

Open hearing speech

Dear Planning Inspectors,

Thank you for this opportunity as dental emergency prevented me from speaking at the event, and I do hope that my apologies were given as requested.

I would like to start with my journey the day before from my home to the Snape Maltings. As I made my way on the A12, I expected to be slowed down by the 30 mile an hour restrictions on this main road related to the solar energy construction work as well as Sizewell traffic. Visually one starts to see all the effects of the ongoing construction work at Yoxford on the A12 with a noted loss of valuable roadside trees and countryside, then the solar works themselves and further new access roads through farmland. Of note, as I passed through Darsham I counted eight Sizewell tipper trucks blocking a lay-by and more on the opposite side. I also passed four in our local small lay by near my home which appears to be a regular occurrence. I used my satnav because on previous trips to Aldeburgh I noticed that the turning off the A12 was becoming incredibly confusing. On this occasion I was horrified to be visually assaulted by what appeared to be a huge number of conflicting signs, and the area had now become unrecognisable. Confused by the no entry signs, I drove past the actual turn off, after all local roads have been closed relating to the ongoing construction works.

Finally, having turned around and approached from the right, I joined a long traffic lights queue prior to joining the A1094. My return journey was a complete nightmare and whilst I realise that the situation I met may not be an every day occurrence, but it will occur again in the future I am sure. I nearly took the local roads home, but was concerned about the heavy Sizewell traffic on them and decided to keep to the A12. As I approached the turn off of the A1094 onto the A12 I noted traffic queues were greatly increased this time and looking ahead towards the A12 itself I could see why. The A12 was completely blocked in both directions by two of the most gargantuan vehicles, not just huge and bulky but phenomenally long with full police cars and motorcycles in escort assisting this agonising manoeuvre. They must have found the new layout of the A1094 turnoff extremely difficult to navigate for the A12 was blocked for a long period which could potentially have had huge safety implications. What would have happened if there had been any emergencies above what the air ambulance services could provide? Finally, more than 21/2 hours late I arrived home!

Whilst waiting in traffic for hours, I recalled an article about when our now departed Queen Elizabeth officially opened Snape Maltings concert hall in 1967, when she visited Aldeburgh's Moot Hall and spoke with Benjamin Britten. Later, I looked up this encounter and I quote the Queen to B Britten "you have encouraged the arts to flower in the soil of this pleasant part of Suffolk", referring of course to this very special area Suffolk coastal area and surrounding villages, towns and countryside. One wonders what her majesty would've made of all these industrialising projects threatening this pleasant area of Suffolk.

Myself, my family and my local community are all deeply concerned and haunted as our whole way of life is changing at an unprecedented and alarming rate which will affect us and our future generations. The stresses inherent are causing both physical and mental health issues to many affected. Not being an industrialised environment but one that heavily relies on agricultural output and tourism connected this 'pleasant part of Suffolk' with its natural, ecologically special and nationally important heritage and environments.

We need to value nature before it's too late, or we and future generations will pay the price for uncontrolled destruction.

What is left of our oldest and irreplaceable woodlands that were hundreds of years in the making. These precious, vulnerable environments are places where humans and wildlife can thrive but the Woodland Trust states c 1,200 old cum ancient woodlands are now under threat.

Mature trees are valuable not newly planted saplings that may struggle to survive on disturbed land involved in mitigation attempts. There are some worrying comments made regarding mitigation coming from Sizewell C officials that would appear to be greenwashing relating to destructive activities suggesting that one of their mitigation sites is already of SSSI quality! Scientifically how is that even possible?

Also stating that following two years into construction, they have already compensated for 50% of the overall habitat impacts, and that they will be re-planting trees and bushes next winter.

Sizewell C traffic is already affecting normal local traffic conditions causing considerable congestion and confusion relating to timing of every day journeys. The impact of further multiple projects all taking place within this vulnerable area would be surely untenable.

I conclude with stating that I am completely in agreement with SEAS concerns and issues regarding the unconscionable plans relating to the proposed Sea-Link project et al.

Thank you for your careful expert thoughts on these incredibly important decisions you have to make.

Andelphine Mason-Brown Ref [REDACTED]