

Attn: Planning Inspectors
southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Relevant Representation reference: [REDACTED]

Please find below the written submission of my oral case presented at Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH 1) – Session 5 Part 1 – 6 November 2025, including some further details.

I am Angela Mallinson, Aldeburgh resident and Chair of Britten Pears Arts, Snape Maltings. Listening to the registered parties speak at the OFH on Thursday 6th November, I decided to add my thoughts at the end of the session.

I felt compelled to draw attention to the fact that we were sitting in one of the world's great concert halls – a simple construction of brick and wood with fantastic natural, warm acoustics, located in a remote part of the English countryside. Such is the history and tradition of the Aldeburgh Festival in its unique Suffolk landscape, the Snape Maltings Concert Hall draws international artists and composers from all over the world.

So I really want to speak about the inspiration of this place, the inspiration of the light in this landscape, the sound of waves breaking on pebbles, the sound of birds, the sound of wind in the reed beds that has inspired composers, poets, artists and writers for decades. And it's an inspiration for people's lives, and one of several major reasons why people move here, visit here, spend money here and why they contribute to making life here liveable and enjoyable, why they contribute to the community in countless ways and make us the fantastically involved, and supportive community we are with a vibrant local economy.

In the case set out by National Grid/Sea Link they conveniently consider the impact only on visitor attractions within 500m of the scheme. But they completely ignore the impact on this major visitor attraction and cultural centre a few miles further down the road that stands to be hugely impacted by the cumulative effect of their proposed onshore works in addition to the disruption already created by Sizewell C.

We live in a time when wellbeing and mental health are major concerns for the country. Britten Pears Arts is intensively interested in dealing with those problems and helping to improve the lives of people in our community. Indeed, it was the reason why our founders Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears created this organisation back in 1948. They believed that music should be useful and should enhance lives, and that's what we continue to do in our everyday work.

We work with over 11,000 people of all ages in the community each year. We collaborate with social prescribers to identify those who are isolated, lonely, or suffering from later life health challenges, and we work with those people, bringing joy and health benefits through activities such as singing groups and tea dances that help them both physically and mentally.

We take music to local schools, many schools that otherwise would have no music provision for children at all. Over 40 schools come to Snape Maltings for our week-long festival “Celebration”, 2,500 children take part in person and online in “Friday Afternoons” and our annual “Big Sing” giving children the chance to perform on the Snape Maltings Concert Hall stage, an experience many of them will remember their whole lives.

Britten Pears Arts enjoys a symbiotic relationship with the community whereby the money our audiences and supporters spend through ticket purchases, memberships, donations and in our shops and cafés goes to support the work we do in the community. A recent survey by BOP Consultancy found that Britten Pears Arts supports over 400 full-time jobs and adds £37m to the local economy. This area is a British success story and should be a role-model for other coastal towns.

Whilst National Grid may choose to ignore the impact of the proposed Sea Link onshore infrastructure works on a visitor attraction that isn't right on the beach, we do not and nor would the 11,496 people who participate annually in our community programmes in this inspiring landscape, deriving joy, health and educational benefits.

Please do not allow National Grid’s Sea Link onshore infrastructure plans to damage our caring community and our successful local economy.

Thank you.

Angela Mallinson

Local resident

Chair, Britten Pears Arts