

# National Grid Electricity Transmission – Sea Link – EN020026

## Suffolk County Council (SCC) - Local Impact Report

### Response from Saxmundham Town Council

Saxmundham Town Council welcomes Suffolk County Council's thorough Local Impact Report.<sup>1</sup> The following comments add local context to the observations:

SCC Ref	Suffolk County Council – Local Impact Report	Saxmundham Town Council – Comments
<b>Appendices<sup>2</sup></b>	In relation to supporting documentation, the countywide, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project - Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project – is currently at non-statutory stage is planned to commence 2030.	We consider that this project, as referred to in our Written Representation, should be considered in relation to inter-project cumulative impact. <sup>3</sup>
<b>pp. 141-2 11.121</b>	B1119/B1121 Saxmundham Crossroads – Sizewell C data shows this signalised junction is already over the theoretical capacity. Improvements have been made to the signals such as retrofitting MOVA. Local knowledge would support the data with significant delays on a daily basis particularly on the B1119 from the east exacerbated by the presence of the two supermarkets. Although only peak and shoulder hours were assessed there is concern that delays occur throughout the day and therefore should be assessed.	We have addressed this and can now add Sizewell C's August 2025 traffic monitoring figures that highlight a 20 percent increase in traffic travelling between Saxmundham and Leiston on the B1119 plus footfall figures into the mix as further evidence. <sup>4</sup> SCC notes that there are 'significant delays on a daily basis particularly on the B1119 from the east'. We included photographic evidence on this in our Relevant Representation. <sup>5</sup> Ideally, traffic monitoring should be undertaken to understand the volume of traffic entering Saxmundham.
<b>p.145</b>	B1119: Saxmundham to Leiston (S-RL7): Narrow road width in Saxmundham. On street parking in Leiston and Saxmundham causing delays. Concern over capacity and delay issues at the signal-controlled crossroads in part associated with two supermarkets in Saxmundham. Surface water flooding issue near the Saxmundham level crossing. Poor road geometry in places along the length of the B1119 with several sharp bends and narrow sections.	In the Open Floor Hearing we raised concerns about traffic impacts in Saxmundham, especially when the Benhall to Saxmundham road is closed. <sup>6</sup> In our Relevant Representation we also raised the issues concerning increased traffic. <sup>7</sup> To briefly reiterate, the B1119 from the A12 to Saxmundham town centre is not a suitable route for construction and construction workers vehicles This route includes: residential areas, a care home, a nursing home, Memorial Field with children walking, walking route to school on Brook Farm Road, potential SEND provision, a zebra crossing and listed buildings. At places the

<sup>1</sup> [EN020026-001238-SCC Sea Link Local Impact Report.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [EN020026-001239-SCC Sea Link LIR Appendices 1 - 16.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Documents | Sea Link \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Sizewell C Traffic Monitoring Report – November 2025 pp 17-18](#)

<sup>5</sup> [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [EN020026-001033-Open Floor Hearing, Noise 5 Nov amended to transcript.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

		road is very narrow with weight restrictions and includes, a railway crossing, the traffic light controlled B1119/B1121 crossroads, two major supermarkets, a zebra crossing, two bus stops and is dangerous for pedestrians crossing the road to St John the Baptist Church and Manor Gardens.
<b>p. 155 11.176</b>	Key areas of cumulative inter-project impact are considered to be: v. B1121 from A12 to River Fromus Bridge: Sea Link, Lion Link vi. B1121 to Saxmundham and B1119 towards Leiston: Sea Link, Lion Link	Taking into consideration the annual 20% increase in traffic as noted above, the implications of daily twenty-four rail use, we consider that Sizewell C directly impacts Saxmundham and should be added to the projects that affect the B1121 and B1119. Moreover, the Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project and South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood of 800 residential dwellings and associated employment area as noted in our WR should be considered as inter-project impacts. <sup>8</sup>
<b>pp.167-8 Converter Station Site 11.242</b>	Saxmundham Footpaths 5 and 6 cross the site and require diversion. 11.242 SCC considers that the development and design of the converter station site should include additional opportunities for recreation and other community benefits and should be developed with input from the local communities, through proactive engagement with Saxmundham, Benhall and Sternfield. 11.243 The strip of land along of the B1119 currently included in the proposed DCO limits, even considering the recent change request by the Applicant, does not appear sufficient to accommodate substantial planting (tree belts) and an additional Public Right of Way that would provide, at least, for example, a circular route from Saxmundham, which also connect to other PRow in the area. River Fromus Crossing.	We refer to our Relevant Representation, section 20 and appendix 3, <i>Empowering Nature – Protecting Saxmundham</i> in which we call for ‘a bold call for nature-positive infrastructure and locally driven environment enhancement... grounded in local priorities, informed by community consultation, and designed to deliver tangible long-term gains in biodiversity, public access to nature, and community well-being’. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we can confirm that we have engaged with a wildlife group to drive forward the initiative and fully participate with stakeholders, including local parishes and environmental groups.
<b>p.203</b>	Suffolk’s economic base - especially in rural towns like Saxmundham, Leiston, and Aldeburgh - is made up of mostly small, service-oriented businesses that could benefit from short-term construction activity, particularly if accommodation is sourced locally and worker spend is retained within the community. However, without intervention, these opportunities tend to be minimal and transient	In practice, this assumed economic uplift has not been reflected in Saxmundham’s experience to date. Early observational evidence suggests that any increased spend from Sizewell C workers is largely captured by national chains — supermarkets, hotels and takeaways — rather than independent high street traders. Independent businesses report reduced footfall as a result of congestion and

<sup>8</sup> [EN020026-001135-Saxmundham Town Council - F248483B9 - Sea Link - EN020026 - Written Representation.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#), (quoted from p.34).

	and are often captured by larger regional or national supplier.	parking pressures, and increased traffic discourages regular shoppers from visiting the town centre. These behavioural changes suppress precisely the type of linked trips (supermarket visit followed by independent shopping) that sustain local retail resilience. Without targeted measures that actively support independent businesses, the claimed benefits are unlikely to materialise in Saxmundham.
<b>p.214 13.86</b>	The Council is seeking to ensure the accommodation of construction workers and other workers who are not home based is to the benefit of the visitor economy rather than disrupting it. For example, depending on the scheduling of works, utilising accommodation that is available out of season that could complement the tourist season. If this were not to be achieved, the accommodation sector would be unlikely to be able to accommodate both workers and tourists, thus resulting in a reduction in tourist numbers and potentially detrimental impacts on tourist businesses in the region.	<p>While the principle of aligning worker accommodation with seasonal availability is noted, this is only viable if Sizewell C ensures that the majority of non-home-based workers are housed within the dedicated Sizewell C accommodation campus. Failure to do so will place unsustainable pressure on the local private rented sector. In Saxmundham and Leiston, rental prices have risen sharply in recent years, and the arrival of long-term construction workers has the potential to inflate them further, pushing local households out of reach of affordable housing options. Evidence from the current market already shows limited supply and high demand; see Rightmove current listings that illustrate the scarcity and cost of rental accommodation.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>In addition, the increased use of HMOs for worker accommodation risks creating knock-on impacts in residential neighbourhoods. These include heightened on-street parking pressures - particularly acute in Saxmundham where some rail users already park in residential streets to avoid station charges. Without stringent controls and a firm commitment that the Sizewell C campus will be the default accommodation solution, the visitor economy and local communities will face significant and lasting disruption.</p>
<b>p.214 13.88 and 13.89</b>	The Council encourages the Applicant to consider community benefit options and would be happy to discuss how community benefits suitable for the locality could be incorporated. Secondary mitigation should be in addition to any community benefits from the development, guided by the government's expectations set out in the Community Funds for Transmission Infrastructure Guidance published by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero in March 2025. The Council also encourages project	We refer to our Relevant Representation section 20 and appendix 3, <i>Empowering Nature – Protecting Saxmundham</i> in which we call for 'a bold call for nature-positive infrastructure and locally driven environment enhancement... grounded in local priorities, informed by community consultation, and designed to deliver tangible long-term gains in biodiversity, public access to nature, and community well-

<sup>10</sup> [Properties To Rent in Saxmundham | Rightmove](#)

	promoters to consider legacy opportunities of all elements of their development.	being'. <sup>11</sup> Furthermore, we can confirm that we have engaged with a wildlife group to drive forward the initiative and fully engage with stakeholders, including local parishes and environmental groups.
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<sup>11</sup> [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#), (quoted from p.34).