**NOTES FOR REGISTERING AS AN INTERESTED PARTY AND WRITING A RELEVANT REPRESENTATION FOR THE SEA LINK DCO:**

THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS 23.59hrs on 23 JUNE 2025:

In order to register as an Interested Party for the Sea Link DCO, you will need to go to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Website by clicking on the following link:

[register to have your say](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020026/register/register-have-your-say)

Alternatively, you can use the SEAS sign-up link which also offers a template for you to have a look at:

[www.sign-up.uk](http://www.sign-up.uk)

When you register, you will need to submit what’s called a Relevant Representation which is a summary of any concerns you have with the Sea Link project. It is a good idea to prepare what you are going to write in advance and, if possible, after you have submitted it, email it to County Councillor Richard Rout ([Richard.rout@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.rout@suffolk.gov.uk)) at SCC and District Councillor Tom Daly ([tom.daly@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:tom.daly@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)) at ESC.

Say it from your heart – whatever bothers you most. The important thing is the fact that you will have registered and taken the opportunity to get your voice heard. Also, the more people that register, the greater the level of awareness about your concerns and the clearer the display of community unity that will be apparent to the examining authority.

There is no downside to this, but just to warn you – your name and relevant representation will become available online in due course.

Begin with an explanation of why Suffolk is important to you…

Then go on to outline your concerns in one sentence, a full-blown essay or anything in between. You can use any of the following points that resonate with you to hang your representation on, but make sure you use your own words because if it is spotted that you have copied from a template, your registration will be rejected.

1. Unacceptable Cumulative Impacts:

Construction in East Suffolk of Sea Link in addition to a nuclear power station at Sizewell C, two Scottish Power substations and a National Grid connection point at Friston as well as another converter station as part of the Lion Link project at Saxmundham will cause terrible problems with cumulative impacts. This will be further impacted if development of 800 houses at the South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood and 50 houses at Shott’s Meadow in Benhall proceed.

Cumulative Impacts will be so considerable that whatever attempts are made, it will not be possible to achieve adequate mitigation or compensation for them.

1. Unsuitable Site Location:

The imposition of such major infrastructure so close to the local population of more than 5,000 people in Saxmundham, Sternfield and Benhall will inevitably cause disproportionate harm to the hosting community.

Even when the new haul road has been built, the site will be poorly accessible.

1. Transport and Traffic Concerns:

The local roads will become completely overwhelmed with development of Sea Link taking place at the same time as construction at SZC as well as the Scottish Power substations and the National Grid connection point at Friston.

Traffic congestion at the heart of Saxmundham will be a real problem for the local community and will lead to local amenities becoming difficult to access.

Large numbers of construction vehicles driving through Benhall along the B1121 between the A12 and Saxmundham will compromise safety for all road users, especially pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. There are several difficult turnings along this stretch of road which will need to be made safe with significant improvements with road crossings, adequate walkways and traffic calming measures.

The turning off the A12 onto the B1121 will become a danger hotspot.

1. Inadequate Consultation:

Proposals for so many NSIPs locally have led to genuine confusion and information has been provided in an uninterpretable fashion that has left the majority of the local population totally unaware about what’s actually going on. Lack of response does not mean compliance.

1. Heritage and Landscape Issues:

The Heritage Coast will become irreversibly industrialised with so much development.

Suffolk will become an energy super-hub, but the hosting community will not benefit in any way and will only be harmed by such an imposition.

The local landscape and heritage will be permanently damaged.

1. Major Adverse Impacts on Tourism and the Local Economy:

The local economy depends on tourism – especially nature-based tourism and this will be adversely impacted year on year with so many NSIPs being concurrently developed in one small area.

Many local businesses – especially tourist-based businesses – will struggle to survive with the unprecedented imposition of NSIP development on our region.

1. Flood Risk:

The Wood Farm site is comprised of heavy clay and being on top of the hill, this represents a genuine threat in terms of flood risk, especially with the increasing occurrence of severe rainwater deluges that have been seen over recent years.

The converter station site will drain into local watercourses such as the River Fromus which has become increasingly prone to flooding recently.

1. Problems with Water Supply:

Water is going to be required in large volumes both for construction and operation of the Sea Link converter station and yet, water supply is becoming an increasing problem in this area.

1. Loss of Local Amenities:

Many of our local footpaths, cycleways, byways and bridleways will be permanently closed.

The tranquillity that Suffolk offers will be lost forever.

1. Loss of Arable Land:

The converter station site at Wood Farm is actively farmed and is good arable land that will be lost.

1. Mental Health and Wellbeing:

So many NSIPs in one small area are already causing considerable negative impacts on local resident’s physical health and mental health and wellbeing that will only get worse.

1. Ecology and Biodiversity:

East Suffolk is home to a wealth of wildlife, ecology and biodiversity of flora and fauna. Despite the developer’s claims that projects will leave a 10% net gain in biodiversity in their wake, the natural balance will never be recreated and the countryside will be irrevocably damaged. This will be particularly seen with the bisection of the RSPB bird sanctuary at North Warren and the Haven plus compromise of the National Landscapes (AONB), Suffolk Coasts and Heaths and the Sandlings Special Preservation Area.

Ancient woodlands, hedgerows and wildlife corridors will be permanently destroyed.

1. Noise, Vibration and Light Pollution:

Development of one, two, three or even four converter stations at Wood Farm will seriously impact on the quiet and tranquillity of the region: noise, vibration and light pollution will blight the area forever more.

1. Other Factors:

This scale of infrastructure will inevitably have severe adverse impacts on the local population, the local economy and the environment that would be considerably reduced by developing at a pre-industrialised brownfield site close to demand.

Profit-making organisations are driving poor short-term decisions in the best interests of shareholders and the true socioeconomic and environmental costs are not being properly taken into account.

Alternative solutions with development of an Integrated Offshore Grid to transmit offshore wind power directly to centres of demand without diverting to Friston have not been given due consideration.

As movement of electricity between East Suffolk and Kent will not become critical until Sizewell C, the Scottish Power substations and Lion Link are completed in several years-time, the need for Sea Link is not yet apparent: there is still time to pause and Re-think Sea Link.