



Submission to Planning Inspectorate

Deadline 4A

In Relation to Suggested Locations for Site Inspections

On behalf of Marlesford Parish Council

Regarding

National Grid Electricity Transmission

DCO Application

For

The Sea Link Project (EN020026)

Chairman Marlesford Parish Council

13th February 2026

1. Introduction

Marlesford Parish Council (MPC) has previously set out its concerns for its residents which arise from the cumulative impact of all the consented and proposed energy projects in East Suffolk, including the Applicant's Sea Link project. MPC's most recent submission was at Deadline 4 and in that submission, we set out our specific concerns in relation to the Marlesford stretch of the A12, and the areas immediately adjacent to the A12 and put forward our requests for mitigation to be included in the Sea Link DCO.

We have noted at PD-019 "Examining Authority's Letter to the additional interested parties as a result of the applicant's change request" where the ExA is calling for suggestions for site visits over and above those already made.

We have also noted in EV1-014 "Note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection afternoon of Tuesday 4 November 2025" that, "The ExA travelled from Wickham Market on the A12 through Marlesford, Little Glemham, Stratford St Andrew and Farnham. The ExA observed the location of construction works and compounds associated with Sizewell C and SPR, and general traffic conditions."

We believe that in relation to the energy projects' traffic (particularly HGVs) on the A12, Marlesford (and Little Glemham) have a right to be considered as special cases because the vast majority of the energy projects' HGV traffic will pass through these severed and un-bypassed communities (unlike Farnham and Stratford St Andrew which will be bypassed as part of the Sizewell C mitigation).

Marlesford residents currently experience fear and intimidation from passing traffic when walking alongside the A12 and when crossing the road. We also have serious concerns about the health and wellbeing of those residents in the 23 dwellings within 20m of the A12 carriageway.

We respectfully argue that the ExA in driving through Marlesford on 4th November 2025, will not have got a sufficiently clear impression of the adverse impacts affecting this village and Little Glemham. We therefore ask the ExA to seriously consider our request for a site inspection at Marlesford.

2. Marlesford Locations for Inspection

i. Marlesford to Wickham Market Footway (Item 2 Deadline 4 Submission)

We ask the ExA to look specifically at the narrowness of the existing footway from where it starts (to the SW of Marlesford Road/A12 junction) and to note its proximity to the carriageway and the potential for causing anxiety for those that use the footway. We also ask the ExA to consider the mitigation proposed which would be a newly created footpath on the NW side of the hedge running adjacent to the A12. We expect the Applicant to make a substantive financial contribution to the creation of this new footpath.

ii. Bell Lane Junction with A12 in Marlesford (Item 3 Deadline 4 Submission)

We ask the ExA to look at the junction of Bell Lane with the A12 and to particularly note the difficulties faced by right turning traffic from Bell Lane joining the A12. We believe there is a visibility issue to the left of this junction where traffic on the A12 heading south is not visible until it appears over the brow of the rise in the road.

There is also an issue for traffic turning right onto the A12 in periods of heavy traffic flows. Gaps are insufficient to allow traffic from Bell Lane to join the A12 and MPC has grave concerns that risk taking will lead to a serious accident at this junction.

The mitigation that we are asking for is work to this junction to improve visibility and safety.

iii. Observe the Proximity of Dwellings to the A12 Carriageway (Item 4 Deadline 4 Submission)

Marlesford has 23 properties that are within 20m of the A12 carriageway. Some properties are significantly closer than this.

We ask that the ExA walks (rather than drives) through the village and notes the proximity of these properties to the A12 and considers the adverse impacts that residents are likely to suffer from the traffic of all the consented and proposed energy projects and the Applicant's own scheme.

We believe there is a serious risk to health and wellbeing for these residents, and we consider that there are potential adverse impacts on mental health as a result of having to live in such close proximity to the noise and vibration from the A12.

As mitigation, MPC proposes that the Applicant be required to provide insulation to the affected properties in order to address the noise issue. Please note that we are concerned about the sustained level of noise rather than the absolute level at any one time.

3. Facilitating the Visit.

If the ExA requires any help in facilitating or conducting the inspection, it should contact Richard Cooper (Chair MPC) on the e mail address held by PINS.

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**Richard Cooper
Chair
Marlesford Parish Council**

13th February 2026