

Responses to National Grid Ventures: EuroLink

Non- statutory consultation.

Question 1 Response from : *The Alde and Ore Association which exists to protect for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits together with features of public interest. It has some 2000 members.*

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Please keep us in touch with all the news on this project, by email to either of the addresses above will be fine.

Question 2 describe your interest in EuroLink

The Alde and Ore Association works to take care of the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and the surrounding landscape. Its concerns include any actions or interference with coastal sedimentary flows which could affect the sea defences at Aldeburgh and the eastern shingle bank of the Alde and Ore Estuary. The Suffolk Heritage Coast has a millennia long history of shingle flows from the north building up and enhancing the Orfordness Shingle Bank: this bank is one of the very few unique naturally formed shingle shorelines in Europe and which is subject to a number of international environmental designations and protections. Any proposals which might affect the natural coastal processes are of concern as they could lead to damaging the local landscape, economy and coastal defences.

Questions 3, 4 and 5 about the importance of infrastructure to deliver energy

As there is very little information to date that can be given by the developers on the possible impacts on the dynamic and fragile Heritage Suffolk coast and shoreline, despite Association members and Trustees having attended webinars and open days, it is not possible to comment on most of the questions in the questionnaire. Can an option not involving tampering with a fragile and dynamic coast be considered too

Question 6. To what extent do you think that landfall site option E could be shared by up to three projects as a joint landfall site and underground cable corridor?

Despite asking a good number of questions the most that could be gleaned at the exhibitions was that work will be undertaken to assess what landfall options might be, with a pointer to HDD being one but not necessarily the only option. Further questions about understanding nature of the land/shoreline, coastal sea bed and how its fragility and dynamic changes it undergoes were met with "studies have yet to be made". The consultation material was simply not ready to enable evidence-based evaluations and preferences to be made.

Question 7. To what extent should the proposed convertor station sites enable co-location of up to three convertor stations?.

The convertor sites, under the current outlines, would not impact directly on the Alde and Ore Estuary and so no comment can be made. However, when EuroLink have undertaken further necessary evaluation of the road structure and strength it will need, also to assess the impact on the tourism as well as local traffic as tourism is a substantial part of the local economy with people coming to enjoy the peace and tranquillity and the many unique wild life and landscape features in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Question 8. Is National Grid Ventures' commitment to working with other developers in East Suffolk a welcome step in improving working with other developers in East Suffolk in improving coordination in the region.?

There is little evidence of co-ordination at present apart from asking the question.

Question 9. In your view, what more could NGV and other developers in the region do to improve co-ordination between projects?.

Not run two separate consultations separately at the same time.

Question 10 and 11 ask for preferences for landfall and convertor station sites? .

There simply is inadequate information on which to base such fundamental evaluations

Question 13. Do you think there are any additional criteria and evidence which we should consider in identifying preferred options for onshore infrastructure? = please let us know what should be considered.

Please have regard to the Shoreline Management Plan 7 for the Suffolk Coast and avoid anything that might run contrary to the accepted policies along the Suffolk coast as far south as the southern end of the Orfordness. Be aware that SMP assessments made around 2017-19, notes that restoring the shingle shoreline to stop erosion onto the river would cost over £20 million for a shingle engine and £9-13 million for shingle renewal. Any serious impact on longshore drift could require expensive renewal.

Also, the need to have regard to what has already been identified as precious environmental characteristics on this Heritage Coast. It is not a waste land; it has many unique features.

Question 16. What are your views on the identified options for the landfall sites? Please include any local knowledge or evidence you think would be helpful here.

Please be aware of the Shoreline Management Plan,, the centuries old coastal transport of sedimentation ,plus increases in rising sea level, more violent storms with climate change and a receding shoreline. All need to be factored in.

Question 17. Do you have any comments on our offshore study area

Not at this stage

Question 18. Do you have any further comments on our proposals for EuroLink?

Yes, representatives of the Alde and Ore Association have attended in -person exhibitions, online seminars and looked at the on line at consultation material but do not feel there is much fundamental material on which to base opinions.

Question 19. How did you find out about this consultation?

All methods listed in the questionnaire.

Question 21. Have you visited virtual and in person exhibition and Q22 how informative were all these materials? - both visited but there was not a lot to learn as plans are at a very early stage and assessments of the local landscape, topography, road systems and key features of the economy are for EuroLink still at a very preliminary stage. The webinar helped a bit but. as with Sea Link, often when asked for more details the response was assessments /on the ground studies are in progress or planned for over the next 6 months or more.

**Alison Andrews
Chairman of the Alde and Ore Association
17 December 2022**