

██████████ – County Cllr Haworth-Culf

Please find below a copy of my verbal words spoken at the last public hearing and written submission. Please may I thank you for your time and consideration throughout this DCO Hearing.

Meeting with ATC (& others?)

The Inspectors' direction that the Applicant engage promptly with a local council was welcomed. It is noted that an invitation to meet had been extended to the Applicant on 26 February 2026, ahead of the March hearings. The first meeting with Aldeburgh Town Council subsequently took place on 1 April.

It is submitted that this delay reflects a wider pattern of insufficiently timely engagement with affected communities. The purpose of such meetings—namely, to discuss and secure meaningful commitments to community engagement—should have been fulfilled at a much earlier stage. In this respect, the concerns raised by ATC and LTC are supported. I am positive that you as Inspectors would like to know if meetings with the other local town and parish councils have happened?

Project Overall.

I continue to agree with ATC (Aldeburgh town council) and LTC (Leiston town council) that the project is fundamentally misconceived and should be refused permission. The points set out below are therefore made only in the event that permission is nevertheless granted.

Town Roads and Roundabout.

I support that no construction or operational traffic should pass through Aldeburgh. While the Applicant has indicated that HGV movements during construction are expected to be fewer than 10 per day, there is presently no enforceable mechanism securing that limit within the draft DCO or REAC. The position advanced by ATC is endorsed: any such restriction must be secured through a legally enforceable cap.

Tourism Mitigation.

The Applicant's approach to defining the affected area of Aldeburgh—limited to land within 500 metres of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme Boundary—is considered to be unrealistically narrow. This concern, as raised by ATC, is supported. It fails to reflect the way in which the town

functions as an integrated tourism destination. The town as a whole must be incorporated.

Character of the Tourism Economy.

The description advanced by SEAS, and mentioned by ATC, is endorsed. The tourism economy of the Suffolk coast, and Aldeburgh in particular, depends upon its unspoilt coastal environment, historic character, and internationally recognised cultural assets, including the Aldeburgh Festival and Snape Maltings. Visitors are attracted by tranquillity and cultural identity rather than conventional resort features. Any proper assessment must take account of these characteristics. Leiston and Thorpeness must be equally included as important areas of tourism.

Assessment and Mitigation of Tourism Impacts.

Strong support is given to the proposal advanced by SCC in its LIR, and supported by ATC and LTC, that tourism businesses within at least 2km of the red line boundary should be identified and assessed. A targeted mitigation package should then be developed.

Such an approach is necessary to ensure that mitigation and any compensation are directed to those most directly affected, rather than being diluted across a wider area, particularly in light of uncertainties around future local government arrangements in Suffolk.

Landfall.

Recent and unexpected erosion at Thorpeness introduces a further element of uncertainty that cannot be ignored. The fact that this erosion was not anticipated even by leading experts underlines the need for a precautionary approach. The concerns raised by AcT pc, ATC and LTC in this regard are supported.

Emergency Services.

The concerns raised regarding emergency service provision remain significant and unresolved. Aldeburgh has a relatively elderly population and a seasonal increase in vulnerable visitors. With no local A&E facility and the nearest hospital located approximately 24 miles away in Ipswich, delays caused by congestion—particularly on the A1094—could have serious consequences.

Consideration should be given to practical mitigation measures, including additional support for emergency response services.

Community Benefit.

Despite public statements supporting community benefit for host communities, no specific offer has been made in respect of Aldeburgh. This inconsistency, as identified by many others is of concern. A clear and meaningful package of local benefits should be secured.

Additional Submission – Vehicle Identification Stickers – As per ATC submission.

The position advanced by ATC regarding vehicle identification is supported. The absence of identification measures places this project below the standard adopted by comparable schemes.

The use of clearly visible vehicle identification stickers would assist with route compliance, provide reassurance to residents, and contribute to public safety, including safeguarding considerations. This measure should be required.

Residents and Businesses within 300m of red line boundaries

Continued concerns for residents and businesses that are within the 300m boundary of works – it remains unclear how all of these people will have their interests and well being looked after to the highest standard. If mitigation is not happening for all of these people and businesses then a clear package of direct compensation must be given to all impacted within the 300m or part off that business or address. It is not just about noise and inconvenience; there will be impacts on access and quality of life for many residents – this has not been assessed and impacts could be felt for many years.

Concerns remain regarding approval.

At no fault to the Inspectors, it appears increasingly likely that the Government is minded to approve this project regardless of the serious and unresolved concerns raised; such an outcome would risk causing profound and lasting harm to the character, economy, and wellbeing of the Aldeburgh area and my whole division, undermining both public confidence and the integrity of the decision-making process.

Yours faithfully

Cllr T-J Haworth Culf

Suffolk County Cllr for the Aldeburgh & Leiston Division.

Good afternoon.

Thank you for allowing me time to speak.

I am the County Councillor for the area, I am speaking and representing my whole division – Aldeburgh Town Council, Leiston Town Council and as The Mayor of Aldeburgh.

I am not a policy expert or an energy planner. I am a local resident, and a local councillor, who sees each day the fine detail of life in Aldeburgh and nearby towns and villages.

Today, I want to talk about something important that has not been fully heard.

This is not only about cables, routes, or grid work. It is about people—especially young children, and those who are more vulnerable.

In our area, many young children have additional learning needs.

They are not numbers. They are little people. Their routines matter, their confidence and trust takes time. Their development depends on calm, familiar surroundings, and feeling safe. Being able to get to school or nursery safely!

For many, getting to nursery or school already takes careful planning. Any change to roads, noise, access, or timing can have a big impact.

If their journey becomes longer, more confusing, or more stressful, they may not get there at all.

And if that happens, they do not just miss a day. They miss an early opportunity— a key moment to learn, to connect, and to feel secure.

These early stages matter, little people are delicate. Not weak—but very sensitive to change.....

There is something else you may not know. Sunflowers Nursery is working to become a beach and area-linked learning setting.

Children learn from the coast and surrounding area — about nature, tides, history, and through outdoor play. This builds confidence, grit and resilience, but this kind of learning depends on calm, safe, and reliable access to the coast and our footpaths.

It needs a stable environment— not one that feels busy, loud, or uncertain.

You cannot grow a child's curiosity about nature if large construction work changes routes, views, and creates concern. This is not theory, it is happening now and it cannot be paused - early development will not wait.

Aldeburgh also works in a very careful balance.

Seasonal rhythms, Visitor flow, Narrow roads. A beautiful balance between tourism and daily life.

One disruption does not just cause delay—it spreads – like a virus

It affects carers reaching people, staff getting to school or nursery, parents on school runs and getting to work and local businesses and tourism attractions opening on time.

We are not empty land, we are a living community with limited capacity for disruption.

And one more point, Aldeburgh gives not just young people calm, open space, and connection to nature, it and the surrounding land have environmental protections placed upon it for its continued protection and heritage. That matters for wellbeing and development.

Long periods of noise, traffic, and uncertainty will change that, for children with additional needs, that change can be overwhelming.

So I ask:

What is the true cost of disrupting a child's early path?

What is the cost of interrupting learning?

What is the cost of changing a town like this?

These costs do not appear in reports.

Has the Children and Families Act 2014 & SEND Policy been viewed? is clear about equality, wellbeing, and community resilience? The question is whether this project disregards those duties in real, lived conditions mentioned by myself and many others.

We all understand the need for national energy planning.

But it must not come at the cost of our most vulnerable—our children, and also our older residents who rely on calm and stability.

Leiston Town Council and its residents tell me, and I'm sure others will concur that the effect from Sizewell C on Leiston and surrounding area has been far greater than anyone anticipated – residents are suffering mental health issues due to the loss of landscape, the unprecedented increase in traffic (both HGVs and contractor traffic) the loss of dark skies and the constant back ground noise, day and night. To add further disruption with another NSIP is far too much for this rural community to comprehend.

If this project is allowed we are not just affecting land—we are affecting opportunity, confidence, reputation, and wellbeing.

And for wildlife and people, that cannot be repaired.

Thank you.

TJ Haworth-Culf

SCC Cllr for the Aldeburgh and Leiston Division.

Aldeburgh, Thorpeness, Leiston, Knodishall, Aldringham and Sizewell.