

My name is Gordon Young, and I am an affected party, living approximately 500 metres from the proposed converter station at Saxmundham.

I speak today as someone whose home, my surrounding landscape and wellbeing would be directly affected and I do so in full support of Suffolk Energy Action Solutions and Saxmundham Against Needless Destruction, two groups that have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and bring forward evidences.

I also fully endorsed all the points raised by others during this hearing so far.

Let me begin by stating that I fully support the UK's transition to clean, renewable energy.

However, that transition must be achieved in a way that is responsible, balanced, and fair to the communities affected.

The current proposal for Sea Link, and particularly the choice of Saxmundham for its onshore infrastructure, fails to meet those standards.

It represents the very worst example of a piecemeal and uncoordinated infrastructure planning.

The project should not be looked at in isolation, the Lionlink converter station is embedded in this application.

The site selection is deeply flawed. It is not easily accessible.

The landfall and cable trench routes impact vital protected natural habitats.

The chosen location is elevated, visually prominent, and unacceptably close to homes and heritage assets. The proposed converter stations would dominate the local skyline and permanently alter the surrounding rural landscape.

The new bridge and access road across the River Fromus would require carving through the historic setting of Hurts Hall and St John's Church, a visual sign post to "Converter City"!

The recent admission by the applicant that the Benhall Railway Bridge cannot support the transformer loads further demonstrates the inadequacy of the local road network for the proposed scheme.

Even Suffolk County Council has described this as a *"disproportionate solution to a self-imposed problem"*

Here in East Suffolk, we are being overwhelmed by an onslaught of major NSIP projects, it is frankly becoming a "dumping ground"!

Within a five-mile radius, we have **Sizewell C**, Scottish Power's **EA1N** and **EA2 Friston Connection Hub**, **Sea Link**, **LionLink** and the recently announced **Essex Suffolk Water Project**.

Over the next 12 to 15 years, we face continuous construction, noise, traffic, and dust, the Heritage Coast becoming a building site.

It is, quite simply, a disproportionate burden for one small area to bear. Demonstrated clearly by the accompanying **Cumulative Impact Map**.

The combined impact will permanently alter the landscape, damage our local economy, and undermine community wellbeing.

For those of us living here, this does not represent progress, but an erosion of our place and trust in the planning process.

Clean energy is vital, but it must be delivered in a manner that is strategic, equitable, and sensitive to the communities who host it. This proposal does not achieve that balance.

In addition, what is proposed here has no precedent anywhere in the UK. Nowhere else are converter stations and electrical infrastructures of this scale, up to 26 metres high and occupying good agricultural land of close to 185 acres, placed within 500 metres of homes, positioned immediately beside a town of more than 5,000 residents. It is entirely at odds with established siting principles for high-voltage infrastructure and would expose Saxmundham and its residents to a degree of industrialisation and risk that no comparable community has ever been expected to absorb.

I am submitting the annotated aerial photographs (taken from Google Earth - Nov 2025), to illustrate clearly the unprecedented and inappropriate proximity of the proposed Sea Link and LionLink converter stations to Saxmundham and its residential areas. The aerial photos are as follows:

- 1     ***Aerial photo from Google Earth showing the siting of Orsted's Hornsey 3 converter stations and substation and their distance to the closest residential receptors being approx.800 meters.*** The site is easily accessible from the B1113 and the Norwich Southern Bypass.
- 2     ***Aerial photo from Google Earth showing the siting of NGET's Viking Link converter stations and their distance to the closest residential receptors being approx.2.2 km.***
- 3     ***Aerial photo from Google Earth showing the siting of the proposed NGET's Sea Link and Lionlink converter stations and their distance to the closest residential receptors being less than 500 meters.***

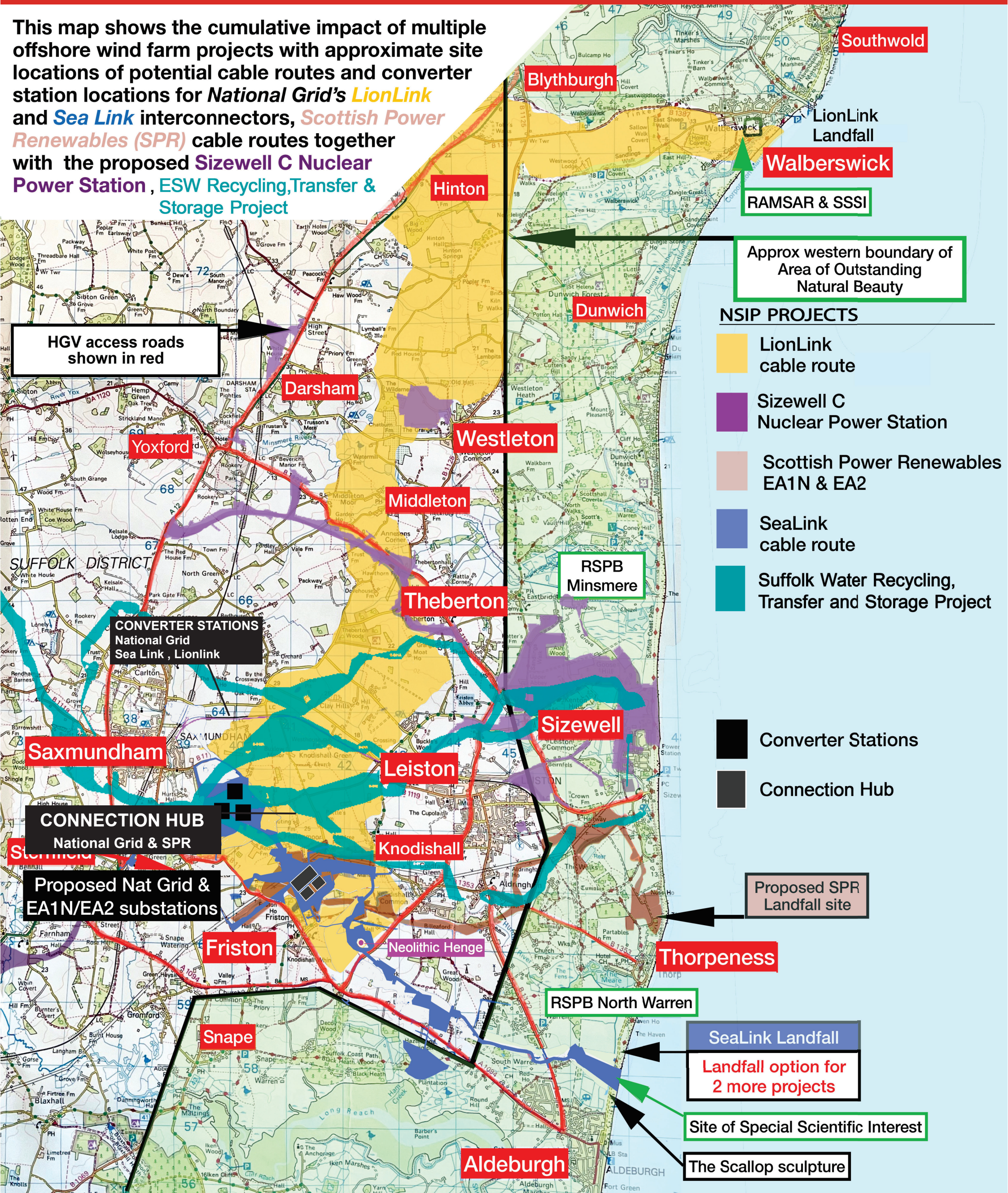
I urge the Examining Authority to scrutinise the need case for Sea Link, to recognise the fundamental flaws in its site selection, and to assess the severe cumulative impacts already imposed on coastal Suffolk.

Thank you

# CUMULATIVE IMPACT MAP

## COASTAL SUFFOLK

This map shows the cumulative impact of multiple offshore wind farm projects with approximate site locations of potential cable routes and converter station locations for **National Grid's LionLink** and **Sea Link** interconnectors, **Scottish Power Renewables (SPR)** cable routes together with the proposed **Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station**, **ESW Recycling, Transfer & Storage Project**



1 Aerial photo from Google Earth showing the siting of **Orsted's Hornsey 3 converter stations and substation** and their distance to the closest residential receptors



Aerial photo from Google Earth showing the siting of **NGET's Viking Link converter stations** and their distance to the closest residential receptors



