

Dear Planning Authority

I am writing to set out the reasons for my serious opposition to the Sealink Planning application. My concerns include an overview, a critique of the soundness of the proposal, and the local cultural and environmental perspective.

1. The overview. After the last 6 weeks of hostilities in the Middle East, no-one could deny the need for the UK to maintain an independent, strong and effective power network. However, a much clearer overview of needs and the system must be taken given the current developments. Critically, as ██████████, CEO Octopus Energy and a key Government advisor put it in the Times (26th March 2026), the current proposal will be outdated before it is complete, and our energy supply needs to be more flexible, multi-stranded and adaptable. There are upcoming systems and more appropriate sites which would cause less disruption, be no more costly, and would be much more effective into the future. The current international situation has further illustrated the need for an improved and more strategically designed planning. The recent Middle East situation has also highlighted the folly of concentrating any energy supply along one converging route which would make the country very vulnerable to hostile attack.
2. The proposal.
 - a) The planning application is weak, lacking thoroughness, and is ill-judged in its research and the guarantees it makes. For example, the initial proposal did not take into account the weakness of the Benhall Bridge for transportation of heavy goods to the proposed site. Once National Grid realised its error, its subsequent research was incomplete, not thorough and minimised local impact. No alternative access routes were investigated. Alongside the bridge, the impact of the proposed route for the three communities, Benhall, Sternfield and Saxmundham would be profoundly socially and environmentally damaging in terms of dust, noise, and light pollution. Yet no alternatives have been considered.
 - b) The cumulative impact of the diverse Sealink, Sizewell and Lionlink projects on the above communities is unacceptable. It would make the lives of local people intolerable for years to come. This 'all one's eggs in one basket' approach to energy supply by National Grid is also clear folly, given the current strategic international situation.
3. Local cultural, environmental and heritage background. This region is loved by both locals and our many visitors for its unique environmental beauty and its Suffolk farming culture, its ecological significance, and its history. Snape Maltings, just a mile away from the proposed planned works, is an internationally significant site for music and culture, as is the Aldeburgh Festival. Our area is also home to internationally renowned RSPB Minsmere. The landfall for Sealink is an RSPB 'super-flyway' for endangered migrating birds, along with being home to cuckoos, terns, bitterns, swifts and others. In terms of potential damage, we have already

lost 26,000 trees, including many ancient oaks, due to Sizewell preliminary work which has brought a terrible loss of habitat and corresponding huge increase in traffic. The area cannot take anymore without losing its cultural and ecological uniqueness and it would be transformed from a very special cultural and an environmentally sensitive part of the UK into an industrial site. This would be a terrible waste, not to mention an ecological crime.

In regard to heritage, there are no other regions of the UK whose ancient Saxon history, as highlighted by Sutton Hoo, features as a permanent international exhibition in the British Museum and is on all their publicity. Other linked ancient sites and remains are spread across the proposed Sealink area, which is flanked by a second ship burial site, ancient Saxon churches, a woodhenge and horse burial sites. To wilfully build over, or in the vicinity of these sites would be to disregard our heritage.

This proposed planned infrastructure site cannot reasonably go ahead in this area. There are more suitable, less sensitive and culturally significant areas.

Yours

Dr S. J. Bunn

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