

Submission to the Planning Inspectorate  
Re: National Infrastructure Enquiry, SeaLink Cable  
IP Number: [REDACTED]  
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1. We moved to our current “forever” home (our only home, I would add) many years ago on account of its unspoilt natural beauty, its freedom from pollution and peaceful tranquillity. We were aware even then of plans for Sizewell C (and D) on a site about 4 miles distant from our home.
2. The planned route of the Sea Link Cable grazes the bottom corner of our garden (making us an IP) but with the siting of two construction compounds the other side of our garden fence: one compound for landward trenching and the second for seaward tunnelling. The corner of our house is around 18m from the boundary fence with the workings beginning a further 10m away and the cable run at around 15m – a total distance from our house of between 30 and 35m.
3. We have not objected to Sizewell C, largely on the basis that our nation needs continuously reliable energy from non-fossil fuel sources.
4. We have not even objected to the principle of cables coming ashore in our area of East Suffolk as we can understand the need for transmission infrastructure to adapt to the changing source of generation.
5. However, we do not feel that National Grid Electricity Transmission nor its proposals take adequate account of the disruption to our lives or the actual and potential stress and distress that the proposals create.
6. Specifically:
  - a. Noise pollution arising in a variety of ways: heavy equipment digging and re-filling trenches; the reversing warnings of manoeuvring vehicles; the continuous noise of tunnel-boring equipment (we have been informed that 4 tunnels will need to be bored, each taking 14 days, 24 hours per day); plus incidental noise pollution like operatives shouting at each other and radio music.
  - b. Light pollution arising from the fact that the site will be lit as daylight, 24 hours per day throughout the duration of the work, together with vehicle hazard lights flashing.
  - c. Particle pollution: the soil type is fine sand and the levels of dust created so close to our home will inevitably lead to a constant need for cleaning in and around our home.
  - d. Vibration: we can already hear the piling work taking place at Sizewell 4 miles away. Heavy earth moving and cable laying equipment will create vibrations that will not only be disturbing to experience but may well also lead to structural damage to our home, given its very close proximity to the construction site.

- e. Other sensory distress caused by, for example the loss of view, wildlife diversity and the loss of our peaceful enjoyment of the AONB in which we live.
7. Taken as a whole, the prospect of the distress awaiting us is profoundly depressing.
8. In addition, though not strictly a consequence of the project under consideration, residents of this part of East Suffolk already experience massive disruption from the following projects:
- a. The Sizewell C & D main build;
  - b. The Road improvements to facilitate truck access to the site;
  - c. The Rail improvements to facilitate rail-borne access to the site;
  - d. Other cable projects in progress or prospect (e.g. EA 1 and EA2);
  - e. The Prospective work on the Friston Sub-station;
  - f. The Prospective work on the Saxmundham Converter station;
  - g. Construction of Accommodation compounds for Sizewell project staff;
  - h. Construction of Park and Ride schemes for Sizewell project staff;
  - i. Construction of multiple solar farms within a 10-mile radius.
9. Whilst it is possible to recognise the national significance of this energy infrastructure work and the logic of siting many of these project in close proximity to each other, the human consequences are that we and other local residents feel under a state of siege, never knowing which roads are going to be closed from one day to the next, or where SALT traffic restrictions will be in place, or temporary closures for heavy vehicles being moved on the existing inadequate rural road infrastructure.
10. We are left with the prospect of staying at home being unbearable but leaving our home being a nightmarish labyrinth of traffic restrictions and jams. (We already have the latter!)
11. We moved to our “forever” home many years ago. We have hope that when the project in view is completed (if we live long enough to see it) the natural environment around our home will recover (so long as another cable run is not resited to our location – as has been suggested by East Suffolk Council). However, we are enduring such extreme stress at the prospect of the disruption and our powerlessness to get satisfactory recognition of the impact on our lives that we are considering selling our house and leaving the area completely. However, such is the blight that we are encountering that we are far from sure that anyone would buy our house at any price. We therefore feel completely trapped and abused.