

National Grid Electricity Transmission – Sea Link – EN020026

East Suffolk Council (ESC) - Local Impact Report

Response from Saxmundham Town Council

Saxmundham Town Council welcomes East Suffolk Council's thorough Local Impact Report. The following comments add local context to the observations:¹

| ESC Ref | East Suffolk Council – Local Impact Report | Saxmundham Town Council – Comments |
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| 6.1.3 | ESC considers the following matter outstanding - restrictions on HGV movements on the A1094 and B1122 via Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) controls. | We are concerned that no mention is made to the B1119 and B1121 Saxmundham roads, albeit this issue is extensively raised by Suffolk County Council, with responsibility for highways in their Local Impact Report and Saxmundham Town Council in our Relevant Representation, Open Floor Hearing and Written Responses. ² |
| pp. 72-73 | Concerning community benefits - ESC understands that some communities may have their own ideas on how to offset or compensate where impacts are directly linked to the project. It is again important to reiterate that Sea Link is not being developed in isolation - there are multiple other projects proposing compensatory measures so there is potential for NGET to co-ordinate compensation associated with Sea Link with other measures agreed with other project promoters. In this context, ESC draws the ExA's attention to the details contained within the Section 111 agreements with ESC for the SPR East Anglia ONE North and TWO offshore wind farms. | 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'. ³ Furthermore, we can confirm that we have engaged with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to drive forward the initiative and we will fully participate with all stakeholders, including local parishes and environmental groups. |
| 7.8.8.4 | Saxmundham is a traditional rural market town with limited industrial development outside of an existing industrial estate located just north of the town. The proposed converter station is unprecedented in scale and visual impact and has the potential to transform the character of the town. | We agree with ESC and would refer to our comprehensive Relative Representation that presents a full written description of the town and the impacts of the development. ⁴ |
| 7.8.8.7 | High Street economies are fragile, and Saxmundham is dependent on local trade as well as an influx of visitors exploring the Suffolk Coast. Whilst Saxmundham may benefit from a temporary influx of workers during NSIP construction...there are | In practice, this assumed temporary 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 - |

¹ [EN020026-001182-East Suffolk Council - Local Impact Report - 18.11.25.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

² [EN020026-001238-SCC Sea Link Local Impact Report.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#); [Documents | Sea Link \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#); [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#); [EN020026-001033-Open Floor Hearing, Noise 5 Nov amended to transcript.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#); ² [EN020026-001135-Saxmundham Town Council - F248483B9 - Sea Link - EN020026 - Written Representation.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

³ [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#), (quoted from p.34).

⁴ [EN020026-000579-Sea Link Relevant Representation - Submission Version Redacted.pdf \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#);

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| | concerns that the legacy for Saxmundham could be one of boom and bust and where the character of the town, its attraction, is permanently changed. | supermarkets, hotels and takeaways - rather than independent high street traders. Independent businesses report reduced footfall as a result of congestion and 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. |
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