

Report to Walberswick Parish Council on Lionlink  
WPC Meeting 13 October 2025

The following is an update on the NGV's Lionlink project as of October 2025.

Following drop-in sessions in Spring 2025 that were widely judged to be unsatisfactory, Cllr Bassinette wrote the developers on behalf of the Council to ask that NGV engage in a more transparent and meaningful dialogue with the village. Unfortunately, as we saw with NGV's summer community newsletter, nothing has changed. NGV continued with its same PR-driven dialogue, avoiding direct answers and denying the negative impacts that the project would have on the environment, the people and the economy of Walberswick. Again, Cllr Bassinette wrote to LL to point out their continued lack of candor and meaningful information. It was particularly egregious for LL to draw parallels to their cable construction in a post-industrial Cambois with the landfall and trenching they propose for Walberswick. We also pointed out the ridiculousness of claiming that "84% of their infrastructure is "off-shore"" when this represents simply the fact that running a cable from the Netherlands to Walberswick is, by definition going to be "offshore". Disappointingly in responding to Cllr Bassinette's letter, LL chose again to obfuscate. The latest letter to LL and their response are attached for information. One piece of possibly useful information is that NGV expects to start statutory consultations in January 2026. This could indicate that an enormous document will be dropped on us in the run-up to Christmas. Cllr Bassinette has written back to LL to ask for clarification.

The WPC continues to interact directly with WALL and thanks the Steering Group and membership for all their ongoing work and commitment. The information gathering that WALL is leading on bird and invertebrate diversity, people walking the paths of Manor Fields, the speed of winds blowing over the field and more will all be essential when we get to the Inspection Panel hearings.

SeaLink, another NGV cable project, is about a year ahead of LL and the Inspection Panel hearings are beginning in November. WPC has registered as an Interested Party and Cllr Bassinette will be making representations in person at the initial hearings on 6 November at Snape Maltings. WPC is focusing its objection to Sealink on cumulative impact and on the fact that NGV is trying to use Sealink to sneak LL in the backdoor by seeking approval for land for the LL substation next to the Sealink substation in Saxmundham. As Lionlink is by no means certain, and NGV itself has refused to co-locate its projects, we feel it would be grossly inappropriate for NGV to seek approval for a LL Saxmundham site without full consideration of the impact of the entire project. For those interested in being involved with the Sealink DCO process, SEAS has been doing a great job of keeping the community informed and providing excellent help through its website to make it much easier for local people to engage.

## Attachment 1

### Email to LL 3 September and Response email from LL 16 September 2025

Dear LL Team - As the Councillor responsible for LL at the Walberswick Parish Council, I must object again to your misleading communications. In my email to you in April following the drop-ins, I specifically pointed out to you how angry residents reacted to your suggestion that the landing at Cambois meant that you could properly deal with a landing site in the middle of our village. Yet in your Summer 2025 Newsletter, you have pointedly repeated this Cambois claim. I pointed out that Cambois is a post-industrial location that could not be more different than our ancient, environmentally protected village whose economy is based around eco-tourism. Nor does your statement about siting your construction further away from residents in Walberswick ring true since that is an impossibility if you are using Manor Field which is directly pressed up against homes on three sides and with much of the rest of the village not far away from Manor Field. Your literature makes no mention of how you will protect the health and homes of residents from airborne pollutants, dirt and dust that would result from using Manor Field as a giant dirt construction site. It makes no mention of how Manor Field is used as a centrepiece of Walberswick walking trails. What more evidence do we need of the dismissive attitude of LL to the local community?

Your newsletter is full of other disingenuous statements. For example, you say that 84% of the cable is offshore suggesting that this is "proof" of how much effort you are making in this regard. How ridiculous! It is a cable coming from the Netherlands crossing the North Sea! I am shocked, in fact, that the percentage isn't higher. If you came in closer to where you need to be, that percentage presumably would be more appropriately 90-95% in the sea. Likewise your statement about not coming in at Aldeburgh is not believable. With NGV proposing to put a cable in at Aldeburgh, it is of course entirely possible for LL to make a longer cable trip OFF-SHORE and a shorter trip ON-SHORE with a few extra metres of cable overall to avoid whatever sensitive marine sites you are obliquely referring to.

There is little opportunity for a meaningful engagement if you continue to put out these types of communications that ignore the real impact that your proposals will have on the local protected environment, on the wildlife in our areas, on the local community and on the health and well-being of Walberswick residents.

In addition to my points above, I would also like to seek clarity on the precise timing of your documentation and when we will be expected to respond. As you are well aware, local communities in Suffolk Coastal are being bombarded with energy infrastructure proposals including your own SeaLink. The Next Steps timeline in your newsletter is so high level as to be impossible for us to know when to expect important documents to be made public and when we will be expected to take part in external examinations. A more granular timeline would be appreciated even if it is still not certain.

Best regards,  
Cllr Josie Bassinette

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Response From LL dated 19 September 2025

Dear Cllr Bassinette,

Thank you for your email regarding the LionLink project and taking the time to share feedback on the Summer 2025 Newsletter.

The reference to Cambois is not intended to outline the similarities in characteristics of the two villages. It is included to provide an indication of the landfall construction methods, mitigations and timelines based on one of our previous projects, North Sea Link Interconnector.

Mitigation for the landfall site is currently being reviewed, and this will be confirmed as we continue to develop the design, with further information being provided at statutory consultation. Our aim is to minimise disruption through careful planning and a phased approach to delivery.

Thank you for sharing your feedback regarding the offshore cable percentage and the routing options referenced in our newsletter. With regard to Aldeburgh, our routing decisions are based on a range of technical, environmental and regulatory considerations, including the need to avoid sensitive marine habitats. Aldeburgh was discounted due to significant environmental and technical risks associated with the nearshore approach to the site.

LionLink will approach the coast from the northeast after connecting with the Dutch windfarm located in the North Sea. From an offshore perspective, this can create challenges in crossing designated protected areas. These protected areas include the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation and the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area, which are designated to protect a range of species protected under UK law.

We are currently finalising our proposals in preparation for the statutory consultation, which will run for eight weeks starting in January 2026. During this period, we will be inviting feedback on all key aspects of the project, including the proposed landfall site at Walberswick.

Once the dates are confirmed, we will share a detailed consultation timeline with you, along with information on how to access the consultation materials. These will include the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Options Siting and Routing Report, which will provide further detail on the proposals and the assessments undertaken to date.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the LionLink team via email at [info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com) or by calling 0800 083 1787.