

The Southwold & Reydon Society is an independent group of about 350 members, set up 60 years ago, to protect and enhance the character of our area. Currently Southwold & Reydon are not directly impacted by Sea Link, but we will be if these projects proceed.

The Society is wholly in favour of Green Energy, of course! However, it is becoming evident that no proper consideration has been given to the impact of so many un-coordinated projects on this area of East Suffolk. We are absolutely devastated that no serious consideration appears to have been given to off-shore infrastructures, as used by Belgium and Holland, to get energy to hubs on brownfield sites where it is most needed in the south of England. We are constantly told that 'offshore' is expensive, but no conclusive proof has been offered. If the cables were routed more directly to the sources of demand, then surely the need for SeaLink would disappear. The money planned to be spent on SeaLink could instead be spent on an offshore grid infrastructure to route offshore power directly to London.

This area already has an inadequate road capacity, which is already struggling to accommodate the increased number of vehicles and HGVs. As result of Sizewell C, we are now experiencing daily problems, which are having a serious impact on emergency vehicles, thereby endangering lives, delays for carers getting to their patients (and needing to reduce the number of daily visits they can make) not to say people who live here trying to get to work or just going about their daily business.

The problem will be exacerbated when the tourism period peaks during school holidays. These road closures and diversions will go on for years, so if visitors find it difficult to reach or move around East Suffolk, then there is every reason to think they will go elsewhere. This is bound to have serious consequences on the holiday letting industry and wider tourism economy on which this part of Suffolk relies, and which could well result in social and economic decline. Our members have also voiced their concern that these projects have already begun to take away more people who would otherwise service the holiday and tourism business, which is already struggling with staff shortages.

Our fear is that the cumulative effect on local communities of so many projects with, it appears, more being added - will industrialise and destroy a unique area known for its dark skies, its tranquillity and its beautiful fragile environment. There is every reason to believe there will be long term damage to the ecology and biodiversity of this special, natural area, including – tragically - the disruption to migrating species and centuries-old wildlife corridors.

The pushback of Sizewell C's completion dates to 2035-40 means that surely there is enough time to reconsider how future energy sources can be distributed in a less damaging way?