

6 November 2025

YOU HAVE TAKEN OUR DREAMS AND TURNED THEM INTO NIGHTMARES.

Seven years ago, to the horror of local residents, the SPR projects were proposed for Friston. Nothing I have heard here—yesterday or today—surprises me. Nothing has really changed. The issues remain the same, yet the impact is now even greater. National Grid continues to be wilfully elusive and uncooperative. Friston quite literally begged National Grid to explain their overall plans.

Projects of this scale should form part of an integrated masterplan, and the Inspectorate should have insisted that one be prepared before accepting these separate submissions. Plans for our future energy needs should have been exciting and inspiring. Instead, in the absence of a clear, integrated vision, all we can do is speculate about the potential consequences for our village and this region.

Today—and every day—we are being forced to cope with the impact of these energy projects. The developments taking place in this region are ecologically disastrous, economically unsound, and politically undemocratic. They lack vision, wilfully ignoring more sustainable technologies and resulting in even greater harm to both the environment and local communities.

Development Consent Orders (DCOs) have a 95% approval rate. The process heavily favours developers, who are now abusing it. You, the inspectors for SEALINK, can see for yourselves the effect these projects are having on our community, and you have the power to help protect what remains.

This area is at a tipping point. Moreover, these projects do not need to be onshore to achieve our clean energy goals. What is urgently needed is:

- An issue-specific hearing on offshore alternatives; and
- An issue-specific hearing to assess the cumulative impact of all approved, proposed, and future projects.

Indeed, what is SEALINK actually required for, if not to serve additional, as-yet unconfirmed projects? This piecemeal approach to development must come to an end.

My husband and I stand in full support of all that has been said during these meetings, and want to express our deepest gratitude to SEAS and SASES for their tireless campaigning over the past six to seven years.

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Mya Manakides

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Lack of a Masterplan

This coastal community is witnessing rapid and profound landscape change: what was once primarily a farming and tourist area is being transformed into an industrial zone. This escalating process has progressed through *de facto* fragmentation, with developers submitting separate individual Development Consent Order (DCO) applications as if each project were independent, when in fact they are interconnected and interdependent. This approach has been orchestrated from the outset by National Grid.

Since 2019, three major infrastructure DCOs have already been submitted two of which have been approved. The lack of transparency surrounding what is proposed constitutes an abuse of the planning system and demonstrates a disregard for the community and environment onto which these projects are being imposed.

The absence of a visionary, coordinated masterplan has already resulted in costly and unnecessary outcomes.

For example, the DCO for East Anglia ONE (EA1) granted permission in 2014 for up to 1,200 MW. The project was subsequently revised to around 714 MW using HVAC (alternating current) transmission, with a non-material change approved in 2016. By accepting this supposedly non-material change, the Planning Inspectorate enabled a requirement for an additional substation at Friston to serve EA1N. Had only EA2 required a grid connection using the Sizewell C cable corridor, the connection could have been delivered in a far more sustainable manner.

The EA1 experience illustrates how national energy planning is being compromised by developers altering critical project parameters after consent has been granted.

The government's current agenda of driving rapidly toward Net Zero regardless of consequences places the Inspectorate in the challenging position of determining whether the '*harms outweigh the benefit*'. While Net Zero is unquestionably of great national importance, the means of achieving it is equally critical. Without an overarching masterplan that integrates projects, identifies interdependencies, and demonstrates how shared infrastructure could minimise multiple cable corridors and other intrusive onshore works, there is no assurance that the process is being delivered sustainably.

Sustainability and the Planning Framework

Sustainability is embedded within the National Planning Policy Framework.

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development providing homes, commercial development, and infrastructure in a manner that meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The United Kingdom, along with other UN Member States, is committed to the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, which encompass social progress, economic well-being, and environmental protection.

The Inspectorate must therefore treat energy infrastructure holistically, not as a series of isolated schemes. It is a vast, interconnected system whose infrastructure requirements, environmental impacts, and social consequences must be managed at a landscape and regional scale. Done well, East Anglia could become a model of how to balance ambition with care; done poorly, as is currently happening, the region's communities and natural heritage will be diminished.

Cumulative Impact: A Regional Overview

To illustrate the cumulative burden, here are major existing and proposed energy-related projects in the region:

1. **Sizewell C** – new nuclear power station
2. **East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2)** – offshore wind farms with onshore infrastructure converging near Friston
3. **Sea Link**
4. **LionLink (UK–Netherlands interconnector)**
5. **Nautilus interconnector**
6. **Other wind farm extensions**, e.g., Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
7. **Proposed solar and battery installations**, such as a 250 MW solar + storage project near Friston
8. **New water supply infrastructure** for Sizewell C, proposed by Anglian Water

These projects are not independent. Many share or overlap cable routes, substations, land, and construction timelines. The scale of developments being undertaken is transformative and the current destruction of the environment can clearly be seen attached as an example Lover's Lane the approach to Sizewell before and after.

Call for Action

I therefore call for a **moratorium** on all proposed infrastructure projects, whether already submitted or emerging, until they can be coordinated within a comprehensive, visionary, and integrated masterplan which looks to minimise their cumulative impact on the local community and environment.

Luigi Beltrandi

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November 2025



Lover's Lane The approach to Sizewell before and after (Summer 2025)