

I do not have access to word processing but the main points from my oral submission are: Rural communities are important and should be celebrated. If needed sealink could be using brownfield or offshore sites. I understand and support SEAS position and representations and agree. The cumulative impact of sealink alongside Sizewell and other energy projects is just too much for this area. My daily life is badly impacted by construction at Sizewell and will get worse. I don't believe OFGEM is working in the consumers interest by releasing money upfront for sealink since the OFH. The planned converter stations at Saxmundham pose a real threat to local residents safety. If there is a fire they are very close to existing housing. Specialist firefighters are at least 45 minutes away in Ipswich. I also believe by putting so much energy infrastructure in this small part of Suffolk makes us vulnerable to cyber and terrorist attack and would make residents extremely vulnerable in a war situation.

The proposed mitigation from NG cannot replace the harm to wildlife and biodiversity during the construction phase. Flooding is a threat. The site of the haul road floods as does the Fromus in Saxmundham. The site of the converter station replaces productive farm land with acres of concrete. Where does the run off go?

I am concerned that since November 2023 the plans keep changing and we are faced with a larger project going from 1 to 3 plus converter stations. The bridge across the fromus is now much larger and since the original submission date there are proposals which will badly affect residents as Benhall rail bridge is unsuitable. Surely it is disingenuous of NG to keep revising and changing their plans. As a household we have had constant disruption by visits to site across our access without notice. The wellbeing of my family and neighbours is badly affected by these changes and tweaks and we don't know what the future holds. We know Sealink will not produce many local jobs and the valuable tourist and farming land will be lost. This threatens employment and food security.

The rural vista of Hurts Hall and St Johns Church across the Fromus valley will be forever destroyed by Sealink.

Traffic management during construction will threaten all local roads and make pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists extremely vulnerable or unable to travel at all. The B21121 is undulating with poor visibility and the movement of huge construction vehicles in and out of the site will be hazardous. If Benhall rail bridge closes access of the A12 will be very difficult for locals needing to go to Ipswich for medical or emergency care. The impact of rat runs developing on our country roads is already being felt with the Sizewell development.

The cumulative impact of the Sealink project will have a massive impact on the residents of Sternfield, Benhall.

Saxmundham and surrounding communities. I would ask the planning committee to use their collective expertise to help local residents move towards net zero in ways that do not destroy our rural way of life and environment.

Thank You