

**IAIN BROWN – ORAL PRESENTATION TO PLANNING INSPECTORATE –**  
**5/11/25**  
**NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION FOR AN ORDER**  
**GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE SEA LINK PROJECT.**

Hello.

My name is Iain Brown and I am a resident of Aldeburgh, and would like to take this opportunity with the Inspectors, to state my opposition to this DCO application proposed to land on our Heritage Coast, a protected area of outstanding natural beauty, rich in biodiversity, and historically important archaeological sites.

The Consultation procedures that we have collectively endured over recent years, have been merely box-ticking exercises by the developers and National Grid. There has been no genuine consideration of Communities views, nor attempts by NGET to consider, the landfall options apparent in Brownfield sites and the obvious alternative of a modular Offshore Grid hub.

The driving element of this process, the “2030” timeline, is widely deemed to be increasingly unrealistic and should be reconsidered, while also revising and implementing a more holistic, strategic approach to UK energy policy that would be fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond. Sadly, at the moment, it is not!

While the UK has laid claim to being a “World Leader” in Renewable Energy provision, our neighbours across the North Sea, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, have advanced with future-proofed deployment of Offshore Grid technology. It is clear that Sea Link is one of many Energy projects scheduled for Land grab and Land fall in Coastal Suffolk, and that is ON TOP of the invasive construction process already underway with Sizewell C! The Cumulative Impact will have horrendous results for the environment and communities of this

region. It is also quite becoming quite apparent that SeaLink, as a concept and proposition, is already an unnecessary and redundant addition to this ill-devised National Grid upgrade.


It is ironic that as these hearings begin, there are at least four more related “Forums” and “Consultations” events being held in this area today - 5<sup>th</sup> November. And only this week, plans have emerged to deliver water from already depleted local sources to Sizewell C. This rural and agricultural area is being denuded of its basic natural resources by the excessive demands of this and other Energy projects. And we are already experiencing their destructive presence in this region.

I fully support and agree with previous statements made by other community representatives and Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS). And I greatly support the aims for renewable energy, but these are the wrong projects, in the wrong place, and the Cumulative Impact on this region is already evident for all to see.

It is time for the Energy Secretary, Mr. Miliband, and NESO, to pause this feverish push to 2030 at all costs, and consider the alternatives, especially offshore.

I do hope that the Inspectors will recognise these views as valid. The last thing we all want is an Energy version of HS2 – because I fear that is where we are headed.

Thank you for listening.

Iain Brown   
Aldeburgh,  
Suffolk