



Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) NEWSLETTER

Issue 11, May 2026

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Introduction

What is an NSIP?

An NSIP is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. They are a certain type of project, over a certain size, and considered by the Government to be so big and nationally important that permission to build them needs to be given at a national level, by the responsible Secretary of State. The thresholds for NSIPs are set out in sections 15 to 30A of the Planning

Act 2008. Instead of applying to the local authority for planning permission, the developer must apply to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a different kind of permission called a Development Consent Order (DCO). The PA2008 process was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects. Since then, over 110 NSIPs have been consented in the UK. PINS is responsible for undertaking DCO examinations and writing a report with recommendations to the Secretary of State to aid their decision-making.

Parish and town councils are key stakeholders and consultees in the NSIP process. Suffolk has to deal with a very large number of NSIPs, particularly related to energy developments, so raising awareness of the current status of all of Suffolk's NSIPs with parish and town councils is important to allow for their fullest engagement in the process of NSIPs affecting their area.

Glossary

- **BESS** = Battery Energy Storage System
- **DCO** = Development Consent Order
- **DoR** = Discharge of Requirement
- **EIA** = Environmental Impact Assessment
- **NGET** = National Grid Electricity Transmission
- **NGV** = National Grid Ventures
- **NSIP** = Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
- **PINS** = Planning Inspectorate
- **SALC** = Suffolk Association of Local Councils
- **SCC** = Suffolk County Council

Welcome SALC's new NSIPs Community Engagement Coordinator

On Monday 2nd March, SALC welcomed Elma Glasgow, as our first NSIPs Community Engagement Coordinator.

With a focus on providing strategic guidance on community engagement for responses during key NSIP phases (pre-application, pre-examination, examination and delivery), Elma brings expertise in communications including community engagement.

She is supporting Councils and Parish Meetings in their engagement with residents and local businesses so they can have a say on NSIPs affecting your area.

Working on Mondays and Tuesdays, Elma is developing new member resources, and is planning a programme of webinars and other helpful content.

In the meantime, we would like to remind you of our guide, [Getting to Grips with NSIPs](#). This is particularly valuable if NSIPs are new to you.

Updates will follow in future newsletters, but if you have any ideas and suggestions for new resources, please email Elma at engagement@suffolk-alc.gov.uk.

Elma's Summary of Key NSIP Dates

Below is a round-up of key dates related to NSIPs in Suffolk looking ahead. Please use this information to plan your workload, as well as your community engagement.

- **Bramford to Twinstead** construction is underway and ending in 2028 – more detail about the work can be found on their website. The community benefits package is expected to be announced soon - we will keep you updated as much as possible.
- **EcoPower's** statutory consultation is expected in June 2026 with submission to PINS expected in January 2027. Ensure you are prepared to participate in the consultation by workload with other small councils, and ensuring the public is aware of the forthcoming activities.
- **Lion Link's** pre-examination (to be followed by examination stage) is expected around the end of 2026 and early 2027. Sign up for project alerts so you can sign up as an Interested Party as soon as pre-examination begins. This ensures you can be heard at the hearings and/ or submit a Relevant Response. This phase happens very quickly, so planning is essential if you still want to have your say.
- **Lion Link and Sealink** schemes are currently developing separate community benefits packages. Sealink's community engagement on their package is expected around late summer.
- **Norwich to Tilbury's** examination stage ends in August. The decision by the secretary of state is due by Feb 2027, and it is likely the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will carry out discharging (signing off on planning conditions). Relevant Responses are welcome until May 15th, and only in regard to the changes in Essex.

- **Progress Power's** non-material change application is expected before the end of the year.
- **Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage** scoping is expected in August. The statutory consultation is due in summer 2027. It is not too early to plan how you can manage the related increased workload by clustering with other small councils.
- **Sunnica Energy Farm's** requirements are yet to be discharged – so this is ongoing.

If you have any questions, raise them through SALC's Members Portal or email engagement@suffolk-alc.gov.uk.

Proposed NSIP Projects in Suffolk - Updates

(Projects in Alphabetical order)

EcoPower Suffolk

Location: Mid Suffolk

An energy farm with solar PV and a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure which also includes a grid connection to the Yaxley National Grid substation. The project will consist of 600 hectares of solar panels spread across several sites, and a battery storage site to the south of Thrandeston.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the pre-application stage.

It is anticipated that further public consultation will take place in Quarter 2 2026. With the application is expected to be submitted January 2027.

For the full news release see <https://ecopowersuffolk.com/news>

For more information on the statutory consultation see <https://ecopowersuffolk.com/consultation-process/>

More information:

- Link to EcoPower Suffolk's website: <https://ecopowersuffolk.com>

- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to EcoPower Suffolk can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110019>

Helios Energy Park

Location: East Suffolk

Helios is a proposed energy farm consisting of ground mounted solar PV and battery energy storage system (BESS) in the locality of the consented but as yet unbuilt substation at Friston

(No update this issue)

Update from last issue (August 2025)

This project is at the pre-application stage.

Deloitte, acting for the applicant of the proposed Helios Energy Farm, submitted a relevant representation in response to the Sea Link proposals, which brought the scheme into the public domain.

More Information:

- Link to Helios Energy Park relevant representation to Sea Link: nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN020026-000593-Helios%20%20SEAL%20Link%20Relevant%20Representation%20230625_Redacted.pdf
- Link to Suffolk County Council's webpage on Helios: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/helios-energy-park>

LionLink

Location: East Suffolk

LionLink is the proposal by National Grid Ventures (NGV) for a subsea electricity link between Suffolk and the Netherlands, which will also connect with Dutch windfarms.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the pre-application stage.

It is anticipated that further public consultation will take place in Quarter 2 2026, with the application is expected to be submitted Quarter 4 2026.

More information:

- Link to LionLink's National Grid website page:
<https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink/about>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's webpage on LionLink:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/lionlink>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to LionLink can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020033>

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

Location: Off East Suffolk coast / Essex

A wind farm proposed off the East Suffolk coast, with the landing point and onshore infrastructure proposed to be in Essex.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the decision stage.

The Secretary of State has decided to reset the statutory deadline for this application to 14 May 2026. The decision was originally due in January 2026. A statement confirming the new deadline for the decision has been made to Parliament, in accordance with section 107(7) of the Planning Act 2008 - here is a link to the statement <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010119-001780-Written%20Ministerial%20Statement%2026%20March%202026.pdf>

More information:

- North Falls Website: <https://www.northfallsoffshore.com>
- Link to the Suffolk County Council webpage on North Falls:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/north-falls-offshore-windfarm-scottish-and-southern-electricitywe>

- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to North Falls can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010119>

Norwich to Tilbury

Location: Babergh and Mid Suffolk

A proposal by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is to construct a new 400 kV electricity transmission line between Norwich Main Substation, Bramford Substation, the East Anglian Connection Node (near Lawford) and Tilbury Substation.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the examination stage.

The Examination has commenced for the Norwich to Tilbury DCO, with the Preliminary Meeting occurring on 10 February 2026 at Ipswich Town Football Club. This was immediately followed by an Open Floor Hearing for Interested Parties to share their perspectives and concerns regarding the Proposed Development.

A further two Open Floor Hearings in Norfolk and Essex, and an Issue Specific Hearing (focussing on alternatives) occurred within the same week.

The Examination will run for a period of 6 months until 10 August 2026, with an Examining Authority panel of 5 inspectors. The current progress of the examination can be found here - <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

More information:

- Link to Norwich to Tilbury's National Grid webpage: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>
- Link to the Suffolk County Council webpage on Norwich to Tilbury: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/norwich-to-tilbury>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Norwich to Tilbury can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage (SWRTS) Project

Location: East Suffolk and Mid Suffolk

Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) developed by Essex and Suffolk Water (part of Northumbrian Water), to construct an Advanced Water Recycling Plant and strategic network enhancements.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the pre-application stage.

Now the consultation is closed Essex and Suffolk Water will carefully review all the feedback received, alongside findings from their ongoing technical and environmental studies. This will help them refine the proposals ahead of a further consultation in 2027, where they will share a preferred pipeline route, the preferred site of the above ground infrastructure and other key elements of the Project.

They will also begin identifying potential construction areas, such as access routes and construction working compounds. Throughout this process, they have said they will continue engaging with stakeholders and local communities to help shape the project together.

More Information:

- Essex and Suffolk Water Project website: <https://suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk/>
- Suffolk County Council: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/suffolk-water-recycling>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to the SWRTS project can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/WA0210003>

Sea Link

Location: East Suffolk

Sea Link is a proposal for a subsea, grid reinforcement link between Suffolk and Kent. Currently there is a proposed converter station near Saxmundham, connected by underground cables from a landing point between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. If the substation at Friston is not built under its existing consent as part of ScottishPower

Renewables' East Anglia ONE North/TWO project, the substation will form part of the Sea Link proposals.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the recommendation stage.

The Sea Link Examination closed on the 5th May 2026. A decision is expected from the Secretary of State within 6 months.

More information:

- Link to Sea Link's National Grid website page: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/sea-link>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's Sea Link webpage: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/sea-link>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Sea Link can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020026>

White Elm Solar Farm

Location: Mid Suffolk

White Elm Solar Farm is a proposed 675-acre solar farm, including battery storage, with a design capacity exceeding 50MW and located within the three parishes of Mendlesham, Wickham Skeith and Thwaite, approximately 7.5km north of Stowmarket.

(No update this issue)

Update from last issue (August 2025)

This project has been paused indefinitely

On 23 May 2025, Suffolk County Council received notification from the applicant of White Elm Solar Farm, Elmya Energy, that the development of the project had been paused indefinitely and the planned non-statutory consultation and associated public consultation events which were planned for 31 May and 4 June had been cancelled.

More information:

- Link to White Elm Solar Farm's Website: <https://www.whiteelmsolarfarm.com>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's webpage on White Elm: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/white-elm-solar-farm>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to White Elm Solar Farm can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110003>

Consented NSIP Projects in Suffolk - Updates

(Projects in Alphabetical order)

Bramford to Twinstead

Location: Babergh

This project proposal by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is to construct a new 400 kV power line between Bramford and Twinstead to reinforce the electricity transmission network.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the post-decision stage.

SCC officers are currently working on the Discharge of Requirements (DoR) for the Bramford to Twinstead scheme. The main construction compound has been fully discharged and completed.

More information:

- Link to Bramford to Twinstead's National Grid webpage: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/bramford-twinstead>
- Link to the Suffolk County Council webpage on Bramford to Twinstead: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/bramford-to-twinstead>

- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Bramford to Twinstead can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020002>

East Anglia ONE North and TWO Offshore Wind Farms (Scottish Power Renewables (SPR))

Location: East Suffolk

East Anglia ONE North and TWO are proposals to create connections to a new substation at Friston via High Voltage Alternating Current undersea and underground cables.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the post-decision stage.

Current works include the construction of the haul road to support both the EA1N and EA 2 projects.

SCC Officers are continuing to discharge planning requirements for EA1N and 2, with those completed including, onshore cable stage, cable duct installation stage, footpath creation works at the substation and vegetation clearance for cables and the substation.

Substation design meetings were held throughout 2025, alongside public engagement events which were attended by the Parish Council and neighbouring residents. Earthworks for the substation began in March. Here is the link to the National Grid webpage on it - <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/kiln-lane-substation>

More information:

- Link to East Anglia ONE North's webpage: https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/east_anglia_one_north.aspx
- Link to East Anglia TWO's webpage: https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/east_anglia_two.aspx
- Link to the Suffolk County Council webpage on East Anglia ONE North: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/east-anglia-one-north>

- Link to the Suffolk County Council webpage on East Anglia TWO:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/east-anglia-two>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to East Anglia ONE North can be found here: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010077>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to East Anglia TWO can be found here: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010078>

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

Location: Off East Suffolk coast / Essex

A wind farm proposed off the East Suffolk coast, with the landing point and onshore infrastructure proposed to be in Essex.

(No update this issue)

Update from last issue (March 2026)

This project is at the post-decision stage.

The examination into the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm concluded in March 2025.

Secretary of State gave consent to the Five Estuaries DCO application on 17 December 2025.

The Secretary of State did not consider that measures to enhance of the National Landscape were needed to satisfy updated legislation.

More information:

- Link to Five Estuaries' website: <https://fiveestuaries.co.uk>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's webpage on Five Estuaries:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/five-estuaries-offshore-windfarm>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Five Estuaries can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010115>

Sizewell C

Location: East Suffolk

Sizewell C is a 3.2-gigawatt EPR nuclear power station.

Sizewell C announced formal commencement on 15 January 2024.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the post-decision stage.

It has been two years since Sizewell C commenced their Associated Development Sites, Main Development Site and Ancillary Construction Area works. There has been significant progress on the Associated Development Sites, delivering the early infrastructure and mitigation required for the project. Friday Street and Yoxford roundabouts opened to traffic in March. There has been phased progress on the Northern (Darsham) and Southern (Wickham Market) park-and-ride sites to help ensure more workers are travelling to site via bus. Earthworks in the Temporary Construction Area of the main development have reached final design levels and new temporary bridges over the SSSI have been completed, allowing construction vehicles to move internally without routing through local roads. The on-site workforce has grown to over 2000 people. The Councils are continuing to discharge requirements (DoR).

More information:

- Link to the Sizewell C website: <https://www.sizewellc.com>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's webpage on Sizewell C: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/sizewell-c-nuclear-power-plant>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Sizewell C can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010012>
- Link to Government announcement of final investment decision: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sizewell-c-gets-green-light-with-final-investment-decision>

Sunnica Energy Farm

Location: West Suffolk

A proposed 630MW solar farm including battery energy storage systems across approximately 1,041 hectares (2,573 acres) of West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire.

(No update this issue)

Update from last issue (March 2026)

This project is at the post-decision stage.

In January, the Council responded to the Non-Material Change application submitted by the Applicant to amend the Development Consent Order as made by the Secretary of State. The change concerned a revision to the Order Limits of the Scheme to facilitate the Point of Connection, namely, to include a new parcel of land that has been developed upon at Burwell Substation since the Scheme was examined. The decision on the application, which rests upon the Secretary of State, has yet to be made.

The Council is also in discussions with the Applicant regarding progress towards the Discharge of Requirements. The process is anticipated to take two stages: with the initial stage starting towards the end of 2026 (covering matters not dependent on the detailed design of the Scheme), and the detailed stage starting around mid-2027 (covering matters which will follow the detailed design of the Scheme).

More information:

- Link to Sunnica's website: <https://sunnica.co.uk>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's webpage on Sunnica: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nsips-in-suffolk/sunnica-energy-farm>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Sunnica can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010106>

Other Consented NSIPs

The following NSIPs in Suffolk have currently no significant updates to report:

- Drax (formerly Progress Power) at Eye Airfield: Consented. Construction is ongoing. The applicant is in correspondence with the government regarding making further changes to the Development Consent Order for this Project, which have implications for the access arrangement for this site. Further information can be found at:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010060>

- Gull Wing Bridge: Thousands of Lowestoft residents made history on 7 September 2024 as they walked, wheeled and drove for the first time across the town's new, world-leading and unique Gull Wing bridge. The civic opening ceremony took place on Tuesday 19 November 2024.
- SPR - East Anglia ONE and THREE: Both are consented. East Anglia ONE (EA1) is complete; East Anglia THREE (EA3) is under construction. **EA3 Update March 2026** - Installation of electrical equipment is almost complete on site and commissioning activities are underway. EA3 substation is estimated to be completed by Spring 2026.

In addition, there is the possibility in the medium term of additional NSIPs, in relation to hydrogen infrastructure, water reservoirs, data centres, energy generation and potentially, in the longer term, further National Grid infrastructure. Future newsletters will update on further developments.

Neighbouring NSIP Project Updates

Parish and town councils located near county borders should stay informed about any proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

East Pye Solar

Location: South Norfolk

The East Pye Solar proposals include the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar PV arrays and associated development, including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), in the area of Long Stratton, South Norfolk

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the pre-examination stage.

If you want to comment on this proposed project, you can now [register to have your say](#) Registration closes on 10 June 2026.

Current concerns are around traffic and transport, including AILs and potential overlap with other NSIPs in Mid Suffolk, and socioeconomics.

More information:

- Link to East Pye Solar's webpage: <https://www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to East Pye Solar can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110014>

Kingsway Solar Farm

Location: East Cambridgeshire

A proposed 500MW solar farm including battery energy storage systems across approximately 1,246 hectares (3,079 acres) of East Cambridgeshire.

Update (May 2026):

This project is at the pre-application stage.

The application is expected to be submitted April 2026.

Between 17 September and 29 October 2025, Kingsway Solar Farm undertook a Statutory Consultation on their scheme (proposed to be located near Balsham, Cambridgeshire). The scheme is proposed to connect to Burwell Substation and therefore will interact with Sunnica Energy Farm.

Whilst the development is proposed to be wholly in Cambridgeshire, the proposals for overhead lines to connect into the 400kv Burwell Substation tightly align with the Suffolk border near Newmarket. The proposals will also interact with the Sunnica Energy Farm order limits at the Burwell Substation. The concerns regarding Suffolk therefore will focus on cumulative impacts, and landscape and visual matters.

Further information, including an interactive map of the proposed development can be found on the Applicant's website: <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/the-scheme/>.

More Information:

- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Kingsway Solar Farm can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010165>

Tarchon Interconnector

Location: Tendering District / Essex

The proposals consist of an interconnector between Essex and Germany with a capacity of 1.4 GW. A converter station will be located nearby the proposed East Anglia Connection Node in Lawford which serves as the project's connection point to the Grid. Underground cabling will make landfall south of Harwich.

Update (May 2026):

The project has now published a [scoping report](#), and the Planning Inspectorate has invited responses from relevant statutory consultees which include some parishes in Essex. The project promoter currently expects to submit the application to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2027.

More Information:

- Link to the Tarchon Interconnector's webpage: <https://www.tarchonenergy.net>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Tarchon can be found:: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0210009>

Tasway Energy Park

Location: South Norfolk

The Tasway Energy Park proposals consist of large-scale solar PV with battery energy storage system (BESS) along with associated infrastructure including cabling and an onsite substation.

(No update this issue)

Update from last issue (March 2026):

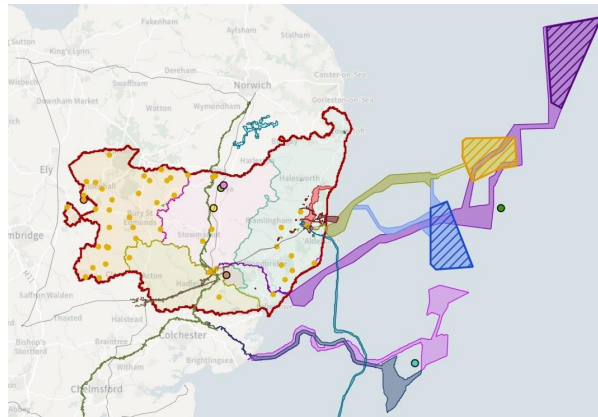
The project promoter confirmed on Friday 12th December that this project has now been paused until further notice.

More Information:

- Link to the Tasway Energy Park website: <https://www.taswayenergypark.co.uk>

- Link to the South Norfolk and Broadland webpage on Tasway:
<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects/tasway-energy-park-aukera-energy>

NSIP Mapping



1 - Screenshot of the NSIP map on the SCC website

Suffolk County Council have produced a web-based public-facing interactive map to display NSIPs in the county of Suffolk and neighbouring districts. Where Suffolk County Council have received written permission, the Council has published the Order Limits of each proposal. Where Suffolk County Council has been unsuccessful in obtaining written permission, point data at the centre of the NSIP has been provided. Small-scale (non-NSIP) ground-mounted solar farms are also shown as yellow dots.

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) throughout their lifecycle are displayed. This includes those in Pre-Application, Examination, Granted Consent, Construction, and Operational.

You can access the map via the [SCC Website](#) or via this link:

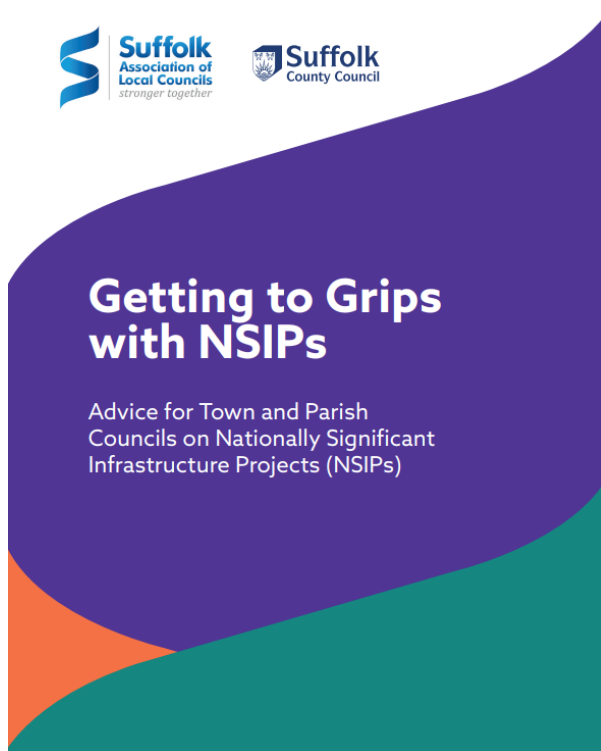
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b8e2edd5fbc4c75b74aa38da7e710ed>

The mapping tool includes several utility functions, including ability to tap or click on each NSIP to understand its infrastructure further, and a bookmark selector which allows you to scroll through a carousel to re-focus the map on each NSIP (with a brief description).

Disclaimer: Please note that the map is designed to provide members of the public with access to illustrative and indicative location-based data for information purposes only. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information displayed is accurate and regularly updated. The database is currently in development and datasets may be added or removed during this process.

Guidance Documents

Guidance for Town and Parish Councils



The Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) have produced a guidance document on how town and parish councils can engage more effectively with the NSIP process. The guidance includes explanations of key documents, stages, and procedures within the NSIP process. In drafting the guidance, SALC's experience in the governance and procedures of town and parish councils has been complemented by SCC's significant knowledge and expertise in the NSIP process to inform potential roles that town and parish councils can play in NSIPs.

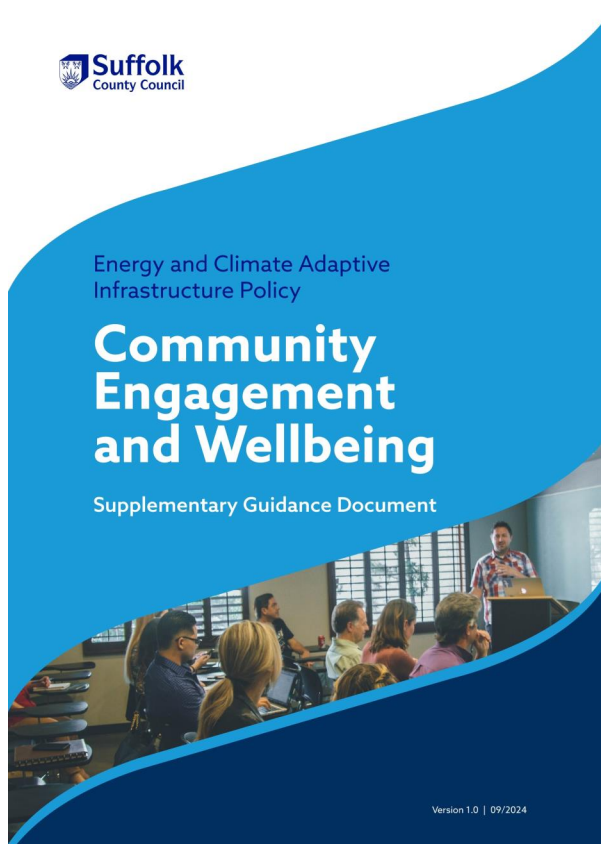
The guidance document can be found at the following link:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/getting-to-grips-with-nsips.pdf>

Link to the Suffolk Association of Local Council's dedicated page for local councils on NSIPs:

<https://www.salc.org.uk/national-strategic-infrastructure-projects-nsips>

SCC Guidance for NSIP Developers: Community Engagement and Wellbeing



This guidance document was written by Suffolk County Council, for NSIP Developers to take account of.

How the document came to be:

Following a public question to the meeting of the County Council on 21 March 2024 regarding the wellbeing of communities and the mental health impacts of nationally significant infrastructure consenting from the chairman of Friston Parish Council Mr Michael Mahoney, officers have been working with Cllr Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform and NSIPs, to consider how to address this very important issue. The Council's Head of Public Mental Health has engaged further with Friston Parish Council and worked with the Council's NSIPs team to explore solutions. Officers sought advice from leading UK experts on health impact assessments and community engagement to inform the discussion.

What the document aims to do:

As responsibilities for community engagement lie with developers, the Council's greatest lever is to influence developers. Hence, the Council has developed guidance for project promoters about community engagement and safeguarding the wellbeing of communities, which was published in September 2024. This guidance appears to be first of its kind in the United Kingdom, and its publication has been shared widely with Government officials, the Planning Inspectorate, and local authorities across England.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/community-engagement-and-wellbeing-policy.pdf>

Suffolk County Council has published other guidance on NSIPs. The most recent guidance documents are aimed at developers/ promoters of NSIP schemes. These can be found on Suffolk County Council's website here: [NSIP information for developers and project promoters - Suffolk County Council](#)

Local authority roles in the NSIP process

During the NSIP process, the role of the county and district council is that of a statutory consultee who can try to persuade/advise, but local authorities cannot force changes upon the developer, as they are not the decision-makers. Neither the county nor the district council are responsible for designing or delivering any scheme. However, they are important stakeholders who can often shape the design and mitigation of projects.

Parish and town councils hosting, or being adjacent to, proposed NSIPs are also statutory consultees. It is important for these councils to provide the local community perspective in the process, aiming to influence design, mitigation, and community benefit proposals.

County Association of the Year Award - Suffolk Association of Local Councils



The SALC team were thrilled to accept the award for County Association of the Year 2024 at the House of Lords on 25th February. These awards provide an opportunity for councils, councillors, clerks and county associations to showcase their work to support the sector and the communities they serve.

The event included a speech by local government minister Baroness Taylor of Stevenage who expressed gratitude for the work of town, parish councils and parish meetings nationwide. The reception celebrated achievements and allowed the sector to network, collaborate and inspire one another.

The SALC entry was for our work on helping councils navigate the challenges associated with Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects. On accepting the award recognition and thanks was given to councillors and clerks in Suffolk who had contributed to the development of the guide through focus groups and workshops alongside Suffolk County Council who utilised government funding that had enabled delivery of this piece of work.

SALC also praised finalists in this category from Kent, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and Essex highlighting the role county associations play across the UK on the "front line".

CLERK OF THE YEAR FINALIST
ODILEWLADON

We were not the only finalist from Suffolk - Odile Wladon from Stradbroke Parish Council made it to the final standing out as an exceptional clerk exemplifying integrity and commitment to transparency in her work. Amongst a range of notable achievements, Odile's leadership has been her ability to foster collaboration within her local community on a wide variety of projects.



2 - SALC receiving Star Council Award 2014 as County Association of the Year

Jamie Charters, CCLA, Baroness Ros Scott of Needham Market (President of NALC) and Sally Longmate, CEO of SALC

Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk County Council