

SEALINK COMPULSORY ACQUISITION HEARING 27TH January 2026
Iain Brown ref: S1C1D1EE5

In observing the extensive land acquired even prior to the DCO approval for SZC, it alarms me, and many other residents, as to the demands that will be made on Suffolk Coastal to satisfy SeaLink, Lion Link - and beyond. If one thing is clear, it is that NG obscure the extent of their ambition at every opportunity.

The fact that certain routes are selected over other more obvious access points is at question. As is the insistence that "drilling" will be acceptable on a constantly eroding Coastline. The cause and effect is enormous as evidenced recently by the tragic loss of homes on the crumbling cliffs at Thorpeness (and also Sizewell). And lest we forget, the village of Slaughden was consumed by the North Sea less than a century ago. The heavy personal cost to current residents of this Coast is clear for all to see. And now we have SeaLink.

It is the major concerns over the decision making of SeaLink and NG, regarding route selection and land acquisition for these proposed works that greatly worries many people. Including King Charles, who has now signalled his apparent objection to SeaLink. These concerns greatly increased when it was recently revealed that NESO employees have been offered "preferential shareholding" in NG. There must be clarification and the fullest disclosure by the Applicant on this matter. This situation could possibly influence decisions regarding "Compulsory Acquisition" targets, the manner and extent of acquisition, fair pricing and commercial terms involved. This could well lead to "Conflicts of Interest" arising, as so clearly described in recent press reports, especially The Telegraph article of 4th January 2026 by Jonathan Leake (Energy Editor).

Will the future NG acquisition targets, beyond those already identified, be subject to the oversight and approval of NESO Executives holding NG share certificates? Will this inspire NESO to further support NG wider ambitions and perhaps extend potentially lucrative "Compulsory Acquisition" beyond the immediate needs of SeaLink? There are already fears that the proposed footprint of land to be acquired in Friston and Saxmundham will be enlarged beyond that already stated. As land access is acquired, will other NG related projects now be tumbling through the door behind Sealink and LionLink? Will more land be compulsorily acquired for Solar Farms? Will there be more, as yet unidentified, "land takes" (as described by SeaLink's James Buckley at the CAH 27th January) due in Suffolk and Kent, enhancing NG Shareholder value in the process?

The obfuscation and lack of honesty that has dogged every NG-related proposal thus far does them no credit at all.

I sincerely hope that the recent re-designation of Friston as "Kiln Lane" is not a coded precursor to allow for further "land takes" that could establish a larger Industrial Complex to facilitate increasingly expansive "Energy projects" to invade Suffolk Coastal in the future. It certainly looks like NG's Trojan Horse is being delivered to the Heritage Coast and it will be scandalous if the State owned NESO employees with preferential NG Shares, fiscally benefit from the regions enforced subjugation to these projects. It appears that these protected areas of Suffolk Coastal and Minster Marshes are being sacrificed to the financial benefit of NG and SeaLink shareholders. As already noted, even the King objects!

Yours sincerely, Iain Brown Aldeburgh Resident – Suffolk Coastal