

# THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

*Your Voice - Your Estuary*



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## The Association's approach to the Energy Coast issues

### 1. Background: the Association's line to date.

Up to now the AOA has registered to speak and submit comments in the two DCO project hearings that have taken place on the proposals for Sizewell C and on EA1(N) and EA2 at Friston (windfarm cables coming in from the North Sea to a new substation, 23 m high over several acres, proposed by ScottishPower Renewables). AOA comments have also been submitted to public consultations for further windfarm proposals including Nautilus, SeaLink, Five Estuaries (not Lion Link as that would come from Walberswick to Friston).

Comments have been made in relation to:

First, the impact on the very fragile and dynamic coast (a Heritage coast and within a National Landscape – formerly called Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), which could lead to less shingle or changed long-shore currents affecting sediment deposition and erosion, leading to denuding Aldeburgh beach and the shingle bank protecting the estuary from the sea.

Second, the impact of project construction traffic over a good number of years, including the cumulative impact of several separate projects all being constructed at the same time, on the very limited rural road system affecting access to the A&O Estuary and reducing the possibility of its enjoyment to residents and visitors, and adversely affecting the major local industry, tourism.

There was a further consultation about enhanced nesting enclosures for Lesser Black-backed Gulls which would have interfered with the river embankment improvement plan as well as walks and recreation, apart from being an inappropriate site in terms of habitat (AOA led on that part of the proposal being removed).

### 2. Organisations challenging the several National Infrastructure Projects being directed to the area just north of Alde and Ore rivers.

There are a number of organisations with an interest in the power projects and their impact on the area:

**SEAS** (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions) is spearheading the challenge to the making of the small Suffolk coastal area the wind energy hub of England, and pointing out to the government alternative, more sustainable approaches – essentially offshore grid and use of more recently developed cable technology. [www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk](http://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk)

**SASES** (Substation Action Save East Suffolk) was set up to challenge the construction of a substation at Friston and is still fighting on that front. If Friston is eventually built then it is clear that several more wind farm cables will be coming on shore between Aldeburgh and Southwold to the north. All will have massive convertor stations and overhead cabling to join the Pylon stand from Sizewell. [www.sases.org.uk](http://www.sases.org.uk)

**Stop Sizewell C** is challenging the logic of constructing a twin nuclear reactor on a receding coastline, with rising sea level, on marshy ground with as yet no solid plans for freshwater supplies and a method of funding that means if construction costs go up, these will be covered by higher electricity costs to consumers. On a day-to-day basis the organisation is seeking to keep the developer EDF to observing the conditions of the DCO findings and mitigating the damage being done. <https://stopsizewellc.org/>

**Aldeburgh Society** is concerned with every aspect of ensuring the well-being of Aldeburgh. It accordingly is using its email address lists to ensure members that they can be kept in touch with the work of SEAS and SASES as all the power projects are going to impact heavily on transport to and from Aldeburgh and the key tourism industry that provides so much employment. [www.aldeburghsociety.org.uk](http://www.aldeburghsociety.org.uk)

**The Suffolk Preservation Society** is the only countywide amenity society dedicated to protecting and promoting the special historic and landscape qualities of Suffolk. SPS also represents CPRE, the Countryside Charity in Suffolk. SPS is challenging the National Grid interconnector schemes including SeaLink both because of the way the proposals have come forward and of the harm to the East Suffolk countryside and communities, and it supports a strategic and coordinated offshore solution. It is also challenging the pylons proposed from Norwich to Tilbury because of the impact over the Suffolk countryside. [www.suffolksociety.org](http://www.suffolksociety.org)

**The Alde and Ore Association's** remit is focused on the well-being of the Alde and Ore estuary/river area. To the extent that any major project might impact on the area the Association has been challenging them for those reasons. The Association has not, however, gone beyond pointing out the potential damage to the area; it has not suggested or supported views on alternative policies, ways of delivering energy, leaving that to SEAS and SASES.

The Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and being a charity must work within its stated objects. These are 'The Association exists to preserve and protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and banks and such land adjoining them upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and if historic or public interest in that area.'

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