

Fiona Cramb

Deadline 6 Submission

As an affected person I was invited to speak at the compulsory purchase hearing on March 25th and would have asked to speak on this agenda item

- to discharge the ExA's duty to hear persons affected by compulsory acquisition (CA) and temporary possession (TP) proposals (affected persons) who requested to be heard and to address related matters

Following an accident, I wasn't able to attend and speak. This is what I would have said.

I want to register my objection to the Sealink project in the strongest terms. I wish to endorse all submissions made by Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) and in particular those made regarding cumulative impact and those challenging the need for Sealink. I don't wish to repeat the arguments SEAS make all of which I support.

Cumulative impact -our situation

Eight years ago, we were living quietly in a lovely renovated 15th farmhouse more than half a mile from the nearest road reached by quiet lane situated in the middle of arable fields enjoying a peaceful existence with views across to the village and across the fields on all sides. We enjoyed the dark skies, wonderful stars, wildlife, an extensive footpath network which enabled us to walk from our home to Friston, Knodishall, Saxmundham, Kelsale and towards Snape and Aldeburgh to join the Suffolk Coastal path, visit neighbours and to enjoy a generally idyllic peaceful existence. Our family home now of over 25 years.

In 2018 thanks to Friston Parish Council (not SPR who had failed to communicate with us despite reaching stage two of their statutory consultation by then) we discovered National Grid (NG) and Scottish power renewables (SPR) plans to industrialise the fields between us and Friston.

Since then our rural idyll and our experience of it has been completely wrecked by years of successive consultations, surveys, hearings, examinations and huge personal financial and emotional expense fighting these plans.

Throughout all of this all the developers NG, SPR, Sealink and now Lionlink have drawn the red lines of their DCO site limits along our boundary ie our garden fence.

Three (four if you include the NG substation) have claimed the same land around us with much the same limits.

None of these developers wish to compulsorily purchase any of our small amount of land consisting of garden and a small paddock.

Despite that the impact on us is enormous, it's beyond adequate description.

We and our immediate neighbour are amongst the most badly affected because of our proximity to the about to be built National Grid "Kiln Lane" substation and the multitude of projects connecting or planned to connect here.

As I said to the inspectors at the initial open floor hearings, we are absolutely "at the eye of the storm". I repeated what I had predicted in submissions I made to the SPR planning inspectors that ultimately we would be encircled by cable routes, haul roads, construction sites and blighted by industrial scale infrastructure, cut off from the footpath network and our friends and neighbours, blighted by noise, disruption, loss of dark skies, suffer the loss of our privacy and security with hundreds of workers swarming over the site constructing at least four different projects simultaneously a few hundred yards away from our home.

And I'm sorry to say that what is now happening and will continue for years with no end in sight as more projects are constructed. Our situation must be quite unique in that there is not simply one project which will be constructed and then there will be an end to it. We are faced with consecutive projects coming forward and being developed simultaneously with no end in sight.

The impact of this drawing of the line is immeasurable. The impact on our mental and physical health, our security, the impact on our community and neighbours. Indeed the toll has already been too great for one of our nearest neighbours and friend.

So we now find ourselves in a home that is no longer

the sanctuary it was and is both environmentally and financially blighted with no chance of any compensation for the loss of value to our property or as I understand it for the disruption that we are experiencing already.

This is the reality of cumulative impact.

Cumulative impact-multiple projects

I do want to draw your attention to the list of planned projects known about which which effect us directly:

The NG substation (Kiln Lane) and projects already in the public domain which are planned to connect there - SPR EA (1) N and EA (2), interconnectors Sealink and Lionlink and the Helios energy (solar) farm.

Also directly affecting us is the Suffolk Water Recycling Transfer and Storage Project proposed to bring water to Sizewell C. The proposed pipe routes run to the north of our home between us and the B1119 crossing Sealink's proposed converter site, their cable route and indeed proposed converter sites and cable routes for Lionlink (which begs the question as to whether they are aware of this) and crossing Fristonmoor Lane (again our only access).

Then there are the projects which are already impacting the local area the major one being Sizewell C which is already having an enormously negative impact on East Suffolk. I'm sure that the inspectors have seen for themselves the level of destruction and disruption on their travels around the area.

In addition there are improvement works on the A12, housing developments in Saxmundham and Benhall and Sealink's works to Benhall bridge all of which will contribute to yet more disruption for local residents.

As Sealink's submissions on cumulative impact treat the impact of the project as if it is happening in isolation from any other project their assessment of the effects can only be described as complete fiction.

We are already dealing with the impact of NG and SPR's projects as well as Sizewell C and the lack of coordination. For example recently Sealink (unsuccessfully)

challenged SPR's plans for design and mitigation for the substation site which had been agreed after extensive discussion with local residents when they came before the planning authority- the local council.

And again recently when we thought things couldn't get any worse we discovered that Lionlink propose to build a huge construction compound adjacent to Fristonmoor Lane (our only access) their proposed site reaching right up to the edge

of our small paddock yards from our home. This in addition to the proposed cable route to the east of us finally cutting us off from our nearest neighbours.

It's not too late to stop this. Please prevent more needless destruction of this wonderful area by refusing to consent Sealink.