

National grid press release

Under embargo until Monday 24 October 00:01

National Grid invites local community to comment on proposals for green electricity projects needed to boost home-grown energy supplies and progress towards net zero

- **New interconnector with Netherlands and subsea cable between Suffolk and Kent will strengthen electricity supplies and transport low carbon power to homes and businesses**
- **8-week public consultations will introduce the plans and ask for views of local communities**
- **The proposals include possible co-location of infrastructure (buildings and underground cables) aiming to reduce the impact on local communities**
- **Projects form part of the electricity network upgrades identified across the UK to help deliver the government's energy security strategy and net zero targets**

National Grid is inviting communities in Suffolk and Kent to comment on proposals for two green electricity infrastructure projects which will help deliver the UK's energy security strategy and net zero targets.

The eight-week consultations, which start on October 24, share proposals for Eurolink, a subsea electricity cable between Great Britain and the Netherlands, and Sea Link, a subsea electricity cable between Suffolk and Kent.

Developed by National Grid Ventures, the Eurolink multi-purpose interconnector (MPI) is designed to harness the increasing volumes of offshore wind power in the North Sea and has the potential to power approximately 1.8 million homes. It will enable the connection of offshore wind farms to both the British and Dutch electricity grids via an interconnector, enabling the transport of clean electricity from where it's produced to where it's needed most.

Developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission, Sea Link will add additional capacity to the electricity network in Suffolk and Kent, enabling low carbon and green energy to power local homes and businesses and be transported around the country. The proposals outline a preferred route of 10km of onshore and 130km of undersea cables, together with potential

landfall and converter station locations near to the proposed Friston substation in Suffolk and in Richborough in Kent.

Consulting on both schemes together gives local communities the chance to see how proposed infrastructure in the region links together, and the potential opportunities for co-locating elements of each scheme such as project buildings and underground cables.

Last year, National Grid Ventures also ran a non-statutory consultation on Nautilus, a proposed MPI linking Britain and Belgium, which proposed a connection at Friston. National Grid Ventures is now investigating the potential to move the Nautilus MPI project to the Isle of Grain in Kent.

Much of the UK's electricity network was built in the 1960s when the country was more reliant on fossil fuels. Today, we need to connect huge volumes of renewable power, such as offshore wind, to the network, to help deliver the government's energy security strategy and net zero targets and to transition to a cleaner, more affordable, and more independent energy system. New infrastructure and network upgrades are necessary to get the new clean energy from where it's generated to where it's needed. In addition to these proposals in Suffolk and Kent (and the East Anglia GREEN proposals which are currently being consulted on) the need for new network infrastructure has also been identified in North and South Wales, the Scottish Islands and West Coast, the East Coast of Scotland and Aberdeenshire, Lancashire, North-East England, and Yorkshire & Humber.

Sea Link Director Mike Elmer and Director of New Interconnectors, Phil Sandy said:

"The government's net zero and energy security targets mean an increase in green electricity generation such as wind, solar and nuclear power. Harnessing the full potential of British and European clean energy resources enables us to be less dependent on global fossil fuels like natural gas.

Our proposals for Sea Link and Eurolink will enable this clean electricity to connect to the grid and power homes and businesses, boosting our home-grown energy supplies and progress towards net zero.

We understand that plans for new infrastructure can cause concern in nearby communities. This launch is the beginning of our work engaging with communities and stakeholders and we encourage people to come forward and share their views."

Both projects are designated as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and require a special type of planning application - a Development Consent Order (DCO). An independent panel of inspectors is appointed to review the plans of any DCO application. The inspectors issue a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who makes the final decision whether to grant planning permission. National Grid anticipates submitting a DCO application for each project in 2024. Members of the public can take part in the consultations and speak with National Grid's team by attending consultation

events and online webinars, or by visiting the project websites. Paper copies of consultation materials will also be available to view at several locations in the local area. The following table shows where consultation events are being held across the area:

Eurolink dates	Sea Link dates
<p>Exhibition Event 1: Leiston Date: Wednesday 23rd November Time: 10:00 - 16:00 Location:</p> <p>Exhibition Event 2: Saxmundham Date: Thursday 24th November Time: 14:00 - 20:00 Location: Saxmundham Market Hall</p> <p>Exhibition Event 3: Aldeburgh Date: Friday 25th November Time: 10:00 - 16:00 Location: Aldeburgh Church Hall</p> <p>Exhibition Event 4: Reydon Date: Wednesday 30th November Time: 10:00-16:00 Location:</p> <p>Exhibition Event 5: Dunwich Date: Thursday 1st December Time: 14:00-20:00 Location:</p>	<p>Exhibition Event 1: Aldeburgh Date: Thursday 10 November Time: 13:00 - 20:00 Location: Old Generation Station, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY</p> <p>Exhibition Event 2: Friston Date: Friday 11 November Time: 13:00 - 20:00 Location: Friston Village Hall, Church Road, Friston, IP17 1PU</p> <p>Exhibition Event 3: Saxmundham Date: Saturday 12 November Time: 10:00 - 17:00 Location: From us Centre, The Saxmundham Hub, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL</p>
<p>For residents who are unable to attend the in-person events, there are several webinar events, where the project teams will provide an overview of the proposals and answer questions. You can see the dates of times of webinars below:</p>	
<p>Eurolink webinars can be accessed via the following link: www.nationalgrid.com/eurolink</p> <p>Webinar 1 Date: Wednesday 9th November Time: 18:30 – 20:00</p> <p>Webinar 2 Date: Wednesday 7th December Time: 10:00 – 11:30</p>	<p>Webinars can be accessed via the following link: www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/sealink</p> <p>Webinar 1 Suffolk onshore Date: Tuesday 22 November Time: 18:00 – 19:00</p> <p>Webinar 2 Suffolk onshore Date: Tuesday 29 November Time: 18:00 - 19:00</p> <p>Webinar 1 Marine Date: Thursday 24 November Time: 18:00 - 19:00</p> <p>Webinar 2 Marine Date: Thursday 1 December Time: 18:00 – 19:00</p>