

Dear Examining Authority,

Response to Deadline 4 - National Grid Electricity Transmission – Sea Link DCO

Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

I write further to the Sea Link DCO live hearings held this week, and to the concerns raised during those hearings which remain unresolved up to Deadline 4. I would like to express my thanks to the examiners for their continued and thorough manner in conducting these hearings.

It is deeply concerning that, despite the statutory status of Aldeburgh Town Council, its interests and tourism values continue to be overlooked, notwithstanding Aldeburgh's position as the largest and most economically and culturally significant community affected. I again request the urgent correction of the inaccurate claim that the project lies "in between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness"; it is, in fact, **within Aldeburgh**.

Before I continue, it would be remiss of me not to mention that concerns are further compounded by the significant and accelerating loss of coastline witnessed in recent weeks at Thorpeness and the surrounding areas. Coastal erosion is no longer a distant or abstract risk but a present and visible reality, resulting in the permanent loss of land especially the many more meters lost this week, the habitat, and natural protection. The continued degradation of this fragile coastline heightens anxiety for residents, landowners, and businesses already facing uncertainty, and it must be fully acknowledged that introducing further large-scale infrastructure into an area experiencing such rapid environmental change risks exacerbating damage that cannot be reversed.

I would also like it on record that I thank and concur with representations from David Mackie, and comments from Charlotte Fox regarding the *lack of holistic, long-term planning*, stating that East Suffolk is being subjected to a chaotic imposition of major infrastructure with little regard for the disproportionate burden on local residents.

Throughout the hearings, repeated and consistent concern was expressed regarding the lack of capacity for additional workers' accommodation in Aldeburgh and the surrounding towns and villages. It is clear from both local evidence and lived experience that no meaningful accommodation capacity remains. This situation has been significantly exacerbated by the Sizewell C development, which has already removed substantial volumes of twelve-month and long-stay tourist accommodation from the area.

As raised during the hearings, this displacement is having a direct and ongoing adverse effect on local high street businesses. These businesses depend on sustained year-round tourism rather than short seasonal peaks, and the cumulative loss of accommodation is undermining their viability. This economic harm has not been adequately quantified or assessed within the application. These businesses require urgent assistance now, before it is too late. I know from speaking to local businesses that some are seriously considering to not renew their leases when due, they are becoming unviable and this news is catastrophic, not just for Aldeburgh and wider but the whole county.

Concerns were also clearly articulated during the hearings regarding the severe congestion of the rural road network. These roads are not designed to accommodate prolonged construction traffic, and congestion is already widespread. The evidence presented does not adequately reflect the reality of rural road constraints, nor does it convincingly address the compounded impact of concurrent major infrastructure projects. Regarding the cumulative impacts, I remain concerned that the applicant have not adequately assessed the impacts regarding the extra traffic through Snape and at the A1094/B1069 junction.

In addition, concerns raised at the hearings highlighted the absence of robust and up-to-date tourism impact surveys. Before this project can be properly examined, up to date and meaningful comprehensive tourism and accommodation assessments must be undertaken to reflect current conditions on the ground, rather than relying on assumptions that are out of date, not transferable from other projects and no longer hold true.

I also wish to highlight the serious concerns raised regarding the award-winning **Aldeburgh Carnival**, following discussions with members of the Carnival Committee, including the Secretary. The committee has expressed deep anxiety about the extreme loss of accommodation during the summer holiday period, which will directly affect the Carnival as it approaches its 83rd year. This long-established and much-loved event relies heavily on visitor accommodation to support attendance, participation, and fundraising. Any reduction in capacity threatens not only the viability of the Carnival itself but also the vital funds it raises each year for local charities—contributions that are deeply woven into the social fabric of the community and must not be undervalued, diminished, or placed at risk by this project.

The hearings rightly raised the issue of human impact. Long working hours, increased light pollution, noise, and sustained construction activity present serious risks to mental health and wellbeing. These effects are cumulative and long-term and disproportionately affect small rural communities with limited capacity to absorb further disruption. Recognition of these impacts to date has been insufficient.

The hearings further highlighted that anxiety is mounting among landowners, residents, and businesses directly affected by the proposal. Ongoing uncertainty and the lack of clear, resolved information are having a tangible impact on mental health and wellbeing, particularly for those facing potential land take, access disruption, or long-term proximity to construction activity. It is paramount and crucial that everything that can be done to ease these concerns is forefront.

I have profound concerns about the severe and cumulative impacts that will be experienced by my division, its residents, local businesses, and the surrounding environment should this project be consented. This area holds multiple environmental and planning designations for a reason: to protect a sensitive and valued landscape and the communities within it. The scale and intensity of the proposed cable routes, runs, and associated infrastructure will have substantial and lasting effects on those living in, or in close proximity to, these works. The disruption to daily life, local businesses, and residents' mental health is significant and, in some cases, may never fully recover. I also echo concerns raised regarding Sizewell B and C outage figures. Evidence already

shows workers seeking alternative accommodation, as existing local provision is fully booked (as demonstrated in the attached screenshot). The reality of outages occurring every six months, lasting up to three months at a time, presents an ongoing and unsustainable burden on local communities. Furthermore, as more detailed information regarding the Helios project has emerged, clearly its impacts are substantial and must be fully considered in combination with this proposal, rather than assessed in isolation.

Given that these concerns were repeatedly raised during the hearings and remain unresolved up to Deadline 4, it is clear that the current evidence base is incomplete. Until these matters are fully and properly addressed, the Examining Authority cannot reasonably assess the true scale of harm arising from the proposal and that the applicant needs to provide you with this information. The matters above must be resolved before there is nothing left.

Behind every field, holding, and access route are businesses, landowners and farming families who have cared for this land for generations, now living with relentless anxiety and the loss of both present and future livelihoods as unprecedented disruption dismantles lives and incomes they have never known to be so fragile, and who deserve meaningful recognition, support, and protection before irreversible harm is done and it is simply too late.

Once again, thank you in advance for your consideration to my concerns and requests.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Cllr T-J Haworth-Culf

Suffolk County Councillor for Aldeburgh, Leiston, Knodishall, Aldringham & Thorpeness

