

Sea Link Hearing - Thursday 6th November

My name is Christine Collett and I live in Aldeburgh.

The question I keep asking myself is why are we all here doing our very best to help convince you to defend and protect our local landscapes and wildlife when there are already laws in place to protect them?

Surely the whole point of formally designating landscapes as AONBs and SSSIs is to ensure that they are cherished and protected *forever*. And if this is indeed the case then it shouldn't be necessary for us or indeed you to be here.

Shame on National Grid for showing such disregard to our legally protected landscapes, to the wildlife that live there and to all the people who enjoy them as a sanctuary for recreation, relaxation and mental well-being.

Have they forgotten how the Covid Lockdown taught us the value of nature, open skies, countryside and the sights and sounds of our wildlife?

To have proposed this project in this rural location, knowing full well that it risks causing such significant and potentially long-term damage to RSPB North Warren and other fragile habitats was disrespectful and arrogant.

They clearly think they are above the law and can disregard the legislation that has been put in place to safeguard not only our landscapes but our wildlife too.

This same disrespect has already been shown by EDF and Scottish Power, both of whom, as I speak, are felling trees like there's no tomorrow and desecrating our protected landscapes and given the chance, National Grid (and other energy companies too) will do the same. It **has to stop** !

East Suffolk stands on the edge of a dramatic and traumatic change to the historic use of its land - for agriculture, wildlife and tourism. We are the guardians of our countryside and it is our responsibility to preserve it for future generations ... so please do not allow the sights and sounds of the birds & animals we treasure to be replaced with those of HGVs, Cranes, Diggers and Drilling equipment.

If planning permission is given for this Sea Link project it will make a mockery of the AONB and SSSI designations which should be valued and respected by us all and I therefore urge you to turn down this application.