

Good afternoon. I am Andrew Turner, Chair of Westleton Parish Council.

Westleton is village 5 miles north of Friston and Saxmundham and 1 mile inland from the Suffolk coast. Westleton and its residents are already suffering the effects of the Sizewell C construction - notably, significantly increased peak-time traffic through the village, heavier traffic on local roads and the destruction of the surrounding environment and its habitat, much of which is Natural Landscape and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Sea Link will add to these adverse impacts.

Westleton Parish Council supports the comments made by the East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership, Substation Action Save East Suffolk, and Suffolk Energy Action Solutions which note the projects extensive impacts. We also support the comments made by the Parishes and residents closest to the construction sites and the resultant infrastructure.

In particular, we are concerned that the "needs case" for the Sea Link project has not been adequately made by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), nor has NGET adequately demonstrated how it will transport Abnormal Indivisible Loads over the Benhall Bridge to the converter station site. Both of these are of sufficient concern to warrant further in-depth examination before a decision can be taken on the project.

More specifically, Westleton Parish Council is very concerned about the additional traffic the construction of the project will put on to the local road network in addition to the already heavy Sizewell C and Scottish Power Renewables traffic. Of note is that Sizewell C peak construction will coincide with the Sea Link and LionLink projected timelines. The local road network is already suffering as a consequence of the Sizewell C and Scottish Power Renewables traffic and Suffolk County Council seems to be in a running battle to repair the damage being caused to the A12; the local B roads are faring no better.

For Westleton, our primary concern is the B1125. As we noted in our deadline 2 submission, the road is suffering a 45% increase in traffic volume and high traffic speeds during peak hours because of Sizewell C traffic. In recent weeks, this traffic has included HGV tipper trucks - we are currently trying to ascertain their destination. As a consequence, the road's condition is worsening - with increased potholes, verges becoming gullies, and both made worse when the road floods - as it is does when it rains. Through the village of Westleton, the increased peak-time traffic is creating noise and air pollution and making junctions and pedestrian crossings within the village dangerous to navigate.

Our concerns for the B1125 are that:

1. NGET does not plan to impose restrictions on its worker access routes to site, so peak hour traffic on the road will likely increase further;
2. The NGET documents do not adequately explain how NGET will police its construction traffic - we note this is also a concern of the Examining Authority as per its Question 3TT6 for answer by the applicant before 13 April. We therefore do not know how NGET will ensure that HGVs originating from the north will stay on the A12 and do not try to use the B1125 as a short cut - particularly if the proposed northern route is chosen.
3. Further to the previous point, NGET have said that 15% of its HGV traffic will come from the north. However, as we have seen with Sizewell C, this is not necessarily what will happen as a higher percentage of HGV traffic has been originating from north of the Sizewell C site than was planned.

Therefore, if the project is approved, Westleton Parish Council urges the Inspectorate to require the DCO to include the conditions that:

1. No Sea Link worker, construction and HGV traffic may use the B1125.
2. That the Sea Link vehicle ban be policed by trackers placed in all Sea Link worker, construction and HGV vehicles.
3. That workers and contractors' contracts require they abide by to the routing rules.
4. That all Sea Link vehicles be marked as such on the front and back of the vehicles.
5. That NGET be required to contribute to a Suffolk County Council fund for road repairs.

Thank you.