



RESPONSE TO AGM ENERGY DISCUSSION AND  
INFORMATION ON COMMENTING ON THE SEA  
LINK PROJECT PROPOSAL BY 23 JUNE 2025

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Dear Members,

At the Alde and Ore Association's AGM on 24 April 2025 Trustees sought to hear members' views on the Association's approach to the Energy Coast issues.

Trustees found the discussion very valuable and are grateful to all those who contributed and the general reactions in the meeting.

This gave us a good basis to discuss how the Association would approach the continuing number of energy projects proposed, mainly to the north of the Estuary but in some cases impacting on the Estuary area.

Members views ranged from:

- The original objectives of the Alde and Ore Association (AOA) were very closely considered and deliberately kept narrow to the river and immediate surrounding banks, so don't venture into energy (policy), to
- AOA should broaden its perceptions of the AOA area and fully attack the wind power projects, most immediately Sea Link. It should be alerting its members to the dangers and adverse impact of these wind power projects to the area, to
- One member suggesting we should all be open to proposals to solve the energy problem (by implication not agreeing with opposition).

The purpose of this note is to set out, taking account of the considerations AOA has as a charity to stay within its objectives and the wide range of views expressed at the AGM, the approach the Association will take in the future:

1. To challenge directly, on a case by case basis, any aspect of energy projects that may impact adversely on the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and banks, both in the estuary and upstream. Depending on the nature of each project, such challenges will cover the impact on the estuary and its flood defences protecting the homes, businesses, infrastructure and environment and its place in a National Landscape (previously called Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) either in physical damage, or adversely affecting the landscape, places of archaeological or historic interest and all that it is valued for in terms of beauty, views, leisure facilities, wild life.
2. To challenge energy projects that will be detrimental to access to the area, making roads blocked and more dangerous, affecting the lives of those living in the area and visitors given that the Association's object includes to protect the area for the public benefit.
3. The Association will not engage in challenging energy policies per se by offering other solutions, such as offshore grids, other nuclear options or timescales/targets. The Trustees responsibilities and expertise are essentially focused on the Alde and Ore area.
4. Trustees thought that the Association could communicate more clearly with members but should seek to avoid overburdening them with lengthy and frequent emails except where unavoidable. Trustees are now looking at the Association's website as to how to provide more information on planning and action by the Association. This would include not only the submissions made by the Association but the links to the proposals themselves, such as National Grid for Sea Link, and to other organisations also representing the various aspects of concern to this small part of the Suffolk coast that is being made into an energy hub by the collective effects of different projects.
5. The Association will work with other organisations concerned with energy projects where the Association has members with expertise that can assist other organisations (e.g. knowledge of coastal erosion, financial mechanisms). Such collaboration would include sharing information and issuing complementary statements to strengthen making a broadly based case.
6. However, Trustees think that forwarding to members the emails with announcements and updates from the other organisations will result in a large number of emails which are likely to be duplicatory for many. It proposes not to forward these emails from other organisations to the Alde and Ore Association email membership list (not all Association members have given permission to receive communications by email). The links on the [Planning section of the Association's website](#) to other organisation websites will, take you to the latest news on their fronts.

[Please click here to see The Association's approach to the Energy Coast issues](#) setting out what the Association has done to date and the issues which the Association has covered most frequently, but not exclusively, in any submissions on energy projects. It also highlights the other organisations heavily involved in commenting on energy issues: the Association plans to provide links to their websites from its own [website](#)

## Sea Link

Finally, the energy project requiring most immediate action is Sea Link: this is more concerned with using the Suffolk area as a waystation moving power to different parts of the country than bringing a particular windfarm's power on shore. The Association's response is now on the website. If members have concerns about Sea Link they are reminded that individuals as well as organisations can register an interest in the project and have the opportunity to submit their concerns by [registering for the DCO hearing](#). **This needs to be done by 23 June 2025.**

If you wish to register via post, please contact the Planning Inspectorate via the mailbox [southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:southeastanglialink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) or call them on 0303 444 5000

Warm regards,

Alde and Ore Association