



Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) NEWSLETTER

Issue 7, May 2025

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.

Suffolk County Council's (SCC's) Scrutiny Committee discussed on 30 June 2023 the impact of NSIPs on Suffolk's communities and how the Council works with communities to encourage consultation responses that are reflective of the views of local people. The CEO of SALC, Sally Longmate, highlighted the pressures and issues parish councils face in relation to NSIPs. The documents related to that meeting are available on the SCC website, and a recording of the meeting is available on YouTube.



1 - Video of Scrutiny Committee 30th June 2023

SCC Scrutiny Committee documents:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(30-06-2023\),%20Scrutiny%20Committee](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(30-06-2023),%20Scrutiny%20Committee)

Recommendation f) from the Scrutiny Committee states that parish councils should be updated about the status of Suffolk's current and potential NSIPs. This newsletter will be provided every couple of months, prepared by SCC officers, and circulated through SALC.

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.

News

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



COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR

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.

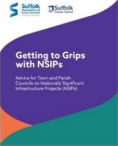
The event included a speech by local government minister Baroness Taylor of Stevenage who expressed gratitude for the work of town, parish councils and parish meetings nationwide. The reception celebrated achievements and allowed the sector to network, collaborate and inspire one another.

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

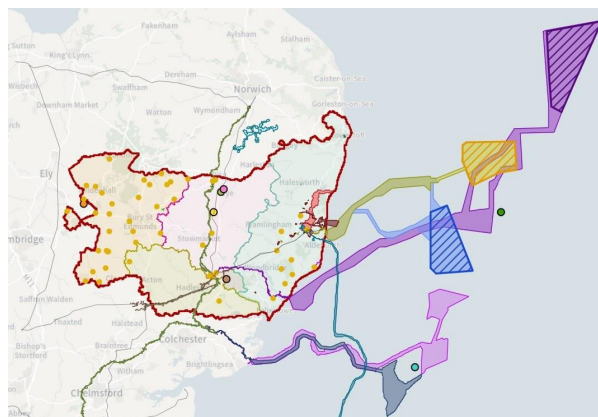
We were not the only finalist from Suffolk - Odile Wladon from Stradbroke Parish Council made it to the final standing out as an exceptional clerk exemplifying integrity and commitment to transparency in her work. Amongst a range of notable achievements, Odile's leadership has been her ability to foster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

NSIP Mapping



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/b8e2edd5fbcd4c75b74aa38da7e710ed>

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.

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

Proposed NSIP Projects in Suffolk - Updates

(Projects in Alphabetical order)

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 2025):

ScottishPower Renewables is holding a community engagement event ahead of East Anglia ONE North and TWO's upcoming construction works.

Prior to the upcoming construction works, a drop-in community engagement event will be held where members of the public and communities can meet the project teams and contractors, learn about forthcoming construction and ask any questions about the scheduled programme of works.

The event will provide information on the following:

- Temporary Haul Road construction
- Upcoming ground investigation works
- Public Right of Way amendments
- Building of accesses

The detail of the event is as follows:

Knodishall Village Hall, School Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1UD, 11.30am-7pm, Thursday 5th June 2025

Construction will begin from late June

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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>

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.

Update (May 2025):

Ecopower Suffolk is a solar scheme and battery storage project in Yaxley and the surrounding areas. The project will consist of 600 hectares of solar panels spread across several sites, and a battery storage site to the south of Thrandeston. The project promoter has carried out initial engagement with communities, parish councils and county councillors. An initial informal consultation with the public took place in March - April 2025. Suffolk County Council has responded to the consultation setting out its objection to the proposals:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/one-week-left-to-share-thoughts-on-large-solar-farm-in-north-suffolk>

EcoPower recently issued a news release stating the following:

"A new liaison group with local stakeholders is being set up, including Suffolk County Council, Mid-Suffolk District Council and parish council representatives to ensure they are all kept abreast of the latest project developments."

For the full news release see [EcoPower's news page](#).

Statutory consultation is now expected spring 2026. For more information see [EcoPower's consultation page](#).

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>

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.

Update (May 2025):

The examination into the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, which began on 17 September 2024, concluded in March 2025. Officers from Suffolk County Council attended hearings and participated in the written process, raising issues relating to landscape impact, traffic and transport, and skills and employment. The Examining Authority are now preparing their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, which will be due in June 2025.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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>

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 2025):

In February 2025, National Grid Ventures (NGV) announced Walberswick as its preferred landfall site for the LionLink project, a proposed multi-purpose interconnector (MPI) between the UK and the Netherlands. As a result, the landfall site option north of Southwold has been discounted. NGV has also organised two community drop-in sessions and a webinar in March 2025, ahead of the statutory consultation planned for Autumn 2025. If granted development consent, NGV is now planning to have the project operational in 2032.

Initial ground investigation surveys around Walberswick are ongoing.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/lionlink>
- Link to SCC's response to the non-statutory consultation:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/eurolink-non-statutory-consultation-scc-response1.pdf>
- Link to SCC's response to the supplementary non-statutory consultation:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/LionLink-Supplementary-Non-Statutory-Consultation-SCC-response.pdf>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to LionLink can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020033>

Nautilus

Location: East Suffolk

Nautilus is a National Grid Ventures proposal to create a Multi-Purpose Interconnector with Belgium.

(No update this issue)

Update from the last issue (January 2025):

On 12 November 2024, the energy regulator, Ofgem, announced that it had decided that the Nautilus Interconnector between the UK and Belgium would connect at the Isle of Grain in Kent, and not in Suffolk, as the regulator had proposed in the summer of 2024. Suffolk County Council welcomes news that the Nautilus Interconnector project will not be coming to Suffolk.

More information:

- Link to Nautilus's National Grid website page:
<https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future/nautilus-interconnector>
- Link to the Suffolk County Council webpage on Nautilus:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects-including-nsips/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/nautilus>
- Link to the PINS webpage where all public documents relating to Nautilus can be found: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020023>

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 2025):

The examination into the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm began on 29 January 2025 and is expected to conclude in July 2025. Officers from Suffolk County Council have been attending hearings and participating in the written process, raising issues relating to landscape impact, traffic and transport, and skills and employment.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/north-falls-offshore-windfarm-scottish-and-southern-electricityrwe>
- 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

This project proposal by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is to construct a new 400 kV electricity transmission line between Norwich and Tilbury.

Update (May 2025):

National Grid are presently consulting the Host Local Authorities on a suite of draft documents, including draft Management Plans and the draft Statement of Common Ground, to prepare these for submission. The Council will continue engagement with National Grid to refine these drafts prior to the Examination.

National Grid are also planning to undertake archaeology surveys throughout April.

The expectation is that the DCO application will be submitted in Summer 2025.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/norwich-to-tilbury>

- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Norwich to Tilbury non-statutory consultation: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/imported/scc-response-to-eag-informal-consultation-16-june.pdf>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Norwich to Tilbury supplementary non-statutory consultation: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/scc-response-to-norwich-to-tilbury-non-stat-con-2.pdf>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Norwich to Tilbury statutory consultation: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/scc-response-to-norwich-to-tilbury-statutory-consultation.pdf>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Norwich to Tilbury targeted consultation: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/scc-n2t-targeted-con-2025-response-with-appendix.pdf>
- 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>

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 2025):

The Planning Inspectorate (PINs) received the DCO application for the Sea Link proposals on 27 March 2025 and accepted the application for Examination on 23 April 2025.

The acceptance of the application sets out the timeline of the Examination including the Relevant Representations, which were taken to Cabinet on 13 May 2025, setting out the Council's objection to the Sea Link proposal due to a number of significant concerns regarding the scheme,

As part of the application acceptance criteria, the Council was invited by PINs to comment on how the Applicant managed the pre-application stage of the proposals via the Adequacy of Consultation response, which was submitted to PINs on 11 April 2025.

The response stated that although the Applicant complied with their duties as prescribed by the Planning Act 2008, the Council stated that it believed the Applicant failed to adequately engage on the following key issues:

1. The use of the Benhall Railway Bridge (B1121) as part of the access route, specifically the lack of detail on how the movement of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) and other Special-Order movements will be achieved over the bridge, considering its structural deficiencies.
2. The lack of detail on the proposed River Fromus bridge, including construction method, design, and mitigation of impact on heritage views.
3. The inclusion of 7am-5pm on Sundays and Public Holidays in the Core Working Hours, which conflicts with working hours agreed with other consented projects in the same geographical area, including Sizewell C and Scottish Power Renewables (SPR).

The Council's belief is that these issues could have been resolved prior to the Examination with more thorough engagement. These issues formed the basis of the Council's objection to the Sea Link proposals.

At the cabinet meeting on 13 May 2025, SCC Cabinet approved the recommendation to approve the Relevant Representations and that an objection is made to the current proposals from National Grid for this project.

Cabinet papers including the response to NGET:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(13-05-2025\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(13-05-2025),%20The%20Cabinet)

The Cabinet meeting can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk14qQWM6Ow>

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/sea-link>

- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Sea Link non-statutory consultation: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/sea-link-scc-response-non-statutory-consultation.pdf>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Sea Link statutory consultation: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/scc-sea-link-statutory-consultation-response.pdf>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Sea Link targeted consultation : <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/Sea-Link-Targeted-Consultation-Response.pdf>
- Link to Suffolk County Council's response to the Sea Link Grid pre-submission engagement: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/sea-link-pre-submission-engagement-response.pdf>
- 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.

Update (May 2025):

The project's non-statutory consultation will run from **19th May – 30th June 2025**

This includes consultation events at Bacton and Mendlesham and two webinars the full details can be found at: <https://www.whiteelmsolarfarm.com/public-consultation>

Notwithstanding any overall objection your parish council may have to the principle of the project it is important that we engage with the process to attempt to mitigate and minimise the impacts, should the Secretary of State grant consent. Therefore, parish and town councils engage with the project promoter whenever possible, seeking to shape, change, and improve the project whenever the opportunity arises.

It is important to recognise that this does not in any way undermine any opposition you have to the project and that Parish Councils are statutory Consultees in the NSIP consenting process

CLlr Richard Rout has also written to the relevant town and parish councils, highlighting the guidance and support that is available to them, and setting out the pace that the scheme is intending to progress, and the implications of this: [scc-letter-white-elm-letter-to-parishes-100525.pdf](https://www.whiteelmsolarfarm.com/100525.pdf)

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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 2025):

The Secretary of State granted development consent for Bramford to Twinstead in September 2024.

Pre-commencement works ongoing, focused on the main construction compound, carrying out surveys, archaeology and submitting draft management plans. Vegetation removal was completed before bird breeding season, and limited archaeology has been discovered onsite.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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>

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 2025):

While the Final Investment Decision is still expected in late Spring 2025, significant commencement works are already being undertaken.

Officers continue to discharge requirements attached to the Development Consent Order. Detailed designs of the associated development highways improvements are now starting to be submitted, such as Yoxford Roundabout and Northern Park & Ride.

It is anticipated that construction of the key road mitigation schemes, include Two-Village Bypass and Sizewell Link Road, will start in late spring 2025. On-site works on these sites to date have been primarily archaeological survey works.

The first trail of hydrogen powered buses is underway, transporting workers between several strategic locations within East Suffolk and Ipswich. A trail hydrogen refuelling depot has received planning permission from Ipswich Borough Council at Ransomes Europark. If successful, there could be an opportunity for this facility to apply for further planning permission.

The Sizewell C Community Fund, which will provide up to £23m over the next decade for local charities, community groups and social enterprises who are delivering projects that benefit local communities in East Suffolk, managed by Suffolk Community Foundation, is

now active and has several grant windows available, the most recent closed on 20 April 2025. The next window will be open until 20 July 2025.

Final Investment Decision for this project is currently anticipated at or around the 11th June 2025.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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>

Sunnica

Location: West Suffolk

Sunnica is a proposed 1,130 hectares (2,792 acres) Solar Farm development across Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

(No update this issue)

Update from Issue 4 (October 2024):

On 12 July 2024 the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, granted development consent for Sunnica Energy Farm against the recommendation of the Examining Authority which handled the case. Suffolk County Council, alongside Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk Council, had opposed this large solar farm project straddling West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire, due to its scale and the degree of impact on the landscape and on communities.

SCC is seeking further clarity from the Applicant on the project's programme following the conclusion of claims for judicial review.

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/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-nsips/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.
- 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. The EA3 converter station is currently being constructed at Bramford and works along the cable ducting route are being undertaken.

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 2025):

The Planning Inspectorate held a consultation in January and February 2025 in respect of East Pye Solar Ltd's East Pye Solar Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report. The proposed development comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar PV arrays and associated development, in the area of Long Stratton, South Norfolk.

As neighbouring authorities, Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council provided a joint response to the scoping consultation, considering technical matters of the EIA and not the principle of the development itself. The Councils raised concerns about the promoter's proposal to scope socio-economic impacts out of the EIA, the cumulative impacts of several NSIPs being delivered adjacent to the A140 concurrently, and the need for more detail regarding proposed routing of abnormal indivisible loads (AILs).

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>

Tarchon Interconnector

Location: Tendering District / Essex

Update (May 2025):

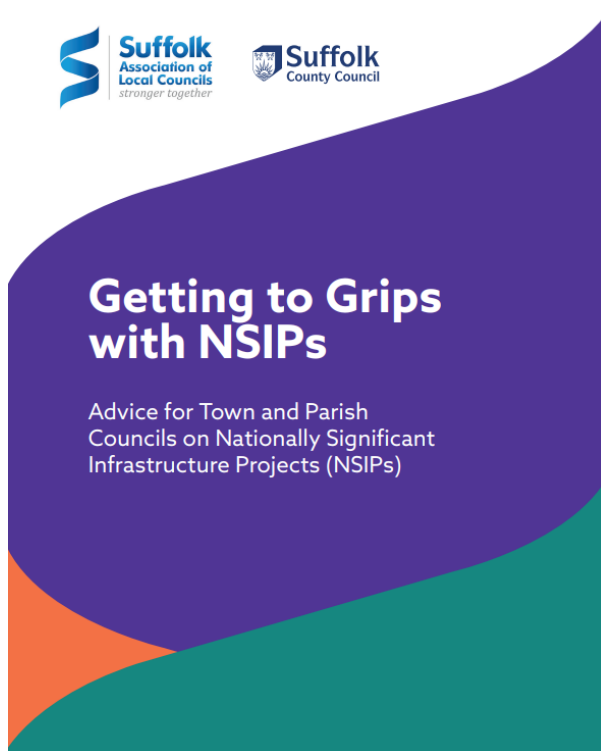
The project consists of an interconnector between Essex and Germany with a capacity of 1.4 GW. A converter station will be located nearby the proposed East Anglia Connection Node in Lawford which serves as the project's connection point to the Grid.

Underground cabling will make landfall south of Harwich.

The promoter expects to submit the application to the Planning Inspectorate in Q3 of 2026 followed by examination in 2027. SCC is currently formulating its response to non-statutory consultation.

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.

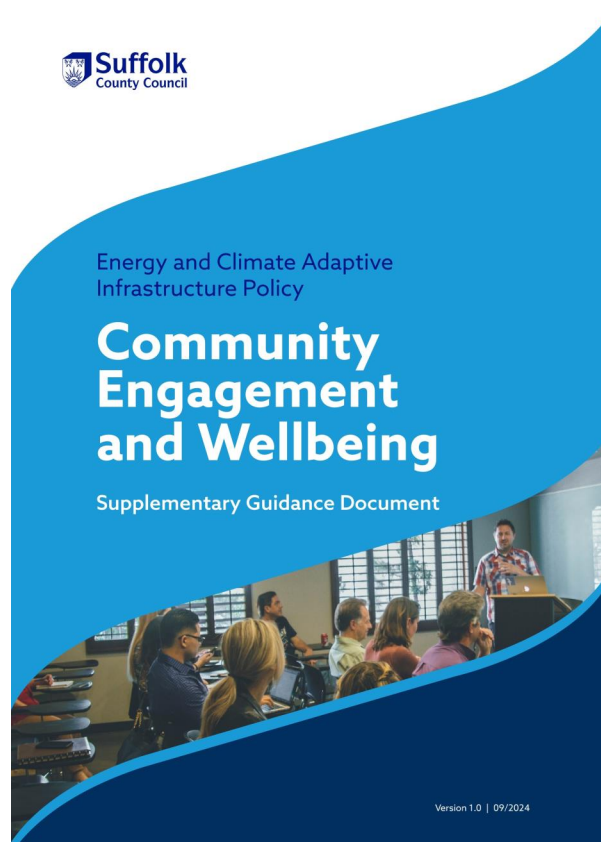
The guidance document can be found at the following link:

<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](#)

Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk County Council