

ENERGY PROJECTS REPORT – 10 November 2025

Introduction:

November heralds the commencement of the Planning Inspectorate hearings for National Grid Electricity Transmission's Sea Link project and Saxmundham Town Council spoke at both the Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearings on 5 November 2025.

Also on 5 November, being held in the Fromus Centre is the public exhibition for a non-statutory consultation for an Essex and Suffolk water pipeline, another Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Whilst not an 'energy' NSIP, the planned pipeline 28km from Barsham on the Suffolk/Norfolk border to Sizewell C (via Saxmundham) is partly funded by Sizewell C Co and will be another project that directly impacts Saxmundham.

Sizewell C also continues to impact the area.

Sizewell C Community Forum held at Sizewell Club, 23 October 2025:

General:

Whilst well attended with representatives from town and parish councils, many district and county councillors did not make an appearance. Jenny Riddell Carpenter MP did attend and stressed the need for project co-ordination and communication.

Sizewell C apologised for the extended journey times currently experienced by residents advising that:

- Darsham Park and Ride will be partially operational by the first week of November 2025
- Wickham Market Park and Ride will be also be partially operational by Christmas 2025
- The A12 cones along the dual carriageway north of Woodbridge to north of Wickham Market should be removed early in November 2025

Admittedly these improvements will help to alleviate delays, but the following will likely compound extended journey times with target operational dates of quarter 3, 2026.

- Opening of the workers' campus
- Operational date for the desalination plant
- Operational date for the concrete batching plant

Matters that directly affect Saxmundham:

- Saxmundham Station will be a pick up point for a Sizewell C bus
- Sizewell C has prepared a project plan that also includes other NSIPs: [MDSF SZC 16 July 2024 \(sizewellc.com\)](#) and is in discussion with other developers to reduce the impact on the community.

No further expansion was made on the above issues.

Nature Environment Fund:

£12M is available in grants with the first projects receiving funding in February 2026. Saxmundham Town Council may wish to approach Sizewell C to gain funding for Empowering Nature.

HMO (official and unofficial) parking:

I raised the issue of 'fly-parking' resulting from Sizewell C workers (and rail passengers). It was agreed that the issue would appear as an Action and that a meeting will be arranged with Sizewell C, town, district and county council representatives to see if a solution can be agreed.

Other important questions from parishes:

- Issues with road closure signage delaying ambulances (Theberton)
- Local people working on site – will they need to travel to park and rides? Sizewell C confirmed that they would not need to do this but were not able to confirm where workers would be able to park. (Aldringham and Thorpeness)

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) -Sea Link:

I spoke at the Preliminary Meeting on 5 November 2025 in relation to the timing of the Issue Specific Hearings (ISPs) in January/February 2026 that will coincide with National Grid Ventures (NGV), Lion Link Statutory Consultation. District and County Councils are concerned that the deadline for responses is in early January 2026, a timescale affected by Christmas vacations.

The Open Floor Hearings (OFHs) commenced after the Preliminary Meeting. I spoke on behalf of the Town Council to raise concerns in connection with the following issues, (all representations must be concise and relevant and not repeat representations already made):

- Noise/Vibration in relation to Hurts Hall, Manor Gardens and Bigsby's Corner (just outside our boundary but seemingly omitted from consideration). The reason for bringing this issue to the attention of the Examiners (ExA) is that none of these areas are considered 'hot spots' for noise, albeit they are all in close proximity to the project and the project's haul roads and site compounds.
- Extended working hours – early commencement and weekend working. This not only an issue for those that will suffer site noise, but also residents in the High Street, South Entrance, Chantry Road, Rendham Road, Church Hill, Church Road and North Entrance who are impacted by traffic noise.
- NGET has requested another consultation that includes measures to strengthen Benhall Bridge to take Abnormal Indivisible Loads. Saxmundham Town Council has responded to this. It is not the intention to discuss this at this stage, but bring to the ExA's attention that diversion routes, whilst work is underway, do not appear to consider diversion routes. Seemingly NGET consider that Rendham Road, Mill Road and Chantry Road are suitable.

Essex and Suffolk Water – Non-Statutory Consultation, Fromus Centre, 5 November 2025.

The exhibition was well attended with a queue to gain entry. At this stage, information concerning the project in Saxmundham was sparse except for mapping two potential pipeline routes into the Town and two leaving the Town to serve Sizewell C. The question regarding benefits of a new supply to Saxmundham was not answered, except to note that it will be required in the future to serve new housing developments. An informal meeting of Council Officers and Councillors who attended is planned for Monday to consider our responses to the consultation.

GNB/6 November 2025