

SASES ENERGY PROJECT UPDATE – 4 OCTOBER 2023

Scottish Power update

Recent ecological survey work across the area and upcoming archaeological survey work at Friston. JRs continue despite being unsuccessful at the High Court level. SEAS is seeking leave to appeal. SASES has received leave to appeal. There will be a hearing at the Court of Appeal on 5 and 6 December. Grounds are flood risk and cumulative impact. There is no timetable for judgement but expected in February/March 2024

Scottish Power did not participate in the recent CFD auction but nobody should take any comfort from that. It is likely that Scottish power were not in a position to bid in any event eg unlikely they will have assessed that construction costs at the level of detail required.

Interconnector projects

Sealink (Suffolk to Kent), Lionlink (UK to Netherlands) and Nautilus (UK to Belgium). Details of all three can be found online on the National Grid web pages. If you have not already done so register for updates both with National Grid and that the planning Inspectorate where there are web pages for each project.

Nautilus may be connecting at the Isle of Grain in North Kent. This change is due to National Grid's commercial interest not political influence as is being claimed.

The current non-statutory consultation for Lionlink is only in relation to alternative landfall and cable route at Walberswick/Southwold. The statutory consultation for Lionlink will not be until the first quarter of next year and there are some hints that it might be delayed.

Sealink statutory consultation is a formal part of the planning process and important as this is the first time you will see definitive details of the project which is likely to be the project as applied for. The consultation is due to start at the end of October and will last for two months. It is important to attend the events and respond however it might be a good idea to avoid any pre-prepared questionnaire as they tend to ask leading questions/be biased. It is best to reply in your own terms setting out the things that you are concerned about whether that be highways, construction disruption, damage to habitats, cumulative impact, damage to tourism et cetera. Remember interconnector projects do not generate any electricity and can include fossil fuels. In terms of energy security in circumstances where energy is needed through the interconnector it will also be needed in Europe and Europe is unlikely to transmit energy to the UK.

It is very important to attend at least one event and respond. If nothing else it shows the extent of the strength of feeling and parish councils have a much stronger voice in the process than individuals.

Argue for a single process. Currently National Grid are proposing three separate processes for three projects which will have very similar if not identical impacts onshore in East Suffolk. This is a community which has already had to endure processes for Sizewell C, EA1N, EA2 and the National Grid connection hub at Friston.

Attached is the response which Friston Parish Council made with SASES support to the non-statutory consultation for the interconnector projects.

Community benefits

Central government knows it has a problem and its only solution is to offer money. It has been conducting a consultation in which it has says it wants people to feel positive about hosting infrastructure. There was a recent workshop for people who submitted consultation responses and the outcome was that is that it does not intend to make it mandatory for developers to offer community benefits and we are concerned the benefits will not be generous enough to ever mitigate the harm or reflect the true impact which people suffer from different types of transmission infrastructure. Attached the original response which Friston Parish Council/SASES submitted.

Actions

1. Attend Sealink statutory consultation events
2. Respond to the consultation setting out your concerns and demand a single process
3. Write to your district council district and county councillor demanding that the councils strongly advocate a single process.
4. Register for updates for each project on the National Grid website and on the planning Inspectorate website.

This is the link:

[Projects | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects) then under the 'Projects' tab choose 'Eastern' which gives a list of all the projects....

[https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/sea-link/LionLink Multi-Purpose Interconnector | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/sea-link/LionLink%20Multi-Purpose%20Interconnector%20|%20National%20Infrastructure%20Planning%20(planninginspectorate.gov.uk))

[Nautilus Interconnector | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/sea-link/Nautilus%20Interconnector%20|%20National%20Infrastructure%20Planning%20(planninginspectorate.gov.uk))

[The Sizewell C Project | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/sea-link/The%20Sizewell%20C%20Project%20|%20National%20Infrastructure%20Planning%20(planninginspectorate.gov.uk))