

Submission from Dr Gillian Horrocks.

This Heritage Coast, where I've lived and worked for 40 years, is threatened by what I believe is now called clustering energy projects; that is, both clustering and cumulative in time, geography and prolongation. It is at profound risk.

Using DEFRA MAGIC maps of the Heritage Coast¹, in this small coastal area threatened by these cumulative energy developments, I counted 8 special protection zones, 8 SSSIs, 3 RAMSARS, 5 RIGs, 34 nature reserves, and its marine zone is designated SPA and SAC.

It's a *climate-change buffer zone*, and a *cooling river zone*, with terrestrial and marine benefits. This is a major *connectivity corridor*, which links and supports protected areas of ecological importance within Suffolk. It also links Norfolk's Coastal connectivity corridor with Essex's. Its importance is huge: local, national and international.

The continuous, clustering, long-term energy projects will harm some of the rarest, most precarious, habitat on the planet in a timescale that it cannot recover from. In their conclusions to the enquiry into SPR's plans, PINS granted SPR's application but

¹ These offer around 400 data layers, from around 30 different organisations including Natural England, Defra, Environment Agency, Historic England. <https://MAGIC.DEFRA.GOV.UK>

warned about the dangers of permitting further development in such a sensitive area.

Sadly, we are already living the effects of permitted development (by EDF and Iberdrola), and they are indeed injurious to the health and survival of individuals, community and ecology.

For the communities, traffic management is unpredictable, uncoordinated, and costly in time and money. Large vehicles use ostensibly banned routes, such as Aldringham Lane; and de-grade single track roads, at our financial cost.

Our trains are disrupted, emergency vehicles are impeded, livelihoods and access to education are impacted adversely. Last week, my trip to a health appointment in Woodbridge took 1.5 hours instead of the 20 minutes it should ordinarily take. Our post office in Leiston closed from lack of footfall to its host shop, caused by excess traffic in the town making online shopping more desirable. It is now a minimum 6 mile trip to access a Post Office service elsewhere.

Infrastructure, like mobile phone services, is already inadequate, with frequent blackouts. In fact, I would have liked to give dynamic web addresses for my sources but I have a poor signal for the internet today, so the sources have to remain generic.

In short, efficient project management and Local Authority supervision are not visible. Sub-contracting means poor communication, and loss of managerial responsibility. We argued for this to be improved at the PINS public enquiry stages, and we now can see clearly that it has not been addressed.

I am personally aware of people who have suffered severe mental health problems as a result of the works, and they are not even able to move away for respite as their homes have lost their value.

And we are only at preparatory stages of only 2 projects (Sizewell C/D and SPR EA2).

As for the environment, hedges and trees have been removed in shocking numbers, during nesting season, with rare, migrating birds unable to breed. I witnessed the annual, spring return of the red-listed cuckoo, normally a shy bird, to Lovers Lane, Sizewell, where a century-old wood had been felled even before consent, and he had to perch on the new wire fence next to bulldozed ground and stacks of office containers where thick, historic hedgerows had grown only a week before.

It is necessary to remind everyone concerned at this stage that awaiting the termination of these huge projects and their mitigation offerings is lethal for the breeding cycle, and we must expect more local extinctions, particularly as identification of at-

risk species is limited only to within project order limits in order to expedite the argument for development. As this area remains one of the last havens of threatened species, both terrestrial and marine, the outlook is poor.

The large earthworks are forcing mammals out of their carefully-designated territories, which cause daily, distressing RTAs, again at increasing cost to local people.

In addition, archaeology site clearance is apparently not carried out by ecologically aware workforces: removal of topsoil in an ecologically-sensitive area is completed in an insensitive and industrial manner with no regard for the more invisible species like reptiles and aquatics, or tree roots.

Our Children

Cluster projects use ambient air pollution detectors. Sealink's order limits are often well within 1000 metres of settlements and ecologically sensitive areas, which compromises the healthy environment of both habitats (DEFRA) while falling outside the strict jurisdiction of planning guidelines.

There are 1,482 school age children in this catchment area; some schools are close to works, or works traffic flows and remain inadequately accounted for in plans for traffic management, haul routes, and emissions control.

The UK Energy Research Centre published, in the *Journal of Development Studies*, Vol 61, 2025, Nduka and Jimoh's study of ambient air monitoring as an inadequate measure of the damages caused by airborne pollution to children's neural development, cognitive and motor skills. Any genuinely sensitive project should take this on board and protect our children.

Noise: I live about 2 miles away from SZC and SPR 's preconstruction works, yet I hear them, each day.

The imposition of 'Energy' onto 'Heritage' Coast is like a forced marriage dreamed up in a fantasy detached from reality. Please grant us a divorce.