



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Sea Link
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Date:	6 November 2025

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

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:04:15 - 00:00:35:22

Good afternoon. The time is now 325 and we will recommence the meeting. And also, if the case team could confirm that the, um, live stream is being restarted. And the recording. Thank you. Um, just to reiterate, for those who may have just arrived, that to make the most use of the time available, we will not be asking any questions of those speaking today.

00:00:35:28 - 00:00:41:02

If we do have questions, we will provide these in writing in due course.

00:00:42:18 - 00:01:11:29

Um, so if we can now go to our next speakers. Um, I have heard that I think Luigi Beltran is not going to speak today, but his wife is speaking on his behalf at the next session. So can we have Adam East, Isobel Taylor, Mark Goyder and Fiona Cram, please?

00:01:23:03 - 00:01:30:26

So can we have Adam East first? You've got three minutes when you're ready.

00:01:34:14 - 00:01:35:03

Thank you.

00:01:35:12 - 00:02:09:01

Good afternoon. My name is Adam East and I come from live in Wellington. Um, my family has been in the area since 1963. I've been permanently lived here since the 1980s, and I've seen a lot of changes in that time. Um, obviously, I'd like to support everything everybody has said so far, which I think is, is is very on message. Um, so I mean, look at my representation. I said that, um, you know, in a way, I represent several people who are not here today.

00:02:09:07 - 00:02:42:04

You know, I'm living in Venice, and I often come out to Altrincham, and I've seen the degree of traffic congestion and problems created by sighs. We'll see. And, uh, it can only get worse, you know. Um, I've already looked today at the Scottish Power Works and seeing the what is obviously the archaeological excavation phase of things, but I can just it just staggers the mind to think how big all of these power conduits are going to be when they're actually in full flow.

00:02:42:06 - 00:03:19:05

And this all overlaying, as other people have said, what's going on with the sites will be sites. So I'd like to say that there are quite a few people who find these are problems getting to anywhere on time, and without the difficulties always having to double guess where things are being blocked off. Uh, and I think, uh, any further schemes in this area? Just manners. Moving on from that, obviously, um, you know, back in 1976, when I first looked at energy as part of my interest in the environmental movement, um, you know, friends of the Earth were just getting going.

00:03:19:07 - 00:04:01:21

And I was part of Friends of Earth group, and I was sitting around the kitchen table having debates with my grandfather, who was a member of the Cegb, who had been a superintendent of Barking Power Station. We were having some quite Sparky conversations about the the future of energy. And in those days, sort of, um, you know, there was Cat in Wales and other locations where they were experimenting with wind and, and solar, and it was something that I became very interesting. So I just to say really, that is why I have a lifetime interest in energy, um, to, to build on the scale that we're these proposed here with these further schemes Is just, um, is madness with regard to holding the hostage.

00:04:01:25 - 00:04:32:13

Hostage? The fugitive hostage? Uh, because, um, I think that things are moving so quickly in the energy field that, uh, up and coming, um, what we might call renewable energies. Uh, we've used to call an alternative appropriate energies and since become aggregated as green. Um, will, uh, current large scale, uh, wind farms and solar will give way to smaller decentralized systems. And I can and will supply further information as required.

00:04:32:15 - 00:04:38:15

But I think that that, uh, undermines all of this. And new things will come along in the next five years.

00:04:41:11 - 00:04:51:09

Thank you. Uh, if you do wish. Very good. If you do wish to supply written information, please send that to the case team. Thank you.

00:04:53:07 - 00:04:56:11

Um, can we have Isabelle Taylor next, please

00:04:58:03 - 00:05:02:27

on online. Is Isabelle Taylor there online?

00:05:03:15 - 00:05:05:00

Yes. Can you hear me? Okay.

00:05:05:11 - 00:05:08:27

We can hear you. Yes. Thank you. So you've got three minutes.

00:05:09:05 - 00:05:48:02

Thank you. Hi, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Um, I actually live in Hertfordshire, so not a local. I'm a frequent visitor, so I am one of the tourists. Um, in reality, I don't need to be involved with with objecting to this proposal. I can walk away and leave it to the locals to deal with. I can go to Norfolk, but I cannot in good conscience stand by passively and not let my voice to the objections against this proposal. I hope in some way it helps. Um, what is being proposed here is so detrimental to the area with respect to destruction of protected lands, such as the RSPB reserve at North Warren, and also destruction of the tourist industry.

00:05:48:06 - 00:06:20:16

If you ever visit Aldeburgh on any given day, you will see the endless stream of visitors enjoying the walk between Alba and Auburn Photonics, an area that most people assume because it is protected that it cannot be touched and will always be there. When I explain to friends and work colleagues about ceiling who know the area but are not local, they cannot believe that this has even been considered as an option. Or it is the point in allowing nature to thrive and having designation such as SS, they can still be destroyed with no alternative sought.

00:06:20:18 - 00:06:52:07

These designations have to mean something. If this is approved and it opens the gates for similar projects be approved as it set precedents. If you can plow through protected areas such as North Warren, then any protected area becomes fair game, as long as it can be justified for green energy and to reach the country's zero carbon goals. But it seems counterproductive that in order to to achieve zero carbon, so much of nature is destroyed in the process. Each time I return to visit Suffolk, I see another step.

00:06:52:09 - 00:07:12:24

Change in the landscape would get got more Harris fencing around a field that has been dug up for what I assume. Survey works. More trees cut down and more hedgerows removed. The landscape has already been much changed with these preliminary works. I can't imagine how it will be if all the projects proposed for the Suffolk area are approved. Cumulative impact must be considered as part of this.

00:07:13:02 - 00:07:14:19

One minute remaining. Thank you.

00:07:15:02 - 00:07:54:21

Thank you. Already travel times are increased. I know that if it ends up taking me anything over 2.5 hours to get to all of and I will go elsewhere. As much as I want to support local businesses, and I hope that they will survive on a personal level, I just would not want to witness the destruction of any area that was once abused for. And I have to ask the question, is this really the best way to implement green energy and and and enforce energy security? If alternatives such as Scituate and converter stations and substations offshore are viable, are they a better option? Having listened to the opening of these Planning Inspectorate sessions, it struck me how complex and time consuming the whole process is to get permissions to these projects.

00:07:54:23 - 00:08:26:23

For a number of these landfill sites planned for around the country. If each one of these is going to be met with the same resistance, um, it's just going to be so time consuming to implement green energy. I'm not for a minute suggesting that we go against the planning processes. They are there for a good reason, but if the necessary infrastructure is placed offshore, surely it would be easier for these types of projects to be approved. Avoiding the rigor of planning any inevitable delays. Surely there is cost benefit there. And if it means that in the future interconnectivity is easier.

00:08:26:25 - 00:08:30:27

Then this is also a cost benefit. I don't see how a country will meet net zero by time.

00:08:30:29 - 00:08:44:00

Sorry to interrupt. Your your three minutes are up. So if if you wanted to say more, then please do send it in to the case team and we can consider it. Okay. Thank you. Thank you for your contribution.

00:08:44:14 - 00:08:45:07

Thank you.

00:08:47:09 - 00:08:58:02

Next I think we have Mark Goyder. I think you're speaking on behalf of yourself and will come on to your next slot after that. Okay. Thank you. So three minutes.

00:08:58:04 - 00:09:32:25

Thank you very much. I'm Mark Goyder. I'm founder of an organization called Tomorrow's Company, a business think tank which worked with National Grid in the early days around its privatisation, when it was British owned and it was determined to be a good corporate citizen. Um, I'm also a trustee of the Old Nore Association, and I'm actually speaking today in a personal capacity. And also I'm going to speak on behalf of my wife, Conker, who is not able to be here today.

00:09:32:27 - 00:10:07:04

She's been a faithful steward of woodland and heathland in the land very close to North Warren for the last 55 years. And indeed, that's where she's working hard today. Uh, so thank you for the opportunity to to speak on behalf of us both. And I'll take the remaining time for for. For us both, if I may. Um, let's step back. I've been listening to a lot of the discussion yesterday and today. Um, I wanted to suggest three perspectives.

00:10:07:08 - 00:10:43:26

Looking through the eyes of three different people, our prime Minister, Keir Starmer, uh, a former chief executive of Unilever, Paul Polman and the Duke of York. Uh, let me explain. Um, Keir Starmer made a very powerful speech a few years ago at Labour Party conference, where he talked about his childhood visits to the Lake District with its natural beauty and tranquility. He talked about the family holidays, which he enjoyed there a lot, which had such a lasting and beneficial effect, especially for his ill mother.

00:10:44:15 - 00:11:19:01

Um, visitors here told me the same thing all the time. It's Its beauty and peace get into their souls. It's a spiritual and a recreational benefit to them, as well as an economic benefit to the area. As the last speaker was telling us. Imagine telling the young Keir Starmer that national energy policy required the digging up of the Langdale Valley and covering it with trenches, cables and substations and choking its nearby roads with HGTV's and diggers.

00:11:19:07 - 00:11:50:28

I think he would ask, is this really necessary? Is there no alternative? And of course, in the Langdale valley, in the Lake District, an alternative would be found. Paul Polman, former chief executive of Unilever, said last month if a company stripped its core assets and called it growth, we'd call it malpractice. But when we do the same with forests, water and soil.

00:11:51:06 - 00:12:10:09

We call it GDP. That's not just a failure of imagination, said Paul Pullman. It's a fundamental misunderstanding of value, risk and the systems we depend on. You don't build long term prosperity by sawing at the branch that you stand on.

00:12:10:11 - 00:12:20:10

Sorry, can I just interrupt? So I know it probably sounds a bit pedantic, but you've had your three minutes on your behalf. Do you want to carry on and have three minutes on your wife's behalf?

00:12:20:14 - 00:12:21:21

That's what I explained. Okay.

00:12:21:26 - 00:12:22:13

That's fine.

00:12:22:15 - 00:12:23:13

Yes. Well, thank you very much.

00:12:23:18 - 00:12:24:16

The clock again. Thank you.

00:12:24:18 - 00:12:54:29

Thank you very much. Um, so Paul Polman was saying the real threat to business is not too much regulation. It's too little nature. Uh, and he described how nature loss is already disrupting supply chains, eroding margins and fuelling instability. Degraded soils, vanishing Pollinators. Collapsing water systems. These, he said, are material risks with mounting consequences.

00:12:55:01 - 00:13:26:04

Now priced into everything from food inflation to insurance premiums. So my plea to you, this inquiry is to place a proper value on nature for all the reasons that others have evidenced. And I was struck by Nicola Corbet of Leeson Town Council, who told us earlier that Sealink had said that there would be minimal impact on trees, and she was skeptical about that.

00:13:26:06 - 00:13:59:09

I remember the inquiry into size will see, and I remember the wonderful promises made by the applicant on that occasion about the way in which they would be responsibly custodians of nature. Well, I believe that the casualty count for trees so far, some people put it at 20,000. And I've heard some people put it at 30. And I've heard somebody who cares about trees saying to me, um, do you know these ancient oak trees they destroyed? They didn't even save the wood for some useful purpose.

00:13:59:11 - 00:14:30:13

They just chipped it and had it burned. Which brings me on to my third perspective, which is that of the Duke of York. You know, the song The Grand old Duke of York. You had 10,000 men. He marched them up to the top of the hill, and he marched them down again. It's a song that tells us a

story of a totally futile project. And that's what we're talking about here. A pointless exercise, it's not a renewable energy project.

00:14:30:15 - 00:15:03:02

It's purely there to move excess power around. And question mark, will there be excess power we've been hearing today? Flora Nathan Hardy summed it up for me best yesterday. She I think she talked about yesterday's solution to tomorrow's energy needs failing the twin 21st century requirements of network decentralization and integration, and doing so with untold devastation. So please, let's not mistake make the same mistakes as the grand old Duke of York.

00:15:03:04 - 00:15:20:04

Like Keir Starmer's beloved Lake District, we have a precious asset here a natural asset, a cultural asset, a social asset, an economic asset, a wellbeing asset. Please do not consent to its destruction.

00:15:21:09 - 00:15:28:22

Thank you very much. Thank you. Can we have Fiona Cram now, please? You've got three minutes. Thank you.

00:15:34:00 - 00:16:11:25

Did I start speaking? Thank you. Okay. Should I start again? All right. I'm Fiona Cram. Um, I'm a local resident. Um, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak today. Our home is a 16th century farmhouse bordering the Friston National Grid SPR substation site. The same site forms part of Sealink and Line links plans. The red lines delineating the sites for all these projects run along our garden fence, so truly we are in the eye of the storm. Today I'd like to speak about cumulative impact assessment and something about the effect of these projects on us personally.

00:16:12:17 - 00:16:43:07

A major problem with the Pins SBR inquiry was the failure of the inspectors to grapple with the cumulative impact of all the projects slated to come in on the back of National Grid plans to develop a connection point at Friston. They chose not to use the powers they had to compel the disclosure and production of documents relevant to cumulative impact. They accepted National Grid's assertion that plans were not sufficiently advanced to be included, but the fact was that we all knew about them, so clearly they did too.

00:16:43:09 - 00:17:17:28

Who? Of course, as soon as that inquiry was over, all these projects were brought forward. So it's not surprising that we are cynical about this process and National Grid and the developer's engagement with it. Now, I want to turn to some of the ways that these projects are impacting on myself, my family and our neighbors. I'm going to list them for brevity sake. Um, there are more the huge mental, physical and financial toll taken fighting these plans for more than five years, already dealing with constant land surveys and demands for access information, etc..

00:17:18:06 - 00:17:54:15

Loss of our privacy, security and peaceful rural environment. Footpaths, wildlife and dark night skies. The daily stress we experience of just being in our home, formerly a place of peace and tranquility, now in the midst of a construction site. The knowledge that if only the consented projects go ahead,

works will last for at least the next seven years, with multiple projects being constructed Simultaneously the shocking revelation that National Grid and developers can financially blight your property, leaving your most valuable asset hugely reduced in value and in many cases, unsaleable.

00:17:55:16 - 00:18:30:15

The wholesale destruction of the Suffolk countryside I believe you must have noticed this in your travels around the area, and the security implications of living next to a run of pylons and a substation carrying so much of the nation's power. I could go on. Most frustratingly, National Grid continues to resist better offshore grid solutions, which would substantially reduce the onshore environmental devastation that these projects are causing. I support the greening of our energy infrastructure, but it feels like we in East Suffolk are the sacrificial lambs of the government's rush to net zero.

00:18:30:21 - 00:18:44:12

It's not too late to stop this. The damage can be limited, so I implore you to prevent the further destruction of this precious landscape and with it, East Suffolk's way of life by refusing consent for sailing. Thank you.

00:18:45:01 - 00:18:55:07

Thank you very much. Um, as I've said to others, if you do wish to submit something in writing, please do so. Either deadline, 1 or 1 a day. Thank you very much.

00:18:58:13 - 00:19:04:00

Um, could we have our next, um, set of speakers, please?

00:19:06:13 - 00:19:20:06

Um, so Joan Ellis, Susan Osbourne. Um, I think we have Andrew McDonald on behalf of Marie Backhouse as well.

00:19:30:13 - 00:19:40:12

Okay. Okay. Thank you. Um, so, first of all, um, Joan Ellis, please. Three minutes. Thank you.

00:19:42:06 - 00:20:18:04

I've lived in Bentleigh Green for ten years, and I'd like to share a conversation I had with Mike Elmer, project director for the National Grid Ventures, at the November 2023 Albert Community drop in. Mike left energy in 2024 after 17 years. He could not deny his financial duty was to National Grid U.S. shareholders, not to the UK. National grid dismisses the viability of offshore substations because they lose an income stream. If they own the onshore stations, they get to charge other companies fees for connecting to their infrastructure.

00:20:18:07 - 00:20:50:18

Their feasibility studies, I believe, are biased against offshore due to alleged technical inefficiencies, despite offshore being a better solution for the environment and communities. I asked Mike about the not so hypothetical issue of self-certification, meaning promises made to gain approval. There must be a punitive incentive when promises are not fulfilled in the national grid. Sealink line link. In SPR projects there is no incentive, no robust independent oversight. See everyone else's discussion about cumulative effects.

00:20:51:06 - 00:21:25:18

Mike hemmed and hawed, eventually stating that because he had strong morals, his employees had strong morals. Where is the oversight in the aggregate of Ansip projects, or is this lack of oversight simply a convenience? Paving over paving a way to deflect the issues of community engagement. Specifically, look at the recent minor proposed changes to the DCO at Mental Bridge. It is disingenuous, at best, to imagine this small change wasn't deliberately held back from the original DCO. Such a literal bottleneck might well have scuppered the preferred Saxmundham site option.

00:21:25:28 - 00:21:59:18

Changing a bridge load from 46 tonnes to 300 tonnes is not insignificant. Can you really believe no one thought of this or no one paid attention? When Suffolk Highways raise this as a concern over a year ago. Not to mention the careful timing of this application after the closing date for registering as an interested party in this hearing. The the definition of disenfranchisement. Why should we believe anything? Anything. Sealing promises. Either they are devious enough to attempt slipping controversial items through, hoping for lesser scrutiny, or they're simply incompetent.

00:21:59:20 - 00:22:41:08

Oops, we didn't think this bridge was that critical. Or maybe we thought nobody would notice. We'd categorize this as a minor concern. Did no one notice the image of an unknown substation in the community? Benefits final report from March of 2024. As an example of the proposed wood farm site. Deceptively cropped, it shows only a small corner of a substation. Could this have been to mislead ministers as to the true extent of the site in Saxmundham? Compare this to the image of the 37 acre Scottish Power substation, excluding the adjacent 15 acre converter station in Birstall, near Bradford, which is, by the way, exactly the same layout as that proposed at the Saxmundham substation.

00:22:41:16 - 00:22:54:20

Mike admitted there would only be about 30 full time jobs in Saxmundham once it was commissioned. This is a rationale. This rationale for jobs was clearly not true. Who's going to bail the cat? I ask you not to grant this DCO.

00:22:54:28 - 00:22:56:21

Thank you. Thank you very much.

00:22:58:29 - 00:23:04:10

And I think we've got Susan Osborne online now. Are you there?

00:23:06:02 - 00:23:06:17

Hello?

00:23:06:19 - 00:23:07:16

Can you hear me?

00:23:08:00 - 00:23:08:23

Yes.

00:23:08:27 - 00:23:12:16

Yeah. Yes. So I'm streaming. I'm ready.

00:23:12:23 - 00:23:13:16

Are you ready?

00:23:13:22 - 00:23:57:01

Yeah. I'm a resident of Aldeburgh. I've lived and worked in the area for 13 years and loved doing so until recently, when day to day life surrounded by these projects has become quite overwhelming and depressing, to the point that I've even considered leaving. First of all, my greatest concern is about the cumulative effect of so many energy projects in such a small rural area over a relatively short time. The impact of construction traffic will be, and is already extremely significant on our limited road infrastructure, leading to pollution and noise, loss of access to public footpaths and walking and cycle routes, and increased danger from traffic.

00:23:57:08 - 00:24:34:13

This has already begun to cause a huge negative impact since I registered as an interested party back in June. My husband delivers prescriptions to people unable to get to the pharmacy, and being able to get around the area is vital to his ability to carry out his job. He's increasingly facing road closures and diversions with a limited number of roads in and out of our town. Secondly, the proposed Sealink cable run comes through RSPB North Warren near Maggie Hambling Scallop, which is in Aldeburgh, not, as stated by Sealink, between Aldeburgh and Salt Ness.

00:24:34:27 - 00:25:09:21

It's a beautiful area for dog walking, running and just for taking in the beauty and the sounds of nature. That's just for the humans. The value to the wildlife is immeasurable. It's supposed to be an AoNB or national landscape, a legally protected area, a nature reserve. Surely we have a duty as custodians to preserve this for future generations. That's the point of designating it as an AoNB. I fear for our beautiful rural landscape and for the wildlife that lives here, and contributes to making it so special.

00:25:10:20 - 00:25:18:03

The Aldeburgh economy thrives and depends on tourism, but who's going to want to sit in traffic jams to visit a building site?

00:25:18:05 - 00:25:19:26

One minute remaining. Thank you.

00:25:20:06 - 00:25:54:24

I'm employed as the manager of the local library in Aldeburgh, and I can testify to how difficult it was to obtain information from the applicant at various stages of the consultation to enable the public to engage. Over the last few years, the library has acted as a deposit point for documents for lots of other projects, including Sizewell C, for people who are unable to use it or can't read or understand maps online from Sealink. There is such a real resistance to providing a paper copy. We did finally manage to obtain one hard copy, but well into the consultation period.

00:25:55:13 - 00:26:25:01

Finally, Sealink is totally unsuitable to be built here. The cost to the environment is too great. There needs to be a bigger picture, long term solution, such as the off shore grid used by more progressive European countries. We must consider the impact on our environment that we're custodians of. It makes no sense to build energy infrastructure with all the accompanying destruction and misery, where the energy isn't even needed. Thank you.

00:26:26:28 - 00:26:35:29

Thank you very much. Um, and now we've got Andrew McDonald speaking on behalf of Marie Back house and you've got six minutes.

00:26:36:01 - 00:26:36:20

Thank you.

00:26:36:27 - 00:27:11:03

My name is indeed Andrew MacDonald, and I'm speaking for Snape Parish Council. Here's a short example of how we as a parish council, come to differ from the conclusions reached in the Sealink DCO application. I draw the panel's attention to table 7.1, which follows paragraph 7.2.6 of OPO 54, which you all know as Document ref 6.2.2.7, in which reference is made to requirements for DCO applicants in National Policy Statement N1 at part 514 .18.

00:27:11:15 - 00:27:46:04

The applicant statement at this rather deeply dug point starts with this admission. Whilst the proposed project is not a new energy generating facility and then goes on to claim mitigation measures that are further outlined in chapter 7.8.9.1 and point 11 of the same OPO five four document, and further yet an application document 7.5.1.1 and so on. Now we agree it's not a new energy generating facility. It's a bootstrap, but it's not currently needed, nor will it be by 2030 or indeed ever.

00:27:46:09 - 00:28:20:15

So there is no rush. National grid or the examining authority, dare I say, could stop this now and wait for NASA's Strategic Spatial Energy Plan to be published, and then bring forward a more sensible proposal, properly integrated with other projects, certainly offshore, and therefore not as part of the torrent of applications that are presently overwhelming the resources of local representative bodies. On this we agree with another 35 town and parish councils. Snape peak, of course, has its own priority issues with the application.

00:28:20:20 - 00:28:56:09

Our relevant rep focused on five deficient areas strategic sense, poor engagement, local employment impacts, drastic environment and ecology effects, and especially the dangers we will face from the overwhelming of our local road and travel infrastructure, which will not cope with the cumulative impact that sea links construction activity would add. Our focus on this issue, on which we ask for an issue specific hearing. National grid claims that there will be no significant transport implications, and therefore has ignored the updated NpF4 requirement for a full traffic assessment.

00:28:56:11 - 00:29:27:10

That is where a development generating significant amounts of movement should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment. There is, of course, a Transport Assessment note at appendix 2.7 A of the document I quoted, but this is in less detail than required, much less detail, and quite inappropriate for the added volume of, shall we say, the 346 HGV movements forecast each day on our local roads at their peak. This is, of course, a significant volume.

00:29:28:00 - 00:30:02:20

To add a little detail to this. We are very deeply concerned about the impact of still more construction traffic, poorly managed and controlled on the A1 094 and the B1 069. They meet at Snape Church, a notoriously dangerous and busy junction where the national speed limit drops to 30 miles an hour, only about 30m from the junction in one direction. The B117 already functions as a diversionary route, and traffic on the B117 has built up straight away as Sizewell C construction preparation activity has started.

00:30:02:22 - 00:30:31:03

It's also, of course, the principal route to Snape Maltings. We also have local concerns about two quiet lanes in the village, Priory Road and Cromford Lane, that will undoubtedly become dangerous and destructive. M109 for rat runs, especially for locally knowledgeable drivers. The impacts and the dangers. I'm sorry to repeat this are becoming cumulative and not simply additive as each new entity demands its place on our roads.

00:30:32:27 - 00:31:06:17

Based on these concerns and our relevant rep. I'd like to make three requests to the examining authority. One. Sea Link's transport assessment note is based on traffic surveys carried out at the wrong time of the year. It ignores the major increases in traffic peaks in July and August, especially on the roads to Snape Maltings and Aldeburgh. We ask that the WSA requires seedling to carry out further, better and better specified traffic analysis, including detailed junction surveys, and to make any consequent changes to their traffic planning, a requirement of the DCO.

00:31:06:23 - 00:31:42:14

This would include ensuring that they are accountable for, and remain in close control of their and their contractors, vehicles and routes throughout the construction stages. This too shall be a requirement of any DCO two on roads recognised as being most at danger from rat running and where individual communities so request National grid should be Required to fund signage to discourage rat running, rat running, use of unsuitable and easily damaged and potentially unsafe roads and lanes, and should be required to fund the introduction of additional traffic calming or quiet lanes.

00:31:43:06 - 00:32:29:28

Third point we join with other parishes to ask simply that the applicant be required to fund and resource local town and parish councils to manage the vast pressures they face with this quite unmanaged and CIP onslaught. But finally, we repeat that this cumulative and complex matter should be the topic of an issue specific hearing. But given the other damaging, dangerous and unacceptable consequences of the application about which you have heard quite a lot today, and including particularly the disastrous establishment of the connection hub at Friston, we ask that the examining authority simply refuse the application, and that you recommend that any later reintroduction is linked to a sensible and integrated offshore strategy.

00:32:30:09 - 00:32:40:17

I have eight seconds left. I'd like to recommend you closely examine what Will Wright said at the end of yesterday's session. I thought that was extremely well put. Thank you for your time.

00:32:41:09 - 00:32:43:11

Thank you very much. Thank you.

00:32:45:27 - 00:33:12:21

So that brings us to the end of all those who have registered to speak. Thank you all for your contributions, which we have listened to and will take on board. I now also want to ask, as it's only just 4:00, is there anyone else who didn't pre-register who would want to speak that they wanted to speak, but would now like to thank you? I can see some hands up. Could you just give me your names?

00:33:15:06 - 00:33:15:26

Yep.

00:33:17:20 - 00:33:18:16

Sorry.

00:33:23:24 - 00:33:26:04

Okay. Is there anyone else?

00:33:29:10 - 00:33:33:29

Nope. Okay. Would you like to come down?

00:33:39:15 - 00:33:43:24

Um. Is Caroline right here? We have heard that you might like to speak.

00:33:45:18 - 00:33:51:13

Yes. Would you like? Would you like to come down and. Mary Shipman.

00:33:58:11 - 00:33:59:04

Okay.

00:34:13:12 - 00:34:17:00

Right. Shall we start with Steven Barnard, please?

00:34:17:11 - 00:34:48:28

I'm Steven Barnard. I was born in Suffolk, and I've lived here, um, ever since, albeit a bit of time in London and one of the world's greatest mysteries is how a majority of this country's energy infrastructure projects are concentrated in a few square miles of this part of the coast, where the energy isn't needed. And the answer to that is there's been absolutely no joined up thinking by Ofgem or anybody.

00:34:49:00 - 00:35:08:01

Nobody's thought about the whole thing nuclear, renewables, etc. and Sealink is a stark example of how offshore grid etc. would have worked. Whereas other people have described it. So we've got bad planning, we've got lazy planning, we've got deceitful planning. And I think you've got to think whether we've got corrupt planning as well.

00:35:10:22 - 00:35:52:11

The I think it goes back to a basic structural problem in our electricity industry. When we first privatised electricity, which I was involved in in the 80s, the early 80s, Um, they privatized the generating companies and they privatized the regional electricity companies, but they left the central electricity grid. The grid, basically as a national asset. And the privatisations that are gone wrong are those were the national assets water, rail or the grid? The gas superstructure have gone into private hands and then we have problems and here we have it's in spades.

00:35:52:20 - 00:36:19:23

And so I think that when you come to your decision, um, and if you come to a sensible decision, it will be reversed, overridden by the Secretary of State. And you know that, but you've still got to come to your correct decision. And so all I'm just asking you to do is I've heard all the stuff today. I think most of it is excellent. I've heard nobody in support of this proposal, by the way. I don't know if that's unusual. And so that's that's my concluding remarks, which I think is safely within three minutes.

00:36:19:25 - 00:36:21:06

One minute left. Thank you.

00:36:21:23 - 00:36:39:00

Thank you very much. Um, can we now hear from, um, David Powdery? Sorry if I've got that wrong. Audrey, I'm so sorry. You've got three minutes. Unless you're speaking on behalf of another organisation. Thank you. Start when you're ready.

00:36:42:09 - 00:37:13:24

My family has lived continuously in this part of the world for over a thousand years, mostly in one Suffolk village. I was born in Saxmundham in 1956 and apart from ten years away, I've lived my whole life within ten miles of the town. As children, we played unbelievably on the A12 when it still ran through Saxmundham. We picnic in a beautiful pinewood where Sizewell A now stands on Saturday afternoons. My three brothers, my parents and I would pile into the car and head to Sizewell Beach to watch diggers and cranes at work from scaffolding scaffold viewing platforms.

00:37:14:06 - 00:37:45:27

Even then, I mourned the loss of our picnic spot. But I was in awe of that extraordinary changing landscape when we moved back from London in 1987. Sizewell B with nearing completion. We lived in Walbrzych and after work I'd walk the dog through the reedbeds and over the dunes. Even the dome of the power station, distant and luminous, had a strange, fragile beauty, like a mirage across the sea. However, at night the sky glowed with the light of 24 hour construction. Suffolk has changed, as has the world.

00:37:45:29 - 00:38:21:12

But in the last decade that change has quickened beyond recognition. What was once a quiet, rural backwater is now being reshaped at speed and scale. The natural beauty and vast sky is the stillness defined that defined this place. Are all being eroded. I'll admit I was late to recognise the scale of what's happening. Perhaps through ignorance, or perhaps through faith in due process. I believe that there were laws that would protect our landscape from this kind of destruction. But what we're seeing already, even with the so-called enabling works, the Sizewell C tells another story.

00:38:22:10 - 00:38:42:24

I feel lost in my own land. There's an old Suffolk saying all lanes lead to the same place. Once that meant a landscape full of quiet wonder. Now, too often it feels more like a war zone. Roots I've known all my life are unrecognizable. Each week, every day I feel more and more under siege.

00:38:42:27 - 00:38:44:12

One minute remaining. Thank you.

00:38:44:14 - 00:39:17:03

I live in Snape, off the main route. Yet even here, it can take 5 or 10 minutes just to leave my drive. Constant traffic diversions and heavy lorries avoiding the chaos of the A12 make life increasingly more difficult for everyone who lives here. Last summer I was stung by a wasp and felt unwell. I drove myself to the surgery in Saxmundham, a journey that should take ten minutes. It took me half an hour. Thankfully I recovered quickly. But what if it had been more serious? What if an ambulance had needed to get through these? Personal. These are personal experiences, but they're not unique.

00:39:17:05 - 00:39:47:15

They're shared daily Suffolk realities for people across this part of the world. I urge the Planning Inspectorate to listen not only to the data and the reports, but to the voices of those who live here. Please consider the real impacts on safety, access, landscape, wildlife and on the fabric of our communities. In conclusion, this proposal and others like it must be stopped until safer, fairer alternatives are found. East Suffolk was never made for this. There are better solutions.

00:39:47:17 - 00:39:48:23

Thank you for listening.

00:39:49:02 - 00:39:51:26

Thank you very much. Um,

00:39:53:23 - 00:39:57:00

we now hear from Caroline, right? Please.

00:39:59:06 - 00:40:08:01

You might need to move it closer to you. Thank you. So you've got three minutes. If you're speaking on behalf of yourself or is that the case?

00:40:08:03 - 00:40:10:11

I'm speaking on behalf of myself.

00:40:10:13 - 00:40:11:02

Okay.

00:40:11:04 - 00:40:19:24

Uh, like the previous speaker, I've known this landscape ever since I was born, and I'm passionate about preserving Irving, Suffolk.

00:40:21:11 - 00:40:32:22

And I've chosen a completely different tack. But it's how this all these changes are just going to ruin everything that we've loved.

00:40:35:03 - 00:40:42:29

And it is the poetry festival taking place in Aurora this week. So I have done a poem.

00:40:45:03 - 00:41:23:12

They stood, fingers entwined, hand to hand as their eyes surveyed the damage. Coastal land a man and a boy. Father and son. Oh, what have they? What have they? What have they done? Now there are tall metallic towers were once twisted, twigs made, bird bowers snaking spaghetti cables creeping to green metal boxes which were once the fields home to badgers and foxes. Oh, what have they? What have they? What have they done? they dug up our land, destroyed our beach, clogged up the roads to our homes.

00:41:23:14 - 00:41:55:06

We can't reach the noise of machines. The trundle of lorries just adds to the mountain of unending worries. Oh, what have they? What have they? What have they done? But father said to son, it wasn't always a hell. Like this. Used to be a haven of complete bliss. A nightingale sang in those greenwoods yonder. Sitting on a wooden seat. Our gaze did wonder to lapping sighing waves. And swaying, rustling reeds.

00:41:55:15 - 00:42:37:19

Nature herself looked after our needs. Oh, what have they? What have they? What have they done? But son said to father. Will it always be like this? The hum and the were of superstructures galore. Is it all possible to alter the law? Give me the freedom to Hit and run. Sweet birds to hear. Not that whining. Thrum, thrum. Oh, what have they? What have they? What have they done? What have they done? What have they done? You have a chance to stop this.

00:42:38:10 - 00:42:45:08

You have a chance to change this. We need to think twice about what we're doing.

00:42:47:10 - 00:42:48:16

So that's my.

00:42:51:19 - 00:42:52:27

Thank you very much.

00:42:54:20 - 00:42:59:04

And lastly, can we hear, please, from Mary Shipman? Thank you.

00:43:04:03 - 00:43:05:09

I'm Mary Shipman.

00:43:05:11 - 00:43:05:26

And.

00:43:05:28 - 00:43:07:03

I have been a resident of Friston.

00:43:07:05 - 00:43:08:22

For over 30 years.

00:43:09:03 - 00:43:39:24

I'm also a member of Friston Parish Council. Although National Grid's attendance at the Scottish power examinations were scant. It made it clear that the National Grid substation in Friston was solely to facilitate Scottish power projects. There is little doubt, however, that National Grid was already planning the projects, now known as Sealink, Line Link and Nautilus. Nautilus still has a connection offer at Friston and therefore could return as the third project in south London.

00:43:41:22 - 00:44:32:24

I trust the XAT has seen the magnitude of the sizeable Sea project and its effects on landscape and traffic. Construction is said to take ten years, however, as seen at Hinkley Point, this could be much longer. East Anglia too is in its pre-construction phase, and yet its effects are only to evident in closed roads, landscapes, increased traffic and noise. The construction period of the A2 is said to be three years and will follow sequentially by E1. It was recently agreed by ScottishPower that works on the substation site could last ten years, National Grid documents, shows three converter stations at Saxmundham, all connecting at Friston, also proposes Helios Energy Park, a 250 megawatt solar farm occupying at least a thousand acres of farmland surrounding Friston.

00:44:33:06 - 00:45:04:13

Helios has made submissions on its interface with Sealink and has a grid connection offer at Friston. These projects should be included in the Cumulative Impact Assessment, as should the Saxmundham South Garden neighbourhood, a development of 800 homes, schools and employment close to the Sea Link Converter station. This project is in the Local Plan and a formal planning application is imminent. Friston has a long and well-documented history of surface water flooding.

00:45:04:20 - 00:45:05:09

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00:45:06:08 - 00:45:43:06

By Scottish Power, proposed to discharge the surface water into the Friston Wolvercote course. Under the DCO, SPL has recently stated, they've found infiltration only to be viable and sealings should follow this. Another concern is the loss of large parts of our footpath network, some closures of which

are permanent. Sealing adds to this lack of connectivity and sterilising even more of the countryside around Friston. All this is being visited on a small, rural, tranquil rural area described by the SPR as Friston is a tranquil location with dark skies.

00:45:43:11 - 00:46:13:29

The future for the residents of Friston is bleak, as the stream of energy projects looking to connect here seems endless. Please consider the recommendations of the SSAs report on the SPL proposals. The effects of cumulative delivery are so substantially adverse, and the utmost care would be required in any amendments or additions to the development in this location. Sealink has failed to demonstrate the utmost care and indeed seeks to overturn much of the mitigation secured in the SPR SPL CEOs.

00:46:14:03 - 00:46:14:19

Thank you.

00:46:14:24 - 00:46:57:06

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you, everyone for all your contributions this afternoon. They will be useful to us and we shall consider them all fully. As we noted earlier, the applicant will provide a detailed written response to everything we have heard today and that will be at deadline 1 a.m. in view. Thank you also to you for bearing with us during the the technical issues we just had. Um, in the light of those issues, we won't ask if anyone else needs to speak now in order to allow the audio visual company time to try to fix the issue before we have our next session at 530.

00:46:57:08 - 00:47:06:18

But thank you everyone. We will now adjourn this hearing and recommence with session five at 530 this afternoon. Thank you.