

Things done in haste are often repented at leisure and I fear that will be the case here if Sea Link and the other projects currently proposed for coastal Suffolk are allowed to proceed unchecked.

These projects are nothing short of environmental cannibalism in which the unique and precious landscapes, communities and economies of our part of the country are about to be carved up to feed another, London and the South-east. The international capitalists for whom profit is the primary motive and the politicians who have lacked the foresight to plan ahead intelligently are responsible. The cheapest option is not necessarily the best.

The haste to complete these projects is short-sighted. 2050 is the net zero commitment not 2030 which is merely a target. I urge you, not to consider Sea Link in isolation but all the scheduled projects as a whole and to assess seriously their cumulative impact on the economy, the communities and above all the unique and irreplaceable landscapes of coastal Suffolk before disastrous decisions are made.

Talk of mitigation might be used to ease consciences but the disturbances caused by cabling beneath North Warren the RSPB Nature Reserve set in a National Landscape with SSSI and SPA areas are the fact and the metaphor for the project.

You should be aware that there are alternative ways to deliver the projects than the ones being proposed which deserve considered thought. Offshore solutions landed at brownfield sites nearer to use should be actively investigated.

I urge you to recommend that a halt be called to all the proposals while their cumulative impact is assessed and that you advise the government to come up with intelligent, sustainable and forward-thinking offshore solutions.

May I refer you the great Renaissance humanist Michel de Montaigne who in his essay *On Cannibals* wrote:

It is not reasonable that art should win the honours from our great and mighty mother nature. We have so loaded the riches and beauty of her works with our inventions that we have altogether stifled her. Yet wherever she shines forth in her purity she makes our vain and trivial enterprises marvellously shameful.

Please do not proceed in haste. There is time before 2050. Stand back, consider the whole, use intelligence not profit nor politics to drive this, leave our great and mighty mother nature unstifled. Without her we are disconnected not interconnected.

During the Open Hearing it became clear that the case for need was not remotely proven, indeed that there is no need for SeaLink at all given that Nautilus is now going through Grain. Please take this into consideration. It also became clear that SeaLink is a Trojan horse for the other NGV project Lionlink.

It also became clear that the disruption already caused by SZC in terms of transport etc, especially of emergency vehicles will only get worse if these “whackamole” projects(Jenny Riddell- Carpenter MP’s word used in Parliament) are allowed to continue piecemeal.

While the Energy Secretary has the power to overrule your decision, I would hope you will do the right thing by rejecting Sealink and recommending a radical rethink. The Suffolk coast with its beauty , nature and benefits to its residents, visitors and non-human residents is at stake here.

Many thanks

Robert Jellicoe



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