

David Pelly () – Oral Submission to Sea Link DCO

My name is David Pelly. I am a resident of Walberswick and I am objecting to the Sea Link application primarily because of the cumulative impact that Sea Link will have on the protected habitats and local communities in the coastal areas of Suffolk when combined with the other, major energy infrastructure projects including Sizewell C, LionLink, EA1N and EA2 . It should be noted that the DCO submission for SeaLink provides for land for the converter station for LionLink. So, LionLink and SeaLink cannot be considered in isolation from each other.

On a personal note, my house in Walberswick overlooks the proposed site for the landfall and cable route for LionLink. The LionLink interconnecting cable that will pass my back door will cross the countryside and end up at a massive converter station at Friston next door to the converter stations and substations being built for SeaLink and the other energy projects. This cable represents an umbilical link between the communities of Walberswick and those in the Saxmundham and Friston areas. That is why I am speaking here today and I believe that the Planning Inspectorate should not assess each project in isolation.

In the time available I will only focus on one aspect of cumulative impact, which is on the local environment.

Pretty much the whole of Suffolk Coast affected by all these projects is covered by a range of environmental designations. These include

- Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Landscapes
- Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SSSI

Along with other areas designated as Ramsar, SPA and SAC

The geographical extent of these areas is critical to allowing wildlife to feed, thrive and breed sustainably. Looked at separately developers argue that they can limit adverse impacts for one project, but they cannot take account of multiple projects affecting different parts of these protected areas and adjacent habitats.

I look out of my window at home and see Marsh Harriers, (which are specially protected in the UK and specifically in the local SPA), hunt across the fields and

marshes by the coast. The marshes and reedbeds in the Walberswick area will increasingly be a refuge for them from the disruption caused by other projects along the coast..... but where will they go when LionLink is being constructed?

I recognise and support the Government's efforts to meet targets for net zero emissions but they are also committed to targets on biodiversity. For example, Target 14 in the Government's own biodiversity policy published in February 2025 makes a commitment to:

".....ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes and environmental impact assessments....."

The only way to reconcile the Government's targets for biodiversity and for net zero in relation to Sea Link is to assess the cumulative impact of all these energy projects on the environmentally Designated and Sensitive areas on the Suffolk Coast. I trust the Examining Authority will do this and also convene an Issue Specific Hearing on Cumulative Impact.