

This Sea Link Project application is for the wrong site, using outdated technology, being rushed through to pave the way for many other projects waiting in line in a blind direction of destruction.

Net zero is about balance and negating harm

National Grid have requested 48% upfront grant to bank roll Sea Link before consent has even been given.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November early construction funding was awarded by Ofgem.

**Risk:** If a project is cancelled, the costs incurred through ECF may never be recovered.

The OFH showcased numerous errors, omissions and darn right miss truths presented by NG. It demonstrated that this project should never be given the go ahead to proceed in its current form. Sea Link needs to be modernized and be made fit for use before this ill thought out and rushed through plan is allowed to proceed. I believe this money has been awarded in a rushed and in an ill-thought-out manner. Sea Link is being steam rolled ahead, as presented in Ofgem's Decision on Early Construction Funding, to meet deadlines.

Proper planning and thought needs to be applied to convince our communities that the right and proper path to progress is being taken.

We are weary, we feel we have been deceived, we feel we have been taken for granted and never offered any respect in the decisions made regarding our homes/landscape/communities/economy – it goes on.

And now we have the news that Essex and Suffolk water want to tear up and trench miles of countryside to ultimately get water to Sizewell C.

As we have witnessed already, this gross erosion of money and trust with our water companies – corporate greed at any expense.

There has been no joined up thinking or planning, the cumulative impact on this small area is devastating.

SeaLink

LionLink

Sizewell C

Friston Substation

EA1

EA2

Friston Solar Farm which requires a DCO due to its vastness.

Two villages bypass

North Park and ride site

South Park and ride site

Darsham Solar farm

Our roads are overwhelmed, travel times doubled, our countryside is unrecognisable, we are weary, we are tired of the exploitation and lack of regard.

The disregard NG has for us is reflected in the proposed Change of Order Limits relating to the Benhall Railway Bridge published 7 October 2025.

The consultation was not publicised in Sternfield at all and only made aware of by the dedicated work of the team at SANDS, the many residents in Benhall are finally being made aware of the impact this will now have on them, not just Saxmundham and Sternfield. This is a late addition, when all IP's have already completed their feedback so any chance to comment is being swept under the carpet so NG can forge ahead with impunity for the local communities, traffic management, the environment, and many other factors.

The Saxmundham converter station site is logistically in a poor position, yet NG propose to build the western access route and a large bridge over the River Fromus without resolving how ALLs would cross the Benhall Railway Bridge. The bridge's reduced weight limit has been known from the outset, yet no proper surveys or mitigation plans were presented until now. The fact that the community at Whitearch have been totally dismissed and are proposed to be blocked in by the bridge proposal, this highlights exactly how NG view and respect local people.

Us, the local people, have to live through all this grief and upset because of private overseas enterprises wanting to make as maximum profit with the minimum investment for their shareholders, my community, my local economy, my landscape will not benefit, it will be destroyed – is that fair?

This greed will blight my beautiful countryside, impact my day to day living with mental stress, noise, pollution and a sense of great loss, no, mourning – it will destroy East Suffolk.

This Sea Link project can be placed offshore, more cost efficiently causing far less impact to communities whether they be social, ecological and economic.

What right does a multinational private enterprise whose main aim is to maximise their investment, supplemented by Government grants, funded by our hard-earned taxes into huge shareholder gains, only to be funnelled back overseas.

All this, at the expense of hard working, honest local folk, us, the custodians of this beautiful historic countryside.

I urge the planning inspectorate to consider that;-

1. Logistically this is in the wrong place, it is inaccessible, to make it accessible you have to destroy our countryside and divide our communities, and, to consider at least the families and their homes metres away, for which safety implications are huge – there will be blood on NG's (and those who allow this project) hands when a converter blows – and there is plenty recent evidence that these converter stations ignite.
2. The use of outdated technology. The initial proposal has been ditched for cheaper and less efficient tech.
3. We know that National Grid refuse to put this project offshore, because they won't make such huge profits reselling the electricity, they can resell at a higher rate from on shore – it's all at our expense – there's no compromise.
4. There is no justification of the disproportionate gain National Grid plc will make to our losses – it is unfair to trash our countryside - its unique and fragile ecosystems, our livelihoods and fracture our communities in such a way. NG lie behind the guise of Net Zero and the impractical ambitions set to achieve it, exploiting the weaknesses of the goals set, to make their advantage.

Thank you for listening.