

I live at [REDACTED].

Lack of a Masterplan

This coastal community is witnessing rapid and profound landscape change: what was once primarily a farming and tourist area is being transformed into an industrial zone. This escalating process has progressed through de facto fragmentation, with developers submitting separate individual Development Consent Order (DCO) applications as if each project were independent, when in fact they are interconnected and interdependent.

This approach has been orchestrated from the outset by National Grid.

Since 2019, three major infrastructure DCOs have already been submitted two of which have been approved. The lack of transparency surrounding what is proposed constitutes an abuse of the planning system and demonstrates a disregard for the community and environment onto which these projects are being imposed.

The absence of a visionary coordinated masterplan has already resulted in costly and unnecessary outcomes.

For example, the DCO for East Anglia ONE (EA1) granted permission in 2014 for up to 1,200 MW. The project was subsequently revised to around 714 MW using HVAC (alternating current) transmission, with a non-material change approved in 2016.

By accepting this supposedly non-material change, the Planning Inspectorate enabled a requirement for an additional substation at Friston to serve EA1N.

Had only EA2 required a grid connection using the Sizewell C cable corridor, the connection could have been delivered in a far more sustainable manner.

The EA1 experience illustrates how national energy planning is being compromised by developers altering critical project parameters after consent has been granted. The government's current agenda of driving rapidly toward Net Zero regardless of consequences places the Inspectorate in the challenging position of determining whether the 'harms outweigh the benefit'.

While Net Zero is unquestionably of great national importance, the means of achieving it is equally critical.

Without an overarching masterplan that integrates projects, identifies interdependencies, and demonstrates how shared infrastructure could minimise multiple cable corridors and other intrusive onshore works, there is no assurance that the process is being delivered sustainably.

Sustainability and the Planning Framework Sustainability is embedded within the National Planning Policy Framework. The purpose of the planning system is to

contribute to sustainable development providing homes, commercial development, and infrastructure in a manner that meets today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The United Kingdom, along with other UN Member States, is committed to the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, which encompass social progress, economic wellbeing, and environmental protection.

The Inspectorate must therefore treat energy infrastructure holistically, not as a series of isolated schemes. It is a vast, interconnected system whose infrastructure requirements, environmental impacts, and social consequences must be managed at a landscape and regional scale. Done well, East Anglia could become a model of how to balance ambition with care; done poorly, as is currently happening, the region's communities and natural heritage will be diminished.

Cumulative Impact: A Regional Overview To illustrate the cumulative burden, here are major existing and proposed energy related projects in the region: 1. Sizewell C – new nuclear power station 2. East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) – offshore wind farms with onshore infrastructure converging near Friston 3. Sea Link 4. LionLink (UK–Netherlands interconnector) 5. Nautilus interconnector 6. Other wind farm extensions, e.g., Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm 7. Proposed solar and battery installations, such as a 250 MW solar + storage project near Friston 8. New water supply infrastructure for Sizewell C, proposed by Anglian Water These projects are not independent. It has become extremely clear especially after the recent public consultation on Sealing that these interdependent projects are being purposefully disclosed and applied for sequentially by developers to disguise their impact and scrutiny on the communities they affect. As an example, the Inspectorate has not even required the developers to produce an integrated physical model showing how all these projects integrate within the landscape consequently continues to be complicit in assessing these projects individually. All issues appear possible to be mitigated however do the benefits outweigh the harm.

Many of the projects share or overlap cable routes, substations, land, and construction timelines. The scale of developments being undertaken is transformative and the current destruction of the environment can clearly be seen attached aerial photos of Sizewell C and the EA1N, EA2 it is not difficult to imagine the further destruction that the proposed emerging projects will bring.

Call for Action

I therefore call for a moratorium on all proposed infrastructure projects, whether already submitted or emerging, until they can be coordinated within a comprehensive, visionary, and integrated masterplan which looks to minimise their cumulative impact on the local community and environment.

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Sizewell C, EA1 and EA2 Sites from the Air



