

IP No. [REDACTED]

## SUBMISSION RELATING TO MY OPEN FLOOR HEARING SPEECH

Having listened to others at these OFHs, it is difficult to add to the many impassioned pleas from those who will be most impacted by the Sea Link project on top of the all the other NSIP projects within this small 5 mile area of Suffolk.

The evidence is compelling - you don't have to travel far from the location of these open floor hearings to witness that Suffolk's AONB national landscape has been sacrificed for government's ill-conceived energy policies. Sizewell C has already destroyed vast swathes of East Suffolk countryside, designated landscapes and wildlife sites. This has recently been compounded by EA1N and EA2's onshore infrastructure. I am fully supportive of renewable energy, but it has to be built following a well thought through strategic process. There is no justification to inflict further environmental destruction in East Suffolk, nor that which will occur in Kent. There needs to be an ISH to consider the need for Sea Link, also ones to consider alternatives such as an offshore hub and the cumulative impacts with other projects.

Having spent nearly a decade of my life being heavily involved in the Sizewell C consultation process and the subsequent DCO examination where planning policies and legitimate concerns of the interested parties, and even the examining authorities recommendation of refusal, were simply waved aside by the Secretary of State, my plea to the planning inspectorate here is that Sea Link is not just a tick box exercise to implement a poorly planned infrastructure project. Sea Link appears to have ignored the planning hierarchy that requires the scheme to firstly avoid impacts and adequately consider alternatives, be that to offshore wind farm connections and different onshore cable routes. The existing cable routes seem to have been planned by someone looking at a map and just selecting what they considered to be the line of least resistance rather than trying to avoid designated wildlife sites and landscapes such as RSPB North Warren.

My cottage in the fens is on the edge of RSPB North Warren reserve - once in the midst of pristine wildlife habitat and beautiful landscapes but is to be surrounded by Sizewell C, EA1north, EA2 and their supporting infrastructure and, if this project is approved, Sea Link as well. I urge the planning inspectors to consider the mental strain that residents of East Suffolk are experiencing from the cumulative impacts of so many large projects, both in terms of having to cope with endless consultations but also from witnessing the destruction of the surroundings they love and cherish and the disruption to their daily lives.

I say, enough is enough and the thoughtless destruction of our much loved environment has to stop. It is no wonder that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wilson,

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