



Suffolk Constabulary: SeaLink Interested party reference number [REDACTED]

Suffolk Constabulary's Business Liaison Manager spoke at the Snape Hearings for SeaLink on Thursday 6th November 2025, about the need for the development to consider the impact on policing and community safety and mitigate these accordingly:

A) As a standalone Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

B) Consider SeaLink in connection with the overall cumulative growth of NSIP developments in Suffolk and especially in the East, and this cumulative impact on policing and community safety.

The approach being taken by Suffolk Constabulary for SeaLink reflects that adopted for other NSIPs to understand policing demands and ensure impacts are mitigated. Our engagement is driven by a commitment to safety - both for existing and emerging communities - and follows a proven, planning supported methodology that has successfully identified and addressed policing and community safety issues on similar NSIPs.

To this end, we wish to formally raise several areas of operational concern that require appropriate mitigation, funding, and management measures to be secured through the DCO process. These are documented in our Relevant Representations of June 2025 and include:

- **Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) movements requiring dedicated police escort services:**

NSIP developments typically create heightened demand for police escorted Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) during construction. Suffolk Constabulary does not have a dedicated AIL team, and escorts are currently provided on an overtime basis when capacity allows. Where sustained demand is identified a bespoke solution - such as a dedicated AIL team - may be necessary, subject to appropriate lead-in time and developer funding. It is also important to understand the proposed routes so that Suffolk Police can assess the likely individual and cumulative impact of AILs on the road network and community safety.

- **Incident response and community impacts linked to protest related activity, obstruction of highways, and road traffic accidents.**
- **Population increases associated with construction workers, and the presence of plant machinery and construction compounds which may affect crime rates, community safety, cohesion, and policing demand:**

Data will be required from National Grid to understand the broad construction worker profile along with reporting, welfare, and management procedures to enable modelling of potential increases in crime and incidents that could arise from this population change.

It is appreciated that not all the information required for the modelling of police mitigation may be available now. We request a clear timetable from National Grid confirming when detailed AIL routing information - including the number, origin, routes, and destinations of AIL movements - will be provided and when engagement with the main contractor/s will commence. This information is critical for our planning and resourcing to mitigate any impact and to determine the feasibility and budget required to resource dedicated roads policing teams.

The overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) identifies Traffic & Transport, including abnormal loads generated during the construction phase, as an impact where the Secretary of State recognises the need for appropriate mitigation to ensure satisfactory arrangements in consultation with network providers and the responsible police force. We expect this principle to be reflected in the identification and securing of appropriate developer funded police resource measures.

As expressed at Snape on the 6th November 2025, our key concern is that impacts on police and community safety that are identified are mitigated through the planning process and not by Suffolk tax payers. We remain committed to working constructively with National Grid to agree a suitable scheme of mitigation funding and management measures, as summarised above and documented in our Relevant Representations, either before or during the Examination process.

