been many, many studies, many, many reports, but there still seems to be no clear plan. The consequences of this national failure are the construction of far more industrial infrastructure in fragile coastal areas like ours, the destruction of a large part of our so-called national landscape, and the accumulation of uncoordinated, uncoordinated construction traffic and wholly unsuitable roads. The cumulative impact of all this on our residents, our businesses, our visitor economy and our quiet way of life is almost unimaginable.

00:56:23:24 - 00:56:46:19

How can elected governments at all levels allow this to happen? In truth, it makes little sense for this highly undesirable Sealink project to be examined in isolation by the Planning Inspectorate. A much more holistic approach in energy supply planning is an urgent need. This wider dimension must receive the attention it deserves in this examination. Thank you.

00:56:47:19 - 00:57:00:28

Thank you very much. Next, I believe joining us virtually is Andrew Turner as chair of Weston Parish Council. And you have six minutes when you're ready.

00:57:01:22 - 00:57:35:21

Thank you. Good evening. I'm Andrew Turner, chair of Westminster and parish council. Weston is a village five miles north of Bristol and Saxmundham, and a mile inland from the coast. Weston Parish Council supports the detailed representations submitted by the parish and town councils, which will bear the brunt of the construction, the traffic on their Bureau's environmental destruction of the land surrounding their communities, and the resultant physical infrastructure which will loom over their horizons. Like those parishes, Weston is suffering the effects of size or sea construction. Notably, already a 45% increase in peak time traffic through our village.

00:57:35:24 - 00:58:13:13

The extraordinary change in our landscape is that diggers and chainsaws destroy the land of vegetation. The extra time we have to factor into journeys because of endless road closures and seeing we need the speed limits on the A12. I could go on. The Suffolk Heritage Coast. Natural environment is already being reshaped for the worst, so our instinctive reaction to the ceiling project is one of despair. The where due to suffer even more traffic, construction, inconvenience and stress. And so we ask whether it's necessary. Sealing will in effect be an extension cable from Suffolk to Kent. But what power is it planned to transmit? We understand that Scottish power wind farms, electricity can be transmitted over the existing pylon network.

00:58:13:15 - 00:58:52:06

As to the platform size, we'll see. So Sealink is being proposed in anticipation of planning approval for line and presumably other onshore electricity generating projects, attracted by the national grid connection hub at Friston. A well thought out strategic plan for the country's counties would have line linked landfall at brownfield sites near its powers point of use in this scenario, there's no need for Sealink, and without Sealink, potential onshore energy projects would then also be installed closer to their point of use. Consent for Sealink opens the door for more infrastructure projects to be inappropriately and unnecessarily imposed on this small section of Suffolk coast, at great cost to its residents and its landscape.

00:58:52:08 - 00:59:30:15

Yet the applicant seems to dismiss these concerns. It seems to dismiss concerns of these cumulative impacts. Its documents are a litany of explanations for why there are no or limited significant impacts anticipated. When you examine the broader context, it becomes clear this is divorced from reality. Ironically, the applicant quotes the Suffolk County Council Transport Plan for 2025 to 2040 to support its application. That plan outlines themes for Suffolk to reach net zero transport emissions by 2040. Three of the four themes are strengthening Suffolk's economy, protecting and enhancing Suffolk's environment, and promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk.

00:59:30:17 - 01:00:02:14

From from parish councils perspective. This project will do none of these. Rather it will do the complete opposite. We'll see links strengthen Suffolk's economy. Know the core components of the

Suffolk coast economy is tourism. The size will see construction is already expected to reduce significantly. Suffolk tourism industry, so much of which is centred here on this section of the coast. The seeding project will simply compound the problem. If tourists can find accommodation which is not being converted to walk accommodation, they are unlikely to return after experiencing the traffic.

01:00:02:16 - 01:00:37:10

The denied access of public rights of way and the construction of vistas. Conversely, Sealink will generate few local jobs during construction and, by its own admission, almost none for its operation. Will Sealink protect and enhance the environment? No. It will turn a usable shingle beach marshlands into a construction zone. It will require the destruction of vegetation to change the cables that will result in the 16 acre, 26 metre high building in a field between a small village and a market town. The applicant has assessed flood risks, but flood risks have changed in recent years and will likely worsen with time.

01:00:37:12 - 01:01:13:09

This is environmental destruction, not protection. And when you consider that line link which creates the need for sea link or follow and required drinks, you have many more miles and require another huge building next to sea links. It's simply extraordinary that this can be presented as anything other than environmental devastation. Mitigation is proposed, but it will be decades before these buildings are shielded by trees and saved decades during which this landscape will be an industrial, will be industrial and not rural. We'll see, link, promote and support health and well-being. No. See link and then lion link and then whatever follows will only exacerbate the negative health and wellbeing impacts of our residents.

01:01:13:11 - 01:01:43:24

Sadly, we know what to expect. Size will see what so accustomed us to the sudden disappearance of hedgerows and mature trees, and appearance of bare fields and sandbanks. Sea link will do more of the same. It will generate traffic, noise and light pollution and leave a huge building completely inappropriate to its surroundings. And the applicant proposes seven day working weeks. The health impacts of these changes possibly cannot be measured, but they will be very, very real. The size of the demonstration outside the Maltings today is a clear indication of residents concern.

01:01:43:26 - 01:02:17:10

And what about the transport network itself? Gloucester County Council aims to make net zero by 2040. The additional 346 HGV journeys each day on the local roads are going to challenge that objective and these are, of course, in addition to the seismicity and Scottish power traffic. Um, and then add the traffic caused by line link and the other energy projects which have been drawn there by the Friston substation and facilitated by senior minute left. And what about road safety and safety? Generally, emergency service vehicles be slow to respond to emergencies in our village and in the case of ambulances, then slower to get back to the hospitals.

01:02:17:12 - 01:02:59:08

What happens when an accident blocks the roads? Emergency services response time. So they further jeopardised and and traffic will move to local roads. In fact, traffic is likely to move off the A12 to local roads, so try to avoid the heavy congestion. The fact that the county council's planning works to improve the A12 showed that it is not suitable for the expected uplift and traffic volumes, but these

works will coincide with the traffic increases themselves, resulting in greater congestion and safety impacts. We know that the B1 125 it's faster through Wellington is not a part of the HGV routing plan, but will LGV and worker traffic coming from the north be allowed to use the road, which is already a run for the sizeable clubs and workers.

01:02:59:17 - 01:03:13:18

We appreciate that the grid needs updating to meet the the changing energy generation options and energy demands, but it needs to be realised under a planning strategy which is proportionate to its considerations of needs, options and impacts. The fact that this project has been.

01:03:13:20 - 01:03:21:20

Okay, sorry, you've just run out of time there, but um, you've actually got another three minutes as an individual. Um, so.

01:03:21:27 - 01:03:24:17

I'll finish that last sentence and then we can find next.

01:03:24:19 - 01:03:26:06

Okay. That's fine. Okay.

01:03:26:14 - 01:03:59:10

Thank you. The fact that this project has been proposed suggests the planning rethink is required, because better options are possible, and because the project cannot be considered in isolation. The cumulative environmental, economic, and social impacts of all of these energy projects must be fully considered together. Um. And I'll now carry on as myself. Um, I was going to start by saying I agree with everything the previous speaker said. Um, I've lived in Weston for over 20 years. I've been coming to the village since I was a child, as is my sister, who with her husband now lived part time in Sternfeld.

01:03:59:12 - 01:04:34:03

We all love the sea, the coast and walking the mad dogs in the Suffolk coastal area, and particularly on footpaths around the fields of Stamford. We can't understand why the national grid and the government believes that turning this small corner of the country, which is deeply rural, into an industrial zone, is acceptable. Certainly it's an easy decision, but is it a good decision? It may generate economic activity of 15 plus year period, but it will do so at the expense of the tourist sector, which is the mainstay of the local economy. And it will move labour from providing services to the local community to working for short term and infrastructure projects, leaving the community short of skills and services it needs.

01:04:34:09 - 01:05:20:12

Is it a good decision to build the first, or possibly a few, huge, 26 metre high industrial buildings in a rural setting? Is it a good decision to provide people who live in the countryside of countryside, walks around and life in Stone field will never be the same? First the backdrop will be heavy traffic on roads, cranes on horizons, diggers and dump trucks rumbling away, and evenings will be played by light pollution. And then the backdrop will be a huge industrial building, completely disproportionate size to anything around. And then the process will be repeated because the other projects which

because the other projects which we expect to follow, we understand that there are other more appropriate solutions to get this energy to where it is needed, which wouldn't be at our or anyone else's expense, as it would use brownfield sites away from rural and urban communities.

01:05:20:14 - 01:05:50:04

But these have been discounted. Why? And if it is deemed that there is really no better alternative, could the buildings be sunk into the ground so they do not tower over everything else. But bottom line, my sister's family and I feel that the residents of this small part of the UK are expected to accept that our quality of life and our unique environmental habitat is an acceptable sacrifice for national grid profit. This seems a wrongheaded and disproportionate approach, and I hope the result of this examination is that National Grid are required to rethink their plans. Thank you.

01:05:50:06 - 01:05:51:11

One minute left.

01:05:51:18 - 01:05:52:11

Thank you.

01:05:54:08 - 01:06:14:11

Thank you very much. Uh, yeah. Thank you very much to all your contributions for that group. Um, the, um, next group I'm going to call is, uh, I've got a Richard Featherstone. Uh, Glynnis Robertson, Paul Smith, Simon O'Malley, and Nicola Winter. I believe you're all here tonight.

01:06:49:06 - 01:06:55:15

Okay. Um, uh, I've got the name Richard Featherstone. Yes, sir.

01:06:55:20 - 01:06:56:24

Hello. Hello. Good evening.

01:06:56:26 - 01:07:01:08

My name is Richard Featherstone. I'm a resident of Snape. I live at the top of the.

01:07:01:10 - 01:07:32:10

Village, which, um, means that it's very close to the A1 094, which comes from the top of the village. And the effect of that road is to separate up to 12 houses on the other side, and the church from the rest of the facilities to the village. Um, so those houses are on the way, 194 in the village. They need access onto the road. It's very difficult to get access because of the amount of traffic. The A1 094 at the moment is extremely busy. From very early in the morning to late at night.

01:07:32:12 - 01:08:03:00

There are there is huge amounts of construction traffic. We were also assured that the Sizewell traffic would go a different route. I can tell you there is a lot of sizeable traffic uses. The A110 for ambulance is needed as access through to Olbia. It's the only way that ambulances can get through to Aldeburgh. Um, the road is very difficult to cross. Um, it's extremely busy. Um, it's absolutely full now.

01:08:03:02 - 01:08:08:17



There is huge amounts of traffic on it and I don't think it can take any more. Thank you.

01:08:11:01 - 01:08:16:05

Okay. Thank you. And next, uh, Glynis Robertson.

01:08:16:11 - 01:08:17:05

Thank you.

01:08:17:11 - 01:08:51:24

Um, my name is Glynis Robertson, and I'm a local resident and member of Sea's Suffolk Energy Action Solutions. I want you to start by saying that I fully support Fiona Gilmore's representation on behalf of C's. I'd also like to thank the examining authority for upholding these face to face hearings here in Snape Maltings and in Kent. It's so important for communities like ours to be heard in person. However, I am very concerned that the panel has only been given six months, as set by government to examine what a really two separate Dsos, one in Kent and one here in Suffolk.

01:08:51:26 - 01:09:26:27

And now, with the request to increase the order limits in both regions. The local people simply don't have enough time to take in all or respond properly. It feels like a very unfair process. I believe National Grid has brought forward its DCO too early, leaving everyone, the panel, stakeholders, councils and communities trying to deal with twice the amount of normal workload and still facing a long list of unresolved issues. Here in Suffolk Coastal, we already have seven major energy projects on the go.

01:09:27:04 - 01:09:57:05

Councils are struggling to keep up with the sizeable sea and Scottish powers. Endless discharge notices, 287 of them, sorry, 287 of them so far, some running to 50 pages each. Adding Sea Link and line link. New solar farms, battery and hydrogen storage will stretch resources even further, and with the new combined county authority coming in in 2026, we risk losing local planning knowledge and connections with parish councils.

01:09:57:07 - 01:10:33:17

Staff are already under pressure, leading to box ticking rather than real engagement. The government's rush to hit 2030 targets has put everyone on an unrealistic timetable. Without proper evidence and enough time, it's impossible to do a thorough examination. And the truth is sealing isn't even needed. The existing size of altar Bramford pillars could be upgraded for a fraction of the cost, saving consumers over £1 billion. Besides, there won't be enough power to justify it until 2035 or 2040 when size will see.

01:10:33:19 - 01:11:06:08

Might come online if it ever does. It would make far more sense to pause and review this project then, and to connect directly from Sizewell, not Friston. Right now we're in a kind of renewables gold rush, chasing a false 2030 deadline. Instead of looking at long term, smarter solutions like integrated offshore grid, something many European countries are already doing successfully. The UK should be falling that example, not rushing ahead with outdated plans.

01:11:06:15 - 01:11:18:09

For all these reasons, I urge the panel not to recommend Sealink. It risks becoming a costly white elephant financially, environmentally and socially. Thank you for listening.

01:11:20:16 - 01:11:29:03

Thank you very much. Um, now I've got a Paul Smith who, um, I believe he's might be joining us virtually. Is Paul Smith there?

01:11:37:00 - 01:11:38:19

No. Paul Smith? No.

01:11:40:11 - 01:11:42:20

Okay, we'll move on for now. Um,

01:11:44:17 - 01:11:48:00

uh, is Simon O'Malley available online?

01:11:57:28 - 01:12:12:21

Okay, so. Well, we'll leave. We'll move on for the time being. Uh, I believe, um, uh, Nicola Winter isn't here, actually. So, um, what I'll do is move on to the next set of people. So thank you very much for that.

01:12:21:17 - 01:12:35:06

So now I've got a Ian Brown, Wendy Island, uh, Flora Grantham Hardy, Katie Tansley and Angus Hadley Hardy, chair of great Glennon parish Council.

01:12:53:15 - 01:12:59:03

Okay, first of all, three minutes for Ian Brown.

01:13:01:19 - 01:13:56:12

Hello. My name is Ian Brown and I'm a resident of Aldeburgh. I would like to take this opportunity with inspectors to state my opposition to this DCO application proposed to land on our Heritage Coast. The consultation procedures that we've collectively endured over recent years have been merely box ticking exercises by the developers and National Grid. There's been no genuine consideration of communities views, nor serious attempts by Njit to consider the landfall options apparent in brownfield sites, and the obvious alternate alternative of the modular offshore grid, the driving element to this process, the 2030 timeline, is widely deemed to be increasingly unrealistic and should be reconsidered, while also revising and implementing a more holistic, strategic approach to UK energy policy.

01:13:56:18 - 01:14:35:23

It would be fit for 21st century and beyond. Sadly, at the moment it is not well. The UK has laid claim to being a world leader in renewables. Our neighbours across the North Sea, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany have advanced with future proof deployment of offshore grid technology. It is clear that Sealink is one of many energy projects scheduled for land grab and landfall in coastal Suffolk, and

that is on top of the invasive construction process already underway with size will see the cumulative impact will have horrendous results for the environment and communities of this region.

01:14:37:03 - 01:15:08:19

It's ironic that these hearings begin. As these hearings begin, there are at least four more related forums and consultation events being held in this area today, and only this week, plans have emerged to deliver water from already depleted local resources to size. Will see this rule in agricultural area is being denuded of its basic natural resources by the excessive demands of this and other energy projects, and we're already experiencing the destructive presence in this region.

01:15:09:15 - 01:15:43:22

I fully support and agree with previous statements made by other community representatives and Suffolk Energy Action Solutions, and I greatly support the aims for renewable energy. But these are the wrong projects in the wrong place, and the cumulative impact in this region is already evident for all to see. It's time for the Energy Secretary, Mr. Miliband and NSO to pause this feverish push to 2030 at all costs and consider the alternatives, especially offshore. I do hope that the inspectors will recognise these views as valid.

01:15:44:09 - 01:15:52:00

The last thing we all want is an energy version of HS2, because I fear that is where we're headed. Thank you for listening.

01:15:55:18 - 01:15:59:06

Thank you. And next I've got Wendy Island.

01:16:00:28 - 01:16:11:12

Thank you. I'm a resident and active community member and president of Friston Village, and I'm deeply troubled by this application and wish to formally object. Sorry.

01:16:11:14 - 01:16:11:29

I know.

01:16:12:29 - 01:16:13:21

We are a small.

01:16:13:23 - 01:16:14:08

Rural.

01:16:14:10 - 01:16:15:04

Community are.

01:16:15:06 - 01:16:15:21

Being.

01:16:15:23 - 01:16:16:16

Asked to bear too much.

01:16:16:18 - 01:16:17:16

Pressure and large.

01:16:17:18 - 01:16:20:18

Scale construction and industrialization.

01:16:22:05 - 01:16:23:05

Excuse me.

01:16:24:23 - 01:16:26:27

Cumulative impact is real.

01:16:27:04 - 01:16:28:09

What it does. What does it.

01:16:28:11 - 01:16:31:05

Mean to us locally? Living here at a daily lives?

01:16:31:28 - 01:16:32:15

Sorry.

01:16:35:18 - 01:16:36:05

We live.

01:16:36:07 - 01:16:36:22

With.

01:16:36:24 - 01:16:37:09

Uncertainty.

01:16:37:11 - 01:16:37:26

About.

01:16:37:28 - 01:16:38:13

Our.

01:16:38:15 - 01:16:39:00

Future.

01:16:39:02 - 01:16:39:17

Because.

01:16:39:19 - 01:16:40:12

Developers are playing.

01:16:40:15 - 01:16:41:04

The planning.

01:16:41:06 - 01:16:42:09

System by asking for.

01:16:42:11 - 01:16:43:26

One approval at a time.

01:16:44:17 - 01:16:45:15

At least we've sized.

01:16:45:17 - 01:16:46:02

Or.

01:16:46:04 - 01:16:46:19

We.

01:16:46:21 - 01:16:47:06

Know the scale.

01:16:47:08 - 01:16:47:23

And limit of.

01:16:47:25 - 01:16:48:10

The.

01:16:48:12 - 01:16:48:27

Plans.

01:16:48:29 - 01:16:57:16

In Friston, this whole thing started with what appeared to be a small development in the middle of a field. This has grown and grown. We had no.

01:16:58:03 - 01:16:58:18

Sorry.

01:17:00:06 - 01:17:34:07

We had no idea what we would eventually have or when it will end. The multiple companies involved in the proposed construction of the substation and cable links don't talk to each other. So we get different stories about what is happening and when. They don't actively communicate with us, and they certainly don't use plain English. We need one version of the truth. It is impossible to walk or drive anywhere locally without being impacted by construction and traffic. Yet they tell us that the works have not even begun yet, so things can only get worse.

01:17:35:28 - 01:18:18:02

Frustrated drivers are speeding through are usually sleepy villages trying to catch up on their delays. Medical appointments have been missed, children are getting to school late, and it is impossible to get to work on time because of traffic and constantly changing roadworks. Nature is being devastated. Our area is totally unsuited to the scale of construction being proposed, and we see precious agricultural land being torn up. We promised we need a promise now that the clear there will be clear limits on the number of connections, and we won't be back here next year, or the year after, or five years time for a further, ever expanding site in forest and on top of the substations converter stations.

01:18:18:04 - 01:18:48:21

And now there is talk of the UK's largest solar farm. This is making villagers sick with worry. And what about. And what will happen next? Houses don't sell without prices being slashed by hundreds of thousands of pounds. As well as my formal objection. I have five requests for National Grid and Scottish Power and any companies involved. Be honest about your plans. Communicate with the villages. Improve communication. Talk to us as people, not lawyers.

01:18:48:23 - 01:18:53:07

And tell us what the limits are. Reassure us about our future.

01:18:59:02 - 01:19:00:02

Thank you very much.

01:19:03:20 - 01:19:07:27

Next. Next. We have Flora from Hardy.

01:19:10:25 - 01:19:16:15

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. Um, I would like to begin with a pause.

01:19:23:14 - 01:19:59:13

A pause, creates space and gives us all space to think, to assess, and to make better decisions. This is the essence of my response to this application, that we take a strategic pause and review before permitting. Sealink. Sealink marks an unprecedented historic moment, not just for Suffolk and Kent, but for the United Kingdom as a whole. It will shape whether our clean energy transition is a story of innovation and integration, or one of fragmentation and devastating loss.

01:20:00:09 - 01:20:33:13

Why this moment? Why this project? Across the world, we are entering a new energy age rooted in renewables. Renewables are a fluctuating supply. Rising and falling with wind and daylight to make them work. Integration is essential. Globally, technology and financial models are moving decisively towards such integrated systems. Again, integration is not an option.

01:20:33:15 - 01:21:14:03

It is vital to any viable future. Crucially, and this is what I'd particularly like to bring attention to. There have been recent breakthroughs in energy data analysis, which allows the financing of distributed energy systems. These enable the seamless integration of offshore interconnections and

offshore grids. Innovations that did not exist a few years ago. These financial models blend public and private investment with digital capital, accelerating delivery while reducing the burden on taxpayers and the immeasurable burden on the environment and our human lives.

01:21:14:23 - 01:21:47:21

Sealink, as currently proposed, is not part of this new energy ecosystem or these financial models. Instead, it is nested within a fragmented model that, by design, generates waste cost and cumulative impacts. The clearest example is constraint payments. Unused wind energy costs the UK 806,000,000 in 2021, and is projected to reach 2.5 billion a year by 2025.

01:21:47:27 - 01:22:14:02

At a time where public schools cannot afford colored pencils. So my request is twofold. Please consider this proposal within the context of the cumulative impact of existing applications, and please consider reviewing an integrated offshore designs in light of the innovation in financing for such distributed systems.

01:22:16:28 - 01:22:17:21

Thank you.

01:22:19:09 - 01:22:22:11

And next we have Katie Tansley.

01:22:23:15 - 01:22:24:08

This work.

01:22:24:16 - 01:22:26:11

Um, good evening everybody.

01:22:26:13 - 01:22:28:16

I'm here because.

01:22:28:22 - 01:22:29:12

I've.

01:22:29:14 - 01:22:29:29

Lived.

01:22:30:01 - 01:22:30:16

In this.

01:22:30:18 - 01:22:31:03

Area for.

01:22:31:05 - 01:22:31:20

Many.

01:22:31:22 - 01:22:32:11

Many decades.

01:22:32:13 - 01:22:35:21

I've worked here. I brought up my family.

01:22:35:23 - 01:22:36:22

Is that better?

01:22:36:27 - 01:22:37:15

Um.

01:22:37:18 - 01:22:43:11

And I know the area so well. I've grown to love it. I live in Bethel.

01:22:43:13 - 01:22:44:00

Actually.

01:22:44:02 - 01:22:44:17

And.

01:22:44:19 - 01:22:45:04

Saxmundham.

01:22:45:06 - 01:22:47:02

Is my market town. I don't.

01:22:47:04 - 01:22:47:19

Have.

01:22:47:21 - 01:22:48:06

A.

01:22:48:08 - 01:22:48:23

Car.

01:22:48:25 - 01:22:49:10

Anymore.

01:22:49:12 - 01:22:54:28

And I walk and I cycle between the two. And I know all the footpaths and all the little side roads.

01:22:55:00 - 01:22:55:15

And.



01:22:55:17 - 01:22:56:28

So on. And the reason I'm.

01:22:57:00 - 01:22:57:15

Here.

01:22:57:17 - 01:23:04:00

Is because I want to express my feeling, very strong feelings of sadness.

01:23:04:02 - 01:23:04:22

And.

01:23:04:24 - 01:23:05:15

Loss.

01:23:05:17 - 01:23:06:02

At.

01:23:06:04 - 01:23:43:22

The prospect of this industrialization, cumulative industrialization of our beautiful, Beautiful sand lings and Suffolk coastal area, which I've grown to love over the decades. The destruction that we're already seeing and it hasn't begun yet. The destruction of the hedgerows and the trees and the ploughing up of land. Loss of agricultural land. Loss of wonderful habitats and also small remnant habitats which were just beginning to learn about are all just so negative and serious.

01:23:43:24 - 01:24:17:15

And the other thing that's really important is especially because of transport problems and massive lorries on roads and the buildup of traffic. There's going to be, um, dislocation of our communities, our villages, with our market towns. Just thinking, because I'm nearly 11, 21, just thinking of getting from Beryl to Saxmundham on a bicycle or with a pushchair, or you might like to walk by the hedgerow and see the stars. Um, it's just going to have such a serious impact.

01:24:17:20 - 01:25:00:07

Ours is such a wonderful area. It's renowned for its heritage, not just Saxmundham, Aldeburgh. All our coast is renowned, world renowned really for culture, history, heritage. Here we are in Snape Maltings. Tomorrow I'm helping at the Poetry Festival. I just think it's going to have such a drastic impact on us psychologically, with our wellbeing and mental health as local people and the economic impact, because our main industry is actually tourism and visitors and nature, and it's wonderful and I'm very upset that it's going to be degraded.

01:25:00:17 - 01:25:01:13

Thank you.

01:25:04:06 - 01:25:10:02

Okay. Thank you. And last I've got, uh, Mr. Hardy, chair of Glenarm Parish Council.

01:25:10:13 - 01:25:12:11

Thank you, chair, and thank you for the opportunity.

01:25:12:13 - 01:25:13:11

To speak today on behalf.

01:25:13:13 - 01:25:50:21

Of Greg LeMond Parish Council. Greg LeMond has submitted detailed written representation, and this short statement focuses on the key strategic matters most relevant to parish experiences and the examination, which we see as the cumulative impacts transport, the changing infrastructure context, continued testing of site logic and the need for coordinated mitigation and delivery across schemes. In addition to these wider strategic matters, we recognise that host and neighbouring parishes, residents and other groups have raised concerns regarding the suitability and build ability of the project.

01:25:50:23 - 01:26:24:10

While we do not repeat these submissions here, they reinforce the need for continuous evidence based testing of site logic. As the infrastructure baseline evolves. Greg LeMond is not directly hosting, but we still sit on key movement tours, particularly around the A12. The primary impacts fall on host parishes whose roles and concerns we support, but our community will experience secondary and real effects, particularly from construction traffic access pressures onto the A12 and other routes and cumulative infrastructure activity.

01:26:24:21 - 01:27:19:26

As such, our comments are focused on transport resilience, environmental protection and good planning practice. So firstly, in terms of site logic and updated context, beyond wider discussions of the role of seat link, since initial site selection, the infrastructure baseline has changed and largely because of the infrastructure projects that are revolving around us in line with good planning practice. It is right, we feel, to ensure this location continues to perform best when tested against current strategic conditions, including the evolving A12, A14 corridors and port related capacities and brownfield sites, we request and seek reassurance that decision making follows the evidence as it evolves in relation to site selection, in particular transport and access to the A12.

01:27:20:00 - 01:27:22:00

This is our most direct concern.

01:27:23:16 - 01:27:47:17

The A12 is already under stress. Rural lanes are narrow and multi-use, and agriculture, school and local traffic share constrained networks. We ask therefore, that transport modelling explicitly includes neighbouring parishes. A12, junction and peak time effects are fully assessed and unsuitable diversion routes are avoided. Rural road conditions are monitored and repaired

01:27:49:03 - 01:28:22:26

in terms of the cumulative impact. We've heard much of this already today and also on delivery. Our concerns relate to the combined transport, environmental, landscape and administrative effects of multiple nationally significant energy projects in the same geography. We know this isn't your remit,

but we ask that it should be. These cannot be fully understood or mitigated in isolation. Communities, ecology and landscapes are experienced as layers, not siloed schemes. If approved, mitigations proposed are silo two in their current form.

01:28:23:09 - 01:29:01:03

This lack of strategic coordination means nature recovery, rural roads, parishes, all the issues that are being affected and being addressed by mitigation do not feel currently supported at the cumulative scale of development, with multiple scale schemes of this scale. Cumulative cumulative mitigation must be shared, aligned and delivered across schemes. We therefore suggest a programme level delivery approach across projects, ensuring coordinated routes, environmental measures, engagement and mitigation rather than multiple isolated delivery tracks.

01:29:02:21 - 01:29:37:12

We ask the examining authority to consider recommending a cross scheme. Governance mechanism has also been raised already today, ensuring parish councils and other local groups have a structured role in this process, and in this we ask for support for parish councils. Parish councils are volunteer led and under extreme pressure in the current climate. Cumulative infrastructure pressure and places real impact on class councillors and community capacity. If consent is granted, we will need clear and consistent points of contact.

01:29:37:14 - 01:30:15:25

Timely, accessible information. Practical guidance on mitigation mechanisms and access to mitigation schemes and, where appropriate, support for parish administration capacity. This is a particularly in reference to host parishes. Complex infrastructure requires in itself engaged in supported communities and this, I feel, must be addressed. In conclusion, we ask that cumulative cumulative impacts are assessed transparently. Parish councils are properly resourced and site logistic and logic continues to be tested against today's infrastructure realities.

01:30:15:27 - 01:30:32:20

It is clear that the region is being asked to accommodate a concentrated programme of national projects. Success will require a serious, coordinated and well resourced approach so that communities and landscapes are not only protected but strengthened. Thank you.

01:30:35:06 - 01:30:35:25

Thank you all.

01:30:38:20 - 01:30:51:19

And I'll just call for the final group. Um, Nigel Harley, Henrietta Palmer, Helen Napier and Arina Tirana.

01:31:18:25 - 01:31:26:21

Welcome. First of all, three minutes for each of you at this point. And it's Nigel Hailey. First of all.

01:31:27:00 - 01:31:59:00

My wife and I moved to Saxmundham over 13 years ago. During that time, we've both become involved in the community. I served as a town councillor for four years during Covid and inquiry. I

also volunteer with the Green Town's Green team, which helps maintain our green spaces. We both saw Saxmundham as our final move until the energy project started to disrupt our lives. During the last year, we've discussed moving on two occasions and now for a third time when the Essex and Suffolk Water Project proposals drop through our letterbox.

01:31:59:02 - 01:32:35:03

Each new application makes us anxious and uncertain about the future. The sheer cruelty to expect people to live their lives as normal with such a plethora of challenges. Worse still, many of these projects, although connected, are treated in isolation, discussed separately, even though we know they are linked together. It is obvious from the proposals that have been submitted. The Dingle has not absorbed the lessons of Belgium, and the Netherlands have shown us that an offshore grid can be both simpler and cheaper, for this privatised company prefers to carry on stringing wires across our countryside like lights on a Christmas tree.

01:32:35:15 - 01:33:13:20

It is rewarding the shareholders and executives at the expense of its customers in this country. It fails the primary test of delivering electricity to the point where it is required, in the most cost effective and least damaging way in adopting this approach. It also hopes to achieve the government's stated target in decarbonising the grid by 2030. We all know that this laudable aim will not be achieved as much as the electricity that falls, that flows through the continental interconnectors will not be generated from either renewables or nuclear.

01:33:13:27 - 01:33:32:15

Additionally, it blights any chance to Saxmundham future development as a community where people can live and work. As it ends, any prospect of development to the east of the town. Perhaps we should introduce the Minister for Housing and Energy Security and net zero to each other.

01:33:34:23 - 01:34:08:20

Is Suffolk buckling under the weight of the developments that is being asked to host? This has been brought about by the failure of successive governments to plan to secure our energy supplies. We are now at the point where a government is taking panic action to achieve this, regardless of the damage that it inflicts on the natural environment and in direct opposition to its avowed intention to enhance nature. It accuses those who question its approach as NIMBYs. Well, I am not a Nimby and I welcome the development of renewable energy sources.

01:34:08:22 - 01:34:43:08

I would also welcome the opportunity for local communities to develop their own energy networks, along with increased investment in upgrading the energy efficiency of a housing stock, which together will help millions who are struggling to pay their energy bills. If we are reduced to name calling, then I accuse this government and its privatised allies of being Luddites who are sticking to outdated technologies, rather than investing in the new technology which can secure our future.

01:34:43:10 - 01:34:53:20

And I hope this inquiry will agree with me that this project is unfit for purpose and send in. Get back to the drawing board. Thank you.

01:34:56:14 - 01:35:00:15

Thank you. And next we have, um, Henrietta Palmer.

01:35:07:28 - 01:35:14:12

Um, thank you for holding this consultation. Um, uh, this summer, the beach at Sizewell has.

01:35:14:14 - 01:35:14:29

Had a.

01:35:15:01 - 01:35:50:12

Rich layer of warm yellow sand. It's only just recently that I've realized that it's been washed down from the eroding cliffs at Thorpe Ness, which lost three meters to the sea this year. I was walking there looking at the Sizewell C cranes on the beach and met my neighbour. Have you heard that bird? She said, it goes on and on all bloomin night and it won't shut up. I recorded it and looked it up. It's a nightingale. We have never had them in the trees here before. In fact, there were about six nightingales calling for each other, displaced from the 24,000 trees that have been cut down for size will see.

01:35:51:00 - 01:36:04:17

Ditto with the turtle doves. My my neighbor spotted five in the woods by her place. You would not believe the increase in roadkill as the wildlife are pushed from pillar to post here. Badgers. Foxes.

01:36:04:19 - 01:36:05:04

Hare.

01:36:05:06 - 01:36:22:17

I went up an incline and was shocked to see eight hooves sticking out of the verge. It was two massive red deer killed by a car. These are very rare birds and the deer do not just live at mincemeat. They live across this area and the habitat is being systematically blown up, as is ours.

01:36:24:13 - 01:36:57:01

The cumulative impact of so many insects in this area is totally overwhelming. It is already difficult for me to get out of the area I live in. Even more difficult for friends and family to get in the traffic. The road works the 30 mile an hour speed limit across the area. The lack of clarity as to where the roads are closed at night will make getting around difficult. Last week we heard of yet another Nsic project in this area and a project by the county council to upgrade the A12.

01:36:58:19 - 01:37:21:12

I've tried to contact Scottish Power and National Grid to get some idea of how many people there projects will bring into the area, and I never get an answer. There's nobody to call. And um, so I was forced to look it up and it said that, uh, each energy project supports 3500 jobs. Is that how many people are coming here for each project?

01:37:24:00 - 01:38:01:11

How on earth can National Grid's consultations with their closed ended questions be considered? Adequate consultation with local people? If you really have to put so Sealink substation in this area,

co-located with two other 26 metre high substations lit at night with gantry and the usual fencing, Why is it being looted for the highest piece of land for miles around an open piece of land on a main local road, separated by a narrow belt of trees from houses travelling along this road from either direction, you are forced to look straight into the field and at the substations.

01:38:01:17 - 01:38:14:10

Nothing can improve the visuals of a 45 meter high structure in this position. Sorry, 26, let alone three of them. From a purely practical point of view. This is a main road ferrying workers to and from Sizewell.

01:38:14:12 - 01:38:28:22

So the time has just run out there, is it? It's okay. Okay. I mean, if there's got anything else you can submit it in writing to us. Okay. Thank you very much. And then we've got, um, Helen Napier, uh, join us virtually.

01:38:30:28 - 01:38:32:05

Mr. Napier, are you there? No.

01:38:35:11 - 01:38:43:05

Sorry. I didn't kind of hear that. We were up to me already. Yeah. You know how that happens. I thought I'd be on at midnight at this rate.

01:38:44:22 - 01:38:45:24

Can you hear me? Okay.

01:38:45:26 - 01:38:47:04

Yes. That's fine.

01:38:47:08 - 01:38:47:23

Can you.

01:38:47:25 - 01:38:50:06

Tell? You've got three minutes. Yeah, you can start now.

01:38:50:20 - 01:39:29:27

Okay. I've just set my timer. Um, so I am a local resident, and I am deeply concerned by the complete lack of transparency of National Grid in respect of a comprehensive cost benefit analysis for the proposed ceiling project. There has been much publicity regarding the benefits of the project, but much less about the cost to our communities, our small local businesses, and our heritage coastline and areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Sealink proposal calls for a converter station to be built at the edge of sex, Mandan, on valuable agricultural land needed for our future food security.

01:39:29:29 - 01:40:01:28

A huge industrial complex dumped on this ancient rural market town. A project that will bring no economic benefit to our businesses or long term economic employment for our communities that will scar our landscape, destroy our tourist industry and the micro businesses that are part of this Suffolk

culture. This is not something that our local and rural environment can withstand. Size will see is enough, and this project will only bring long term hardship to our communities.

01:40:02:00 - 01:40:34:01

There are also health concerns due to the massive electric power lines known to be a health risk. Already, with the current projects underway. There are significant increases in traffic and businesses and tourism are being impacted. I'm sure the cost to the national grid makes sense. It is the cheapest option, no doubt, and that will benefit their American and Middle Eastern shareholders. We have lobbied National Grid to build their converter station off shore or on a brownfield site.

01:40:34:03 - 01:41:11:06

And as our European neighbors are doing, that makes sense. ScottishPower renewables, first ever offshore converter station has been successfully installed last month, 40 miles off the Suffolk coast at a cost of 4 billion. If it makes economic sense for Scottish Power Renewables, then why not for National Grid? For future generations, we have a responsibility not to destroy this unique environment and protect our tourism and food industry, supporting a stable future not just for this environment but for the whole of the UK.

01:41:11:25 - 01:41:57:12

The recently come to light Ben or Railway Bridge is a debacle in terms of not proper planning process to get the right outcomes and really, National Grid need to submit a revised planning application that takes into account this new, significant and alarming oversight. The overall development Consent Order for Sealink must not be granted without further review of the options and in the light of the cumulative cumulative impact on alternatives. And I hope the representatives here today from the Planning Inspectorate are not paying lip service to this process, as we have seen with National Grid, who have continued to confuse and lack genuine integrity in the consultation process.

01:41:58:26 - 01:42:00:19

That's three minutes exactly.

01:42:00:21 - 01:42:04:11

Yes. That's good. All right. Well done. Thank you very much.

01:42:04:13 - 01:42:05:08

Thank you.

01:42:05:20 - 01:42:12:17

And next. And lastly, we've got Irina Tehrani. Turina. I hope I pronounce that right.

01:42:13:08 - 01:42:14:07

Good evening.

01:42:14:09 - 01:42:48:16

My name is Irina Tolosa. I've been a local resident. Over the last two years, and I wish to express my strong objection to the national grid ceiling proposals. And I fully support the Alternative Offshore

initiative put forward by Seas, which offers a more sustainable and less harmful approach. What drew me, and continues to draw so many people to Suffolk, is its extraordinary care for history and nature.

01:42:49:01 - 01:43:22:24

The local communities here have a truly reverent attitude towards the land they live on. They live in houses built in 17th century, preserving them not as relics but as living history. They walk the same lanes their ancestors did, restoring and maintaining rather than replacing them by woodland and meadows, not for profit, but to protect them, its wildlife and the quiet continuity of rural life in this context.

01:43:22:28 - 01:43:57:00

The Sealink project feels entirely alien, industrial, intrusive and frankly, non-British and Spirit. Suffolk has given Britain an incredible wealth of talent. Writers, artists, you name them. People inspired by the beauty, light and stillness of this place. It is heartbreaking to see this same landscape now facing widespread destruction in the name of expedience and financial interest.

01:43:57:18 - 01:44:32:06

If Suffolk becomes a county when nature is sacrificed for corporate greed, not only its biodiversity but a vital part of British cultural and emotional heritage will be lost forever and a dangerous precedent will be set and spread across the whole of Britain, eroding the very landscapes and values that have always defined this nation. Please let me quote His Majesty King Charles the Third.

01:44:32:26 - 01:45:15:14

Nature is our sustainer. We are part of nature. Therefore that we do for her. We do to ourselves. His philosophy of harmony reminds us that the health of people, place and planet are inseparable, and when we disturb that balance, everyone pays the price. So I respectfully urge the examining authority to consider not only the technical aspects of this proposal, but its human and moral dimensions, and to stand with those who have cared for Suffolk's land and legacy for generations.

01:45:15:24 - 01:45:16:21

Thank you.

01:45:17:08 - 01:45:17:26

Thank you.

01:45:21:21 - 01:46:03:00

Hey. Thank you. Um, and thank you for all your contributions this evening. Both those here and also online. Their comments have been very useful to us and we shall consider them more fully. We have heard everyone registered to speak in this session, but do not have enough time to add to any unregistered additional speakers. Now, we will potentially have a time in the sessions tomorrow, so please contact the case team. If you didn't get a chance to speak today and would like to. Um, as we noted earlier, if you could submit what you've said in writing by deadline one A, which is currently the 26th of November 2025, that would be very useful for us.

01:46:03:02 - 01:46:10:03



And also the applicant is to provide a detailed written response to everything that is heard today. Also a deadline one a.

01:46:12:16 - 01:46:22:18

So we will now adjourn this hearing and it will recommence with session three at 10 a.m. here tomorrow morning. Thank you and good night.