



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Sea Link

**Volume 5: Consultation Report**

Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
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Section 37(3) and Section 37(7) of the Planning Act 2008

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# **1. Section 1 Statement of Community Consultation (Version for LPA Consultation)**





**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Statement of Community Consultation

Version for LPA Consultation

Version A  
June 2023

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# Sea Link

## Document control

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### Version History

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Date	Version	Status	Description / Changes
22/06/2023	A	FINAL	First Issue

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities on its proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current (HVDC) link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), ahead of its application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 The Sea Link Project (“the proposed Project”) requires consent from the relevant Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO). This document has therefore been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Planning Act”), which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement.
- 1.1.3 As the proposed Project is an ‘EIA Development’, this SoCC therefore also sets out how National Grid intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).
- 1.1.4 In accordance with section 47(2) of the Planning Act, National Grid has consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities whilst developing the SoCC:
- Suffolk County Council
  - East Suffolk District Council
  - Kent County Council
  - Thanet District Council
  - Dover District Council
- 1.1.5 The listed local authorities were consulted for 28 days, between 22 June and 20 July 2023 on the contents of this SoCC.

## 1.2 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1 Offshore transmission cables and their associated onshore infrastructure do not meet the criteria to be considered Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) under the Planning Act, meaning that permission for their construction is not normally sought via an application for development consent.
- 1.2.2 However, on 4 March 2022 National Grid wrote to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy<sup>1</sup> (“the Secretary of State”) to ask that they issue a direction on whether the proposed Project can be treated as a development for which development consent is required.

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<sup>1</sup> Now known as the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

- 1.2.3 On 31 March 2022, the Secretary of State issued a direction confirming that the proposed Project be treated as such, in accordance with section 35(1) of the Planning Act.
- 1.2.4 Development consent is therefore required before construction of the proposed Project can begin. However, ancillary works (such as the reconductoring of the existing 400 kilovolt (kV) line between Canterbury and Richborough) may be progressed through separate consenting regimes or permitted development rights.
- 1.2.5 Since the section 35(1) direction was issued, plans for the proposed Project have evolved to potentially include the installation of a new 400 kV overhead electric line of more than 2 km in length. Should this be the case, this element would meet the criteria to be classified as an NSIP under the Planning Act, meaning that development consent would be required for this aspect of the proposed Project, irrespective of the direction issued under section 35(1).
- 1.2.6 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Planning Inspectorate will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether to grant the development consent for the proposed Project. The development consent order process is explained in further detail in Figure 2.3.
- 1.2.7 Before submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Act requires National Grid to carry out consultation, including with people living in the vicinity of the land where the proposed Project is to be sited.
- 1.2.8 The early involvement of local communities, including local authorities and stakeholders, leads to applications that are better understood by all parties. It also helps National Grid identify valuable information about the potential impacts of a scheme, providing the opportunity for mitigation measures to be considered and, where appropriate, built into designs, before an application is submitted and considered.

## **1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment**

- 1.3.1 On 24 October 2022, National Grid submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Project.
- 1.3.2 Within this Scoping Report, National Grid gave formal notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the proposed Project to meet the criteria outlined in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations to be considered as 'EIA Development'.
- 1.3.3 A scoping opinion for the proposed Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 1 December 2022.

## **1.4 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc**

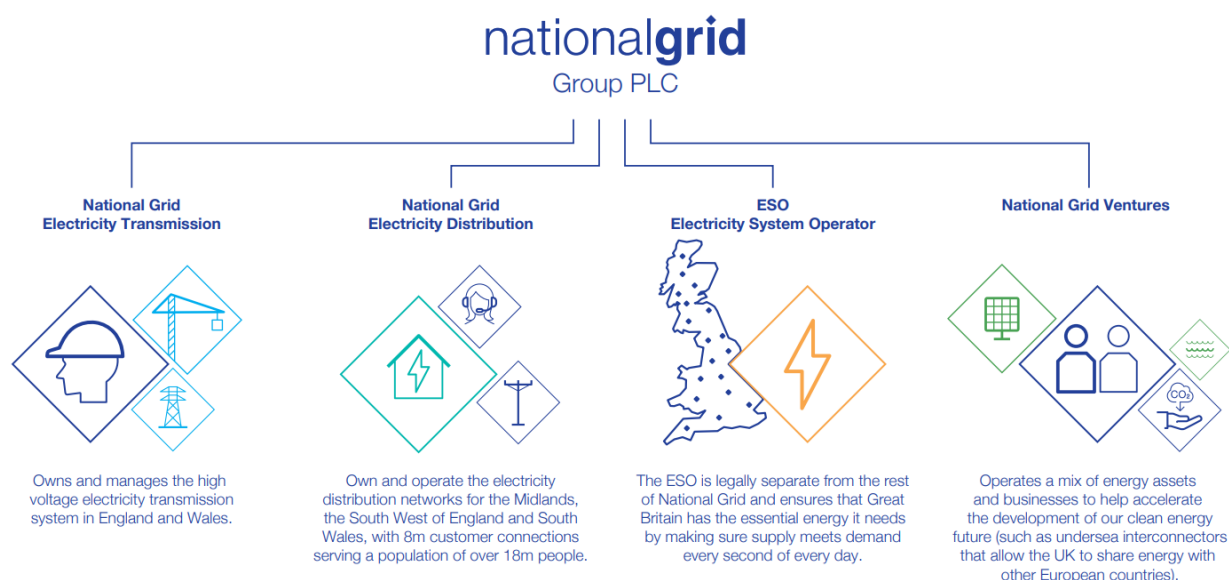
- 1.4.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer's homes and businesses; in the way that we support our communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.
- 1.4.2 Within the National Grid Group there are distinctly separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles (see Figure 1.1). The roles of these are



summarised below. The proposed Project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.

- 1.4.3 **National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. National Grid owns, builds, and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
- 1.4.4 In 2022, Western Power Distribution became part of the National Grid Group and is now **National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED)**. It is the local distribution network operator for the Midlands, South West of England and South Wales.
- 1.4.5 The **Electricity System Operator (ESO)** controls the movement of electricity around the country, transporting power from generators (such as wind farms) to local distribution network operators, like NGED and UK Power Networks (UKPN), ensuring that supply meets demand.
- 1.4.6 **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.
- 1.4.7 Both National Grid and the ESO are licensed by the Government as electricity transmission companies and are regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers.

Figure 1.1 Structure of National Grid group of companies



- 1.4.8 National Grid has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989 (“the Electricity Act”). This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

- 1.4.9 National Grid is also required, under section 38 of the Electricity Act, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to preserve amenity by:

*Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and*

*Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.*

- 1.4.10 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#).

## 2. The Sea Link Project

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The way we power the things we love is changing. In the years ahead, more of our energy will come from renewable and low carbon sources of electricity as part of the transition towards a net zero future.
- 2.1.2 There has already been a significant shift in how energy is generated in the UK. Last year, coal was responsible for meeting just 1.5% of our energy needs, compared to 43% back in 2012. This is because more of the energy we use is coming from offshore wind, nuclear power and trading energy through interconnectors with other neighbouring countries. At the same time, demand for electricity is set to increase as other sectors of the economy are decarbonised through electrification, such as heating and transport.
- 2.1.3 Whilst the existing high voltage electricity network has been sufficient until now, it does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected in the years ahead. To make sure everyone has access to the clean, affordable energy they need in the decades ahead, we need to deliver the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations.
- 2.1.4 As much of the new renewable and low carbon electricity generation planned for the UK is expected to be installed along the east coast, National Grid is investing significantly in upgrading the existing network. It also needs to build new infrastructure, such as Sea Link, to ensure that power can be transported from where it is generated to where it is needed.
- 2.1.5 All of this work forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade – National Grid’s programme to deliver over five times the amount of electricity transmission infrastructure in the next seven years than has been built in the last 30 years.

### 2.2 The proposed Project

- 2.2.1 National Grid (NGET) is seeking your views on the Sea Link Project (‘proposed Project’) which involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, predominantly via offshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link.
- 2.2.2 To enable us to transmit electricity from Suffolk to Kent, onshore infrastructure will be required at both ends of the reinforcement.
- 2.2.3 The proposed Project is therefore split into three distinctive elements, comprising:
- Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
  - Offshore Scheme; and
  - Kent Onshore Scheme.
- 2.2.4 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme requires construction of the following key infrastructure to facilitate the HVDC Link:
- construction of a new converter station within approx. 9 km inland on the Suffolk Coast

- connection into the proposed Friston Substation, or construction of the proposed Friston Substation (if required)
- installation of an underground High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) connection between the proposed Friston Substation and the new proposed converter station
- installation of HVDC underground cables between the landfall on the Suffolk coast and the new proposed Friston Substation
- construction of a Transition Joint Bay (TJB) to connect the HVDC marine cables with onshore HVDC cables at the landfall on the Suffolk coast.

2.2.5 It is anticipated that Friston Substation will be constructed under the extant development consent secured by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) for the East Anglia One (EA1) North and Two (EA2) Offshore Windfarm Projects. Should the proposed Friston Substation not be installed under these consents, it would be constructed under the separate development consent being sought for the proposed Project, which also includes Friston Substation.

Figure 2.1 Sea Link Project Schematic



## 2.3 Consultation and engagement to date

2.3.1 National Grid held a non-statutory consultation on the proposed Project between 24 October and 18 December 2022.

2.3.2 The consultation had the following aims:

- to introduce the proposed Project to the public, providing an overview of the proposed Project and why the reinforcement is needed
- to set out options that have been considered and the decision-making undertaken so far



- to present early plans, including proposed cable corridors, HVDC converter sites and landfall locations
- to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and those interested in the project to give their feedback on our work-to-date
- to outline the next steps and onward programme for the development of the proposed Project.

2.3.3 Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the Project Team held four face-to-face public information events, two landowner information events, six online webinars and nine stakeholder briefings. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, email updates, newspaper, and social media adverts. Consultation materials were made available online and for inspection at 20 deposit points in the vicinity of the proposed Project. Dedicated contact channels were also established for those who had questions about the proposed Project. This engagement and advertisement activity in Suffolk and Kent is summarised in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1 - Key statistics from non-statutory consultation**

	Kent	Suffolk	Total
Deposit points	12	8	20
Community invites issued	11,061	6,624	17,685
Public information events	3	3	6
Landowner information events	1	1	2
Stakeholder briefings	2	7	9
Website visitors	-	-	11,360
Webinars	-	-	6
Enquiries to the freephone telephone number	-	-	19
Inbound enquiries through the proposed Project inbox	-	-	262
Newspaper adverts	3	3	6
Social media adverts	1	3	4

2.3.4 National Grid provided a number of ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to give their feedback. These included:

- completing an online feedback form on the Project's website ([nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink))
- completing a paper feedback form or sending written comments by post (Freepost SEA LINK)
- emailing feedback to the Project's email address ([contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com))
- calling the Project's information line (0808 134 9569)

2.3.5 A total of 609 feedback responses to the consultation were received.

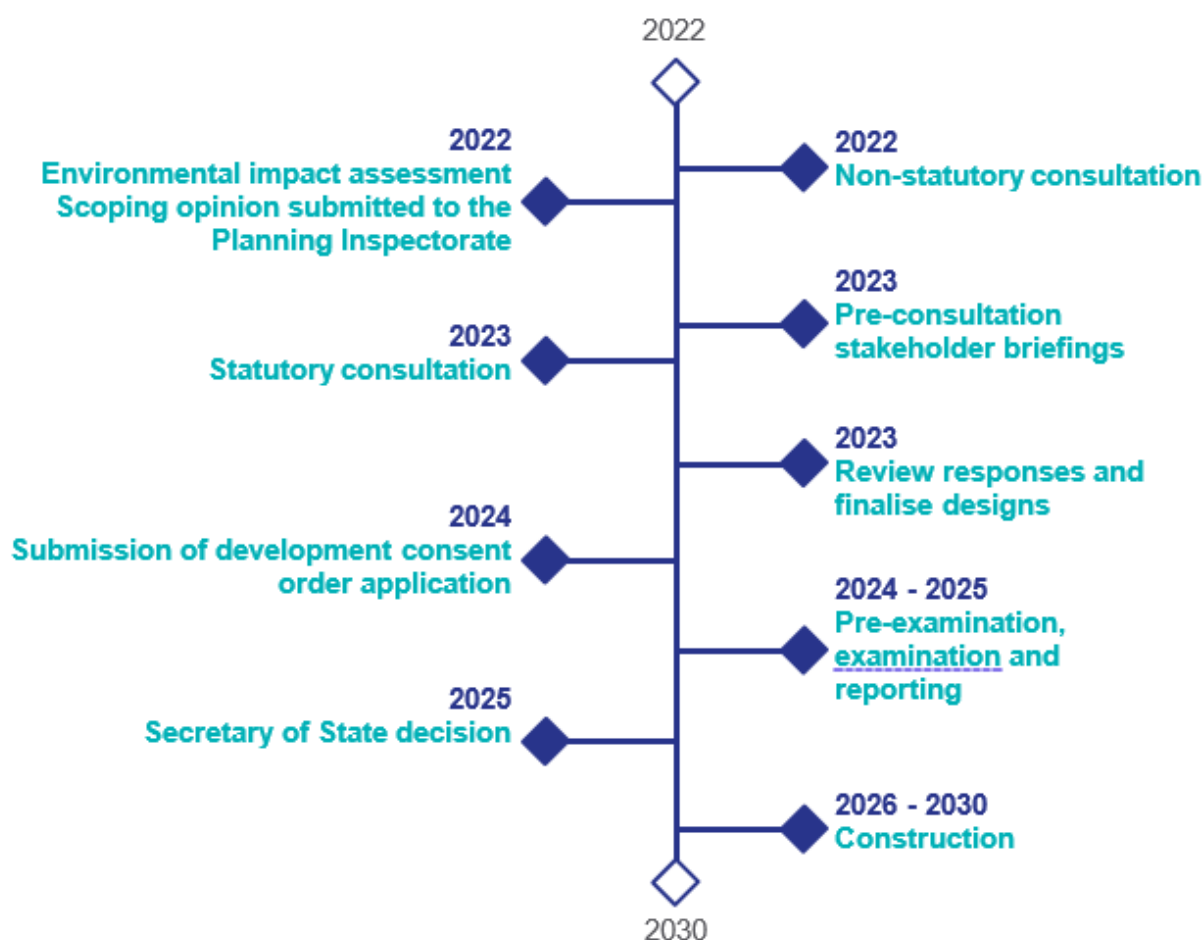
2.3.6 Following a back-check and review of the prescribed consultees notified of the non-statutory consultation, it was identified that some had not been contacted. National Grid wrote to the consultees on 22 February 2023 providing them with an eight-week period to provide feedback on the proposed Project.

- 2.3.7 In addition to the consultation periods detailed previously, the proposed Project has engaged with key stakeholders through meetings and other forms of discussion on a regular basis. These stakeholders include local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England.
- 2.3.8 More information on the non-statutory consultations carried out can be found in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, which is part of the suite of documents published at statutory consultation. Archive documents from the non-statutory consultation will remain available on the Project's website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in **paragraph 3.5.8**.

## 2.4 Project Timeline

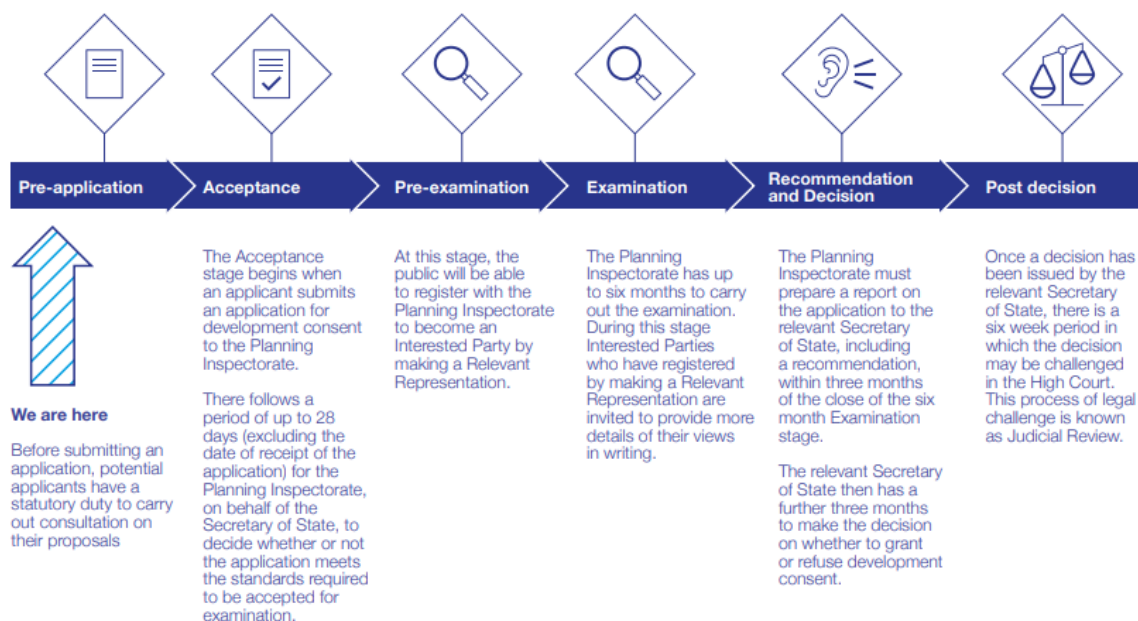
- 2.4.1 Figure 2.2 sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of the proposed Project, from consultation through to the decision from the Secretary of State and construction.

Figure 2.2 Project Timeline



2.4.2 **Figure 2.3** provides an overview of the DCO consenting process.

Figure 2.3 DCO process



## 3. Consulting on the proposed application

### 3.1 When will the consultation take place?

- 3.1.1 The statutory consultation will run for a period of eight weeks. It will take place between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted until 2 January 2024.

### 3.2 What will be consulted on?

- 3.2.1 We will seek views and feedback on all aspects of the proposed Project, including the:
- proposed onshore route of the HVDC cable, from landfall to converter station
  - proposed offshore route of the HVDC cable, from landfall to landfall
  - preferred landfall and converter station locations in Suffolk and Kent
  - proposed route of the HVAC link between the Suffolk converter station and Friston substation
  - proposed Friston substation
  - proposed technology type and route of the 400 kV link between the Minster converter station and the Canterbury to Richborough 400 kV overhead line
  - construction methodology
  - likely environmental affects arising from the proposed Project
  - approach to biodiversity net gain and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.
- 3.2.2 The proposed Project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback and further technical and design assessments. The statutory consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will allow consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development. It will outline any limitations on the current assessments. If any substantive changes are made to the design of the proposed Project following this statutory consultation, National Grid will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation (see **section 4.3**).
- 3.2.3 The full PEIR will be available on the Project's website, with a link to this shared with the relevant consultees set out in the EIA Regulations. Access to digital copies of the PEIR will be available at deposit points. Posted paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in **paragraph 3.5.8**.
- 3.2.4 As part of the application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Project and potential mitigation where appropriate, based on the details of the proposals submitted with the application for development consent.

### 3.3 Who will be consulted?

- 3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project. All views are welcomed, and National Grid will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the details of the proposed Project for our application for development consent.
- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Planning Act, National Grid has a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community.
- 3.3.3 The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) extends 3 km from the proposed draft Order Limits for the proposed Project, whilst the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) extends to at least 5 km from the draft Order Limits for the proposed Project (including the PCZ). The draft Order Limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the proposed Project. Appendix A sets out the boundaries of these two consultation zones.
- 3.3.4 We will also consult the following groups and individuals:
- Parish Councils representing parishes within the PCZ
  - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the PCZ and SCZ
  - elected representatives in local authorities where the proposed Project is situated
  - ‘seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques, and may need additional support to access materials
  - local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups
  - marine users such as fisheries, developers and existing infrastructure owners.
- 3.3.5 In addition to the local community, National Grid will consult prescribed bodies<sup>2</sup> and local authorities as required under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act and undertake the relevant notification under the EIA Regulations. National Grid will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under section 42(1)(d).

### 3.4 Consultation materials

- 3.4.1 **Table 3.1** sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the proposed Project and provide their feedback.

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<sup>2</sup> The relevant statutory consultees, as set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and as identified by National Grid as relevant to the proposed Project.



Table 3.1 - Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Newsletter	<p>A summary newsletter which outlines how members of the public can get involved in the consultation, including dates and times of public information exhibitions, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, locations of where more detailed information about the proposals can be found, how to submit feedback and the contact details for the Project Team.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>The newsletter will be posted to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ as part of the 'Consultation Pack.' Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy of the document at the deposit points (see 3.11 for detail).</p> <p>The document will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p> <p>Copies of the material will be made available in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) upon request.</p>
Project update document	<p>A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the proposed Project, its various components and where to find more detailed information and contact the Project Team.</p> <p>The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see 3.11 for detail). The document will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p> <p>Copies of the material will be made available in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) upon request.</p>
Project update document – 10-minute read	<p>A condensed version of the Project update document, intended to concisely summarise and explain the background to the proposed Project and current proposals.</p> <p>The document is intended to have a 'read time' of 10 minutes or less.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see 3.11 for detail). The document will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
Options selection and design evolution report	A document outlining the development of the proposed Project and the rationale behind each component.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see 3.11 for detail). The report will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>
Non-statutory consultation report	A document outlining the non-statutory consultation undertaken between October and December 2022. The report will provide a summary of the feedback received and identify how National Grid has had regard to that feedback.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see 3.11 for detail). The report will also be available to download from the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>
Feedback form	<p>Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the proposed Project.</p> <p>The feedback form will be split into a section specific to Kent and Suffolk.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).</p> <p>Feedback forms will be posted to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ as part of the 'Consultation Pack' (as detailed in 3.5.1). Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy of the document at the deposit points (see 3.11) for detail).</p> <p>The feedback form will be available to complete/download on the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>
Consultation banners	<p>Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the proposed Project.</p> <p>Banners will be designed to assist the</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail), although the consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information exhibitions.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be able to view the banners on the</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
	understanding of the proposed Project and will allow for further discussion with members of the Project Team during public information events and other meetings.	Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.
Consultation banners – audio version	To assist those with visual impairments, an audio version of the consultation banners will be made available.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail) and those with visual impairments.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access the audio version of the consultation banners on the Project's website.</p>
Plans and drawings	Plans and drawings of the proposed Project to assist with understanding the proposals.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Plans and drawings will be used throughout the consultation materials listed in this table. Some may also be collated to form individual documents.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to view the plans and drawings on the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of these documents.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR details environmental information and the results of preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the proposed Project, along with proposed mitigations.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to view a copy of the non-technical summary at the deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail). The full PEIR will be able to be downloaded from the Project's website, with digital copies available for inspection at deposit points and printed copies posted on request. A fee will be charged for printed copies of the PEIR.</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
Project's website	A dedicated consultation website (see <b>Table 3.2</b> for detail).	All those interested in the consultation (see 3.3 for detail).

- 3.4.2 All consultation materials will be available on the Project's website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements. Further detail is provided in **Table 3.2**.

**Table 3.2 - Website features**

Function	Rationale
Interactive Project map with layers that can be added and removed	To enable members of the public to see how different components of the proposed Project fit together and how they interact with the existing area.
Interactive Project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to general arrangement plan maps	To enable members of the public and other stakeholders to access detailed maps of the proposed Project.
Virtual consultation 'town hall'	To present the consultation banners made available for the public information exhibitions.
Videos, infographics and animations	To aide with comprehension and understanding of the proposed Project.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the Project Team or attend an in-person event.
Online feedback form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.
Webinar sign-up form	To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.
'Ask the Experts' sign-up form	To enable members of the public to book a video, telephone or in-person 'Ask the Experts' appointment.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the Project Team for any further questions.
Accessibility	The Project's website will be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers, to

Function	Rationale
	ensure accessibility for all those engaging with the consultation.

## 3.5 Promoting the consultation

- 3.5.1 We will contact all addresses within the PCZ with a Consultation Pack (to include a newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope). A map showing the PCZ can be found in **Appendix A**.
- 3.5.2 The consultation will be advertised in local newspapers to provide details of where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the public exhibitions. The newspapers will include:
- Eastern Daily Press
  - East Anglian Daily Times
  - Ipswich Star
  - Kentish Gazette
  - Kent and Sussex Courier
- 3.5.3 The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and SCZ, and beyond.
- 3.5.4 The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers, as well as in the London Gazette, Fishing News and Lloyd's List, giving details about the consultation in accordance with section 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. Site notices displaying this information will also be placed at key locations along the route of the proposed Project.
- 3.5.5 We will work with parishes and local authorities across the PCZ to advertise the consultation in parish magazines, on council websites and on council social media channels. Posters will also be sent to parish councils to display and raise awareness of the consultation.
- 3.5.6 Adverts will be placed on Facebook and Instagram to help raise general awareness of the consultation and target a broad range of demographics, including those that might not otherwise engage with the consultation. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation.
- 3.5.7 In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website: [nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink). Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps will be able to call [REDACTED]
- 3.5.8 Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up-to a maximum value of £300 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested by contacting the Project Team by email at [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com), or by calling [REDACTED]



- 3.5.9 We will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis to take into account individual circumstances. Requests can be made using the contact details provided in **3.5.8**.

## 3.6 Public information exhibitions

- 3.6.1 Eight public information exhibitions will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project Team. The exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.
- 3.6.2 Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each exhibition. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.
- 3.6.3 Those attending the exhibitions will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 3.6.4 **Table 3.3** outlines the dates, times and locations of each of the exhibitions.

Table 3.3 - Details of public information exhibitions

Date	Time	Location
Week 3 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Aldeburgh
Week 3 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Aldeburgh
Week 4 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Minster
Week 4 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Cliffsend
Week 5 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Saxmundham
Week 5 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Saxmundham
Week 6 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Minster
Week 6 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Newington

- 3.6.5 At least one of the public information events, in both Kent and Suffolk, will be held on a weekend, to ensure as broad a range of people as possible are able to attend the events.
- 3.6.6 If, for any reason, it is unfortunately necessary to cancel a scheduled event, for example as a result of adverse weather, this information will be published on the proposed Project's website and a notice will be placed at the venue if practicable. In these circumstances National Grid will also consider organising additional events if deemed to be reasonably necessary.

## 3.7 Webinars

- 3.7.1 Two webinars will be held during the first week of the consultation.

- 3.7.2 One webinar will focus on a summary of the proposals in Suffolk, whilst the other will summarise the proposals in Kent. Both sessions will include details of the marine proposals relevant to the proposed Project. **Table 3.4** provides a summary of the webinars that will take place.

Table 3.4 - Details of webinars

Date	Time	Topic
Week 1 of consultation	Evening	Onshore proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals
Week 1 of consultation	Evening	Onshore proposals in Kent and marine proposals

- 3.7.3 Each webinar will include a 'Question & Answer' session, enabling members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.
- 3.7.4 Each webinar will include live captions and include a British Sign Language interpreter.
- 3.7.5 Members of the public can register for a webinar through the Project's website or by email.
- 3.7.6 The recording of each webinar will be posted on the Project's website shortly after the webinar has taken place, to allow members of the public and those with an interest in the consultation to view in their own time.

### 3.8 'Ask the Experts' sessions

- 3.8.1 'Ask the Experts' sessions will provide an opportunity for those with more detailed questions about the proposed Project and/or those unable to attend a public exhibition or webinar to speak directly with members of the Project Team. These sessions will be delivered on an appointment-only basis and will be made available in person, via telephone call or video call.
- 3.8.2 Telephone and video call appointment slots will be offered throughout the consultation period, whilst in-person appointments will be offered during weeks that a public information exhibition is taking place. We will seek to hold in-person appointments at venues closer to our proposals that would not have been suitable for a full public information exhibition.
- 3.8.3 **Table 3.5** sets out the proposed format and schedule for the 'Ask the Experts' sessions.

Table 3.5 - Details of 'Ask the Experts' sessions

Date	Time	Location
Week 1 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Online/telephone
Week 2 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Online/telephone
Week 3 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Online/telephone
Week 5 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Friston

Week 6 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Newington
Week 7 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Online/telephone

## 3.9 Stakeholder briefings and meetings

3.9.1 We will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:

- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone
- elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ
- parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ
- local authority planning officers
- persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act

3.9.2 We will meet with other organisations and individuals upon request. These may include:

- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act
- third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships and business groups
- community groups and residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the proposed Project
- parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ
- interest groups with a close relationship to the proposed Project.

## 3.10 Seldom heard groups

3.10.1 Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.

3.10.2 We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation activity is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. **Table 3.6** sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage seldom heard groups in the consultation.

Table 3.6 - Seldom heard engagement tools

Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directly mailing a Consultation Pack and project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels</li> </ul>

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Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
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including by post and telephone if deemed necessary

- face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route
- in-person and virtual ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs
- availability of an induction loop during public exhibitions
- providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request)
- engaging with community groups serving the demographic
- providing paper copies of materials at deposit point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send Consultation Packs to those who are unable to access the material online
- advertising the availability of ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.

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People with visual impairments

- audio guide of consultation banners
- providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request)
- options to enlarge text on the Project’s website
- advertising the availability of ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.

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People with limited mobility/disability

- options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary
  - directly mailing a Consultation Pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies
-

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<b>Seldom heard category</b>	<b>Methods utilised to engage with category</b>
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	<p>of other documents and provide feedback by post</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, to negate the need for travel</li> <li>• providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request)</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the proposed Project</li> <li>• in-person 'Ask the Experts' sessions, with a booking system to take into consideration any individual requirements</li> <li>• availability of an induction loop during public exhibitions</li> <li>• provision of a British Sign Language interpreter and live captions at webinars</li> <li>• advertising the availability of 'Ask the Experts' sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.</li> </ul>
Youth (13-15) age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
15-19 and 20-39 age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> <li>• reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events and 'Ask the Experts' sessions at a variety of locations</li> </ul>

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Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
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	<p>and times across the route of the proposed Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions, to negate the need for travel</li><li>• social media advertisements</li><li>• advertising the availability of ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.</li></ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• online engagement</li><li>• social media advertisements</li><li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li></ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ; and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li><li>• face-to-face public information events and ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li><li>• online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions, to negate the need for travel</li><li>• advertising the availability of ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.</li></ul>
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reaching out to community groups representing underrepresented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li></ul>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• providing consultation materials in alternative languages upon request</li><li>• translation/interpreter facilities provide during ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions upon request.</li></ul>

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Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reaching out to community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post.</li> </ul>
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>in-person 'Ask the Experts' sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs</li> <li>advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ and SCZ</li> <li>providing paper copies of materials at deposit point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send Consultation Packs to those who are unable to access the material online.</li> </ul>

## 3.11 Deposit points

- 3.11.1 Whilst this is no longer a statutory requirement, paper copies of the project update document, options selection and design evolution report, non-statutory consultation report, SoCC, non-technical summary of the PEIR, newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be made available at a number of deposit points local to the proposals. Information on how to access a digital copy of the full PEIR will also be provided at deposit point locations.
- 3.11.2 The locations set out in **Table 3.7** have been selected following a review of the success of the deposit points utilised at non-statutory consultation.

Table 3.7 - Details of deposit point locations

Location	Address	Opening times
Saxmundham Library	Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thur: Closed Fri: 09:30 – 17:30 Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00
Leiston Library	Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 19:30 Weds: Closed Thur: 09:30 – 17:30 Fri: 09:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00 Sat: 09:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00
Aldeburgh Library	Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5EG	Mon: 09:00 – 13:00 Tues: 09:00 – 13:00 Wed: 09:00 – 18:00 Thur: 09:00 – 13:00 Fri: 09:00 – 13:00 Sat: 10:00 – 15:00 Sun: 10:00 – 13:00
Snape Village Hall	5 Garrett Cl, Snape, Saxmundham IP17 1RN	Mon: 07:00 – 19:00 Tues: 07:00 – 19:00 Weds: 07:00 – 19:00 Thur: 07:00 – 19:00 Fri: 07:00 – 19:00 Sat: 07:00 – 19:00 Sun: Closed
Friston Village Hall	Church Rd, Friston, Saxmundham IP17 1PU	Village hall open depending on events. Contact the village hall in advance via email at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]
Ash Library	11 Queen's Rd, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG	Mon: 11:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 15:00 Tuesday: 09:30 – 13:00 Weds: 09:30 – 14:00 Thur: Closed

Location	Address	Opening times
		Fri: 11:30 – 17:00 Sat: 09:00 – 14:00
Minster Library	4a Monkton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA	Mon: 13:00 – 17:00 Tues: 09:30 – 13:30 Weds: Closed Thur: 12:00 – 17:00 Fri: 10:00 – 16:00 Sat: 09:30 – 13:30 Sun: Closed
Sandwich Library	13 Market St, Sandwich CT13 9DA	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:00 Weds: Closed Thur: 09:30 – 17:00 Fri: 09:30 – 17:00 Sat: 09:30 – 15:00 Sun: Closed
Ramsgate Library	Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate CT11 9AY	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thur: 09:30 – 16:30 Fri: 09:30 – 17:30 Sat: 09:30 – 15:30 Sun: Closed
Newington Library	Royal Harbour Academy, Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 6FA	Mon: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:30 Tues: 09:00 – 13:00 Weds: Closed Thur: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:30 Fri: Closed Sat: 09:00 – 13:00 Sun: Closed

- 3.11.3 Materials will be available to view during the opening hours listed above, except in circumstances outside of National Grid's control, such as severe weather, which prevent the locations specified from opening.

## 3.12 Contact details

- 3.12.1 Table 3.8 sets out the contact channels that will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents.

Table 3.8 - Contact channels

Method	Contact details	Hours of operation
Online	<a href="https://nationalgrid.com/sealink">nationalgrid.com/sealink</a>	24/7
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com">contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com</a>	9am-5pm weekdays
Freephone	██████████	9am-5pm weekdays
Post	FREEPOST Sea Link	24/7

- 3.12.2 The Project Team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that is not readily to hand, the Project team will endeavour to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.

## 4. Responses to the consultation

### 4.1 Methods of responding

- 4.1.1 During the consultation period, feedback can be submitted in the following ways:
- online via the Project's website ([nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink))
  - by post at FREEPOST Sea Link
  - by email ([contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com))
- 4.1.2 Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.
- 4.1.3 Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis, where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.
- 4.1.4 Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted up until 2 January 2024.
- 4.1.5 Although they will not be formally included as consultation feedback, National Grid will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.

### 4.2 Presenting the results

- 4.2.1 As set out in Figure 2.2, following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where practicable, refined in light of feedback.
- 4.2.2 The proposed application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with section 49 of the Planning Act.
- 4.2.3 A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for development consent, as required by section 37 (3)(c) of the Planning Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for development consent.
- 4.2.4 Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.
- 4.2.5 Upon receipt of an application for development consent, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.
- 4.2.6 The consultation report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available from the Project team on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in paragraph 3.5.8.



## 4.3 Further consultation

- 4.3.1 If, following the statutory consultation, National Grid considers it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

## 4.4 Other developers' consultations

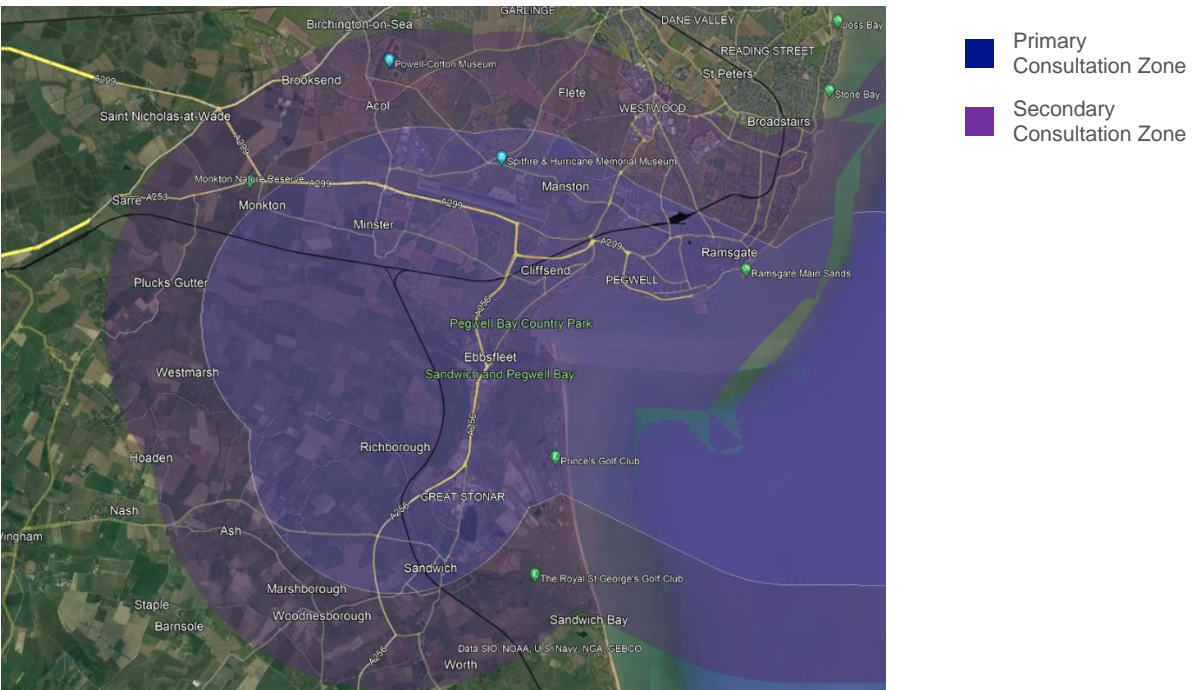
- 4.4.1 We are aware that a number of other organisations are developing proposals in the area, including:
- National Grid Electricity Transmission's Bramford to Twinstead and Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia GREEN) network reinforcements
  - National Grid Ventures' LionLink (formerly known as EuroLink) and Nautilus interconnectors
  - North Falls offshore wind farm
  - Five Estuaries offshore wind farm.
- 4.4.2 We will work to understand other local projects to ensure that the scope and context of this Project is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include:
- having headline information about the other consultations at our events
  - seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations, where appropriate
  - ensuring that any responses submitted to our statutory consultation that are intended for another consultation is passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team.

# Appendix A      PCZ and SCZ map

Figure A.1 Suffolk PCZ and SCZ map



Figure A.2 Kent PCZ and SCZ map



National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4031152  
[nationalgrid.com](http://nationalgrid.com)

## **2. Section 2 Email to LPAs Consulting on Draft SoCC**

## SoCC consultation - local authorities (SM-00329) Smart email

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Title

SoCC consultation - local authorities

Sender

[SEA Link Email Address](#)

Expected date of delivery

22-06-23 11:00

Date sent

22-06-23 10:04

Email overrides

Sending option

One email to each recipient

Type of smart communication

Smart email

Change direct reply to email?

☐

Sender's email

[contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)

Change the sender's display name

☒

Sender's name

SEA Link Email Address

Sender's display name

National Grid

Classification

The information in these fields will not be sent to recipients, but the generated communications will contain this information for a better categorization and reference.

Title of the communication

Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

Engagement plans

-

Subject categories

-

Projects

Sea Link

### TEMPLATE

Template file

[Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation.eml](#)

Tags identified in the template

{FIRST\_NAME}

To upload a new template, you can either select an existing template from another smart communication or send an email to [{0}](mailto:{0}). If you choose to send an email, you can use the following replacement tags to personalize the email that will be sent to stakeholders:

```
<table style="font-size:12px"><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{FIRST_NAME}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Individual's first name</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{LAST_NAME}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Individual's last name</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{FULL_NAME}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Individual's or Organisation's full name</td></tr></table>
```

align:center;padding: 5px;">{POSITION}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Name of the individual's position in the organisation (if the recipient is a position)</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{ORGANISATION}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Organisation in which the individual has the position (if the recipient is a position) or the Organisation (if the recipient is an Organisation)</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{SALUTATION\_TITLE}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Title which is defined in the position of the individual or the title of the individual if it is not a position</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{ADDRESS\_TITLE}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Address title which is defined in the position of the individual</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{ADDRESS}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Mailing address of the individual. If a position is selected, the address of the organisation will be used</td></tr><tr style="border-bottom:1px solid lightgrey"><td style="vertical-align:center;padding: 5px;">{FORMATTED\_ADDRESS}</td><td style="text-align:justify; padding: 3px;">Mailing address of the individual. If a position is selected, the address of the organisation will be used</td></tr></table>

## RECIPIENTS

Recipients (14)

Recipient Alessandra Sartori - Kent County Council (Graduate Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Officer)	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
--	--

Recipient Bob Porter - Thanet District Council (Director for Housing and Planning)	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
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Recipient David Cockburn - Kent County Council (Corporate Director (Head of Paid Service))	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
--	--

Recipient Francesca Potter - Kent County Council (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Officer)	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
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Recipient Graham Gunby - Suffolk County Council (Development Manager, Minerals and Waste)	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
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Recipient Helen Johnson - Thanet District Council (Planning officer)	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
--	--

Recipient Naomi Goold - East Suffolk Council (Senior Energy Projects Manager)	Main email <div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
---	--



Recipient  
Nicola Beach - Suffolk County Council (Chief Executive)

Main email

Recipient  
Philip Ridley - East Suffolk Council (Head of Planning and Coastal Management)

Main email

Recipient  
Phil Watson - Suffolk County Council (Strategic Energy Projects Lead)

Main email

Recipient  
Rachel Morgan - Dover District Council (Senior Planning Officer)

Main email

Recipient  
Roland Arbon - Suffolk County Council (NSIPs Project Co-ordinator)

Main email

Recipient  
Sarah Platts - Dover District Council (Head of Planning and Development)

Main email

Recipient  
Simon Amstutz - Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project (AONB Manager)

Main email

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communications (14)

Ref. no.  
C-48922

Stakeholders  
Graham Gunby - Suffolk County Council (Development Manager, Minerals and Waste)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Graham,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

A development consent order (DCO) is required before construction on the proposed Project can begin. As such, we are currently preparing an application that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Our proposals have developed over time through consultation with stakeholders, landowners, businesses, and local communities. To-date, this consultation activity has been 'informal' or 'non-statutory'. Before submitting a DCO application we must also undertake a 'formal' or 'statutory' consultation on the proposals. We intend to hold this consultation in autumn 2023.

Prior to undertaking a statutory consultation, Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires that National Grid:

*"Prepares a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement."*

As a representative of a relevant local authority identified within section 43 (1) of the Planning Act 2008 in which the proposed develop is situated, we are inviting you to participate in formal consultation on our draft SoCC, which is enclosed.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, please submit these via email to [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com). The deadline for providing comments is Thursday 20 July 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

This e-mail, and any attachments are strictly confidential and intended for the addressee(s) only. The content may also contain legal, professional or other privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and then delete the e-mail and any attachments. You should not disclose, copy or take any action in reliance on this transmission.

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Ref. no.  
C-48923

Stakeholders  
[Phil Watson - Suffolk County Council](#)  
(Strategic Energy Projects Lead)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Phil,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

A development consent order (DCO) is required before construction on the proposed Project can begin. As such, we are currently preparing an application that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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Ref. no.  
C-48924

Stakeholders  
[Roland Arbon - Suffolk County Council](#)  
(NSIPs Project Co-ordinator)

Email read  
10

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Roland,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48925

Stakeholders  
**Simon Amstutz - Dedham Vale AONB  
and Stour Valley Project (AONB  
Manager)**

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Simon,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48926

Stakeholders  
David Cockburn - Kent County Council  
(Corporate Director (Head of Paid  
Service))

Email read  
1

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear David,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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Ref. no.  
C-48927

Stakeholders  
[Francesca Potter - Kent County Council](#)  
(Strategic Planning and Infrastructure  
Officer)

Email read  
1

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Francesca,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48928

Stakeholders  
[Alessandra Sartori - Kent County Council](#)  
(Graduate Strategic Planning and  
Infrastructure Officer)

Email read  
12

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Alessandra,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48929

Stakeholders  
**Sarah Platts - Dover District Council**  
(Head of Planning and Development)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Sarah,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48930

Stakeholders  
[Rachel Morgan - Dover District Council](#)  
(Senior Planning Officer)

Email read  
1

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Rachel,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48931

Stakeholders  
[Helen Johnson - Thanet District Council](#)  
(Planning officer)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Helen,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48932

Stakeholders  
**Bob Porter - Thanet District Council**  
(Director for Housing and Planning)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Bob,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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Ref. no.  
C-48933

Stakeholders  
[Philip Ridley - East Suffolk Council \(Head  
of Planning and Coastal Management\)](#)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Philip,

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Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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Ref. no.  
C-48934

Stakeholders  
[Naomi Goold - East Suffolk Council](#)  
(Senior Energy Projects Manager)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Naomi,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

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As a representative of a relevant local authority identified within section 43 (1) of the Planning Act 2008 in which the proposed develop is situated, we are inviting you to participate in formal consultation on our draft SoCC, which is enclosed.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, please submit these via email to [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com). The deadline for providing comments is Thursday 20 July 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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Ref. no.  
C-48935

Stakeholders  
[Nicola Beach - Suffolk County Council](#)  
(Chief Executive)

Email read  
0

Title  
Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

## Description

Dear Nicola,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

A development consent order (DCO) is required before construction on the proposed Project can begin. As such, we are currently preparing an application that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Our proposals have developed over time through consultation with stakeholders, landowners, businesses, and local communities. To-date, this consultation activity has been 'informal' or 'non-statutory'. Before submitting a DCO application we must also undertake a 'formal' or 'statutory' consultation on the proposals. We intend to hold this consultation in autumn 2023.

Prior to undertaking a statutory consultation, Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires that National Grid:

*"Prepares a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement."*

As a representative of a relevant local authority identified within section 43 (1) of the Planning Act 2008 in which the proposed develop is situated, we are inviting you to participate in formal consultation on our draft SoCC, which is enclosed.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, please submit these via email to [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com). The deadline for providing comments is Thursday 20 July 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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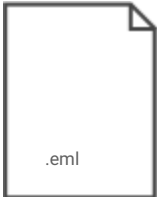
## ACTIONS HISTORY

Action history (4)

Action Email sent	Date and time 22-06-23 10:04	User <a href="#">Alex Smith</a>
Action Preview sent	Date and time 22-06-23 08:54	User <a href="#">Alex Smith</a>
Action Template loaded	Date and time 22-06-23 08:28	User <a href="#">B-T email address</a>
Action Created	Date and time 21-06-23 16:15	User <a href="#">Alex Smith</a>

## DOCUMENTS

Documents (2)

	File name <a href="#">Sea Link Statement of Community Consultation (Version for LPA Consultation).pdf</a> Type - Creation date 22-06-23 08:53 Last modification date 22-06-23 08:53	Creation user <a href="#">Alex Smith</a> Last modification user <a href="#">Alex Smith</a>
	File name <a href="#">Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation.eml</a> Type - Creation date 22-06-23 08:28 Last modification date 22-06-23 08:28	Creation user <a href="#">B-T email address</a> Last modification user <a href="#">B-T email address</a>

### **3. Section 3 Response to Consultation on Draft SoCC**

**From:** Contact Sealink <contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com>  
**Sent:** 20 July 2023 11:18  
**To:** Alex Smith  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

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**From:** Naomi Goold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Contact Sealink <contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com>  
**Cc:** Roland Arbon <[REDACTED]> Graham Gunby <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

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Dear Sea Link Community Engagement Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Sea Link project, I have provided my comments below.

General comment – Clarification is required regarding the scope of the SoCC, in sections of the document it appears as though the document is primarily focussed on the Suffolk proposals, whilst in other areas of the document the activities to be undertaken in Kent are included. It should be clear at the start of the document what proposals this SoCC relates to, in addition to this, if there is a separate SoCC for Kent, this should be clearly stated. It would be helpful if the front of the document was labelled accordingly to reflect this.

#### Section 1.1 – Purpose of the document

Paragraph 1.1.4 – Please can you amend ‘East Suffolk District Council’ to ‘East Suffolk Council’.

#### Section 1.2 – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

Paragraph 1.2.5 – It would be helpful to clarify within this paragraph that the section of ‘new 400kV overhead electric line of more than 2km in length’ is proposed within the Kent onshore section of the works to avoid any confusion being raised, that a section of overhead line is being proposed in East Suffolk.

#### Section 2.2 – The proposed project

Paragraph 2.2.4 – Is the following statement correct – ‘installation of HVDC underground cables between the landfall on the Suffolk coast and the new proposed Friston Substation’. Should this not refer to the HVDC cables going to the proposed converter station? The proposals also do not include reference to the potential to provide ducting and colocation opportunities at the converter site for future projects, reference to this should be included.

Paragraph 2.2.5 – Reference is made to the extant consent secured by SPR for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two but the acronym utilised for East Anglia One North is ‘EA1’, this should be amended to ‘(EA1N)’ to avoid confusion with the existing East Anglia One project connected at Bramford.

Section 2.2 – includes a breakdown of the elements which form part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme but no details of the Offshore Scheme and Kent Onshore Scheme referenced in paragraph 2.2.3 are provided. It would be useful to include a brief summary of these elements in this section in addition to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. Whilst it is recognised that these elements are out of scope of this SoCC, this provides useful background information. This would also be helpful as there is mention earlier in the document of some of the infrastructure required as part of the Kent proposals i.e. the new section of overhead line.

### Section 2.3 – Consultation and engagement to date

Paragraph 2.3.5 – It is noted that 609 feedback responses were received during the non-statutory consultation, do you have information on how these responses broke down between the regions which could be included?

Paragraph 2.3.6 – Details of how this issue will be addressed within the statutory consultation to ensure it does not occur again should be included?

### Section 2.4 – Project Timeline

Figure 2.2 – It is welcomed that a project timeline has been included in the SoCC, it would be beneficial if the timeline was more detailed, for example if it provided an indication of the quarter of the year that the events are likely to occur. Given the number of NSIPs facing the region, greater clarity on programme is needed for all stakeholders.

### Section 3 – Consulting on the proposed application - Section 3.1 – When will the consultation take place?

Paragraph 3.1.1 – It is noted that postal responses will be accepted until 2 January and this is welcomed, but the deadline for electronic responses is 18 December. It is requested that the deadline for both the postal and electronic submission is 2 January, it can be made clear within the text that this additional time has been provided to ensure that postal submissions are received. It is however felt that separate deadlines, with a longer deadline provided for postal submissions, penalises those providing submissions electronically and makes submitting a response through the post more favourable, which would allow respondents to maximise time within the consultation. ESC would also welcome this additional time as there is concern that meeting a 8 week deadline will be challenging and previous NSIP projects have allowed a longer period than 8 weeks at the statutory consultation stage to take account of the significant volume of information to review.

### Section 3.2 – What will be consulted on?

Paragraph 3.2.1 – The list provided does not include any reference to future projects, coordination, the potential to provide ducting or co-locate facilities which it is assumed that the project would want to receive comments in relation to during the consultation. Reference to this should be included.

In this section is important to provide clarity regarding the scope of the consultation which should include making a note of what will not be consulted upon, for example any coordinated options coming being taken forward following the grant of OCSS funding, if this is the case. This will help set clear expectations.

### Section 3.3 – Who will be consulted?

Paragraph 3.3.4 – It is noted that SoCC states that only the parish councils within the PCZ will be consulted. It is requested that parishes within the SCZ should also be consulted.

In reference to the elected representatives, it should be clarified that this relates to the PCZ and SCZ.

Local residents have not been specifically identified within the bullet points in paragraph 3.3.4 and for clarity an additional bullet should be included to make this commitment. Whilst paragraph 3.3.5 references the local community, it is not clear if this is referring to the bullet points above or whether this is referring to residents within the PCZ and SCZ. Based on later paragraphs within the SoCC it is understood that local residents within the PCZ will be provided a consultation pack and therefore be directly consulted, this should be reflected in this section.

### Section 3.4 – Consultation materials

Table 3.1 – It is stated that all the materials will be targeted at ‘all those interested in the consultation’ and reference made to Section 3.3. Whilst I can make a guess as to the exact meaning of this statement it is not clear and open to interpretation. For example will all those identified within Section 3.3 receive the materials identified automatically? Or do these have to be requested? The use of the term ‘interested’ also adds to the ambiguity of the statement.

It is welcomed that the newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. This should also be sent to all the stakeholders identified within Section 3.3.

It is noted that printed copies of the majority of documents will be available upon request at no extra charge which is welcomed. It is requested that the parish and town councils be contacted to ask whether they would like printed versions in advance of the consultation starting so that if this is required they do not need to worry about losing any time during the consultation making this request and waiting for it to be actioned.

The project update documents should also include a clear explanation of the need case as this has previously caused confusion.

Table 3.2 states that an interactive project map will be available which sounds like a very useful tool. It is requested that a layer be added to this map to provide details of the other consented and proposed projects affecting the same locality i.e. EA1N, EA2, SZC, Nautilus, LionLink. For the consented projects this could comprise the consented Order Limits and the proposed projects the current onshore options.

### Section 3.5 – Promoting the consultation

Paragraph 3.5.4 – It is noted that site notices will be displayed at key locations along the route, this should include affected parish notice boards in addition to public rights of way adjacent to the Order Limits.

### Section 3.6 – Public information exhibitions

Table 3.3 – It is considered that an information exhibition should be held in or as close to the areas where the permanent infrastructure is proposed. It is therefore considered that an exhibition should be held at Friston given the potential for a new substation to be required should the Friston substation not be constructed under the EA1N and EA2 DCOs. If Friston village hall is not considered appropriate, could an event not be held in Knodishall village hall?

The inclusion of events in the morning, afternoon, evening and weekends is welcomed. It is important that the representatives from NGET attending these events are not only fully briefed on the Sea Link project but are also fully informed about challenges being faced in East Suffolk by the other consented and proposed NSIPs.

### Section 3.7 - Webinars

Paragraph 3.7.1 – Only two webinars are proposed to be held, one on the Suffolk proposals and one on the Kent proposals. During the previous non-statutory consultation 6 were held across the two counties. Whilst I appreciate that additional forms of sessions are being held i.e. ‘Ask the Experts’, webinars allow those who cannot attend the in person events to gain valuable information about the project in an easily digestible manner. It is requested that additional webinars are held within the first half of the consultation period.

Paragraph 3.7.6 – It is requested that the questions raised and answers during the webinars provided are included within a written document which is published on the website following the events.

### Section 3.8 – ‘Ask the Expert’ sessions

Section 3.8 – the ‘Ask the Expert’ sessions are welcomed.

### Section 3.9 – Stakeholder briefings and meetings

Paragraph 3.9.1 – it is considered that the elected representatives from the districts and country councils in both the PCZ and SCZ should be included in the offer of briefing meetings. It is also considered that parish and town councils within the SCZ should be offered a briefing meeting. The AONB Partnership is not identified within the organisations listed in 3.9.1, it is considered that they should be added to the list.

There is no mention in Section 3.9 of tourist boards such as the Destination Management Organisation who it would be useful to include.

### Section 3.10 – Seldom heard groups

Section 3.10 refers to ‘seldom heard groups’, in addition to those identified a potentially hard to reach group are likely to also be second home owners, consideration should be given to this group within the SoCC given the nature of the area affected by the development.

## Section 4 – Responses to the consultation – Section 4.1 – Methods of responding



Paragraph 4.1.4 – As referred to above, it is requested that all forms of submission are accepted until 2 January with reference made to the fact that this deadline has been extended to accommodate postal submissions. This then does not allow one form of submission to appear to be receiving preferential treatment over another.

#### Section 4.4 – Other developers’ consultations

Paragraph 4.4.2 – It is requested that a representative from NGV in relation to both the Nautilus and LionLink projects is available at the in person consultation events and briefing sessions provided.

#### Appendix A

Appendix A – The background map utilised makes it difficult to interpret, a different background map may make this clearer. It is important that the PCZ and SCZ is easy to identify with reference to landmarks.

The map does not illustrate the onshore Order Limits, it is important that a drawing to illustrate the onshore area is provided within the SoCC. This drawing should be clear and easy to understand. This is also particularly important as the PCZ and SCZ have been identified based on a set distance from the onshore Order Limits.

If you have any questions regarding any of the matters raised above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Naomi



**Naomi Goold | Energy Projects Manager**

East Suffolk Council

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

[www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk](http://www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk)

Our ambition is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk.

**We are East Suffolk**

---

**From:** National Grid <[contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 11:05 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

Dear Naomi,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

A development consent order (DCO) is required before construction on the proposed Project can begin. As such, we are currently preparing an application that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Our proposals have developed over time through consultation with stakeholders, landowners, businesses, and local communities. To-date, this consultation activity has been 'informal' or 'non-statutory'. Before submitting a DCO application we must also undertake a 'formal' or 'statutory' consultation on the proposals. We intend to hold this consultation in autumn 2023.

Prior to undertaking a statutory consultation, Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires that National Grid:

*"Prepares a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land. Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement."*

As a representative of a relevant local authority identified within section 43 (1) of the Planning Act 2008 in which the proposed develop is situated, we are inviting you to participate in formal consultation on our draft SoCC, which is enclosed.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, please submit these via email to [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com). **The deadline for providing comments is Thursday 20 July 2023.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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**From:** Contact Sealink <contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com>  
**Sent:** 10 July 2023 16:59  
**To:** Alex Smith  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

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FYI

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**From:** Harto, Luke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:34 AM  
**To:** Contact Sealink <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Phillips, Stacey <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

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Good Morning,

Thank you for sending Sea Links Statement of Community Consultation. I can confirm the MMO has reviewed the document and have no to make at this stage.

Thank you

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
**Marine Licensing Case Officer | Marine Management Organisation**

[REDACTED] allard House | Peasholme Green | York | YO1 7PX

[REDACTED] | (+44) 7880 [REDACTED]

**Our MMO Values:** Together we are **Accountable**, **Innovative**, **Engaging** and **Inclusive**



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**From:** National Grid <[contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)>  
**Sent:** 22 June 2023 11:05

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Sea Link: Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation

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Dear Luke,

As you will be aware, National Grid is developing proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), known as Sea Link.

A development consent order (DCO) is required before construction on the proposed Project can begin. As such, we are currently preparing an application that would allow us to deliver the reinforcement. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Our proposals have developed over time through consultation with stakeholders, landowners, businesses, and local communities. To-date, this consultation activity has been 'informal' or 'non-statutory'. Before submitting a DCO application we must also undertake a 'formal' or 'statutory' consultation on the proposals. We intend to hold this consultation in autumn 2023.

Although not identified under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, as the proposed development is primarily offshore we are inviting the Marine Management Organisation to participate in the consultation on our draft Statement of Community Consultation, which is enclosed.

If you have any comments on the draft SoCC, please submit these via email to [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com). **The deadline for providing comments is Thursday 20 July 2023.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sea Link Community Engagement Team

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Planning and Development Service  
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[contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)

Contact:  
E-mail:  
Our ref: DOV/22/01391  
Date: 20/07/2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Sea Link (the Proposed Development)**

**Statement of Community Consultation**

Thank you for consulting Dover District Council in respect of the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, pursuant to the requirement under section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) for National Grid to consult with each local authority regarding what is intended to be included in National Grids SoCC for the above project. Our comments are set out below, with reference to the relevant paragraphs of the SoCC.

**Paragraph 3.3.4**

A full list of consultees should be published to provide clarification of the seldom heard groups, local interest groups, community groups, groups with particular specialisms and marine users as no details are provided and there may be other groups, such as Sandwich Chamber of Commerce, which should be included.

**Table 3.1**

Newsletter – It should be confirmed within the description section that the website address for the National Grid Project will be included within the newsletter and that the locations of the public information exhibitions will also be included.

Plans and drawings – It is noted that these will be used throughout the consultation materials listed. These should be included in the project update document (at a minimum as appendices) to clearly show the locations and scale of different elements of the project within each area, to aid visualisation of the project. Maps should also be included.

**Paragraph 3.5.1**

No details are provided of many residents and business are located within the primary and secondary consultation zones. It would be useful if this could be specified. It is expected that all registered addresses within the primary consultation zone would be contacted – schools, religious buildings, as well as businesses etc. as part of the whole community within the vicinity of the project.

**Paragraph 3.5.2**

Advertisements would be placed within the listed newspapers, however it is not stated if the advertisements would also be placed on their associated websites. This may reach a wider

audience within the consultation zones who may not use social media, or may read online news articles only.

Paragraph 3.5.5

It is not clear if parish councils be requested to display posters (e.g. on parish noticeboards) and if so, what type of posters are intended. Posters to parish councils should also be sent in a digital format so that they can be shared via online parish newsletters and parish social media pages, preferably with interactive links to the National Grid project website where further information is available.

Paragraph 3.5.6

It should be clarified if the targeted advertisements on social media (Facebook and Instagram) would be limited to the primary consultation zone (PCZ) or would also include the secondary consultation zone (SCZ) and if they would be targeted to postcodes within the consultation zones. The SCZ would otherwise only appear to be covered by local newspaper advertisements and information provided at the deposit points of Ash Library and Sandwich Library.

Paragraph 3.6

It is noted that no public information exhibitions would be held within the Dover District. Whilst noting that there was a limited public turnout to the event held at the Sandwich Guildhall on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in relation to the non-statutory consultation, subsequent discussions with the project team indicated that the consultation methods would be examined to encourage more engagement with the community within the Kent consultation zones. Whilst two events would be held within the Kent area, both would be within the Thanet District. No details of the exact times or locations of the public information exhibitions are included in the document and should be provided. This information should also be shared with nearby Parish and Town Councils (who's boundaries fall partly within the primary and secondary consultation zones) and included on posters, together with details of the time, date and website address for the webinar discussing the Kent proposals (Paragraph 3.7).

Paragraph 3.7.6

It should be confirmed if the recording of the webinar will be kept on the website for the duration of the consultation period and if information will be included on the same website page directing members of the public to information on how to register for a webinar or to submit a question.


Paragraph 3.9.1

It is noted that briefing meetings will be offered to parish councils where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ. In respect of the Dover District, this includes Ash Parish Council, Woodnesborough Parish Council, Sandwich Town Council and Worth Parish Council.

Dover District Council appreciates the opportunity to make the above comments and trust that they will be of assistance and will be taken into account.

Yours sincerely

  
Senior Planning Officer

On behalf of   
Head of Planning and Development





Sea Link Community Engagement Team  
National Grid  
National Grid House  
Warwick Technology Park  
Gallows Hill  
Warwick  
CV34 6D

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Growth and Communities**

Invicta House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1XX

Phone: [REDACTED]  
Ask for: Alessandra Sartori  
Email: [REDACTED]

19 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: National Grid Sea Link - Statement of Community Consultation**

Thank you for providing Kent County Council (the County Council) with the opportunity to comment on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the proposed National Grid Sea Link project which involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent.

The County Council welcomes this early engagement with the applicant and would welcome further opportunities throughout the planning, design and development of this proposal in respect of the County Council's statutory and non-statutory roles across Kent.

The County Council has reviewed the SoCC and would like to provide the following comments on the document, as set out below.

**2. The Sea Link Project**

*2.2 The proposed Project*

Engagement: The County Council recognises that the document summarises the main elements of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, however, this level of detail has not been provided for the Kent Onshore Scheme. It is therefore recommended that the document is revised to include a summary of the key project infrastructure requirements for Kent.

In respect of paragraph 2.2.5, the County Council would advise that the following sentence is amended to provide clearer understanding for all those reading the document:

*“It is anticipated that Friston Substation will be constructed under the ~~extent~~ **existing** development consent secured by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) for the East Anglia One (EA1) North and Two (EA2) Offshore Windfarm Projects.”*

## **2.3 Consultation and engagement to date**

*Table 2.1 - Key statistics from non-statutory consultation*

Engagement: The County Council recommends that the formatting in Table 2.1 would benefit from a comprehensive review to ensure that the text size is consistent across the figures used.

In respect of paragraph 2.3.6, the County Council would suggest that the following sentence is simplified to provide clarity, as not all readers of the document will understand the definition of “*prescribed consultees*”:

*“Following a ~~back-check~~ and review of the *prescribed consultees* **who had been** notified of the non-statutory consultation, it was identified that some had not been contacted”.*

## **2.4 Project Timeline**

*Figure 2.3 DCO process*

Engagement: The County Council notes that the text in Figure 2.3 is blurred when viewing at 100% zoom on the screen. The County Council would therefore suggest that the resolution is improved to enable all users to access and view the document.

## **3. Consulting on the proposed application**

### **3.2 What will be consulted on?**

Engagement: In respect of paragraph 3.2.2, the County Council would advise replacing “*consultation bodies*” with ‘**consultees**’ to cover all stakeholders, including residents.

It is noted that access to digital copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be made available at deposit points. The County Council requests clarification on this matter to confirm whether the document is referring to paper / hard copies at deposit points.

### **3.3 Who will be consulted?**

Engagement: The County Council recognises that parish councils representing parishes within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) will be consulted. The County Council would request clarification as to why parishes within the Secondary Consultation Zone, or on the border of the PCZ, are not also being consulted.

### 3.4 Consultation materials

*Table 3.1 - Consultation materials*

Engagement: The County Council notes that copies of the Project Update Document will be made available in alternative formats upon request. It is advised that copies of all consultation material will be made available in an alternative format upon request, and that this sentence is moved into paragraph 3.4.2 for clarification.

In respect of the consultation banners (audio version), it is recommended that all documents on the website are accessibility checked to ensure that they are accessible for people using audio transcription software.

### 3.6 Public information exhibitions

*Table 3.6 - Seldom heard engagement tools*

Engagement: The County Council would advise that the fourth and ninth bullet points of the “Older people” seldom heard category are combined, to avoid repetition of the “Ask the Experts” engagement method. This is also recommended for the sixth and ninth paragraphs of the “People with limited mobility/disability” seldom heard category.

In respect of the engagement methods for the “People with visual impairments” seldom heard category, the County Council recommends that all documents on the website are digitally accessible.

The County Council would advise that a ten minute summary of the PEIR statutory consultation is provided to the “15-19 and 20-39 age groups” seldom heard category as an engagement method. The County Council would also request the inclusion of hard copies of questionnaires for young people.

## **Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map**

*Figure A.1 Suffolk PCZ and SCZ map and Figure A.2 Kent PCZ and SCZ map*

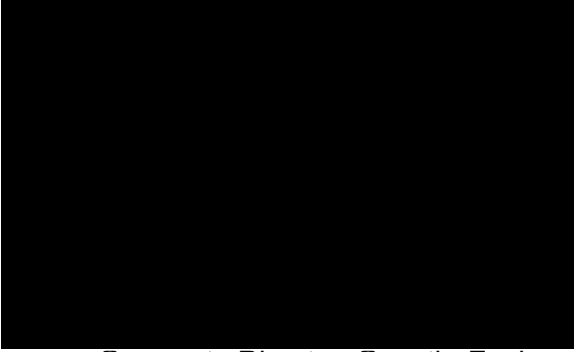
Engagement: The County Council would request that the maps in Figures A.1 and A.2 are enlarged and the place names are easier to read for all those viewing the document.

## **General Commentary**

Engagement: The County Council carried out an accessibility check on the SoCC and identified errors on the document. The County Council would therefore suggest that the accessibility checker be ran by the applicant, which will help resolve this issue.

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KCC would welcome further opportunities to engage with the applicant throughout the progression of the proposal. If you require further information or clarification on any matter in this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact the County Council.



Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport

Our Ref: Sea Link SoCC

Date: 19 July 2023



BY EMAIL

For the attention of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)

Dear Mr Stevens,

**Sea Link Grid Reinforcement  
Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

Thank you for consulting Suffolk County Council (SCC) on your draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Sea Link grid reinforcement proposals.

Having reviewed the SoCC, SCC is satisfied that the proposed approach meets the current industry standard and reflects established practice in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

However, an additional workstream, to facilitate effective and active dialogue between the host community and the project promoter is essential, when considering the following issues: -

- The scale, extent, and duration of the impact of the proposed development, both in isolation and in combination with other developments in the vicinity of the Sea Link scheme.
- The inability of the current consultation arrangements for NSIPs, to create an effective dialogue between host communities and the project promoter.
- The inability of established industry consultation practice to develop trust, or confidence, in either the process of consultation or its outcomes.<sup>1</sup>
- The role of the promoter as a regulated public monopoly, providing an essential service, and as a responsible corporate body that prioritises *"our responsibilities to our different but interrelated stakeholder groups and wider society."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Participatory planning and major infrastructure: experiences in renewable energy regulation  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331521704\\_Participatory\\_planning\\_and\\_major\\_infrastructure\\_experiences\\_in\\_renewable\\_energy\\_regulation](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331521704_Participatory_planning_and_major_infrastructure_experiences_in_renewable_energy_regulation)

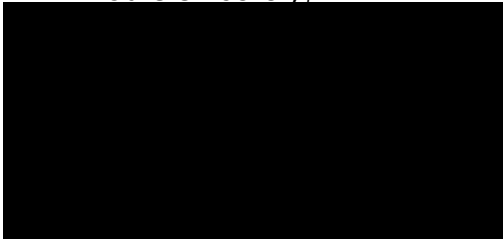
<sup>2</sup> p15 Responsible Business Charter 2022 [REDACTED]

A potential approach to participatory engagement with local communities is set out in the Council's response to the recent government consultation, on Community benefits and Electricity Transmission Infrastructure, at Appendix B<sup>3</sup>.

In addition, I would also draw your attention to other material produced by the County Council on the matter of fair dealing with communities.<sup>4</sup>

If you require any clarification on the issues raised, or if I can provide any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Project Coordinator (NSIPs)**  
Growth, Highways & Infrastructure  
Suffolk County Council

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/community-benefits-consultation-scc-response-07-06-23.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/developer-engagement-with-communities-and-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects.pdf>

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/communities-need-a-fair-deal-on-energy-infrastructure>

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/energy-developers-must-stop-mistreating-suffolks-communities>

Date: 4th July 2023

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

E.mail: [REDACTED]



By Email

Dear National Grid,

**SEA LINK CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

**PROPOSAL: INSTALLATION OF A HIGH VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) LINK BETWEEN THE PROPOSED FRISTON SUBSTATION IN THE SIZEWELL AREA OF SUFFOLK AND THE EXISTING RICHBOROUGH TO CANTERBURY 400KV OVERHEAD LINE**

**LOCATION: RICHBOROUGH, KENT**

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC).

**Consultation Materials**

The consultation materials and presentation methods are considered to be comprehensive. The ability to request printed copies of the document to be posted free of charge (it is noted this excludes the PEIR) and also make an appointment to 'Ask the Experts' is welcomed.

Copies of all the consultation documents should be available on the proposed website as HTML and downloadable pdf documents, for ease of use for the community. Any pdf document should be capped in size to allow ease of viewing/download. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.

The website should allow free-text responses to the proposal, to ensure that those that wish to comment in this manner rather than via a feedback form, are not excluded from the consultation process. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.

The website shall meet level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) as a minimum, with the SOCC updated to state these requirements as well as including screen magnifiers and speech recognition tools as assisted technologies.

**Promoting the Consultation**

The Council considers that the extent of the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) of 3km is adequate and the intention to contact all addresses within the PCZ with a Consultation Pack is welcomed. The SOCC should include a draft of the consultation newsletter, feedback form, letters and emails to be sent to residents, businesses and interested parties, to allow for comment on this part of the consultation.

With regards to promoting the consultation we would suggest that in addition to the news outlets proposed, the consultation is advertised in local papers in Thanet namely the KM Thanet Extra (a free newspaper and online publication) and through the Isle of Thanet News (an online news outlet). The East Kent Mercury (which serves Deal and Sandwich within the Dover District) has also been suggested for completeness.

### **Public Information Exhibitions**

It is recommended that a Central Ramsgate location (perhaps held at the Town Council) is added to the public information exhibitions/'Ask the Experts' sessions and the SOCC is updated to reflect this.

The public information exhibitions and 'Ask the Experts' sessions are to be held in the morning/afternoon. Details have not been provided as to the hours proposed for these but ideally the afternoon sessions would run until late afternoon/early evening to support engagement. It is noted that at least one public information event within the District will be held on a weekend and the webinars will be evening sessions.

### **Stakeholder Briefings and Meetings**

The Council requests that stakeholder briefing meetings as identified under paragraph 3.9.1 occur prior to the consultation period for awareness and to ensure they have the chance to comment on the proposal during the statutory consultation period. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.

### **Seldom Heard Groups**

The Council will continue to work with National Grid to identify seldom heard groups within the District and improve inclusivity in consultation.

### **Deposit Points**

Minster Library, Ramsgate Library and Newington Library have been identified as deposit point locations within the District. We would request that a full hard copy set of the documents is provided to Thanet District Council and a further set of hard copy documents are provided to the Council for display in Thanet Gateway.

### **Responses to the Consultation**

The SOCC must clearly outline how personal data will be handled and protected through the consultation process in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act. The SOCC should make clear that extracts of responses may be published as part of the Consultation Report and provide guidance on how those responding can withdraw their consent for this.

### **Other Matters**

These comments are made without prejudice to the Council's formal position on the Development Consent Order application process.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me either by email at [REDACTED] or telephone [REDACTED]



Yours faithfully



Planning Applications Manager

## **4. Comments Received on Draft SoCC and National Grid's Regard Had**

# Contents

1.      **Comments Received from the Host Authorities on the Draft 2023 SoCC 1**

Table 1.1 Comments received from the host authorities on the draft 2023 SoCC	2
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# **1. Comments Received from the Host Authorities on the Draft 2023 SoCC**

**Table 1.1 Comments received from the host authorities on the draft 2023 SoCC**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Section of the draft 2023 SoCC</b>	<b>Amendment/comment made by Local Authority</b>	<b>Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008</b>	<b>Amendments to the SoCC</b>
Kent County Council	General comment	The County Council carried out an accessibility check on the SoCC and identified errors on the document. The County Council would therefore suggest that the accessibility checker be ran by National Grid, which will help resolve this issue.	National Grid noted this comment and explained it will use an accessibility checker to test the final version of the SoCC and will resolve any issues identified prior to the SoCC's publication.	Various changes made in response to issues identified by the accessibility checker.
	2.2	The County Council recognises that the document summarises the main elements of the Suffolk Onshore Project, however, this level of detail has not been provided for the Kent Onshore Project. It is therefore recommended that the document is revised to include a summary of the key project infrastructure requirements for Kent.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and explained the summary of the Kent Onshore Scheme (and Offshore Scheme) was unintentionally omitted from the draft SoCC. The SoCC covers the entire project area.	Section 2.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) was updated to include the description of the Kent Onshore and Offshore Schemes from the project description. National Grid also took the opportunity to refine how the wider project is defined, in order to better align the description in the SoCC with other

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				consultation materials.
	2.2.5	<p>The County Council would advise that the following sentence is amended to provide clearer understanding for all those reading the document:</p> <p><i>“It is anticipated that Friston Substation will be constructed under the existing development consent secured by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) for the East Anglia One (EA1) North and Two (EA2) Offshore Windfarm Projects.”</i></p>	National Grid welcomed this comment and took the opportunity to refine how the project is defined, in order to better align the description in the SoCC with other consultation materials.	<p>Section 2.24 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) updated to include:</p> <p><i>“...a connection from the existing transmission network via Friston substation, including National Grid’s part of the substation itself. Friston substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be</i></p>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				<i>constructed by the Sea Link project...</i>
	Table 2.1	The County Council recommends that the formatting in Table 2.1 would benefit from a comprehensive review to ensure that the text size is consistent across the figures used.	National Grid noted this comment and confirmed the font size on one character within the table was not consistent.	Table 2.1 of the SoCC updated, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>
	2.3.6	<p>The County Council would suggest that the following sentence is simplified to provide clarity, as not all readers of the document will understand the definition of “prescribed consultees”:</p> <p><i>“Following a review of the prescribed consultees who had been notified of the non-statutory consultation, it was identified that some had not been contacted”.</i></p>	National Grid welcomed Kent County Council’s comment and reviewed the sentence.	<p>Paragraph 2.3.6 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) updated:</p> <p><i>“The list of consultees is kept under ongoing review. In instances where additional prescribed consultees were identified following non-statutory consultation, these were subsequently contacted and given the opportunity to</i></p>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				<i>engage with the proposed Project. We have continued to review the list of consultees as the proposed Project has developed, to ensure that it is maintained and up-to date. All prescribed consultees will be contacted formally and consulted as part of the statutory consultation.”</i>
	Figure 2.3	The County Council notes that the text in Figure 2.3 is blurred when viewing at 100% zoom on the screen. The County Council would therefore suggest that the resolution is improved to enable all users to access and view the document.	National Grid noted this comment and reviewed Figure 2.3.	Figure 2.3 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) replaced with a higher quality image.
	3.2.2	The County Council would advise replacing “consultation bodies” with ‘consultees’ to cover all stakeholders, including residents.	National Grid had regard to this comment and reviewed the paragraph.	Paragraph 3.2.3 of the SoCC updated to ‘consultees’, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E</b>



Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				<b>Statutory consultation</b>
	3.2.3	It is noted that access to digital copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be made available at deposit points. The County Council requests clarification on this matter to confirm whether the document is referring to paper / hard copies at deposit points.	National Grid explained given the size of the report and the carbon footprint/cost associated with printing it, National Grid is not proposing to provide paper copies of the PEIR. However, paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR will be made available at deposit points.	<p>Paragraph 3.2.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) updated:</p> <p><i>“The full PEIR will be available on the Project’s website, with a link to this shared with the relevant consultees set out in the EIA Regulations. Access to digital copies of the PEIR will be available at deposit points, with printed paper copies of the PEIR only available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in Paragraph 3.5.8:</i></p> <p><i>“Paper copies of the non-technical</i></p>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				<i>summary of the PEIR will be available at deposit points and on request. A fee will not be charged for paper copies of the non technical summary of the PEIR.”</i>
	3.3.4	The County Council recognises that parish councils representing parishes within the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) will be consulted. The County Council would request clarification as to why parishes within the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ), or on the border of the PCZ, are not also being consulted.	National Grid noted this comment and confirmed that parish councils within the SCZ are welcome to take part in the consultation and submit a response but given their distance from the proposals National Grid does not propose to offer specific meetings with parishes in the SCZ.	Paragraph 3.3.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated to read: <i>“National Grid will also directly consult the following groups and individuals...”</i>
	Table 3.1	The County Council notes that copies of the Project Update Document will be made available in alternative formats upon request. It is advised that copies of all consultation material will be made available in an alternative format upon request, and that this sentence is moved into paragraph 3.4.2 for clarification.	National Grid noted this comment and reviewed the paragraph.	Paragraph 3.4.2 (and associated references in Table 3.1) of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory</b>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				<p><b>consultation)</b> updated:  <i>“National Grid will consider requests for copies of consultation materials in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by basis, taking into account individual circumstances. All consultation materials will also be available on the Project’s website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements. Further detail is provided in Table 3.2.”</i></p>
	Table 3.1	In respect of the consultation banners (audio version), it is recommended that all documents on the website are accessibility checked to ensure that they are accessible for people using audio transcription software.	National Grid noted this comment.	No amendment was required.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	Table 3.6	The County Council would advise that the fourth and ninth bullet points of the “Older people” seldom heard category are combined, to avoid repetition of the “Ask the Experts” engagement method. This is also recommended for the sixth and ninth paragraphs of the “People with limited mobility/disability” seldom heard category.	National Grid welcomed Kent County Council's comment and reviewed the bullet points.	Table 3.6 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) fourth and ninth bullet points in the ‘older people’ and ‘people with limited mobility/disability’ sections updated: <i>“in-person and virtual ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs”</i>
	Table 3.6	In respect of the engagement methods for the “People with visual impairments” seldom heard category, the County Council recommends that all documents on the website are digitally accessible.	National Grid noted this comment.	No amendment was required.
	Table 3.6	The County Council would advise that a ten minute summary of the PEIR statutory	National Grid noted this comment and explained a 10-minute summary of the	Table 3.1 off the SoCC (see section 6

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		consultation is provided to the “15-19 and 20-39 age groups” seldom heard category as an engagement method. The County Council would also request the inclusion of hard copies of questionnaires for young people.	Project overview document and the non-technical summary of the PEIR will be made available to all audiences. Paper copies of the feedback form will be sent to all addresses within the PCZ. They will also be made available at deposit points and upon request. A bespoke feedback form for young people was not proposed but they will be able to respond using the main feedback form.	<b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)</b> updated to include the non-technical summary of the PEIR as a consultation material.
	Figure A.1	The County Council would request that the maps in Figures A.1 and A.2 are enlarged, and the place names are easier to read for all those viewing the document.	National Grid welcomed this comment from Kent County Council and reviewed the maps.	The maps were updated to be larger and the place names made more visible.
Suffolk County Council	General comment	Having reviewed the SoCC, SCC is satisfied that the proposed approach meets the current industry standard and reflects established practice in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).	National Grid welcomed this comment from Suffolk County Council.	No amendment was required.
	General comment	An additional workstream, to facilitate effective and active dialogue between the host community and the project promoter is essential, when considering the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scale, extent, and duration of the impact of the proposed development, both in isolation and in combination with</li> </ul>	National Grid welcomed the Council's comments on facilitating effective and active dialogue with communities. National Grid awaits the findings of the Government's consultation on reforms to the NSIP consenting process. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how further participatory consultation methods	No amendment was required.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		<p>other developments in the vicinity of the Sea Link Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inability of the current consultation arrangements for NSIPs, to create an effective dialogue between host communities and the project promoter.</li> <li>• The inability of established industry consultation practice to develop trust, or confidence, in either the process of consultation or its outcomes.</li> <li>• The role of the promoter as a regulated public monopoly, providing an essential service, and as a responsible corporate body that prioritises “our responsibilities to our different but interrelated stakeholder groups and wider society.”</li> </ul> <p>A potential approach to participatory engagement with local communities is set out in the Council’s response to the recent government consultation, on Community Benefits and Electricity Transmission Infrastructure. I would also draw your attention to other material produced by the County Council on the matter of fair dealing with communities.</p>	<p>may be implemented following the statutory consultation.</p> <p>In the meantime, National Grid will provide the opportunity for more detailed feedback on the design approach to the converter stations as part of the statutory consultation, based partly on illustrative design concepts it has commissioned.</p> <p>National Grid explained it will continue to engage with local authorities throughout the DCO process and beyond, to discuss how ongoing dialogue with the host community will be managed. This would not alter the approach to the statutory consultation, which provides diverse and robust opportunities for community engagement.</p>	
Dover District Council	3.3.4	A full list of consultees should be published to provide clarification of the seldom heard groups, local interest groups, community	National Grid explained it is not their policy to publish a full list of the groups identified in 3.3.4. However, National Grid	No amendment required.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		groups, groups with particular specialisms and marine users as no details are provided and there may be other groups, such as Sandwich Chamber of Commerce, which should be included.	is happy to discuss the groups included with the local authority.	
	Table 3.1	Newsletter – It should be confirmed within the description section that the website address for the National Grid Project will be included within the newsletter and that the locations of the public information exhibitions will also be included.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and reviewed.	Table 3.1 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>“...locations of where more detailed information about the proposals can be found (including both physical and virtual locations, such as on the Project’s website)...”</i>
	Table 3.1	Plans and drawings – It is noted that these will be used throughout the consultation materials listed. These should be included in the project update document (at a minimum as appendices) to clearly show the locations and scale of different elements of the project	National Grid noted this comment.	No amendment required.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Section of the draft 2023 SoCC</b>	<b>Amendment/comment made by Local Authority</b>	<b>Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008</b>	<b>Amendments to the SoCC</b>
		within each area, to aid visualisation of the project. Maps should also be included.		
	3.5.1	No details are provided of many residents and business are located within the primary and secondary consultation zones. It would be useful if this could be specified. It is expected that all registered addresses within the primary consultation zone would be contacted – schools, religious buildings, as well as businesses etc. as part of the whole community within the vicinity of the project.	National Grid confirmed that all properties within the PCZ (business and residential) will be sent a consultation pack per Paragraph 3.5.1.	No amendment required.
	3.5.2	Advertisements would be placed within the listed newspapers, however it is not stated if the advertisements would also be placed on their associated websites. This may reach a wider audience within the consultation zones who may not use social media, or may read online news articles only.	National Grid had regard to this comment and confirmed all local newspaper advertisements included both print and online placement.	No amendment required.
	3.5.3	It is not clear if parish councils be requested to display posters (e.g. on parish noticeboards) and if so, what type of posters are intended. Posters to parish councils should also be sent in a digital format so that they can be shared via online parish newsletters and parish social media pages, preferably with interactive links to the National Grid project website where further information is available.	National Grid noted this comment and explained paragraph 3.5.6 sets out that posters will be sent to parish councils to display and raise awareness of the consultation. Depending on parish council preference, this could include digital and/or paper posters.	No amendment required.



Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	3.5.6	It should be clarified if the targeted advertisements on social media (Facebook and Instagram) would be limited to the primary consultation zone (PCZ) or would also include the secondary consultation zone (SCZ) and if they would be targeted to postcodes within the consultation zones. The SCZ would otherwise only appear to be covered by local newspaper advertisements and information provided at the deposit points of Ash Library and Sandwich Library.	National Grid noted this comment and explained all social media advertisements were targeted across both the PCZ and SCZ.	Paragraph 3.5.6 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>“Adverts will be placed on Facebook and Instagram to help raise general awareness of the consultation and target a broad range of demographics across the PCZ and SCZ, including those that might not otherwise engage with the consultation...”</i>
	3.6	It is noted that no public information exhibitions would be held within the Dover District. Whilst noting that there was a limited public turnout to the event held at the Sandwich Guildhall on Thursday 17th November 2022 in relation to the non statutory consultation, subsequent discussions with the project team indicated	National Grid acknowledged this comment and added an additional public information exhibition in the Dover District Council area to its programme.	Section 3.6 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) had various changes to

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		that the consultation methods would be examined to encourage more engagement with the community within the Kent consultation zones. Whilst two events would be held within the Kent area, both would be within the Thanet District.		incorporate the additional event in the Dover District Council area.
	3.6	No details of the exact times or locations of the public information exhibitions are included in the document and should be provided. This information should also be shared with nearby Parish and Town Councils (who's boundaries fall partly within the primary and secondary consultation zones) and included on posters, together with details of the time, date and website address for the webinar discussing the Kent proposals (Paragraph 3.7).	National Grid acknowledged this comment and explained the final version of the SoCC included full details of the event dates/times. This information was also included in materials advertising the consultation (such as posters and newsletters).	Updated with final event dates/times at point of SoCC publication, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</b>
	3.7.6	It should be confirmed if the recording of the webinar will be kept on the website for the duration of the consultation period and if information will be included on the same website page directing members of the public to information on how to register for a webinar or to submit a question.	National Grid noted this comment and explained webinar recordings would be made available on the project website for the duration of the consultation period. Additionally, National Grid will add a pre-recorded webinar to its programme, which will be shared online at the start of the consultation period. The webinar section of the website will also include information on how to register for the sessions.	No amendment required.
	3.9.1	It is noted that briefing meetings will be offered to parish councils where all or part of	National Grid noted this comment.	No amendment required.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		the parish falls within the PCZ. In respect of the Dover District, this includes Ash Parish Council, Woodnesborough Parish Council, Sandwich Town Council and Worth Parish Council.		
East Suffolk Council	General comment	Clarification is required regarding the scope of the SoCC, in sections of the document it appears as though the document is primarily focussed on the Suffolk proposals, whilst in other areas of the document the activities to be undertaken in Kent are included. It should be clear at the start of the document what proposals this SoCC relates to, in addition to this, if there is a separate SoCC for Kent, this should be clearly stated. It would be helpful if the front of the document was labelled accordingly to reflect this.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and explained the summary of the Kent Onshore Project (and Offshore Project) was unintentionally omitted from the draft SoCC. The SoCC covers the entire project area.	Section 2.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) was updated to include the description of the Kent Onshore and Offshore Schemes from the project description. National Grid also took the opportunity to refine how the wider project is defined, in order to better align the description in the SoCC with other consultation materials.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	1.1.4	Please can you amend 'East Suffolk District Council' to 'East Suffolk Council'.	National Grid noted this comment and amended.	'East Suffolk District Council' updated to 'East Suffolk Council'.
	1.2.5	It would be helpful to clarify within this paragraph that the section of 'new 400kV overhead electric line of more than 2km in length' is proposed within the Kent onshore section of the works to avoid any confusion being raised, that a section of overhead line is being proposed in East Suffolk.	National Grid welcomed this comment from East Suffolk Council and reviewed the paragraph.	Paragraph 1.2.5 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>"Since the section 35(1) direction was issued, plans for the proposed Project have evolved to potentially include the installation of a new 400 kV overhead electric line of more than 2 km in length in Kent."</i>
	2.2.4	Is the following statement correct – 'installation of HVDC underground cables between the landfall on the Suffolk coast and the new proposed Friston Substation'. Should this not refer to the HVDC cables going to the proposed converter station? The proposals also do not include reference	National Grid had regard to this comment and took the opportunity to refine how the wider project is defined, in order to better align the description in the SoCC with other consultation materials.	Paragraph 2.2.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> )

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		to the potential to provide ducting and colocation opportunities at the converter site for future projects, reference to this should be included.		amended with an up-to-date project description, including reference to the potential for colocation of infrastructure.
	2.2.5	Reference is made to the extant consent secured by SPR for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two but the acronym utilised for East Anglia One North is '(EA1)', this should be amended to '(EA1N)' to avoid confusion with the existing East Anglia One project connected at Bramford.	National Grid welcomed this comment and took the opportunity to refine how the wider project is defined, in order to better align the description in the SoCC with other consultation materials. As part of this review, the reference to EA1/EA1N was removed.	No amendment was required.
	2.2	[This section] includes a breakdown of the elements which form part of the Suffolk Onshore Project but no details of the Offshore Project and Kent Onshore Project referenced in paragraph 2.2.3 are provided. It would be useful to include a brief summary of these elements in this section in addition to the Suffolk Onshore Project. Whilst it is recognised that these elements are out of scope of this SoCC, this provides useful background information. This would also be helpful as there is mention earlier in the document of some of the infrastructure required as part of the Kent proposals i.e. the new section of overhead line.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and explained the summary of the Kent Onshore Scheme (and Offshore Scheme) was unintentionally omitted from the draft SoCC. The SoCC covers the entire project area.	Section 2.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) was updated to include the description of the Kent Onshore and Offshore Schemes from the project description. National Grid also took the opportunity to refine how the wider project

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				is defined, in order to better align the description in the SoCC with other consultation materials.
	2.3.5	It is noted that 609 feedback responses were received during the non-statutory consultation, do you have information on how these responses broke down between the regions which could be included?	National Grid noted this comment and confirmed they received 340 responses to the Suffolk feedback form and 120 to the Kent feedback form.	Paragraph 2.3.5 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>“340 responses to the feedback form on the proposals in Suffolk and 120 responses to the feedback form on the proposals in Kent were submitted as part of the non-statutory consultation.”</i>
	2.3.6	Details of how this issue [some prescribed consultees not being notified of the non-statutory consultation] will be addressed within the statutory consultation to ensure it does not occur again should be included?	National Grid noted this comment and confirmed that prior to the statutory consultation, a further back check to ensure that all prescribed consultees had been captured. Should any further	Paragraph 2.3.6 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E</b>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
			<p>consultees be identified at a later date (including due to changes to National Grid's proposals that affect the proposed Project's draft order limits), then these stakeholders would still be afforded the statutory consultation period required.</p>	<p><b>Statutory consultation)</b> updated: <i>"The list of consultees is kept under ongoing review. In instances where additional prescribed consultees were identified following non-statutory consultation, these were subsequently contacted and given the opportunity to engage with the proposed Project. We have continued to review the list of consultees as the proposed Project has developed, to ensure that it is maintained and up-to date. All prescribed consultees will be contacted formally and consulted as part of the statutory consultation."</i></p>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	Figure 2.2	It is welcomed that a project timeline has been included in the SoCC, it would be beneficial if the timeline was more detailed, for example if it provided an indication of the quarter of the year that the events are likely to occur. Given the number of NSIPs facing the region, greater clarity on programme is needed for all stakeholders.	National Grid welcomed East Suffolk Council's comment that more detail would be beneficial in the project timeline.	<p>Figure 2.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) updated to include months/seasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October – December 2022: Non-statutory consultation</li> <li>• October 2022: Environmental impact assessment Scoping opinion submitted to the Planning Inspectorate</li> <li>• September – October 2023: Pre consultation stakeholder briefings</li> <li>• October – December 2023:</li> </ul>



Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				<p>Statutory consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2024: Update stakeholders</li> <li>• Autumn/winter 2024: Submission of development consent order application</li> <li>• Autumn 2024 – autumn 2025: Pre examination, examination and reporting</li> <li>• Winter 2025/2026: Secretary of State decision</li> <li>• 2026 – 2031: Construction</li> </ul>
	3.1.1	It is noted that postal responses will be accepted until 2 January and this is welcomed, but the deadline for electronic responses is 18 December. It is requested that the deadline for both the postal and	National Grid explained feedback submitted via post will be accepted up until 2 January 2023, to account for any responses that are posted prior to the consultation deadline but which National	No amendment was required.

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		<p>electronic submission is 2 January, it can be made clear within the text that this additional time has been provided to ensure that postal submissions are received. It is however felt that separate deadlines, with a longer deadline provided for postal submissions, penalises those providing submissions electronically and makes submitting a response through the post more favourable, which would allow respondents to maximise time within the consultation. ESC would also welcome this additional time as there is concern that meeting a 8 week deadline will be challenging and previous NSIP projects have allowed a longer period than 8 weeks at the statutory consultation stage to take account of the significant volume of information to review.</p>	<p>Grid did not receive until after it, such as due to delays in the postal system.</p> <p>National Grid's approach on other projects has been to include postal responses received up to one week after the consultation deadline. However, as this date would be a bank holiday, and as mail volumes are substantially higher around the Christmas period, National Grid had made the decision to offer a longer grace period for postal responses to the Sea Link statutory consultation.</p> <p>National Grid confirmed it is not proposing to extend the consultation deadline. This is consistent with its approach on other projects in the area, such as the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement statutory consultation and the current non-statutory consultation on Norwich to Tilbury, both of which held eight-week consultation periods.</p>	
	3.2	<p>In this section is important to provide clarity regarding the scope of the consultation which should include making a note of what will not be consulted upon, for example any coordinated options coming being taken forward [sic] following the grant of OCSS funding, if this is the case. This will help set clear expectations.</p>	<p>National Grid noted this comment and explained it sought views and feedback on all aspects of the proposed Project at statutory consultation. As such, it would not be appropriate to define areas to which it is not seeking feedback.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.2.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) updated:</p>

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				<i>“While comments are welcomed on all aspects of the proposed Project, this statutory consultation is not a means of influencing or contributing to separate exercises being undertaken by the Government and other bodies, such as the Offshore coordination support Project.”</i>
	3.2.1	The list provided does not include any reference to future projects, coordination, the potential to provide ducting or co locate facilities which it is assumed that the project would want to receive comments in relation to during the consultation. Reference to this should be included.	National Grid welcomed this comment and agreed to include reference to coordination and co-location.	Paragraph 3.2.1 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>“...potential for coordination and co-location of infrastructure with other forthcoming infrastructure projects...”</i>

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	3.3.4	It is noted that SoCC states that only the parish councils within the PCZ will be consulted. It is requested that parishes within the SCZ should also be consulted.	National Grid explained Parish councils within the SCZ are welcome to take part in the consultation and submit a response but given their distance from the proposals National Grid does not propose to offer specific meetings with parishes in the SCZ.	Paragraph 3.3.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>"We will also directly consult the following groups and individuals..."</i>
	3.3.4	In reference to the elected representatives, it should be clarified that this relates to the PCZ and SCZ.	National Grid noted this comment and reviewed the paragraph.	Paragraph 3.3.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>"elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ..."</i>
	3.3.4	Local residents have not been specifically identified within the bullet points in paragraph 3.3.4 and for clarity an additional bullet should be included to make this commitment. Whilst paragraph 3.3.5	National Grid acknowledged this comment and reviewed the paragraph.	3.3.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E</b>

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		references the local community, it is not clear if this is referring to the bullet points above or whether this is referring to residents within the PCZ and SCZ. Based on later paragraphs within the SoCC it is understood that local residents within the PCZ will be provided a consultation pack and therefore be directly consulted, this should be reflected in this section.		<b>Statutory consultation)</b> updated: <i>"...all residential and business addresses within the PCZ..."</i>
	Table 3.1	It is stated that all the materials will be targeted at 'all those interested in the consultation' and reference made to Section 3.3. Whilst I can make a guess as to the exact meaning of this statement it is not clear and open to interpretation. For example will all those identified within Section 3.3 receive the materials identified automatically? Or do these have to be requested? The use of the term 'interested' also adds to the ambiguity of the statement.	National Grid confirmed Section 3.5 explains what information will be sent out to stakeholders, with a consultation pack (incl. newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope) sent to all addresses within the PCZ.	No amendment was required.
	Table 3.1	It is welcomed that the newsletter will be posted to all properties within the PCZ. This should also be sent to all the stakeholders identified within Section 3.3.	National Grid noted this comment and explained with the exception of MPs in/bordering the SCZ, all groups are already within the PCZ and therefore will receive the newsletter.	No amendment was required.
	Table 3.1	It is noted that printed copies of the majority of documents will be available upon request at no extra charge which is welcomed. It is requested that the parish and town councils	National Grid confirmed it will reach out to local town/parish councils prior to start of the statutory consultation to offer paper	No amendment was required.

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		be contacted to ask whether they would like printed versions in advance of the consultation starting so that if this is required they do not need to worry about losing any time during the consultation making this request and waiting for it to be actioned.	copies of the consultation materials outlined in 3.11.1.	
	Table 3.1	The project update documents should also include a clear explanation of the need case as this has previously caused confusion.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and confirmed the needs case for the project will be concisely summarised in the project overview document.	No amendment was required.
	Table 3.1	Table 3.2 states that an interactive project map will be available which sounds like a very useful tool. It is requested that a layer be added to this map to provide details of the other consented and proposed projects affecting the same locality i.e. EA1N, EA2, SZC, Nautilus, LionLink. For the consented projects this could comprise the consented Order Limits and the proposed projects the current onshore options.	National Grid welcomed this comment and confirmed that the interactive map included the order limits of the projects East Suffolk Council listed.	No amendment was required.
	3.5.4	It is noted that site notices will be displayed at key locations along the route, this should include affected parish notice boards in addition to public rights of way adjacent to the Order Limits.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and explained site notices are a legal notice and National Grid would not propose placing these on parish notice boards. However, in 3.5.5 National Grid committed to sending posters to parish councils, for them to display as they wish.	No amendment was required.

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	Table 3.3	It is considered that an information exhibition should be held in or as close to the areas where the permanent infrastructure is proposed. It is therefore considered that an exhibition should be held at Friston given the potential for a new substation to be required should the Friston substation not be constructed under the EA1N and EA2 DCOs. If Friston village hall is not considered appropriate, could an event not be held in Knodishall village hall?	<p>National Grid explained an 'Ask the Experts' session will be held at Friston village hall, as it believes the venue is more suitable for an event of this size (smaller in scale) than a full public information exhibition. Full public information exhibitions are planned for Saxmundham and Aldeburgh, both of which are around a 10-minute car journey from Friston.</p> <p>National Grid had considered the suitability of Knodishall village hall for an event but as it is only marginally larger than the venue at Friston, National Grid did not consider the venue suitable and does not propose to hold an event at this location.</p>	No amendment was required.
	3.6	The inclusion of events in the morning, afternoon, evening and weekends is welcomed. It is important that the representatives from National Grid attending these events are not only fully briefed on the Sea Link project but are also fully informed about challenges being faced in East Suffolk by the other consented and proposed NSIPs.	National Grid welcomed and noted this comment.	No amendment required.
	3.7.1	Only two webinars are proposed to be held, one on the Suffolk proposals and one on the Kent proposals. During the previous non-	National Grid welcomed this comment and confirmed it added two additional live webinars to the consultation programme,	Section 3.7 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application</b> )

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		<p>statutory consultation 6 were held across the two counties. Whilst I appreciate that additional forms of sessions are being held i.e. 'Ask the Experts', webinars allow those who cannot attend the in person events to gain valuable information about the project in an easily digestible manner. It is requested that additional webinars are held within the first half of the consultation period.</p>	<p>along with making a pre-recorded webinar available on the project website from the start of the consultation period.</p>	<p><b>Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)</b> updated:  <i>"3.7.1 A total of five webinars will be held during the first week of the consultation period.</i>  <i>3.7.2 Two webinars will focus on a summary of the proposals in Suffolk, whilst two will summarise the proposals in Kent. All four sessions will include details of the marine proposals relevant to the proposed Project.</i>  <i>3.7.3 A fifth, pre-recorded webinar will be shared on the project website at the start of the consultation period, providing an overview of the onshore</i></p>



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				<p><i>proposals in Suffolk and Kent, along with the marine proposals.”</i></p> <p>Table 3.4 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) also updated with details of the additional webinars.</p>
	3.7.6	It is requested that the questions raised and answers during the webinars provided are included within a written document which is published on the website following the events.	National Grid noted this comment and explained answers to frequently asked questions (such as those asked during webinars) will be made available on the project website. National Grid confirmed in light of questions raised during the webinars that the frequently asked questions will be updated accordingly. However, it does not propose to provide a public note of each meeting.	No amendment required.
	3.8	The ‘Ask the Expert’ sessions are welcomed.	National Grid welcomed this comment by East Suffolk Council.	No amendment required.
	3.9.1	It is considered that the elected representatives from the districts and country councils in both the PCZ and SCZ	National Grid confirmed this would have no impact on which local authorities are consulted in Suffolk, as no additional	No amendment required.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
		should be included in the offer of briefing meetings.	district or county councils are in the SCZ versus the PCZ.	
	3.9.1	It is also considered that parish and town councils within the SCZ should be offered a briefing meeting.	National Grid had regard to this comment and confirmed the PCZ has been designed to capture all those communities most likely to be impacted by the proposed Project.  Parish and town councils in the SCZ and beyond are welcome to take part in the consultation and/or request a briefing meeting but given their distance from the proposals National Grid does not propose to proactively offer these meetings to those in the SCZ.	No amendment required.
	3.9.1	The AONB Partnership is not identified within the organisations listed in 3.9.1, it is considered that they should be added to the list.	National Grid noted this comment and reviewed the paragraph.	Paragraph 3.9.1 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated: <i>“...key prescribed consultees, such as AONB conservation boards...”</i>
	3.9	There is no mention in Section 3.9 of tourist boards such as the Destination Management	National Grid acknowledged this comment and reviewed the section.	Paragraph 3.9.2 of the SoCC (see

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		Organisation who it would be useful to include.		section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)</b> updated: <i>“...third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships, and business groups and destination management organisations.”</i>
	3.10	Section 3.10 refers to ‘seldom heard groups’, in addition to those identified a [sic] potentially hard to reach group are likely to also be second home owners, consideration should be given to this group within the SoCC given the nature of the area affected by the development.	National Grid confirmed second home owners are not a defined seldom heard group. As such, it is not proposed to include this group within the SoCC. However, affected landowners that own a second home within the draft order limits will be contacted through the land referencing process.  National Grid reiterated the activity identified throughout Chapter 3 of the SoCC provides details of the various other means through which National Grid will advertise the consultation, creating opportunities for non-resident homeowners to become aware of the consultation.	No amendment required.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	4.4.2	It is requested that a representative from NGV in relation to both the Nautilus and LionLink projects is available at the in person consultation events and briefing sessions provided.	<p>National Grid explained Nautilus and LionLink are separate and distinct projects promoted by National Grid Ventures, a legally separate part of the National Grid group.</p> <p>As these projects progress, they will hold their own consultation events. To avoid the potential for confusion as to what is being consulted on at the Sea Link statutory consultation, National Grid did not propose to invite Nautilus or LionLink personnel to the Sea Link public information exhibitions. However, details of where more information on each project can be found will be made available at the Sea Link exhibitions.</p>	No amendment required.
	Figure A.1	The background map utilised makes it difficult to interpret, a different background map may make this clearer. It is important that the PCZ and SCZ is easy to identify with reference to landmarks.	National Grid welcomed this comment.	The maps were made larger and place names made more visible.
	Figure A.1	The map does not illustrate the onshore Order Limits, it is important that a drawing to illustrate the onshore area is provided within the SoCC. This drawing should be clear and easy to understand. This is also particularly important as the PCZ and SCZ have been identified based on a set distance from the onshore Order Limits.	National Grid noted this comment from East Suffolk Council.	The maps were made larger and place names made more visible.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Section of the draft 2023 SoCC</b>	<b>Amendment/comment made by Local Authority</b>	<b>Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008</b>	<b>Amendments to the SoCC</b>
Thanet District Council	General comment	The consultation materials and presentation methods are considered to be comprehensive. The ability to request printed copies of the document to be posted free of charge (it is noted this excludes the PEIR) and also make an appointment to 'Ask the Experts' is welcomed.	National Grid welcomed this comment.	No amendment required.
	General comment	Copies of all the consultation documents should be available on the proposed website as HTML and downloadable pdf documents, for ease of use for the community. Any pdf document should be capped in size to allow ease of viewing/download. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.	National Grid noted this comment and explained whilst it is not feasible to make copies of all consultation documents available in HTML format, National Grid is pleased to commit to developing an enhanced consultation website that will present all content from the Project overview document in HTML format. PDFs uploaded to the Project's website will be subject to a maximum size of 50mb.	No amendment required.
	General comment	The website should allow free-text responses to the proposal, to ensure that those that wish to comment in this manner rather than via a feedback form, are not excluded from the consultation process. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.	National Grid noted this comment and explained free text consultation feedback can be submitted by email or post.	No amendment required.
	General comment	The website shall meet level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) as a minimum, with the SOCC updated to state these requirements as well as	National Grid explained it had endeavoured to make its website comply as fully as possible with the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)'s Priority 1 checkpoints, as set out in Web Content	No amendment required.

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		including screen magnifiers and speech recognition tools as assisted technologies.	<p>Accessibility Guideline (WCAG) 1.0. In addition, parts of the website and 3 checkpoints as well.</p> <p>Accessibility features in place include the ability to change text size and page magnification, screen reader compatibility, alt text on images, HTML tags in headings and navigation menus, the use of logical tab sequences in forms and fields and keeping the use of JavaScript to an absolute minimum.</p> <p>National Grid noted the comment about meeting WCAG 2.1 and is working on improvements to its website to meet this standard.</p>	
	General comment	The Council considers that the extent of the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) of 3km is adequate and the intention to contact all addresses within the PCZ with a Consultation Pack is welcomed. The SOCC should include a draft of the consultation newsletter, feedback form, letters and emails to be sent to residents, businesses and interested parties, to allow for comment on this part of the consultation.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and explained it does not propose to include drafts of consultation materials within the SoCC, as the final version of the SoCC will be published alongside these materials.	No amendment required.
	3.5.2	With regards to promoting the consultation we would suggest that in addition to the news outlets proposed, the consultation is advertised in local papers in Thanet namely	National Grid had regard to this comment and agreed to add the identified newspapers by Thanet District Council to	Paragraph 3.5.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6</b>

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		the KM Thanet Extra (a free newspaper and online publication) and through the Isle of Thanet News (an online news outlet). The East Kent Mercury (which serves Deal and Sandwich within the Dover District) has also been suggested for completeness.	the list of publications in which it will place adverts about the statutory consultation.	<b>Appendix E Statutory consultation)</b> updated: <i>"...The newspapers will include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Eastern Daily Press</i></li> <li>• <i>East Anglian Daily Times</i></li> <li>• <i>Ipswich Star</i></li> <li>• <i>Kentish Gazette</i></li> <li>• <i>Kent and Sussex Courier</i></li> <li>• <i>KM Thanet Extra</i></li> <li>• <i>East Kent Mercury</i>"</li> </ul>
Table 3.3	It is recommended that a central Ramsgate location (perhaps held at the Town Council) is added to the public information exhibitions/'Ask the Experts' sessions and the SOCC is updated to reflect this.		National Grid noted this comment and undertook a further review and research to identify and assess the viability of using a venue in Central Ramsgate. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radford House</li> </ul>	Table 3.3 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)</b> updated to include

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal Temple Yacht Club</li> <li>St. Luke's Church Hall</li> <li>St. Laurence Parish Hall</li> <li>The Crane Shed</li> <li>The Custom House</li> </ul> <p>The venues were assessed and considered unsuitable for public consultation due to a lack of required floor space, issues with accessibility, or inadequacy of breakout room.</p> <p>Radford House and St Laurence Parish Hall were deemed suitable venues to host an 'Ask the Expert' session. The former was chosen due to its central location.</p>	Central Ramsgate as a location for the Kent 'Ask the Experts' session.
	3.6 and 3.8	The public information exhibitions and 'Ask the Experts' sessions are to be held in the morning/afternoon. Details have not been provided as to the hours proposed for these but ideally the afternoon sessions would run until late afternoon/early evening to support engagement. It is noted that at least one public information event within the District will be held on a weekend and the webinars will be evening sessions.	National Grid noted this comment and explained event hours are subject to venue availability, but it is National Grid's intention that at least one public information exhibition/'Ask the Experts' session in Kent would run into the evening. The final version of the SoCC will include full details of the event dates/times.	The SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated with final event dates/times at point of SoCC publication, with at least one public information exhibition and 'Ask the Experts'



Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
				session running into late afternoon/early evening.
	3.9.1	The Council requests that stakeholder briefing meetings as identified under paragraph 3.9.1 occur prior to the consultation period for awareness and to ensure they have the chance to comment on the proposal during the statutory consultation period. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.	National Grid acknowledged this comment and confirmed meetings will be offered prior to the start of the consultation period and will take place dependent on consultee availability.	No amendment required.
	3.10	The Council will continue to work with National Grid to identify seldom heard groups within the District and improve inclusivity in consultation.	National Grid welcomed this comment from Thanet District Council.	No amendment required.
	Table 3.7	Minster Library, Ramsgate Library and Newington Library have been identified as deposit point locations within the District. We would request that a full hard copy set of the documents is provided to Thanet District Council and a further set of hard copy documents are provided to the Council for display in Thanet Gateway.	National Grid agreed to Thanet District Council's request for two hard copies.	Table 3.7 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) updated to include Thanet District Council and Thanet Gateway as deposit points.

Local Authority	Section of the draft 2023 SoCC	Amendment/comment made by Local Authority	Regard had by National Grid in accordance with Section 47(5) of the Planning Act 2008	Amendments to the SoCC
	General comment	The SOCC must clearly outline how personal data will be handled and protected through the consultation process in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act. The SOCC should make clear that extracts of responses may be published as part of the Consultation Report and provide guidance on how those responding can withdraw their consent for this.	National Grid noted this comment and explained data protection information is included in the feedback form and on the dedicated Proposed Project website.	<p>4.1.6 and 4.1.7 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) updated:</p> <p><i>“All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).</i></p> <p><i>More information on how National Grid will use the information collected about respondents can be found in the consultation feedback form and on the Project’s website during the consultation period.”</i></p>

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# 5. SoCC Compliance Table

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# 1. SoCC Compliance Table

**Table 1.1 SoCC Compliance Table**

<b>Section of SoCC</b>	<b>Paragraph of SoCC</b>	<b>Commitment as set out in the SoCC</b>	<b>How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment</b>
1 – Introduction	1.1.4	<p>... NGET has consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities whilst developing the SoCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk County Council</li> <li>• East Suffolk Council</li> <li>• Kent County Council</li> <li>• Thanet District Council</li> <li>• Dover District Council</li> </ul>	<p>National Grid can confirm that the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) section 1 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> was issued for comment to the identified local authorities between 22 June and 20 July 2023. Whilst not identified under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid also chose to consult the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on the content of its draft SoCC, as much of the proposed Project is located offshore.</p> <p>Comments were received from all local authorities, section 3 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> whilst the MMO did not have any feedback. This feedback was incorporated into an updated SoCC, which was published as part of the statutory consultation section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b>. Additionally, National Grid issued an update to local authorities to evidence how their feedback had been considered and incorporated into the final version of the SoCC on 2 October 2023, see section 4 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b>.</p>
	1.2.7	Before submitting an application the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Act requires NGET to carry out consultation, including with people living in the vicinity of the land where the proposed project is to be sited.	As per the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid can confirm that it held a statutory public consultation on its proposals for Sea Link between 24 October and 18 December 2023.
2 – The Sea Link Project	2.3.6	The list of consultees is kept under ongoing review. In instances where additional prescribed consultees were identified following non-statutory	National Grid can confirm the list of consultees is kept under ongoing review, see section 9.2.9 and table 9.1 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> for

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		consultation, these were subsequently contacted and given the opportunity to engage with the proposed Project. We have continued to review the list of consultees as the proposed Project has developed, to ensure that it is maintained and up-to-date.	additional consultees identified for targeted consultation.
3 – Consulting on the proposed application	3.1.1	The statutory consultation will run for a period of eight weeks. It will take place between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted until 2 January 2024.	National Grid can confirm that the statutory consultation took place between the dates identified in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> (24 October and 18 December 2023)), with postal responses accepted until 2 January 2024.
	3.2.1	<p>National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) will seek views and feedback on all aspects of the proposed Project, including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposed offshore route of the HVDC cable, from landfall to landfall</li> <li>• proposed onshore route of the HVDC cable, from landfall to converter station</li> <li>• proposed route of the HVAC link between the Saxmundham converter station and Friston substation</li> <li>• proposed Friston substation</li> <li>• potential approach to co-ordination and co-location of infrastructure with other forthcoming infrastructure projects</li> <li>• proposed 400 kilovolt (kV) link between the Minster converter station and substation,</li> </ul>	<p>National Grid can confirm that the statutory consultation Feedback form (see Section 8 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) sought views on all of the topics identified in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b>.</p> <p>Additionally, the Feedback form (see section 8 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) included free text areas for respondents to provide comments on any topics where a specific question was not asked. Free text responses to the consultation were also accepted via email and post, providing a further opportunity for respondents to comment on all aspects of the proposals.</p>



Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		<p>and the Canterbury to Richborough 400 kV overhead line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction methodology</li> <li>• likely environmental affects arising from the proposed Project</li> <li>• opportunities for biodiversity net gain and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.</li> </ul>	
	3.2.4	...Paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR will be available at deposit points and on request. A fee will not be charged for paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR.	National Grid can confirm that paper copies of the Non-technical summary of the PEIR (see Section 16 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) were available at the deposit points listed in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) throughout the statutory consultation period. Additionally, any requests for paper copies of the PEIR to be sent by post were actioned.
	3.3.1	...All views are welcomed, and NGET will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the details of the proposed Project for our application for development consent.	National Grid has had regard to all feedback received at the statutory consultation stage through the <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> and associated Appendices.
	3.3.2	... Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community.	National Grid can confirm that two consultation zones were developed for the statutory consultation stage, as outlined in Appendix A of the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> . The primary consultation zone (PCZ) extended 3 km from the draft order limits, whilst the secondary consultation zone (SCZ) extended 5 km from the draft order limits.

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
	3.3.4	<p>NGET will also directly consult the following groups and individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residential and business addresses within the PCZ</li> <li>• Parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ</li> <li>• Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the PCZ and SCZ</li> <li>• elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ</li> <li>• ‘seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques, and may need additional support to access materials relevant local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups</li> <li>• marine users such as fisheries, developers and existing infrastructure owners.</li> </ul>	<p>National Grid can confirm that all residential and business addresses within the PCZ were directly contacted by post at the start of the statutory consultation. This mailing was sent via Royal Mail 1<sup>st</sup> Class post on 20 October 2023. Of the 35,142 addresses within the PCZ mailing area, 288 of the consultation packs were subsequently returned to sender. It should be noted that Storm Babet was causing localised disruption in Suffolk around the time that the PCZ mailing begun to be delivered, which may have impacted delivery timescales.</p> <p>Parish councils and marine users were directly contacted via post and email in line with their status as prescribed consultees (see subsequent section for more detail). Additionally, parish councils were contacted via email prior to the start of the consultation (25 August) with the offer of a pre-consultation briefing. Parish councils were then contacted again during the consultation (21 November) with a reminder of this briefing offer.</p> <p>MPs, elected representatives and seldom heard groups were directly contacted as non-prescribed consultees via post and email. This mailing was sent via Royal Mail 1<sup>st</sup> Class post on 20 October 2023, with the email version of the non-prescribed consultee notification sent on 23 October 2023. It should be noted that Storm Babet was causing localised disruption in Suffolk around the time that the mailing begun to be delivered, which may have impacted delivery timescales. An additional mailing to 49 seldom-heard consultees was issued on 26 October 2023. Following the issuance of the above consultation notifications, a backcheck was</p>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
			<p>undertaken for any email bounce backs, and alternative points of contact were identified wherever possible.</p> <p>MPs were additionally contacted via email prior to the start of the consultation (29 August 2023) with the offer of a pre-consultation briefing. Local authority officers were also contacted via email prior to the start of the consultation offering a pre-consultation briefing on behalf of elected members.</p> <p>Seldom heard groups were directly consulted as non-prescribed consultees by post and email (see subsequent section for further details). A follow-up was sent via email on 7 November 2023, with two further emails issued to 87 seldom-heard groups specifically representing younger people. These emails contained information about the consultation, encouraged feedback and included an invitation to a youth webinar on 12 December 2023.</p> <p>For further details see Chapter 7 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b>.</p>
	3.3.5	In addition to the local community, NGET will consult prescribed bodies and local authorities as required under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act and undertake the relevant notification under the EIA Regulations. NGET will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under section 42(1)(d).	<p>National Grid can confirm that prescribed consultees were directly contacted via letter and email immediately at or prior to the start of the consultation. The mailing to s42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) (see section 5 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) consultees was sent via Royal Mail's Tracked24 service on 20 October 2023, whilst the email version of the prescribed consultee notification was sent via 23 October 2023.</p> <p>Following the launch of the consultation, a backcheck took place to ensure that at least one of the letter/emails identified above had been delivered</p>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
			<p>successfully to each s42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) consultee. From this, it was identified that 13 letters had not been delivered, along with 22 emails. Of those consultees affected by this, only the Equality and Human Rights Commission had not received notice of the consultation by either post or email. An email was sent to an alternative contact at the EHRC on 29 November 2023, followed by a postal consultation pack on 30 November 2023. The response deadline for this consultee was extended to 5 January 2024, to ensure that the consultee had at least 28 days to provide a response. For further details see Chapter 7 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b>.</p>
Table 3.1 – Consultation materials	Table 3.1	[Newsletter] A summary newsletter which outlines how members of the public can get involved in the consultation, including dates and times of public information exhibitions, webinars and ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions, locations of where more detailed information about the proposals can be found (including both physical and virtual locations, such as on the Project’s website), how to submit feedback and the contact details for the Project Team.	National Grid can confirm that the newsletter (see section 7 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Newsletter, feedback form] The newsletter will be posted to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ as part of the ‘Consultation Pack.’	National Grid can confirm that the newsletter (see section 7 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) was sent as part of a consultation pack to all residential and business properties in the PCZ at the start of the statutory consultation period, See section 7.4 and Table 7.2 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> .

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
	Table 3.1	[Newsletter, project overview document, project overview document – 10 minute read, options selection and design evolution report, non-statutory consultation report, feedback form, PEIR non-technical summary] Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy of the document at the deposit points (see 3.11 for detail).	National Grid can confirm that the deposit points (see section 7.4.7 and table 7.4 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> ) were stocked with the list of materials outlined in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) prior to the start of the statutory consultation and restocked as required during the consultation.
	Table 3.1	[Newsletter, project overview document, project overview document – 10 minute read, options selection and design evolution report, non-statutory consultation report, feedback form, consultation banners, consultation banners – audio version, plans and drawings, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), non-technical summary of the PEIR] The document will also be available to download via the Project’s website and printed copies will be posted on request.	National Grid can confirm that all documents identified in the list of materials within the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) were uploaded to the dedicated consultation website for the start of the consultation.  Some appendices to the PEIR and the audio version of some of the exhibition boards were not uploaded for the start of the consultation, but this was rectified during the first few days of the consultation and still left a further 28 days until the end of consultation.
	Table 3.1	[Newsletter, project overview document, feedback form, non-technical summary of the PEIR] We will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.	National Grid can confirm that a provider for the provision of alternative format versions of consultation materials was identified, but that no requests for such materials were received.
	Table 3.1	[Project overview document] A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the proposed Project, its various components and where to find more detailed information and contact the Project Team. The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.	National Grid can confirm that the Project overview document (see section 4 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
	Table 3.1	[Project overview document – 10 minute read] A condensed version of the Project overview document, intended to concisely summarise and explain the background to the proposed Project and current proposals. The document is intended to have a ‘read time’ of 10 minutes or less.	National Grid can confirm that the Project overview document – 10 minute read document (see section 13 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Options selection and design evolution report] A document outlining the development of the proposed Project and the rationale behind each component.	National Grid can confirm that the Options selection and design evolution report (see section 14 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see Section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Non-statutory consultation report] A document outlining the non-statutory consultation undertaken between October and December 2022. The report will provide a summary of the feedback received and identify how NGET has had regard to that feedback.	National Grid can confirm that the Non-statutory consultation report (see section 1 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix C Non-Statutory Consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Feedback form] Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the proposed Project. The feedback form will be split into a section specific to Kent and Suffolk.	National Grid can confirm that Feedback form (see section 8 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
	Table 3.1	[Consultation banners] Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the proposed Project. Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the proposed Project and will allow for further discussion with members of the Project Team during public information events and other meetings.	National Grid can confirm that the Consultation banners (see section 15 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Consultation banners – audio version] To assist those with visual impairments, an audio version of the consultation banners will be made available.	National Grid can confirm that an audio version of the Consultation banners was made available online. The audio version of some of the exhibition boards was not uploaded for the start of the statutory consultation, but this was rectified during the first few days of the consultation.
	Table 3.1	[Plans and drawings] Plans and drawings of the proposed Project to assist with understanding the proposals.	National Grid can confirm that the plans and drawings (see section 3 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)] The PEIR details environmental information and the results of preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the proposed Project, along with proposed mitigations.	National Grid can confirm that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.1	[Non-technical summary of the PEIR] A condensed version of the PEIR, intended to	National Grid can confirm that the Non-technical summary of the PEIR (see Section 16 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> )



Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		concisely summarise and explain the purpose of the PEIR and its findings.	produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description of the document included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</b>
	Table 3.1	[Project's website] A detailed consultation website.	National Grid can confirm that a detailed dedicated Proposed Project website was produced for the statutory consultation.
	Table 3.2	Interactive Project map with layers that can be added and removed - To enable members of the public to see how different components of the proposed Project fit together and how they interact with the existing area.	National Grid can confirm that the Interactive Project map produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</b>
	Table 3.2	Interactive Project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to general arrangement plan maps - To enable members of the public and other stakeholders to access detailed maps of the proposed Project.	National Grid can confirm that the Interactive Project map produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</b>
	Table 3.2	HTML/digitally accessible version of Project overview document - To present the content of the Project overview document in a format more compatible with accessibility tools and different device formats	National Grid can confirm that the HTML/digitally accessible version of the Project overview document produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</b>
	Table 3.2	Videos, infographics and animations - To aide with understanding of the proposed Project.	National Grid can confirm that videos, infographics and animations produced as part of the statutory consultation met the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</b>
	Table 3.2	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the	National Grid can confirm that answers to frequently asked questions were published online in accordance



Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		need to contact the Project Team or attend an in-person event.	with the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	Table 3.2	Online feedback form - To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.	National Grid can confirm that an online version of the Feedback form (see Section 8 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) was available online throughout the statutory consultation period.
	Table 3.2	Webinar sign-up form - To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.	National Grid can confirm that those interested in attending a webinar could register online during the statutory consultation period.
	Table 3.2	'Ask the Experts' sign-up form - To enable members of the public to book a video, telephone or in-person 'Ask the Experts' appointment.	National Grid can confirm that those interested in attending an 'Ask the Experts' session could register online during the statutory consultation period.
	Table 3.2	Contact details - To provide details of how to contact the Project Team for any further questions.	National Grid can confirm that contact details for the Project Team were included in consultation materials and online.
	Table 3.2	Accessibility - The Project's website will be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers, to ensure accessibility for all those engaging with the consultation.	The existing project website was compatible with screen reader technology, at the start of the statutory consultation, this was subsequently enhanced through the interactive/HTML version of the project overview document.
	3.5.1	NGET will contact all addresses within the PCZ with a Consultation Pack (to include a newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope). A map showing the PCZ can be found in Appendix A.	National Grid can confirm that the PCZ area identified in Appendix A of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) was that to which it sent a consultation pack at the start of the statutory consultation period.
	3.5.2	The consultation will be advertised in local newspapers to provide details of where more	National Grid can confirm that advertisements were placed in local newspapers as follows:

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		<p>information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the public exhibitions. The newspapers will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern Daily Press</li> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times</li> <li>• Ipswich Star</li> <li>• Kentish Gazette</li> <li>• Kent and Sussex Courier</li> <li>• KM Thanet Extra</li> <li>• East Kent Mercury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times, 24 October 2023 (print), multi-day across consultation period (digital);</li> <li>• Ipswich Star, 24 October 2023 (print), multi-day across consultation period (digital);</li> <li>• Eastern Daily Press, 24 October 2023 (print), multi-day across consultation period (digital);</li> <li>• Kentish Gazette, 26 October 2023;</li> <li>• Kent and Sussex Courier, 27 October 2023;</li> <li>• East Kent Mercury, 25 October 2023;</li> <li>• KM Thanet Extra, 25 October 2023;</li> <li>• Isle of Thanet News, multi-day across consultation period (digital);</li> <li>• Kent Live, multi-day across consultation period (digital); and</li> <li>• Kent Online, multi-day across consultation period (digital).</li> </ul> <p>For a copy of the advertisements, see section 18 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>.</p>
	3.5.3	The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and SCZ, and beyond.	National Grid can confirm that the circulation areas of the newspapers identified in 3.5.2 of the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) extend across the PCZ, SCZ and beyond.

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
	3.5.4	The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers, as well as in the London Gazette, Fishing News and Lloyd's List, giving details about the consultation in accordance with section 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. Site notices displaying this information will also be placed at key locations along the route of the proposed Project.	<p>National Grid can confirm that section 47 and 48 notices were placed as follows:</p> <p><u>Section 47 notices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times, 17 October 2023; and</li> <li>• Kentish Gazette, 19 October 2023.</li> </ul> <p><u>Section 48 notices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times, 17 October and 24 October 2023;</li> <li>• Kentish Gazette, 19 October and 26 October 2023;</li> <li>• The Guardian, 24 October 2023;</li> <li>• Lloyd's List, 24 October 2023;</li> <li>• The Gazette, 26 October 2023; and</li> <li>• Fishing News, 24 October 2023.</li> </ul> <p>To see a copy of the advertisements see sections 18 and 22 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</b></p>
	3.5.5	NGET will work with parishes and local authorities across the PCZ to advertise the consultation in parish magazines, on council websites and on council social media channels. Posters will also be sent to parish councils to display and raise awareness of the consultation.	<p>National Grid can confirm that parish councils and local authorities were invited to pre-consultation briefing, consulted as a prescribed consultee via email and/or letter at the start of the statutory consultation period and by follow-up email. Posters (see sections 19 and 22 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b>) were sent to parish councils on 04 November 2023.</p>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
	3.5.6	Adverts will be placed on Facebook and Instagram to help raise general awareness of the consultation and target a broad range of demographics across the PCZ and SCZ, including those that might not otherwise engage with the consultation. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation.	National Grid can confirm that an advertising campaign across Facebook and Instagram (see sections 20 and 22 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) launched at the start of the statutory consultation period.
	3.5.7	In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website: <a href="https://nationalgrid.com/sealink">nationalgrid.com/sealink</a> . Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps will be able to call [REDACTED]	National Grid can confirm that all documents identified in the list of materials within the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) were uploaded to consultation website for the start of the consultation.  Some appendices to the PEIR and the audio version of some of the exhibition boards were not uploaded for the start of the consultation, but this was rectified during the first few days of the consultation and still left a further 28 days until the end of consultation.
	3.5.8	Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up-to a maximum value of £300 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested by contacting the Project Team by email at <a href="mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com">contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com</a> , or by calling [REDACTED]	National Grid can confirm that it sent out paper copies of consultation materials in response to requests received throughout the statutory consultation period.
	3.5.9	NGET will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis to take into account individual circumstances. Requests can	National Grid can confirm that a provider for the provision of alternative format versions of consultation

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		be made using the contact details provided in 3.5.8.	materials was identified, but that no requests for such materials were received.
	3.6.1	Nine public information exhibitions will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project Team. The exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.	<p>National Grid can confirm that nine public information exhibitions were held, in accordance with Table 3.3 of the SoCC, (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b>) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 8 November 2023 , 12:30pm-5:30pm*, Old Generator Station, Aldeburgh – <b>c. 250 attendees</b></li> <li>– 9 November 2023, 11am-4:30pm, Old Generator Station, Aldeburgh – <b>c. 250 attendees</b></li> <li>– 15 November 2023, 2:30pm-7:30pm, Cliffsend Village Hall – <b>58 attendees</b></li> <li>– 16 November 2023, 12pm-5:30pm, Minster Village Hall – <b>55 attendees</b></li> <li>– 17 November 2023, 10am-3pm, Guildhall, Sandwich – <b>56 attendees</b></li> <li>– 24 November 2023, 1pm-6pm, Market Hall, Saxmundham – <b>c. 244 attendees</b></li> <li>– 25 November 2023 , 11am-4pm, Market Hall, Saxmundham – <b>231 attendees</b></li> <li>– 29 November 2023, 2pm-7pm, Cliffsend Village Hall – <b>54 attendees</b></li> <li>– 2 December 2023, 11am-3pm, Royal Harbour Academy, Newington – <b>32 attendees</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Total number of attendees: c. 1,230</b></p>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
			<p>*The non-technical summary of the PEIR incorrectly stated that this event started at 12pm rather than 12:30pm. Although this is the only location at which the incorrect time was advertised, members of the project team were ready to receive visitors from 12pm.</p>
	3.6.2	Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each exhibition. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.	National Grid can confirm that copies of the relevant consultation materials, along with the Consultation banners, were available at each public information exhibition, see <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> .
	3.6.5	At least one of the public information events, in both Kent and Suffolk, will be held on a weekend, to ensure as broad a range of people as possible are able to attend the events.	National Grid held one public information exhibition in both Suffolk and Kent which took place on a Saturday.
	3.7.1	A total of five webinars will be held during the consultation period.	<p>National Grid can confirm that a total of five public webinars took place during the statutory consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 25 October 2023, Our proposals in Suffolk and offshore – <b>23 attendees</b></li> <li>– 26 October 2023, Our proposals in Kent and offshore – <b>5 attendees</b></li> <li>– 31 October 2023, Our proposals in Suffolk and offshore – <b>Postponed due to technical difficulties</b></li> <li>– 1 November 2023, Our proposals in Kent and offshore – <b>8 attendees</b></li> </ul>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 22 November 2023, Our proposals in Suffolk and offshore (rearranged from 31 October 2023) - <b>3 attendees</b></li> <li>– 8 December 2023, Our proposals in Suffolk and offshore (additional session) - <b>11 attendees</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Total number of attendees: 50</b></p> <p>A webinar advertised in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b>) for 31 October 2023 had to be postponed due to technical difficulties. The webinar was subsequently rearranged for 22 November, with notice of this webinar added to the website prior to the rearranged session. All stakeholders that had registered for the previous webinar were due to be contacted with notice of the rearranged session on 17 November, but due to human error some were missed.</p> <p>A further session was therefore held on 8 December, with all those who had registered for the postponed session or contacted the project team to say they had been unable to attend a previous session contacted.</p>
	3.7.2	Two webinars will focus on a summary of the proposals in Suffolk, whilst two will summarise the proposals in Kent. All four sessions will include details of the marine proposals relevant to the proposed Project.	National Grid can confirm that the content of the webinars is consistent with the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	3.7.3	A fifth, pre-recorded webinar will be shared on the project website at the start of the consultation period, providing an overview of the onshore	National Grid can confirm that a pre-recorded webinar was uploaded online to the dedicated Proposed Project website at the start of the statutory consultation period.

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		proposals in Suffolk and Kent, along with the marine proposals.	
	3.7.5	Each live webinar will include a 'Question & Answer' session, enabling members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.	National Grid can confirm that the content of the webinars is consistent with the description included in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	3.7.6	One of each type of webinar detailing the proposals in Suffolk and Kent will include live captions and include a British Sign Language interpreter.	National Grid can confirm that at least one of each type of webinar (1 November 2023 for Kent, 22 November and 8 December 2023 for Suffolk) included a BSL interpreter and the option of auto-generated live captions.
	3.7.7	Members of the public can register for a webinar through the Project's website or by email.	National Grid can confirm that those interested in attending a webinar were able to register their attendance in accordance with the methods set out in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	3.7.8	The recording of one of each type of webinar will be posted on the Project's website shortly after the webinar has taken place, to allow members of the public and those with an interest in the consultation to view in their own time.	National Grid can confirm that the recordings of one of each type of webinar were made available online on the dedicated Proposed Project website shortly after taking place.
	3.8.1	'Ask the Experts' sessions will provide an opportunity for those with more detailed questions about the proposed Project and/or those unable to attend a public exhibition or webinar to speak directly with members of the Project Team. These sessions will be delivered on an appointment-only basis and will be made available in person, via telephone call or video call.	<p>National Grid can confirm that a mix of in-person and virtual 'ask the experts' sessions took place during the statutory consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 October, virtual – <b>no appointments</b></li> <li>• 2 November, virtual – <b>1 appointment</b></li> <li>• 7 November 2023, virtual – <b>2 appointments</b></li> </ul>



Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 November 2023, Friston Village Hall, Suffolk – <b>11 appointments</b></li> <li>• 1 November 2023, Radford House, Ramsgate, Kent – <b>6 appointments</b></li> <li>• 6 December, virtual – <b>6 appointments</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Total number of appointments: 26</b></p>
	3.8.2	Telephone and video call appointment slots will be offered throughout the consultation period, whilst in-person appointments will be offered during weeks that a public information exhibition is taking place. NGET will seek to hold in-person appointments at venues closer to our proposals that would not have been suitable for a full public information exhibition.	National Grid can confirm that a mix of in-person and virtual ‘ask the experts’ sessions took place during the statutory consultation period (see above). The venues for in-person meetings were distinct from the locations at which it held full public information exhibitions.
	3.9.1	<p>NGET will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone</li> <li>• elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ</li> <li>• parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ</li> <li>• local authorities</li> <li>• key prescribed consultees, such as AONB conservation boards</li> </ul>	<p>National Grid can confirm that parish councils and local authorities were invited to a pre-consultation briefing, consulted as a prescribed consultee via email and/or letter at start of consultation period and by follow-up email (see previous sections for further detail).</p> <p>Briefings took place during the statutory consultation period as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk County Council members’ briefing, 24 October 2023;</li> <li>• East Suffolk Council members’ briefing, 6 November 2023;</li> </ul>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent County, Dover District and Thanet District Council officers' briefing, 7 November 2023;</li> <li>Kenty County Council members' briefing, 7 November 2023;</li> <li>Environment Agency briefing, 7 November 2023;</li> <li>PIL briefing*, 14 November 2023;</li> <li>Minster Parish Council, 16 November 2023;</li> <li>Friston Parish Council, 24 November 2023;</li> <li>Canterbury City Council, 8 December 2023;</li> <li>Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council, 13 December 2023;</li> <li>Leiston Town Council, 13 December 2023; and</li> <li>Aldeburgh Town Council, 15 December 2023.</li> </ul> <p>*A letter was sent to all PILs on 10 November that invited them to a specific webinar briefing on the proposals and 18 PILs attended the webinar on 14 November 2023.</p>
	3.9.2	NGET will also meet with other organisations and individuals upon request. These may include:	<p>National Grid can confirm that several briefings took place during the statutory consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local authority briefings, various (see above); and</li> </ul>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act</li> <li>third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships, business groups and destination management organisations</li> <li>community groups and residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the proposed Project</li> <li>parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ</li> <li>interest groups with a close relationship to the proposed Project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaged communities' forum, 26 October 2023.</li> </ul>
	Table 3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>reaching out to community groups representing underrepresented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>reaching out to community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities</li> </ul>	<p>National Grid can confirm that community groups representing underrepresented minority ethnic groups, travellers and digitally isolated groups were identified as non-prescribed consultees and contacted by post and email accordingly (see earlier section for more details).</p> <p>Additionally, the project team arranged a webinar targeted specifically at a youth audience for 12 December 2023. Invites to youth groups were issued on 29 November and 30 November 2023 and subsequently followed-up by email. Targeted advertising on Instagram was also utilised. A total of 4 members of the public registered for the session, but none ultimately attended.</p>
	3.11.1	Whilst this is no longer a statutory requirement, paper copies of the project overview document, options selection and design evolution report, non-	National Grid can confirm that the deposit points were stocked with the list of materials outlined in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix</b>

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		statutory consultation report, SoCC, non-technical summary of the PEIR, newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be made available at a number of deposit points local to the proposals. Information on how to access a digital copy of the full PEIR will also be provided at deposit point locations.	<b>D SoCC)</b> prior to the start of the statutory consultation and restocked as required during the consultation.
	Table 3.8	<p>Online   <a href="https://nationalgrid.com/sealink">nationalgrid.com/sealink</a>   Hours of operation – 24/7</p> <p>Email   <a href="mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com">contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com</a>   Hours of operation – 9am-5pm weekdays</p> <p>Freephone   [REDACTED]   Hours of operation – 9am-5pm weekdays</p> <p>Post   Freepost SEA LINK   Hours of operation – 24/7</p>	<p>National Grid can confirm that the contact channels outlined in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b>) were in operation throughout the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>During w/c 6 November and w/c 13 November, the telephony provider behind the freephone system experienced intermittent technical difficulties that prevented calls connecting. Any callers were directed to leave a voicemail, and any messages received were picked up promptly by the team.</p>
	3.12.2	The Project Team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that is not readily to hand, the Project Team will endeavour to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.	National Grid can confirm that it sought to respond to queries within 10 working days throughout the statutory consultation period, although this was not always possible at times of extremely high email traffic.
4 – Responses to the consultation	4.1.1	<p>During the consultation period, feedback can be submitted in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online via the Project's website (<a href="https://nationalgrid.com/sealink">nationalgrid.com/sealink</a>)</li> <li>• by post at FREEPOST Sea Link</li> </ul>	National Grid can confirm that feedback was accepted via the channels outlined in the SoCC (see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> ) throughout the statutory consultation period.

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by email (contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)</li> </ul>	
	4.1.3	Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis, where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.	National Grid can confirm that a process for accepting oral responses in exceptional circumstances was in place, but that no requests to submit a response in this way were received.
	4.1.4	Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted up until 2 January 2024.	National Grid can confirm that postal responses were accepted up until 2 January 2024.
	4.1.5	Although they will not be formally included as consultation feedback, National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.	National Grid held a further targeted consultation (see Chapter 9 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> ) on its proposals in July and August 2024, where it invited further feedback on its plans separate to the statutory consultation. Additionally, feedback received outside of any consultation period was logged and considered where possible.
	4.1.7	More information on how NGET will use the information collected about respondents can be found in the consultation feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.	National Grid can confirm that the digital and paper versions of the Feedback form (see section 8 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> ) included details of how information collected about respondents would be used.
	4.2.1	As set out in Figure 2.2, following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where practicable, refined in light of feedback.	National Grid can confirm that, following the close of the statutory consultation, it had regard to all feedback received, see sections 24 and 25 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> . As a result of this feedback, along with the results of technical and environmental assessments, development of the Proposed Project (see sections 8.7 and 9.1 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> ), it subsequently made several refinements to

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
			its plans that were the subject of a further targeted consultation in July and August 2024.
	4.2.2	The proposed application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with section 49 of the Planning Act.	The Consultation report sets out how National Grid has had regard to feedback in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, see Chapter 8 <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> and section 24 and 25 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> .
	4.2.3	A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the application for development consent, as required by section 37 (3)(c) of the Planning Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for development consent.	National Grid can confirm that the Consultation report ( <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> ) meets the description set out in the SoCC, see section 6 <b>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC</b> .
	4.2.4	Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.	National Grid can confirm that extracts of responses have been included in the Consultation report, but with any personal information redacted, see section 24 and 25 <b>Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation</b> .
	4.2.6	The consultation report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in paragraph 3.5.8.	National Grid can confirm that the Consultation report ( <b>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report</b> ) will be available on the Planning Inspectorate's website once the application for development consent has been validated, and that a process for actioning requests for paper copies of the application is in place.
	4.4.2	NGET will work to understand other local projects to ensure that the scope and context of this Project	National Grid can confirm that it sought to hold its statutory consultation on Sea Link in a manner that

Section of SoCC	Paragraph of SoCC	Commitment as set out in the SoCC	How National Grid has fulfilled the commitment
		<p>is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having headline information about the other consultations at our events</li> <li>• seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations, where appropriate</li> <li>• ensuring that any responses submitted to our statutory consultation that are intended for another consultation is passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team.</li> </ul>	made clear the relationship between the Proposed Project and other local projects.

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## 6. Final SoCC



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Statement of Community Consultation

Version A  
October 2023

national**grid**

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# Sea Link

## Document control

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out how National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intends to consult statutory consultees, stakeholders, affected residents and local communities on its proposals to build an offshore high voltage direct current (HVDC) link between Suffolk and Kent (and associated infrastructure), ahead of its application for development consent.
- 1.1.2 The Sea Link Project (“the proposed Project”) requires consent from the relevant Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO). This document has therefore been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Planning Act”), which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement.
- 1.1.3 As the proposed Project is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning that it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC therefore also sets out how NGET intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).
- 1.1.4 In accordance with section 47(2) of the Planning Act, NGET has consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities whilst developing the SoCC:
- Suffolk County Council
  - East Suffolk Council
  - Kent County Council
  - Thanet District Council
  - Dover District Council
- 1.1.5 The listed local authorities were consulted for 28 days, between 22 June and 20 July 2023 on the contents of this SoCC.

## 1.2 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

- 1.2.1 Offshore transmission cables and their associated onshore infrastructure do not meet the criteria to be considered Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) under the Planning Act, meaning that permission for their construction is not normally sought via an application for development consent.
- 1.2.2 However, on 4 March 2022 NGET wrote to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy<sup>1</sup> (“the Secretary of State”) to ask that they issue a direction on

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<sup>1</sup> Now known as the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.



whether the proposed Project can be treated as a development for which development consent is required.

- 1.2.3 On 31 March 2022, the Secretary of State issued a direction confirming that the proposed Project be treated as such, in accordance with section 35(1) of the Planning Act.
- 1.2.4 Development consent is therefore required before construction of the proposed Project can begin. However, ancillary works (such as the reconductoring of the existing 400 kilovolt (kV) line between Canterbury and Richborough) may be progressed through separate consenting regimes or permitted development rights.
- 1.2.5 Since the section 35(1) direction was issued, plans for the proposed Project have evolved to potentially include the installation of a new 400 kV overhead electric line of more than 2 km in length in Kent. Should this be the case, this element would meet the criteria to be classified as an NSIP under the Planning Act, meaning that development consent would be required for this aspect of the proposed Project, irrespective of the direction issued under section 35(1).
- 1.2.6 The application for development consent will be submitted to, and examined by, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Planning Inspectorate will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will ultimately decide whether to grant the development consent for the proposed Project. The development consent order process is explained in further detail in Figure 2.2.
- 1.2.7 Before submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Act requires NGET to carry out consultation, including with people living in the vicinity of the land where the proposed Project is to be sited.
- 1.2.8 The early involvement of local communities, including local authorities and stakeholders, leads to applications that are better understood by all parties. It also helps NGET identify valuable information about the potential impacts of a scheme, providing the opportunity for mitigation measures to be considered and, where appropriate, built into designs, before an application is submitted and considered.

## **1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment**

- 1.3.1 The proposed Project is an 'EIA Development'. On 24 October 2022, NGET submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Project.
- 1.3.2 Within this Scoping Report, NGET gave formal notification under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it considers the proposed Project to meet the criteria outlined in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations to be considered as 'EIA Development'.
- 1.3.3 A scoping opinion for the proposed Project was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 1 December 2022.

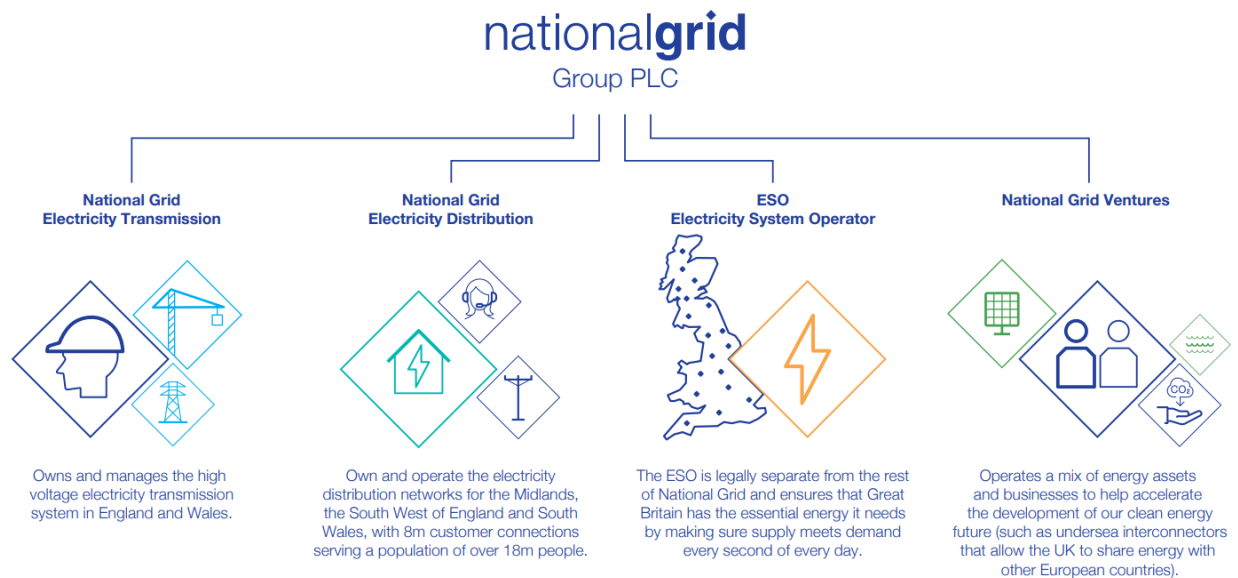
## **1.4 About National Grid Electricity Transmission plc**

- 1.4.1 National Grid sits at the heart of Great Britain's energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. We bring energy to life: in the heat, light and power we bring to our customer's homes and businesses; in the way that

we support our communities and help them to grow; and in the way we show up in the world. It is our vision to be at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future.

- 1.4.2 Within the National Grid Group there are distinctly separate legal entities, each with their individual responsibilities and roles (see Figure 1.1). The roles of these are summarised below. The proposed Project is being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- 1.4.3 **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** holds the transmission licence for England and Wales under the Electricity Act 1989. NGET owns, builds, and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales – the overhead lines, buried cables and substations that carry power around the country.
- 1.4.4 In 2022, Western Power Distribution became part of the National Grid Group and is now **National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED)**. It is the local distribution network operator for the Midlands, South West of England and South Wales.
- 1.4.5 The **Electricity System Operator (ESO)** controls the movement of electricity around the country, transporting power from generators (such as wind farms) to local distribution network operators, like NGED and UK Power Networks (UKPN), ensuring that supply meets demand.
- 1.4.6 **National Grid Ventures** sits outside the core regulated businesses, investing in technologies and partnerships that help accelerate our move to a clean energy future. That includes interconnectors - connecting the UK with countries across the North Sea, allowing trade between energy markets and efficient use of renewable energy resources.
- 1.4.7 Both NGET and the ESO are licensed by the Government as electricity transmission companies and are regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), which sets price controls and monitors how the companies develop and operate their networks on behalf of consumers.

Figure 1.1 Structure of National Grid group of companies



1.4.8 NGET has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission under the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Electricity Act"). This includes a statutory obligation to offer to connect any new generating stations or interconnectors applying to connect to the transmission system.

1.4.9 NGET is also required, under section 38 of the Electricity Act, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to preserve amenity by:

*Schedule 9(1)(a) '...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;'* and

*Schedule 9(1)(b) '...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects'.*

1.4.10 How we set out to meet these environmental responsibilities and our commitments relating to engagement and consultation about proposals, is explained in our [Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy](#).

## 2. The Sea Link Project

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The way we power the things we love is changing. In the years ahead, more of our energy will come from renewable and low carbon sources of electricity as part of the transition towards a net zero future.
- 2.1.2 There has already been a significant shift in how energy is generated in the UK. Last year, coal was responsible for meeting just 1.5% of our energy needs, compared to 43% back in 2012. This is because more of the energy we use is coming from offshore wind, nuclear power and trading energy through interconnectors with other neighbouring countries. At the same time, demand for electricity is set to increase as other sectors of the economy are decarbonised through electrification, such as heating and transport.
- 2.1.3 Whilst the existing high voltage electricity network has been sufficient until now, it does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected in the years ahead. To make sure everyone has access to the clean, affordable energy they need in the decades ahead, we need to deliver the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations.
- 2.1.4 As much of the new renewable and low carbon electricity generation planned for the UK is expected to be installed along the east coast, National Grid is investing significantly in upgrading the existing network. It also needs to build new infrastructure, such as Sea Link, to ensure that power can be transported from where it is generated to where it is needed.
- 2.1.5 All of this work forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade – National Grid’s programme to deliver over five times the amount of electricity transmission infrastructure in the next seven years than has been built in the last 30 years.

### 2.2 The proposed Project

- 2.2.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is proposing to reinforce the network between Suffolk and Kent via a new, primarily offshore, 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) link.
- 2.2.2 Sea Link has been designed to increase the capability of the network to carry low carbon and renewable energy from where it is generated to homes and businesses across the country.
- 2.2.3 The proposed Project is split into three elements, which are outlined as follows:
- Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
  - Offshore Scheme; and
  - Kent Onshore Scheme.
- 2.2.4 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme requires construction of the following key infrastructure to facilitate the HVDC Link, including:

- a connection from the existing transmission network via the proposed Friston substation, including the National Grid part of the substation itself. The proposed Friston substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If the proposed Friston substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by Sea Link
- a high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.7 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below)
- a 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 26 metres high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection and railings for walkways) near Saxmundham
- a HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a transition joint bay approximately 900 metres inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology
- a landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

2.2.5 Our proposals in Suffolk have been developed for Sea Link as a standalone project, but also include opportunities to co-locate infrastructure for up to two further projects at the converter station, along the cable corridors and at the landfall location.

2.2.6 The Offshore Scheme comprises:

- approximately 130 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

2.2.7 The Kent Onshore Scheme comprises:

- a landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay
- a transition joint bay approximately 800 metres inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 2 km to a proposed new converter station (below)
- a 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 26 metres high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection and railings for walkways), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent
- removal of up to 1 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of approximately 2.25 km of new HVAC overhead line from the converter station and substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

2.2.8 The proposed Project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk and Kent, diversions of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational areas. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement (such as hedgerow creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups).

2.2.9 The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, storage,

accesses, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way.

## 2.3 Consultation and engagement to date

- 2.3.1 NGET held a non-statutory consultation on the proposed Project between 24 October and 18 December 2022.
- 2.3.2 The consultation had the following aims:
- to introduce the proposed Project to the public, providing an overview of the proposed Project and why the reinforcement is needed
  - to set out options that have been considered and the decision-making undertaken so far
  - to present early plans, including proposed cable corridors, HVDC converter sites and landfall locations
  - to provide an opportunity for stakeholders and those interested in the project to give their feedback on our work-to-date
  - to outline the next steps and onward programme for the development of the proposed Project.
- 2.3.3 Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the Project Team held four face-to-face public information events, two landowner information events, six online webinars and nine stakeholder briefings. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, email updates, newspaper, and social media adverts. Consultation materials were made available online and for inspection at 20 deposit points in the vicinity of the proposed Project. Dedicated contact channels were also established for those who had questions about the proposed Project. This engagement and advertisement activity in Suffolk and Kent is summarised in **Table 2.1**.

**Table 2.1 - Key statistics from non-statutory consultation**

	Kent	Suffolk	Total
Deposit points	12	8	20
Community invites issued	11,061	6,624	17,685
Public information events	3	3	6
Landowner information events	1	1	2
Stakeholder briefings	2	7	9
Website visitors	-	-	11,360
Webinars	-	-	6
Enquiries to the freephone telephone number	-	-	19
Inbound enquiries through the proposed Project inbox	-	-	262
Newspaper adverts	3	3	6
Social media adverts	1	3	4

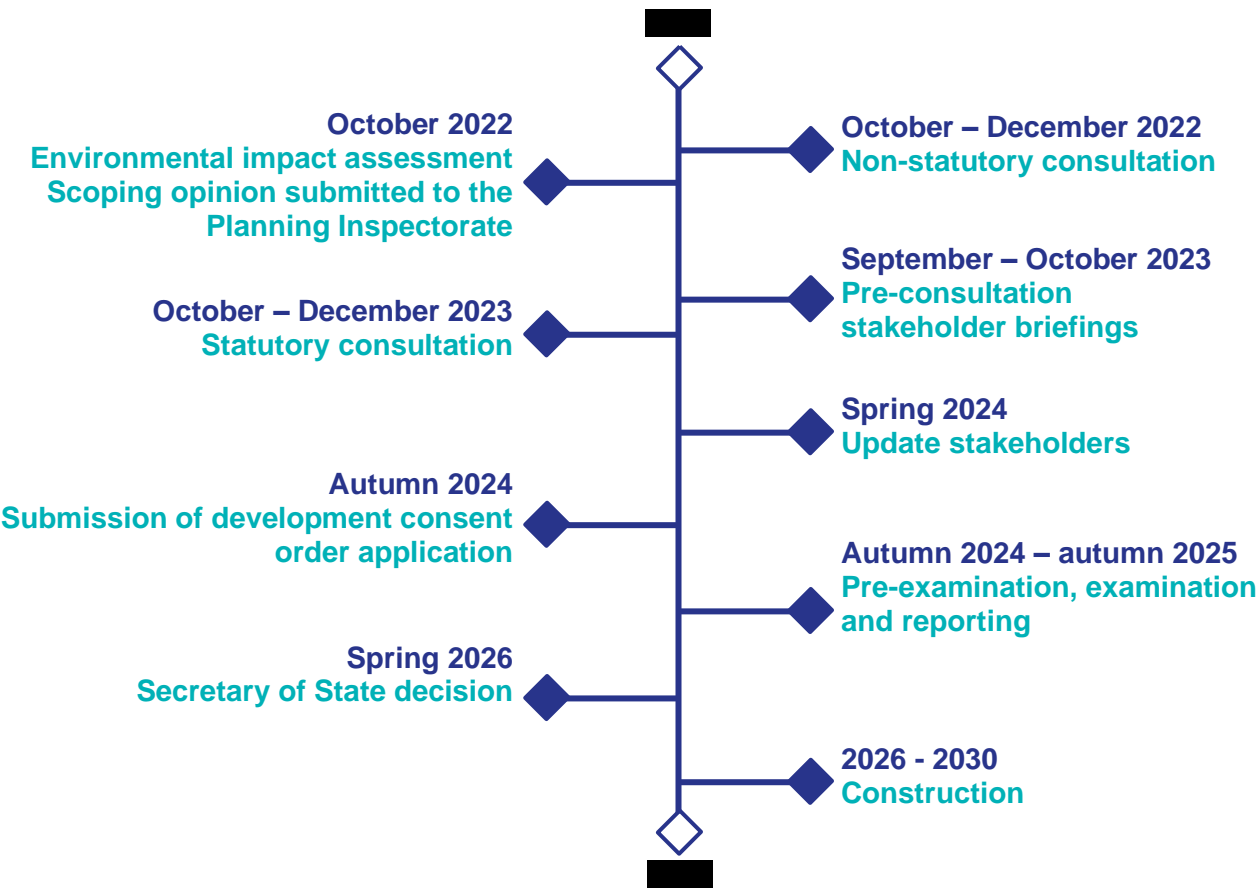
- 2.3.4 NGET provided a number of ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to give their feedback. These included:
- completing an online feedback form on the Project's website ([nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink))
  - completing a paper feedback form or sending written comments by post (Freepost SEA LINK)
  - emailing feedback to the Project's email address ([contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com))
  - calling the Project's information line ([REDACTED])
- 2.3.5 340 responses to the feedback form on the proposals in Suffolk and 120 responses to the feedback form on the proposals in Kent were submitted as part of the non-statutory consultation.
- 2.3.6 The list of consultees is kept under ongoing review. In instances where additional prescribed consultees were identified following non-statutory consultation, these were subsequently contacted and given the opportunity to engage with the proposed Project. We have continued to review the list of consultees as the proposed Project has developed, to ensure that it is maintained and up-to-date. All prescribed consultees will be contacted formally and consulted as part of the statutory consultation.
- 2.3.7 In addition to the consultation periods detailed previously, the proposed Project has engaged with key stakeholders through meetings and other forms of discussion on a regular basis. These stakeholders include local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England.
- 2.3.8 More information on the non-statutory consultations carried out can be found in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, which is part of the suite of documents published at statutory consultation. Archive documents from the non-statutory consultation will remain available on the Project's website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in **paragraph 3.5.8**.

## 2.4 Project Timeline

- 2.4.1 Figure 2.1 sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of the proposed Project, from consultation through to the decision from the Secretary of State and construction.



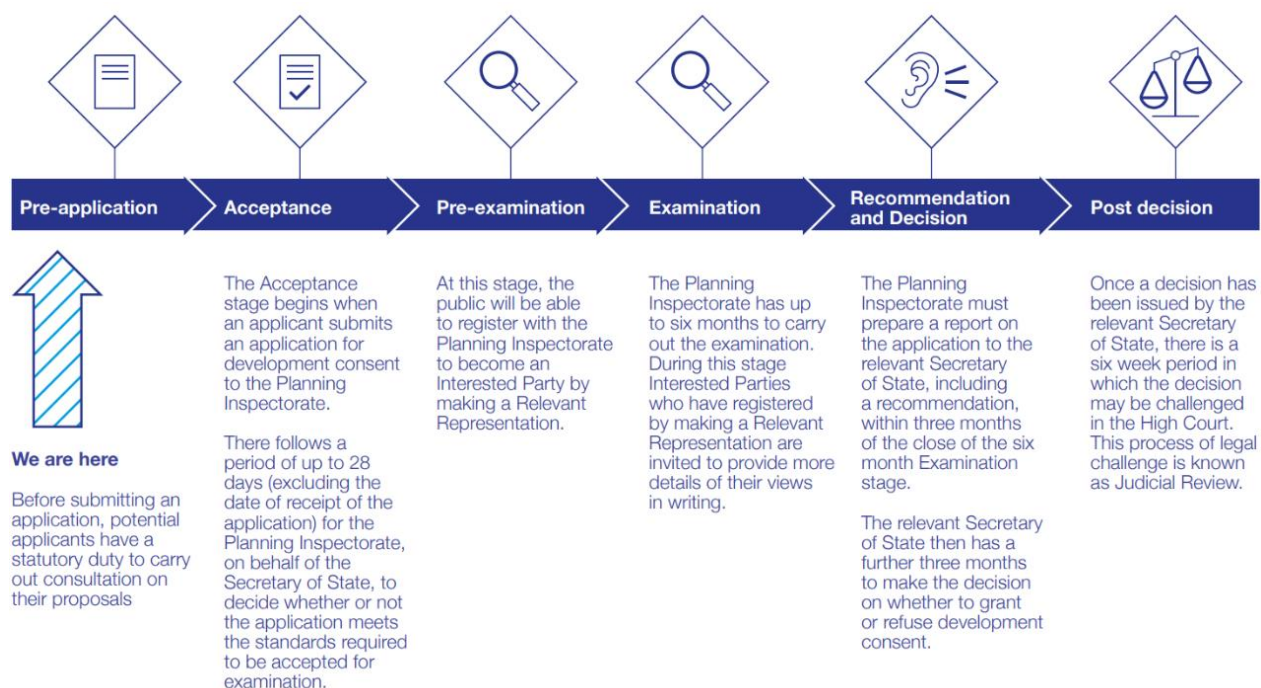
Figure 2.1 Project Timeline





2.4.2 **Figure 2.2** provides an overview of the DCO consenting process.

**Figure 2.2 DCO process**



## 3. Consulting on the proposed application

### 3.1 When will the consultation take place?

- 3.1.1 The statutory consultation will run for a period of eight weeks. It will take place between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted until 2 January 2024.

### 3.2 What will be consulted on?

- 3.2.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) will seek views and feedback on all aspects of the proposed Project, including the:
- proposed Friston substation
  - proposed offshore route of the high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable, from landfall to landfall
  - proposed onshore route of the HVDC cable, from landfall to converter station
  - proposed landfall locations in Suffolk and Kent
  - proposed route of the high voltage alternating current (HVAC) link between the Suffolk converter station and the proposed Friston substation
  - potential for coordination and co-location of infrastructure with other forthcoming infrastructure projects
  - proposed HVAC overhead line between the Minster converter station and substation, and the Canterbury to Richborough 400 kV overhead line
  - construction methodology
  - likely environmental affects arising from the proposed Project
  - approach to biodiversity net gain and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.
- 3.2.2 While comments are welcomed on all aspects of the proposed Project, this statutory consultation is not a means of influencing or contributing to separate exercises being undertaken by the Government and other bodies, such as the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme.
- 3.2.3 The proposed Project continues to evolve in response to consultation feedback and further technical and design assessments. The statutory consultation presents a snapshot in time. Documents such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will allow consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development. It will outline any limitations on the current assessments. If any substantive changes are made to the design of the proposed Project following this statutory consultation, NGET will consider whether there is a requirement for further consultation (see **section 4.3**).
- 3.2.4 The full PEIR will be available on the Project's website, with a link to this shared with the relevant consultees set out in the EIA Regulations. Access to digital copies of the PEIR

will be available at deposit points, with printed paper copies of the PEIR only available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in **paragraph 3.5.8**. Paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR will be available at deposit points and on request. A fee will not be charged for paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR.

- 3.2.5 As part of the application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Project and potential mitigation where appropriate, based on the details of the proposals submitted with the application for development consent.

### 3.3 Who will be consulted?

- 3.3.1 Principally, this consultation is open to anyone who is interested in the proposed Project. All views are welcomed, and NGET will have regard to all comments and feedback when developing the details of the proposed Project for our application for development consent.
- 3.3.2 Under section 47 of the Planning Act, NGET has a duty to consult the local community. Two consultation zones have been developed to assist engagement with the local community.
- 3.3.3 The Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) extends 3 km from the proposed draft Order Limits for the proposed Project onshore, whilst the Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) extends to at least 5 km from the draft Order Limits for the proposed Project (including the PCZ) onshore. The draft Order Limits are the proposed outer limits of the land required either on a temporary or permanent basis to deliver the proposed Project. Appendix A sets out the boundaries of these two consultation zones.
- 3.3.4 NGET will also directly consult the following groups and individuals:
- All residential and business addresses within the PCZ
  - Parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ
  - Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the PCZ and SCZ
  - elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ
  - ‘seldom heard groups’ within both consultation zones who have been drawn to our attention, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques, and may need additional support to access materials
  - relevant local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups
  - relevant marine users such as fisheries, developers and existing infrastructure owners.

- 3.3.5 In addition to the local community, NGET will consult prescribed bodies<sup>2</sup> and local authorities as required under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act and undertake the relevant notification under the EIA Regulations. NGET will also consult Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under section 42(1)(d).

## 3.4 Consultation materials

- 3.4.1 **Table 3.1** sets out the consultation materials that will be developed to help people understand the proposals for the proposed Project and provide their feedback.

Table 3.1 - Consultation materials

Material	Description	Target audience
Newsletter	A summary newsletter which outlines how members of the public can get involved in the consultation, including dates and times of public information exhibitions, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, locations of where more detailed information about the proposals can be found (including both physical and virtual locations, such as on the Project's website), how to submit feedback and the contact details for the Project Team.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>The newsletter will be posted to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ as part of the 'Consultation Pack.' Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy of the document at the deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail).</p> <p>The document will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p> <p>We will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.</p>
Project overview document	A single document which gives a comprehensive overview of the proposed Project, its various components and where to find more detailed	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail). The</p>

<sup>2</sup> The relevant statutory consultees, as set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and as identified by NGET as relevant to the proposed Project.

Material	Description	Target audience
	<p>information and contact the Project Team.</p> <p>The document will be written in non-technical language that is readily accessible to the general public.</p>	<p>document will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p> <p>NGET will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.</p>
Project overview document – 10-minute read	<p>A condensed version of the Project overview document, intended to concisely summarise and explain the background to the proposed Project and current proposals.</p> <p>The document is intended to have a 'read time' of 10 minutes or less.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail). The document will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>
Options selection and design evolution report	<p>A document outlining the development of the proposed Project and the rationale behind each component.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see 3.11 for detail). The report will also be available to download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>
Non-statutory consultation report	<p>A document outlining the non-statutory consultation undertaken between October and December 2022. The report will provide a summary of the feedback received and identify how NGET has</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at the deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail). The report will also be available to download from the Project's website and printed copies will be</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
	had regard to that feedback.	posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.
Feedback form	<p>Feedback form with qualitative and quantitative questions to gain thoughts and feedback on the proposed Project.</p> <p>The feedback form will be split into a section specific to Kent and Suffolk.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Feedback forms will be posted to all residential and business addresses within the PCZ as part of the 'Consultation Pack' (as detailed in <b>3.5.1</b>). Members of the public will also be able to collect a copy of the document at the deposit points (see <b>3.11</b>) for detail).</p> <p>The feedback form will be available to complete/download on the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p> <p>NGET will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.</p>
Consultation banners	<p>Summary consultation banners will be produced to provide an overview of key components of the proposed Project.</p> <p>Banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the proposed Project and will allow for further discussion with members of the Project Team during public information events and other meetings.</p>	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail), although the consultation banners are primarily intended for use at the public information exhibitions.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be able to view the banners on the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.</p>



Material	Description	Target audience
Consultation banners – audio version	To assist those with visual impairments, an audio version of the consultation banners will be made available.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail) and those with visual impairments.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access the audio version of the consultation banners on the Project's website.</p>
Plans and drawings	Plans and drawings of the proposed Project to assist with understanding the proposals.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Plans and drawings will be used throughout the consultation materials listed in this table. Some may also be collated to form individual documents.</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to view the plans and drawings on the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of these documents.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR details environmental information and the results of preliminary assessments of any likely significant environmental impacts of the proposed Project, along with proposed mitigations.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to view a copy of the non-technical summary at the deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail). The full PEIR will be able to be downloaded from the Project's website, with digital copies available for inspection at deposit points and printed copies posted on request. A fee will be charged for printed copies of the PEIR.</p>
Non-technical summary of the PEIR	A condensed version of the PEIR, intended to concisely summarise and explain the purpose of the PEIR and its findings.	<p>All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to access a copy at deposit points (see <b>section 3.11</b> for detail). The document will also be available to</p>

Material	Description	Target audience
		download via the Project's website and printed copies will be posted on request. A fee will not be charged for printed copies of this document.  NGET will consider requests for copies of the document in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances.
Project's website	A dedicated consultation website (see <b>Table 3.2</b> for detail).	All those interested in the consultation (see <b>section 3.3</b> for detail).

- 3.4.2 NGET will consider requests for copies of select consultation materials identified in **Table 3.1** in alternative formats (such as braille, large print, translations) on a case-by-basis, taking into account individual circumstances. All consultation materials will also be available on the Project's website. Information will be easy to access and will be presented in a variety of ways to suit user requirements. Further detail is provided in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2 - Website features

Function	Rationale
Interactive Project map with layers that can be added and removed	To enable members of the public to see how different components of the proposed Project fit together and how they interact with the existing area.
Interactive Project map directing members of the public and stakeholders to general arrangement plan maps	To enable members of the public and other stakeholders to access detailed maps of the proposed Project.
HTML/digitally accessible version of Project overview document	To present the content of the Project overview document in a format more compatible with accessibility tools and different device formats
Videos, infographics and animations	To aide with understanding of the proposed Project.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the Project Team or attend an in-person event.



Function	Rationale
Online feedback form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.
Webinar sign-up form	To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.
'Ask the Experts' sign-up form	To enable members of the public to book a video, telephone or in-person 'Ask the Experts' appointment.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the Project Team for any further questions.
Accessibility	The Project's website will be compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers, to ensure accessibility for all those engaging with the consultation.

## 3.5 Promoting the consultation

- 3.5.1 NGET will contact all addresses within the PCZ with a Consultation Pack (to include a newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope). A map showing the PCZ can be found in **Appendix A**.
- 3.5.2 The consultation will be advertised in local newspapers to provide details of where more information can be found, how to respond, and the dates of the public exhibitions. The newspapers will include:
- Eastern Daily Press
  - East Anglian Daily Times
  - Ipswich Star
  - Kentish Gazette
  - Kent and Sussex Courier
  - KM Thanet Extra
  - East Kent Mercury
- 3.5.3 The circulation areas of these newspapers extend across both the PCZ and SCZ, and beyond.
- 3.5.4 The consultation will also be promoted via statutory notices published in local and national newspapers, as well as in the London Gazette, Fishing News and Lloyd's List, giving details about the consultation in accordance with section 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. Site notices displaying this information will also be placed at key locations along the route of the proposed Project.

- 3.5.5 NGET will work with parishes and local authorities across the PCZ to advertise the consultation in parish magazines, on council websites and on council social media channels. Posters will also be sent to parish councils to display and raise awareness of the consultation.
- 3.5.6 Adverts will be placed on Facebook and Instagram to help raise general awareness of the consultation and target a broad range of demographics across the PCZ and SCZ, including those that might not otherwise engage with the consultation. These social channels have been selected due to their success during the non-statutory consultation.
- 3.5.7 In accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all consultation materials will be available on our website: [nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink). Those who have enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps will be able to call [REDACTED]
- 3.5.8 Requests for paper copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up-to a maximum value of £300 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested by contacting the Project Team by email at [REDACTED] or by calling [REDACTED]
- 3.5.9 NGET will also consider requests for alternative formats of documents, such as translations and large print, on a case-by-case basis to take into account individual circumstances. Requests can be made using the contact details provided in 3.5.8.

## 3.6 Public information exhibitions

- 3.6.1 Nine public information exhibitions will be held for communities to find out information about the proposed Project and the consultation and talk to representatives from the Project Team. The exhibitions will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ.
- 3.6.2 Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each exhibition. There will also be a series of banners to present the proposals for the proposed Project, including maps.
- 3.6.3 Those attending the exhibitions will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 3.6.4 **Table 3.3** outlines the dates, times and locations of each of the exhibitions.

Table 3.3 - Details of public information exhibitions

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 8 November	12:30pm to 5:30pm	Old Generator Station, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY
Thursday 9 November	11am to 4:30pm	Old Generator Station, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY

Wednesday 15 November	2:30pm to 7:30pm	Cliffsend Village Hall, 55 Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, CT12 5JH
Thursday 16 November	12pm to 5:30pm	Minster Village Hall, 1 High Street, Minster, CT12 4BU
Friday 17 November	10am to 3pm	Guildhall, Cattle Market, Sandwich, CT13 9AH
Friday 24 November	1pm to 6pm	Market Hall, High St, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF
Saturday 25 November	11am to 4pm	Market Hall, High St, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF
Wednesday 29 November	2pm to 7pm	Cliffsend Village Hall, 55 Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, CT12 5JH
Saturday 2 December	11am to 3pm	Royal Harbour Academy, Marlowe Way, Newington, Ramsgate, CT12 6FA

- 3.6.5 At least one of the public information events, in both Kent and Suffolk, will be held on a weekend, to ensure as broad a range of people as possible are able to attend the events.
- 3.6.6 If, for any reason, it is unfortunately necessary to cancel a scheduled event, for example as a result of adverse weather, this information will be published on the proposed Project's website and a notice will be placed at the venue if practicable. In these circumstances NGET will also consider organising additional events if deemed to be reasonably necessary.

## 3.7 Webinars

- 3.7.1 A total of five webinars will be held during the consultation period.
- 3.7.2 Two webinars will focus on a summary of the proposals in Suffolk, whilst two will summarise the proposals in Kent. All four sessions will include details of the marine proposals relevant to the proposed Project.
- 3.7.3 A fifth, pre-recorded webinar will be shared on the project website at the start of the consultation period, providing an overview of the onshore proposals in Suffolk and Kent, along with the marine proposals.
- 3.7.4 **Table 3.4** provides a summary of the webinars that will take place.

Table 3.4 - Details of webinars

Date	Time	Topic
Start of consultation	N/A	Onshore proposals in Suffolk and Kent and marine proposals
Wednesday 25 October	6pm to 7pm	Onshore proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals
Thursday 26 October	6pm to 7pm	Onshore proposals in Kent and marine proposals
Tuesday 31 October	2pm to 3pm	Onshore proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals
Wednesday 1 November	2pm to 3pm	Onshore proposals in Kent and marine proposals

- 3.7.5 Each live webinar will include a 'Question & Answer' session, enabling members of the public to submit questions to the team for a response.
- 3.7.6 One of each type of webinar detailing the proposals in Suffolk and Kent will include live captions and include a British Sign Language interpreter.
- 3.7.7 Members of the public can register for a webinar through the Project's website or by email.
- 3.7.8 The recording of one of each type of webinar will be posted on the Project's website shortly after the webinar has taken place, to allow members of the public and those with an interest in the consultation to view in their own time.

## 3.8 'Ask the Experts' sessions

- 3.8.1 'Ask the Experts' sessions will provide an opportunity for those with more detailed questions about the proposed Project and/or those unable to attend a public exhibition or webinar to speak directly with members of the Project Team. These sessions will be delivered on an appointment-only basis and will be made available in person, via telephone call or video call.
- 3.8.2 Telephone and video call appointment slots will be offered throughout the consultation period, whilst in-person appointments will be offered during weeks that a public information exhibition is taking place. NGET will seek to hold in-person appointments at venues closer to our proposals that would not have been suitable for a full public information exhibition.
- 3.8.3 **Table 3.5** sets out the proposed format and schedule for the 'Ask the Experts' sessions.

Table 3.5 - Details of 'Ask the Experts' sessions

Date	Time	Location
Week 1 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Online/telephone
Week 2 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Online/telephone
Week 3 of consultation	Morning/afternoon	Online/telephone
Thursday 23 November	3pm to 7:30pm	Friston Village Hall, Church Rd, Friston, IP17 1PU
Friday 1 December	2pm to 6pm	Radford House, 18-20 Effingham St, Ramsgate, CT11 9AT
Week 7 of consultation	Afternoon/evening	Online/telephone

## 3.9 Stakeholder briefings and meetings

- 3.9.1 NGET will offer briefing meetings with the following stakeholders in the run-up to, or during the consultation:
- MPs, where all or part of their constituencies lie within either consultation zone
  - elected representatives of district and county councils within the PCZ
  - parish councils, where all or part of the parish falls within the PCZ
  - local authorities
  - key prescribed consultees, such as AONB conservation boards
  - persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) under sections 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act
- 3.9.2 NGET will also meet with other organisations and individuals upon request. These may include:
- prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the Planning Act
  - third party groups such as local enterprise partnerships, business groups and destination management organisations
  - community groups and residents' associations with a close geographical relationship to the proposed Project
  - parish councils which fall outside of the PCZ
  - interest groups with a close relationship to the proposed Project.

## 3.10 Seldom heard groups

- 3.10.1 Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any reason.
- 3.10.2 NGET wants to ensure that all our engagement and consultation activity is inclusive, and wants to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. **Table 3.6** sets out how the proposed Project will seek to engage seldom heard groups in the consultation.

Table 3.6 - Seldom heard engagement tools

Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• directly mailing a Consultation Pack and project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li><li>• options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary</li><li>• face-to-face events at a variety of locations and times across the route</li><li>• in-person and virtual 'Ask the Experts' sessions for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs</li><li>• availability of an induction loop during public exhibitions</li><li>• providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request and reviewed on a case-by-case basis)</li><li>• engaging with community groups serving the demographic</li><li>• providing paper copies of materials at deposit point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send Consultation Packs to those who are unable to access the material online</li></ul>
People with visual impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• audio guide of consultation banners</li></ul>

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Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
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- providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request and reviewed on a case-by-case basis )
- options to enlarge text on the Project's website
- advertising the availability of 'Ask the Experts' sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.

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People with limited mobility/disability

- options to submit feedback through conventional communications channels including by post and telephone if deemed necessary
- directly mailing a Consultation Pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post
- online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, to negate the need for travel
- providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as easy read, braille and large print (upon request and reviewed on a case-by-case basis )
- face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times with disabled access, across the route of the proposed Project
- in-person and virtual 'Ask the Experts' sessions for those with further questions, featuring a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs
- availability of an induction loop during public exhibitions
- provision of a British Sign Language interpreter and live captions at webinars

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Youth age groups

- online engagement
-

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Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
15-19 and 20-39 age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> <li>• reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events and 'Ask the Experts' sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> <li>• online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, to negate the need for travel</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• advertising the availability of 'Ask the Experts' sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.</li> </ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li> </ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ; and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events and 'Ask the Experts' sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
15-19 and 20-39 age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> <li>• reaching out to local centres of education to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
Carers and families with young children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events and 'Ask the Experts' sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> <li>• online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and 'Ask the Experts' sessions, to negate the need for travel</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• advertising the availability of 'Ask the Experts' sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.</li> </ul>
Economically inactive individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement</li> <li>• social media advertisements</li> <li>• options to engage through conventional and digital channels, to provide flexibility.</li> </ul>
Geographically isolated individuals or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ; and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• face-to-face public information events and 'Ask the Experts' sessions at a variety of locations and times across the route of the proposed Project</li> </ul>

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Seldom heard category	Methods utilised to engage with category
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online engagement opportunities through the consultation website, webinars and ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions, to negate the need for travel</li> <li>• advertising the availability of ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions for those with further questions, or those who would like to discuss the proposed Project further.</li> </ul>
Locally underrepresented minority ethnic groups (such as black, Asian and minority ethnicity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reaching out to community groups representing underrepresented minority ethnic groups to offer engagement opportunities.</li> </ul>
English as a Second Language (ESL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing consultation materials in alternative languages upon request</li> <li>• translation/interpreter facilities provide during ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions upon request.</li> </ul>
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reaching out to community groups representing travellers to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>• directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post.</li> </ul>
Digitally isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reaching out to community groups representing digitally isolated groups to offer engagement opportunities</li> <li>• directly mailing a consultation pack and Project information to all properties within the PCZ, and providing details of how to access paper copies of other documents and provide feedback by post</li> <li>• in-person ‘Ask the Experts’ sessions, with a booking system which will take into consideration individual needs</li> <li>• advertisement of the consultation in traditional media such as local newspapers circulating in the PCZ and SCZ</li> <li>• providing paper copies of materials at deposit point locations along with contact details for the Project Team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send Consultation Packs</li> </ul>

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**Seldom heard category    Methods utilised to engage with category**

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to those who are unable to access the material online.

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### 3.11 Deposit points

- 3.11.1 Whilst this is no longer a statutory requirement, paper copies of the project overview document, options selection and design evolution report, non-statutory consultation report, SoCC, non-technical summary of the PEIR, newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope will be made available at a number of deposit points local to the proposals. Information on how to access a digital copy of the full PEIR will also be provided at deposit point locations.
- 3.11.2 The locations set out in **Table 3.7** have been selected following a review of the success of the deposit points utilised at non-statutory consultation.

Table 3.7 - Details of deposit point locations

Location	Address	Opening times
Saxmundham Library	Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL	Mon: Closed Tues: 9:30am–5:30pm Weds: 9:30am–5:30pm Thurs: Closed Fri: 9:30am–5:30pm Sat: 10am–1pm Sun: 10am–3pm
Leiston Library	Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon: Closed Tues: 9:30am–5:30pm Weds: Closed Thurs: 9:30am–5:30pm Fri: 9:30am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Sat: 9:30am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Sun: 10am–3pm
Aldeburgh Library	Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5EG	Mon: 9am–1pm Tues: 9am–1pm Wed: 9am–6pm Thurs: 9am–1pm Fri: 9am–1pm Sat: 10am–3pm Sun: 10am–1pm

Location	Address	Opening times
Snape Village Hall	5 Garrett Cl, Snape, Saxmundham IP17 1RN	Mon: 7am–7pm Tues: 7am–7pm Weds: 7am–7pm Thurs: 7am–7pm Fri: 7am–7pm Sat: 7am–7pm Sun: Closed
Friston Village Hall	Church Rd, Friston, Saxmundham IP17 1PU	Village hall open depending on events. Contact the village hall in advance via email at <a href="mailto:fristonvillagehall@gmail.com">fristonvillagehall@gmail.com</a> or at [REDACTED]
Ash Library	11 Queen's Rd, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG	Mon: 11:30am–1pm and 2pm–3pm Tuesday: 9:30am–1pm Weds: 9:30am–2pm Thurs: Closed Fri: 11:30am–5pm Sat: 9am–2pm Sun: Closed
Minster Library	4a Monkton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA	Mon: 1pm–5pm Tues: 9:30am–1:30pm Weds: Closed Thurs: 12pm–5pm Fri: 10am–4pm Sat: 9:30am–1:30pm Sun: Closed
Sandwich Library	13 Market St, Sandwich CT13 9DA	Mon: Closed Tues: 9:30am–5pm Weds: Closed Thurs: 9:30am–5pm Fri: 9:30am–5pm Sat: 9:30am–3pm Sun: Closed
Ramsgate Library	Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate CT11 9AY	Mon: Closed Tues: 9:30am–5:30pm Weds: 9:30am–5:30pm Thurs: 9:30am–5:30pm Fri: 9:30am–5:30pm Sat: 9:30am–3:30pm

Location	Address	Opening times
		Sun: Closed
Newington Library	Royal Harbour Academy, Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 6FA	Mon: 9am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Tues: 9am–1pm Weds: Closed Thurs: 9am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Fri: Closed Sat: 9am–1pm Sun: Closed
Thanet District Council	Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1AY	Mon: 8:45am–5pm Tues: 8:45am–5pm Weds: 8:45am–5pm Thurs: 8:45am–5pm Fri: 8:45am–5pm Sat: Closed Sun: Closed
Margate Library	Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1RE	Mon: 10am–5:30pm Tues: 10am–5pm Weds: 10am–5pm Thurs: 10am–5:30pm Fri: 10am–5:30pm Sat: 10am–3:30pm Sun: Closed

- 3.11.3 Materials will be available to view during the opening hours listed above, except in circumstances outside of NGET's control, such as severe weather, which prevent the locations specified from opening.

## 3.12 Contact details

- 3.12.1 Table 3.8 sets out the contact channels that will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents.

Table 3.8 - Contact channels

Method	Contact details	Hours of operation
Online	<a href="https://nationalgrid.com/sealink">nationalgrid.com/sealink</a>	24/7
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com">contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com</a>	24/7
Freephone	██████████	9am-5pm weekdays
Post	Freepost SEA LINK	24/7

- 3.12.2 The Project Team will respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. Where a substantive response requires information that is not readily to hand, the Project Team will endeavour to respond within ten working days. Where this is not possible, an explanation and holding response will be provided within ten working days.

## 4. Responses to the consultation

### 4.1 Methods of responding

- 4.1.1 During the consultation period, feedback can be submitted in the following ways:
- online via the Project's website ([nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink))
  - by post at Freepost SEA LINK
  - by email ([contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com))
- 4.1.2 Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.
- 4.1.3 Responses provided orally, such as via telephone, will be accepted in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis, where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.
- 4.1.4 Feedback submissions sent by post will be accepted up until 2 January 2024.
- 4.1.5 Although they will not be formally included as consultation feedback, National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) will endeavour to have regard to feedback received after the end of the consultation.
- 4.1.6 All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 4.1.7 More information on how NGET will use the information collected about respondents can be found in the consultation feedback form and on the Project's website during the consultation period.

### 4.2 Presenting the results

- 4.2.1 As set out in **Figure 2.1**, following the close of the consultation all feedback will be collated, reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. Our proposals will be reviewed and, where practicable, refined in light of feedback.
- 4.2.2 The proposed application will be finalised, taking into consideration the feedback received from the consultation in accordance with section 49 of the Planning Act.
- 4.2.3 A Consultation report will be produced as part of the application for development consent, as required by section 37 (3)(c) of the Planning Act. The report will include a summary of the consultation process undertaken in accordance with this SoCC and will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the proposals as submitted within the application for development consent.
- 4.2.4 Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.
- 4.2.5 Upon receipt of an application for development consent, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination

and will determine whether the statutory consultation process has been adequate. As part of this process, local authorities will be invited to provide an adequacy of the consultation response to the Planning Inspectorate.

- 4.2.6 The consultation report will be available online, alongside other application documents, once an application for development consent has been submitted. Paper copies will be available from the Project Team on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in 3.5.8.

## 4.3 Further consultation

- 4.3.1 If, following the statutory consultation, NGET considers it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

## 4.4 Other developers' consultations

- 4.4.1 The Project Team is aware that a number of other organisations are developing proposals in the area, including:

- NGET's Bramford to Twinstead and Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia GREEN) network reinforcements
- National Grid Ventures' LionLink (formerly known as EuroLink) and Nautilus interconnectors
- North Falls offshore wind farm
- Five Estuaries offshore wind farm.

- 4.4.2 NGET will work to understand other local projects to ensure that the scope and context of this Project is clear in relation to the other consultations. This could include:

- having headline information about the other consultations at our events
- seeking to avoid holding events or running advertisements and press releases on the same dates and times as other consultations, where appropriate
- ensuring that any responses submitted to our statutory consultation that are intended for another consultation is passed on to the relevant community relations or consultation team.

- 4.4.3 Although we will pass on any misdirected consultation responses and provide headline information about other projects at our events, is important to note that the events set out in this SoCC form part of the Sea Link statutory consultation only. Should attendees wish to comment on other local projects, they should engage directly with the relevant project team(s) and provide their feedback to these projects directly.



# Appendix A PCZ and SCZ map

Figure A.1 Suffolk PCZ and SCZ map

Primary Consultation Zone      Secondary Consultation Zone

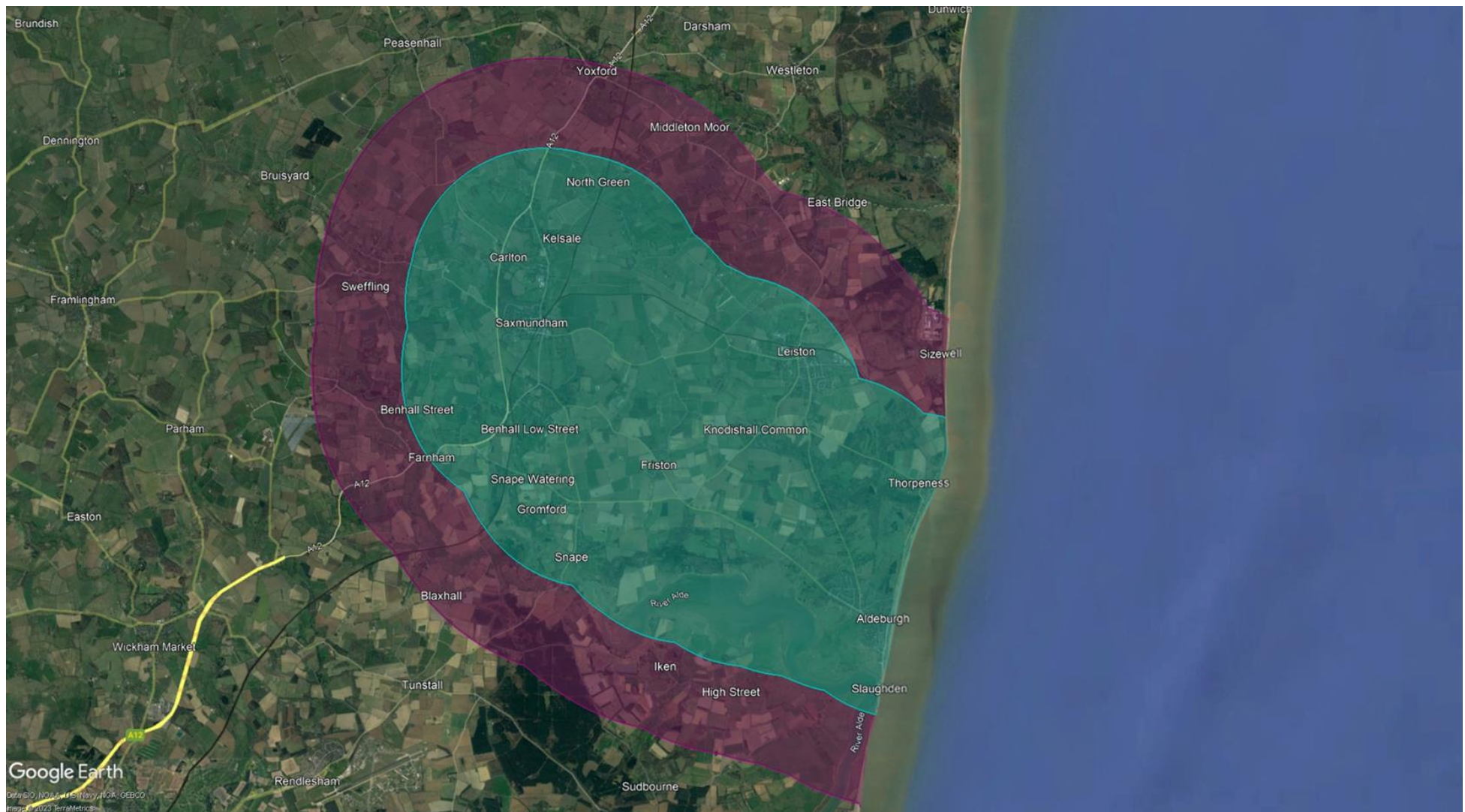
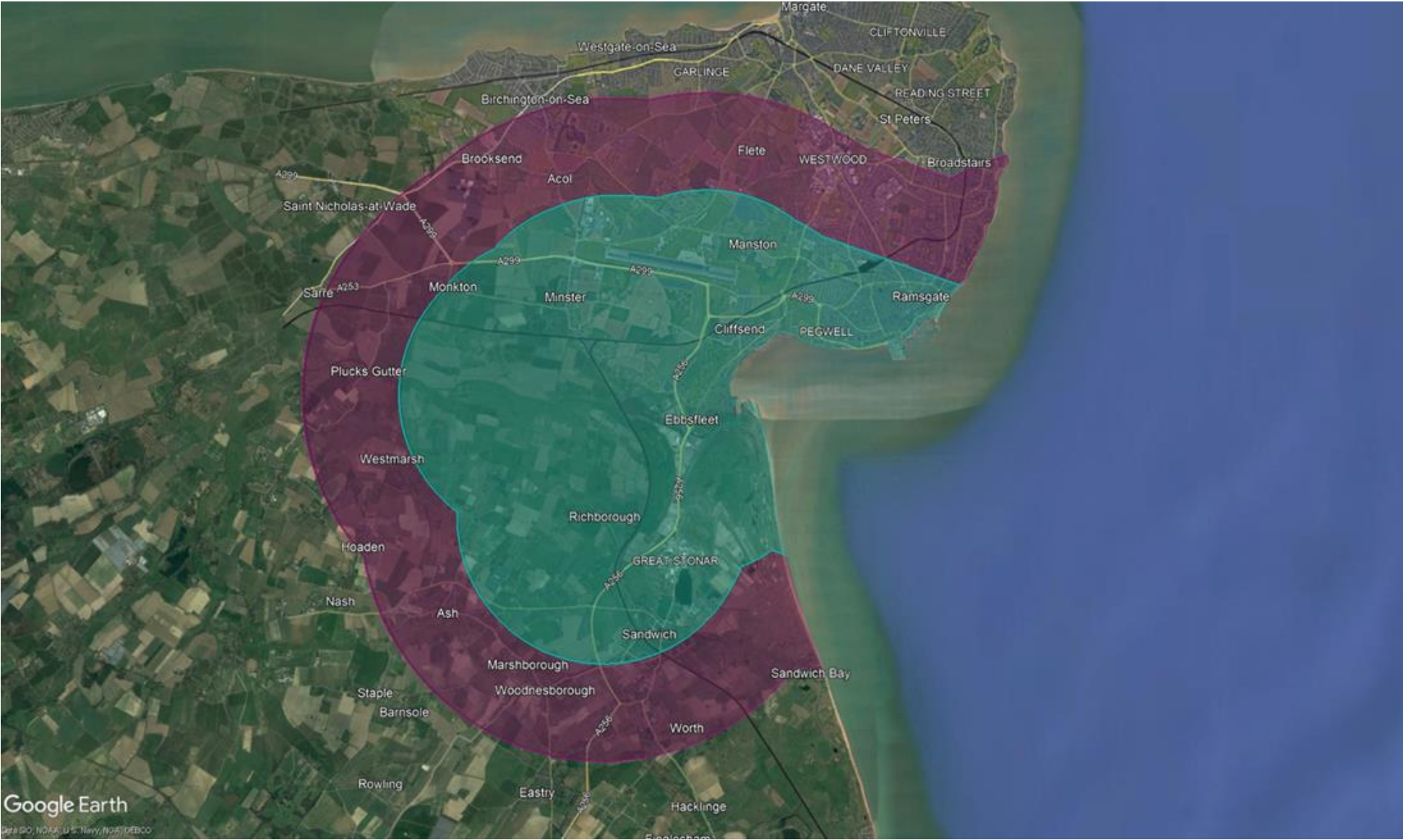




Figure A.2 Kent PCZ and SCZ map



Primary Consultation Zone      Secondary Consultation Zone

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National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4031152  
[nationalgrid.com](http://nationalgrid.com)

## **7. Newspaper Notices and Adverts (Proof of Placement)**



The logo for Very Media, featuring the word "Very" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a white circle, followed by the word "Media" in a similar font.A large billboard advertisement for Very Media. The billboard has a blue background with a large, glowing white circle. Inside the circle, the word "Very" is written in a large, bold, blue font. Above "Very", the word "BEST" is written in a smaller, white, handwritten-style font. To the right of "Very", the word "SERVICE" is written in a smaller, white, handwritten-style font.

*BEST*  
**Very** *SERVICE*

Started 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Runs on Facebook, Messenger & Instagram

# National Grid Public Notice & Ad Campaign

October 2023



# East Anglian Daily Times - Public Notices - S47 & S48

## EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

Since 1874

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2023

eadt.co.uk

£1.15

Page 5

### Hoglets born under sofa

Couple's surprise house guests

Image: Charlotte Reed

### Harness: 'No bad eggs'

Sport

### Win a meal for four

Page 17

## Crackdown on speeding drivers

Suffolk motorists to face more checks

Drivers will face an increased number of speed checks this month as part of a crackdown on dangerous driving. The nationwide safety campaign Kill Your Speed, which is led by the Highway Code, will see more speed cameras in Suffolk roads. Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Cross said: "Speeding kills. It wrecks lives."

ANYGAIL FOSSETT  
suffolk@eastanglian.co.uk

will run until October 29. Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Cross said: "Speeding kills. It wrecks lives."

Full story: Page 2

IT'S ALL ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE

Discover our extensive range of RECLINING CHAIRS

Large choice of wheelchairs & mobility aids

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Mid-Suffolk Mobility

Firebox's Yard, Station Road, Bacton, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4NH

www.midsuffolkmobility.co.uk | Call us on 01449 781804

Showroom Open Tuesday - Saturday 9am-4pm | Free Easy Parking

- Notice published : 17<sup>th</sup> October, page 40 & 41
- Circulation: 21,781

40

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2023

## NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

### SECTION 47 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)

#### SEA LINK

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF A STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Warrick Technology Park, Gildeshe H, Warwick, CV34 6EA has published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Sea Link project in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

The Sea Link Project (proposed Project) involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, predominantly via offshore high voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link. The proposed Project is split into three distinctive elements, as follows:

- The Suffolk Onshore Scheme**
  - A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by the Sea Link project.
  - A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 17 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
  - A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 25 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & ratings for substation) near Sarnham.
  - A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Sarnham, and a transition point (TP) (approximately 800 m) between the proposed TP to a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
  - A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldborough and Thorpeham).
- The Offshore Scheme**
  - Approximately 130 km of offshore HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldborough and Thorpeham), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.
- The Kent Onshore Scheme**
  - A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
  - A 1.8 GW HVDC converter station, up to 25 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & ratings for substation), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
  - A 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 25 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & ratings for substation), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
  - Removal of approximately 1 km of existing HVDC overhead line, and installation of approximately 2.5 km of new HVDC overhead line from the converter station and substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

The project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk and Kent, division of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement (such as hedgehog creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups). The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including working areas for construction vehicles and machinery, site offices, storage, access, substation, and roads, as well as infrastructure covering and the diversion of public rights of way (PROGs).

The proposed project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The consultation will take place between 24 October 2023 and 19 December 2023. Between these dates the SoCC is available to view free of charge on the project website at: [www.nationalgrid.com/sea-link](http://www.nationalgrid.com/sea-link). Reference copies of the SoCC will also be available to view free of charge from 24 October 2023 for the duration of the consultation which ends at 11:59pm on 18 December 2023 at the following locations in the vicinity of the project:

Location	Address	Opening times
Sarnham Library	Black St, Sarnham Farm Rd, Sarnham (P17 1AL)	Mon-Closed Tue: 09:30 - 17:30 Wed: 09:30 - 17:30 Thur: Closed Fri: 09:30 - 17:30 Sat: 10:00 - 15:00 Sun: 10:00 - 15:00
Leiston Library	Mar St, Leiston (P18 4ER)	Mon-Closed Tue: 09:30 - 17:30 Wed: 09:30 - 17:30 Thur: 09:30 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00 Fri: 09:30 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00 Sat: 10:00 - 15:00
Aldborough Library	Victoria Rd, Aldborough (P19 5EG)	Mon-Closed Tue: 09:30 - 13:00 Wed: 09:30 - 13:00 Thur: 09:30 - 13:00 Fri: 09:30 - 13:00 Sat: 10:00 - 15:00 Sun: 10:00 - 15:00

Materials will be available to view during the opening hours listed above, except in circumstances outside of NGET's control which prevent the locations specified from opening.

To request a printed or alternative format copy of the SoCC, please contact the project team via the details at the bottom of this notice.

If you have any questions about the project or the consultation, please get in touch:

Method	Contact details	Hours of operation
Online	<a href="http://nationalgrid.com/sea-link">nationalgrid.com/sea-link</a>	24/7
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@sea-link.nationalgrid.com">contact@sea-link.nationalgrid.com</a>	Mon-Sun weekdays
Freephone	0800 134 9569	Mon-Sun weekdays
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EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2023

## NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

### SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)

#### REGULATION 4, THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS, PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

#### NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR THE SEA LINK PROJECT

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- The Suffolk Onshore Scheme**
  - A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by the Sea Link project.
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  - A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 25 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & ratings for substation) near Sarnham.
  - A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Sarnham, and a transition point (TP) (approximately 800 m) between the proposed TP to a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
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The project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk and Kent, division of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement (such as hedgehog creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups). The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including working areas for construction vehicles and machinery, site offices, storage, access, substation, and roads, as well as infrastructure covering and the diversion of public rights of way (PROGs).

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# Kentish Gazette - Public Notices - S47 & S48



**KENTISH GAZETTE**  
CANTERBURY & DISTRICT

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SCAP METAL MERCHANTS

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01227 712630  
100-102 Canterbury Industrial Estate,  
Canterbury CT2 8BG

www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury

**KENT NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**  
OUT REACH AND BROADCAST  
COUNCIL 2008 & 2009

kmfm 106fm **October 9 - October 25, 2023**

## STILL SHIELDING THREE YEARS ON

COVID REMAINS THREAT TO 'FORGOTTEN' CORNER OF SOCIETY - PAGES 18-19

# Free Christmas tree collections face axe

Council considering giving popular service the chop in name of climate change

**By Brad Harper**  
tharper@thegroup.co.uk

A free Christmas tree collection service across the Canterbury district is facing the chop.

The city council is the only local authority in Kent still offering complimentary pickups, but is considering axing the scheme in the name of climate change.

Traditionally, people across Canterbury have had their festive tree collected during a two-week period in the new year.

But the council says the additional journeys and extra fuel needed for the drive-by service



The service could be axed

have "an impact on the environment", said Charlotte Corneli (left), a council member for waste and recycling.

"We are declaring a biodiversity and climate change emergency and we need to reflect in our practices the climate and biodiversity challenges we face," she said.

See page 6.

## 'BUS DRIVER WOULDN'T LET ME ON WITH MY SCOOTER'

APOLGY AS DISABLED WOMAN SNUBBED - PAGE 3



**Kids Go FREE\***  
until 31 December 2023  
\*Free entry. T&Cs apply

Enjoy a day out  
1,400 years in the making

With 'Kids Go Free' and loads of fun visitor activities and events, this autumn is the perfect time to explore Canterbury Cathedral.

www.canterbury-cathedral.org

LEGO® Brick Masterclass  
October half term

26 October 9 - October 25, 2023 Kentish Gazette

**NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC**  
SECTION 47 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)  
SEA LINK  
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF A STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Network Technology Park, Suttons Hill, Boreham, Essex SS16 5LH has now published a Statement of Community Consultation (SCC) for the Sea Link project in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

The Sea Link Project (Proposed Project) involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, and is a key element of the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) plan. The proposed Project is split into three distinct elements, as follows:

- The Suffolk Section Scheme**
  - A construction from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the installation of new 132kV overhead lines, 132kV cables and a new 132kV substation at Friston. The proposed Project is split into three distinct elements, as follows:
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# East Anglian Daily Times - Public Notices - S48

# EAST ANGLIAN

Since 1874

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

# DAILY TIMES

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£1.15

## Nettie's love for animals

### Tributes paid to gran

Page 15

## Why weren't we warned?

Anger grows in the aftermath of storm

Storm Babet's unexpected devastation has left many questioning why Suffolk wasn't better warned.

Matthew Hicks said the coming weeks will see "positions asked of the way Storm Babet was anticipated and whether anything could have been done to lessen the impact".

KAIA NICHOLL  
kai.nicholl@suffolk.gov.uk

"It is fair to say that the devastation caused by Storm Babet has shocked many," he added.

Almost 100,000 homes in Framlingham's Gentlemen's Corner Bournemouth, said his business suffered over £10,000 of damage.

Full story: Pages 2-6

Headline Market Building  
Image: CHANGSOTTE BROS

## SAVE ON SACRED BAMBOO

### COLOUR ALL YEAR ROUND

SEE PAGE 17

Jellycat Amuseable Pumpkin £29.90

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Jellycat Bashful Black Kitten £20.90

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PLANNING

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

### NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

#### SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)

#### REGULATION 4: THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

#### NOTICE PUBLISHING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR THE SEA LINK PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gattano Hill, Warwick, CV34 4GA intends to apply to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the Act) to authorise the construction of the Sea Link Project.

The Sea Link Project (proposed Project) involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, predominantly via offshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link. The proposed Project is split into three distinctive elements, as follows:

- The Suffolk Onshore Scheme**
  - A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third party projects. If Friston Substation has already been consented under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by the Sea Link project.
  - A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.7 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
  - A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & ratings for walkways) near Sarnborough.
  - A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Sarnborough, and a tension port bay (TPB) approximately 800 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
  - A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).
- The Offshore Scheme**
  - Approximately 130 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.
- The Kent Onshore Scheme**
  - A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
  - A TPB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 2 km to a proposed new converter station (below).
  - A 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & ratings for walkways), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
  - Removal of approximately 1 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of approximately 2.25 km of new HVAC overhead line from the converter station and substation near Minster and the existing Rotherham to Canterbury overhead line.

The project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk and Kent, diversion of third party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement (such as hedgerow creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups). The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, storage, access, footpaths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way (PROWs).

The proposed development will include other required works, for example, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works.

The proposed application will seek authorisation for the compulsory acquisition of land and interests in and rights over land, overriding easements and other rights, the temporary use of land, and other ancillary powers. The proposed project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the proposed project.

All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development, including the preliminary environmental information, will be available to download free of charge from 24 October 2023 until 18 December 2023 on [www.nationalgrid.com/sealink](http://www.nationalgrid.com/sealink) (via the document library page).

Reference copies of certain documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development will also be available to view free of charge from 24 October 2023 at the following locations in the vicinity of the project for the duration of the consultation (until 18 December 2023).

Location	Address	Opening times
Sarnborough Library	Black B. Street Farn Rd, Sarnborough IP16 1AL	Mon: Closed Tue: 09:30 - 17:30 Wed: 09:30 - 17:30 Thur: Closed Fri: 09:30 - 17:30 Sat: 10:00 - 13:00 Sun: 10:00 - 15:00
Leiston Library	Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon: Closed Tue: 09:30 - 19:30 Wed: Closed Thur: 09:30 - 19:30 Fri: 09:30 - 19:30 and 14:00 - 17:00 Sat: 09:30 - 14:00 and 14:00 - 17:00 Sun: 10:00 - 16:00
Aldeburgh Library	Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP16 5EG	Mon: 09:00 - 13:00 Tue: 09:00 - 13:00 Wed: 09:00 - 16:00 Thur: 09:00 - 13:00 Fri: 09:00 - 13:00 Sat: 10:00 - 15:00 Sun: 10:00 - 12:00
Shape Village Hall	5 Gammel Ct, Shape, Sarnborough IP17 1HN	Mon: 07:00 - 19:00 Tue: 07:00 - 19:00 Wed: 07:00 - 19:00 Thur: 07:00 - 19:00 Fri: 07:00 - 19:00 Sat: 07:00 - 19:00 Sun: Closed
Friston Village Hall	Church Rd, Friston, Sarnborough IP17 1PU	Village hall open depending on events. Contact the village hall to arrange an email at <a href="mailto:fristonvillagehall@gmail.com">fristonvillagehall@gmail.com</a> or at 01728 687914.
Ash Library	11 Quaver's Rd, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG	Mon: 11:30 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 15:00 Tuesday: 09:30 - 13:00 Wednesday: 09:30 - 14:00 Thur: Closed Fri: 11:30 - 17:00 Sat: 09:00 - 14:00 Sun: Closed
Minster Library	4a Moulton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA	Mon: 13:00 - 17:00 Tue: 09:30 - 13:30 Wed: Closed Thur: 12:00 - 17:00 Fri: 10:00 - 16:00 Sat: 09:30 - 13:30 Sun: Closed
Sandwich Library	13 Market St, Sandwich CT13 9DA	Mon: Closed Tue: 09:30 - 17:00 Wed: Closed Thur: 09:30 - 17:00 Fri: 09:30 - 17:00 Sat: 09:30 - 15:00 Sun: Closed
Ramsgate Library	Guldford Lane, Ramsgate CT11 9AT	Mon: Closed Tue: 09:30 - 17:30 Wed: 09:30 - 17:30 Thur: 09:30 - 19:30 Fri: 09:30 - 17:30 Sat: 09:30 - 15:30 Sun: Closed
Newington Library	Royal Harbour Academy, Spring Way, Ramsgate CT12 8FA	Mon: 09:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:30 Tue: 09:00 - 13:00 Wed: Closed Thur: 09:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:30 Fri: Closed Sat: 09:00 - 13:00 Sun: Closed
Thanet District Council	Thanet District Council, Cool Street, Margate, CT9 1AF	Mon: 08:45 - 17:00 Tue: 08:45 - 17:00 Wed: 08:45 - 17:00 Thur: 08:45 - 17:00 Fri: 08:45 - 17:00 Sat: Closed Sun: Closed
Thanet Gateway	Thanet's Gateway Plus, Margate, CT9 1RE	Mon: 10:00-14:00 Tue: 10:00-14:00 Wed: 10:00-14:00 Thur: 10:00-14:00 Fri: 10:00-14:00 Sat: Closed Sun: Closed

Materials will be available to view during the opening hours listed above, except in circumstances outside of NGET's control which prevent the locations specified from opening.

Requests for paper copies of the documents, plans and maps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and upto a maximum value of £300 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested by contacting the Project Team via the details at the bottom of this notice.

**How to respond to the consultation**

The consultation is running between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023.

Responses to the consultation can be submitted in the following ways:

- online via the Project's website ([nationalgrid.com/sealink](http://nationalgrid.com/sealink))
- submitting a paper copy of the response form or submitting a free text letter or email
- by post at Freepost SEA LINK
- by email ([contact@sealink-nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink-nationalgrid.com))

A printed copy of the consultation feedback form can be requested by contacting the project team on the details below.

National Grid must receive all responses by 15:00pm on 18 December (or 2 January for postal feedback) to ensure their consideration. Please note that responses are likely to be made public, but that contact/personal details will be redacted.

When deciding on the final form of the proposed application for a development consent order for the proposed project, National Grid will take into account any responses to the public or the consultation that is received before the specified deadline.

National Grid may be required to make copies of representations available to the Secretary of State. However, National Grid will require that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of this project and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

If you have any questions about the project or the consultation, please get in touch:

Email: [contact@sealink-nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink-nationalgrid.com)  
Telephone: 0800 124 6559

- Notice published: 24<sup>th</sup> October, page 40
- Circulation: 7,775



[illegible]

- nationalgrid** **VeryMedia**





# Lloyd's List Daily Briefings ePaper- Public Notices - S48

Tuesday October 24, 2023

## Lloyd's List Daily Briefing

Leading maritime commerce since 1734

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**LEAD STORY:**  
United Maritime closes in on Chinese leasing deals for veteran capesizes

**WHAT TO WATCH:**  
Inaccurate or contradictory fuel consumption data risks CII disputes

Extra premiums for Israel marine war risk kick in

**MARKETS:**  
Frangou clinches deal to acquire Navios Holdings

Container market to face overcapacity until 2028 at earliest

Higher Indian coal imports could boost capesize trade

**IN OTHER NEWS:**  
P&I insurer warns on fraudulent seafarer medical certificates

DP World wins Dar es Salaam concession


Rotterdam bunker sales at three-year low in third quarter

Singapore to choose lead developer for ammonia power plant

Yangzijiang Financial CEO resigns after two years

Russia targets Odesa port in overnight drone strike

### United Maritime closes in on Chinese leasing deals for veteran capesizes



GREEK DRY BULKER owner United Maritime, a spinoff of US-listed Seacargo Maritime, is nearing \$30m financing pacts with Chinese leasing funds for three vintage capesizes, as growing competition spurs lessors to look harder for deals.

The shipowner has received terms from three Chinese lessors and anticipates finalising contracts by end-November, chief financial officer Stavros Gyiakis told Lloyd's List on the sideline of a Capital Link forum in Shanghai.

United Maritime's website shows it has three capesizes — *Gloryship* (IMO: 9266944), *Goodship* (IMO: 931476) and *Traderhip* (IMO: 9310135) — built between 2004-2006. Its chairman and chief executive, Stamatios Tsantanis, also heads Seacargo, which owns 16 much younger vessels of similar size in service.

"Chinese leasing houses do not usually do such type of deals. I am very happy to see them adapting to the changing conditions," Gyiakis said.

He noted financiers historically had a short horizon on vessel age, ending financing at around 15 years old.

But amid energy transition uncertainties over future fuels and delays in ordering newbuildings that could replace ageing tonnage, existing ships need extended lifespans and financier support, he argued.

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- Notice published : 24<sup>th</sup> October, page 11-12
- Readership: 35,000

# The Gazette - Public Notices - S48

## ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

### Planning

#### TOWN PLANNING

##### DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

##### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highways (East) (No.30) Order 2023" authorising the stopping up of 3 eastern part widths of the A134 Hythe Quay at Colchester in the City of Colchester. This is to enable development as permitted by Colchester City Council, under reference 211510.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dtf.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/NE/2047/5468). They may also be inspected during normal opening hours at Colchester City Council, Town Hall, Colchester, CO1 1FR.

Any person who wishes to challenge the validity of the decision to make the Order may apply to the High Court within 6 weeks from 24 October 2023.

S Zameerzadeh, Casework Manager

(4470287)

##### DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

##### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highways (North East) (No.28) Order 2023" authorising the stopping up of 6 areas of unnamed Highway adjoining the boundary of the Outer West Customer Service Centre, Library and Pool and an area of unnamed highway as lies off West Denton Way at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This is to enable development as permitted by Newcastle City Council, under reference 2022/0547/01/DET.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dtf.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/NE/2047/5410). They may also be inspected during normal opening hours at Newcastle City Library, 33 New Bridge Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8AX.

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S Zameerzadeh, Casework Manager

(4470289)

##### NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC

##### SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)

##### REGULATION 4, THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

##### (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE)

##### REGULATIONS 2009

##### NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A

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##### The Suffolk Onshore Scheme

#### ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by the Sea Link project.

- A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.7 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).

- A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & railings for walkways) near Saxmundham.

- A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a transition joint bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.

- A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness). The proposals in Suffolk have been developed for Sea Link as a standalone project, but also include opportunities to co-locate infrastructure for up to two further projects at the converter station, cable corridors and the landfall location.

##### The Offshore Scheme

- Approximately 130 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

##### The Kent Onshore Scheme

- A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.

- A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 2 km to a proposed new converter station (below).

- A 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & railings for walkways), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.

- Removal of approximately 1 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of approximately 2.25 km of new HVAC overhead line from the converter station and substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

The project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk and Kent, diversions of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement (such as hedgerow creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups). The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, storage, access, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way (PROWs).

The proposed development will include other required works, for example, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works.

The proposed application will seek authorisation for the compulsory acquisition of land and interests in and rights over land, overriding easements and other rights, the temporary use of land, and other ancillary powers.

The proposed project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the proposed project.

All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development, including the preliminary environmental information, will be available to download free of charge from 24 October 2023 until 18 December 2023 on [www.nationalgrid.com/sealink](http://www.nationalgrid.com/sealink) (via the document library page).

Reference copies of certain documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development will also be available to view free of charge from 24 October 2023 at the following locations in the vicinity of the project for the duration of the consultation (until 18 December 2023).

Location	Address	Opening times
Saxmundham Library	Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thur: Closed

#### ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Location	Address	Opening times	Location	Address	Opening times
Leiston Library	Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 19:30 Weds: Closed Thur: 09:30 – 17:30 Fri: 09:30 – 17:30 Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00	Thanet District Council	Thanet District Council, Gect Street, Margate, CT9 1AY	Mon: 08:45 – 17:00 Tues: 08:45 – 17:00 Weds: 08:45 – 17:00 Thur: 08:45 – 17:00 Fri: 08:45 – 17:00 Sat: Closed Sun: Closed
Aldeburgh Library	Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5EG	Mon: 09:00 – 13:00 Tues: 09:00 – 13:00 Wed: 09:00 – 18:00 Thur: 09:00 – 13:00 Fri: 09:00 – 13:00 Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 13:00	Thanet Gateway Plus, Margate, CT9 1RE	Thanet's Gateway Plus, Margate, CT9 1RE	Mon: 10:00-14:00 Tues: 10:00-14:00 Weds: 10:00-14:00 Thur: 10:00-14:00 Fri: 10:00-14:00 Sat: Closed Sun: Closed
Snapes Village Hall	5 Garrett Ct, Snapes, Saxmundham IP17 1RN	Mon: 07:00 – 19:00 Tues: 07:00 – 19:00 Weds: 07:00 – 19:00 Thur: 07:00 – 19:00 Fri: 07:00 – 19:00 Sat: 07:00 – 19:00 Sun: Closed	Materials will be available to view during the opening hours listed above, except in circumstances outside of NGET's control which prevent the locations specified from opening. Requests for paper copies of the documents, plans and maps will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid for by the recipient and up-to a maximum value of £300 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested by contacting the Project Team via the details at the bottom of this notice. <b>How to respond to the consultation</b> The consultation is running between 24 October 2023 and 11:59pm on 18 December 2023. Responses to the consultation can be submitted in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online via the Project's website (<a href="http://nationalgrid.com/sealink">nationalgrid.com/sealink</a>)</li> <li>• scanning a paper copy of the response form or submitting a free text letter or email</li> <li>• by post at Freeport SEA LINK</li> <li>• by email (<a href="mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com">contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com</a>)</li> </ul> A printed copy of the consultation feedback form can be requested by contacting the project team on the details below. National Grid must receive all responses by 11:59pm on 18 December (or 2 January for postal feedback) to ensure their consideration. Please note that responses are likely to be made public, but that contact/personal details will be redacted. When deciding on the final form of the proposed application for a development consent order for the proposed project, National Grid will take into account any response to this publicity or the consultation that is received before the specified deadline. National Grid may be required to make copies of representations available to the Secretary of State. However, National Grid will request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of this project and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties. If you have any questions about the project or the consultation, please get in touch. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com">contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com</a> <b>Telephone:</b> 0808 134 9569		
Friston Village Hall	Church Rd, Friston, Saxmundham IP17 1PU	Village hall open depending on events. Contact the village hall in advance via email at <a href="mailto:fristonvillagehall@btinternet.com">fristonvillagehall@btinternet.com</a> or at 01728 687914.			
Ash Library	11 Queen's Rd, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG	Mon: 11:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 15:00 Tuesday: 09:30 – 13:00 Weds: 09:30 – 14:00 Thur: Closed Fri: 11:30 – 17:00 Sat: 09:00 – 14:00 Sun: Closed			
Minster Library	4a Monkton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA	Mon: 13:00 – 17:00 Tues: 09:30 – 13:30 Weds: Closed Thur: 12:00 – 17:00 Fri: 10:00 – 16:00 Sat: 09:30 – 13:30 Sun: Closed			
Sandwich Library	13 Market St, Sandwich CT13 9DA	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:00 Weds: Closed Thur: 09:30 – 17:00 Fri: 09:30 – 17:00 Sat: 09:30 – 15:00 Sun: Closed			
Ramsgate Library	Guldford Lawn, Ramsgate CT11 8AY	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thur: 09:30 – 16:30 Fri: 09:30 – 17:30 Sat: 09:30 – 15:30 Sun: Closed			
Newington Library	Royal Harbour Academy, Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 9FA	Mon: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:30 Tues: 09:00 – 13:00 Weds: Closed Thur: 09:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:30 Fri: Closed Sat: 09:00 – 13:00 Sun: Closed			

### Property & land

#### PROPERTY DISCLAIMERS

##### NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER UNDER SECTION 1013 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

##### DISCLAIMER OF WHOLE OF THE PROPERTY

T S ref: BV223152541/YNYS

1. In this notice the following shall apply:

Company Name: **STETSON RESTAURANTS LIMITED**

Company Number: 11248322

Interest: leasehold

Title number: DN699100

Property: The Property situated at 13a The Quay, Brixham TQ5 8AW

being the land comprised in the above mentioned title

Treasury Solicitor: The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's

Treasury of PO Box 70165, London WC1A 9HG (DX 123420

Kingsway).

LONDON GAZETTE | CONTAINING ALL NOTICES PUBLISHED ONLINE ON 24 OCTOBER 2023 | 21419

21420 | CONTAINING ALL NOTICES PUBLISHED ONLINE ON 24 OCTOBER 2023 | LONDON GAZETTE

- Notice published: 26<sup>th</sup> October



# Fishing News- Public Notices - S48

## FISHING NEWS

26 October 2023 £3.50 **THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1913** fishingnews.co.uk

LINER CAUSES 'SHOCKING' SHETLAND CLASH

SEE PAGE 3

### 'Promising' results from Nephrops separator trial

– as NGO launches discards campaign

**THIS PICTURE FROM AN** upcoming FN feature on trials of two new trawls in the Farne Peeps Nephrops fishery – an innovative separator trawl and a coverless 'letterbox-style' trawl – was taken, by coincidence, the same week that NGO Open Sea wrote to UK retailers urging them to boycott scampi due to 'unacceptable' levels of bycatch in the fishery. The two trawls are being trialled by North Shields skipper Peter Clark onboard his Gerry Smyth-built catamaran Lily James SN 36, in a FISP-funded project that will continue into 2024. A separator grid ahead of the trawl's two codends has shown very promising initial results – so much so that Peter Clark is keen to keep it in operation after the end of trials. See page 3 for the full story on the Open Sea campaign



▲ Castlewood heading in to Peterhead last Wednesday, with severe weather warnings as Storm Babet approached. (Photo: Ryan Corbridge)



▲ By Thursday lunchtime, Fruitful Bough was among the last vessels to make for shelter, with 65 knot winds forecast off North East Scotland that afternoon.



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For a list of retailers : guycotten@btconnect.com

26 October 2023 FISHING NEWS | 1

PUBLIC NOTICES

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC, SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED)  
 REGULATION 4, THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS, PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009  
 NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR THE SEA LINK PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Galloway Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA intends to apply to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the Act) to authorise the construction of the Sea Link Project.

The Sea Link Project (proposed Project) involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, predominantly via offshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link. The proposed Project is split into three distinctive elements, as follows.

**The Suffolk Onshore Scheme**

- A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by the Sea Link Project.
- A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.7 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
- A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & railings for walkways) near Sæmundham.
- A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Sæmundham, and a transition joint bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
- A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

The proposals in Suffolk have been developed for Sea Link as a standalone project, but also include opportunities to co-locate infrastructure for up to two further projects at the converter station, cable corridors and the landfall location.

**The Offshore Scheme**

- Approximately 130 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

**The Kent Onshore Scheme**

- A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
- A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 2 km to a proposed new converter station (below).
- A 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & railings for walkways), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
- Removal of approximately 1 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of approximately 2.25 km of new HVAC overhead line from the converter station and substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

The project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk and Kent, diversions of third party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational

footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation, compensation and enhancement (such as hedgerow creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups). The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, storage, access, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way (PROWs).

The proposed development will include other required works, for example, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works.

The proposed application will seek authorisation for the compulsory acquisition of land and interests in and rights over land, overriding easements and other rights, the temporary use of land, and other ancillary powers.

The proposed project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the proposed project.

All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development, including the preliminary environmental information, will be available to download free of charge from 24 October 2023 until 18 December 2023 on [www.nationalgrid.com/sealink](http://www.nationalgrid.com/sealink) (via the document library page). Reference copies of certain documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development will also be available to view free of charge from 24 October 2023 at the following locations in the vicinity of the project for the duration of the consultation (until 18 December 2023).

Venue	Opening Hours (may be subject to change)
<b>Sæmundham Library</b> Black Street Farm Rd, Sæmundham IP17 1AL	Mon. Closed, Tue. 09:30 – 17:30, Wed. 09:30 – 17:30, Thur. Closed, Fri. 09:30 – 17:30, Sat. 10:00 – 13:00, Sun. 10:00 – 15:00
<b>Leiston Library</b> Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon. Closed, Tue. 09:30 – 19:30, Wed. Closed, Thur. 09:30 – 17:30, Fri. 09:30 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00, Sat. 09:30 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00, Sun. 10:00 – 15:00
<b>Aldeburgh Library</b> Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5EG	Mon. 09:00 – 13:00, Tue. 09:00 – 13:00, Wed. 09:00 – 18:00, Thur. 09:00 – 13:00, Fri. 09:00 – 13:00, Sat. 10:00 – 15:00, Sun. 10:00 – 13:00
<b>Sage Village Hall</b> 5 Garrett Ct, Sage, Sæmundham IP17 1BN	Mon. 07:00 – 19:00, Tue. 07:00 – 19:00, Wed. 07:00 – 19:00, Thur. 07:00 – 19:00, Fri. 07:00 – 19:00, Sat. 07:00 – 19:00, Sun. Closed
<b>Friston Village Hall</b> Church Rd, Friston, Sæmundham IP17 9JP	Village hall open depending on events. Contact the village hall in advance via email at <a href="mailto:fristonvillagehall@gmail.com">fristonvillagehall@gmail.com</a> or at 01728 687914.
<b>Ash Library</b> 11 Queens Rd, Ash, Canterbury CT26	Mon. 11:30 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 15:00, Tuesday 09:30 – 13:00, Wed. 09:30 – 14:00, Thur. Closed, Fri. 13:30 – 17:00, Sat. 09:00 – 14:00, Sun. Closed
<b>Minster Library</b> 44 Markton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA	Mon. 13:00 – 17:00, Tue. 09:30 – 13:30, Wed. Closed, Thur. 12:00 – 17:00, Fri. 10:00 – 16:00, Sat. 09:30 – 13:30, Sun. Closed

Requests for paper copies of the documents, plans and maps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply to be paid for by the recipient and up to a maximum value of £300 for the whole suite of consultation documents. These can be requested by contacting the Project Team via the details at the bottom of this notice.

**How to respond to the consultation**

The consultation is running between 24 October 2023 and 11:59pm on 18 December 2023.

Responses to the consultation can be submitted in the following ways:

- online via the Project's website ([nationalgrid.com/sealink](http://nationalgrid.com/sealink))
- scanning a paper copy of the response form or submitting a free text letter or email
- by post at Freepost SEA LINK
- by email ([contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com))

A printed copy of the consultation feedback form can be requested by contacting the project team on the details below.

National Grid must receive all responses by 11:59pm on 18 December (or 2 January for postal feedback) to ensure their consideration. Please note that responses are likely to be made public, but that contact/personal details will be redacted.

When deciding on the final form of the proposed application for a development consent order for the proposed project, National Grid will take into account any response to this publicity or the consultation that is received before the specified deadline.

National Grid may be required to make copies of representations available to the Secretary of State. However, National Grid will request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of this project and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

If you have any questions about the project or the consultation, please get in touch:

Email: [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com)  
Telephone: 0800 134 9569

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26 OCTOBER 2023 FISHING NEWS | 25

- Notice published: 24<sup>th</sup> October, page 25
- Circulation: 4,200

# East Anglian Daily Times - Advert

10 EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

**NEWS**

## Man sentenced for biting friend on the leg after argument

**A 21-year-old Suffolk man who bit a former friend on the leg during an argument has been given a suspended prison sentence.**

Sentence: Kevyn Sheldrick, 21, of Ipswich Crown Court, Judge Martin Levitt, described the three or four bite marks as unpleasant and said that hitting someone was the equivalent of using a weapon.

Sheldrick, who was homeless at the time of the incident, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm, two offences of criminal damage and breach of a suspended sentence order.

He was given a two-year prison sentence suspended for two years, a 90-day rehabilitation

**JANE HUNT**  
jane.hunt@norfolkpost.co.uk

as being "as drunk as a skunk".

Later the same evening Sheldrick went to a friend's house claiming he'd been robbed and asking to use his phone.

The friend and his partner didn't want him in their home because of his demeanor and Sheldrick had become violent and hit his friend on the leg several times.

The police were called and Sheldrick was arrested in Denmark Road, Lowestoft.

In a statement read to the court the victim of the assault said he'd had to have tetanus and hepatitis injections following the incident and had moved home.

Andrew Thompson, for Sheldrick, said his client had been in custody for eight months and had been a model prisoner. He said Sheldrick had a history of alcohol and class B drug abuse and was homeless at the time of the offences.

She had called the police and described him

**Golden moment for Ann and Michael**

**Suffolk couple, Ann and Michael, have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.**

Ann and Michael first met at Guineborough Ipswich Coop in 1969.

Michael was then working in butchery and Ann, who had started in shelf-filling, was in charge of the fruit and veg stand. The couple were married at Stuke New Church in 1973 and had two sons, Mark, now 46 and

Richard, now 43.

The couple have two grandchildren.

Ann said: "We had a wonderful surprise party given by our sons and planned and organised by Richard with help from my sisters and brother in law, Paul."

"It was amazing to have so many friends and family around and people we hadn't seen in such a long time."

The couple, who have lived in Glenford since

1992, recorded their special day with photographs outside the church where they were married and outside the Coop where they first met.

Congratulations Ann and Michael from all at the EADT.

**If you would like us to mark a special anniversary or event, email our editor, Liz Niles, on 01462 555555 or liz.niles@norfolkpost.co.uk with details and a picture**

Image: SUPPLIED

**@1pm**

**Weather Watch Suffolk**

**TODAY'S REGIONAL SUMMARY**

The morning will remain largely cloudy with spells of rain lingering around. Through the afternoon, rain will tend to clear away north-easterly, leaving some sunshine behind.

**SUNRISE/SUNSET**

Sunrise Time: 7:36am  
Sunset Time: 5:43pm

**5 DAY FORECAST**

	Max	Min
Tuesday	14	8
Wednesday	13	10
Thursday	14	10
Friday	14	10
Saturday	14	9

**TEMPERATURES (°C)**

10:00	12
13:00	13
16:00	14
19:00	12

**HIGH TIDES**

Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)
02:27	5.3m	15:24	5.2m
02:51	4.1m	16:01	4.2m
04:14	2.4m	18:01	2.5m
05:18	2.3m	19:04	2.4m

**COASTAL WATERS**

Southwesterly 4 to 6, veering westerly or NW 3 to 5 later.

**SEA STATE**

Slight or moderate becoming smooth or slight.

**TOMORROW**

Clear on Wednesday with early fog and variable cloud. Light southwesterly breeze with gentle gusts. Overnight rain going into early Thursday morning.

Tide times supplied by the UK Hydrographic Office

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023 EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES 11

## The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

# Have your say

October 2023

**National Grid Electricity Transmission would like to hear your views on our detailed plans for Sea Link, a proposed reinforcement to the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent.**

Our statutory consultation is running for eight weeks, between **Tuesday 24 October 2023 and Monday 18 December 2023**. During the consultation, there are several ways you can find out more about our proposals and speak to our project team, including:

**Webinars:** our proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals

Sign up to our webinars online, via email, or by calling us.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 25 October	6pm-7pm	Online
Tuesday 31 October	2pm-3pm	Online

**Public information exhibitions in Suffolk**

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 8 November	12:30pm-5:30pm	Old Generator Station, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY
Thursday 9 November	11am-4:30pm	Old Generator Station, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY
Friday 24 November	1pm-6pm	Market Hall, High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF
Saturday 25 November	11am-4pm	Market Hall, High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF

**Ask the experts in Suffolk**


Book a one-to-one appointment with the project team by calling or emailing us. Additional telephone or video call appointments are also available upon request. You must have an appointment to attend the in-person 'ask the experts' session.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 23 November	3pm-7:30pm	Friston Village Hall, Church Road, Friston, IP17 1PU

**For opening hours, please contact the venue directly or contact the team using the details below.**

To find out more, visit our website at [nationalgrid.com/sealink](http://nationalgrid.com/sealink) (or scan the QR code), email [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com), or call us on 0800 134 9569.

\*Requests for printed materials may be subject to a printing charge.



- Ad published: 24<sup>th</sup> October, page 11
- Circulation: 7,775



# Ipswich Star- Advert

6 IPSWICH STAR TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

## NEWS

### German restaurant

A new takeaway serving German delicacies has opened in a Suffolk coastal town.

German Street Food opened on October 11 at 49 Underhill Road in Felixstowe and serves up traditional German food such as schnitzel, bratwurst, and pretzels.

Kinderly McCannoch, owner of the business, is half-German and has lived in the UK for the last 14 years.

"The only thing I have missed in my career," she said.

The food served is made from family recipes, and one customer from Germany said the food was "not like any other takeaway".

"It's as homey as I can make it," said Kinderly. "We haven't had a single complaint yet."

Despite only opening earlier this month, the business has been much busier than expected and already has five-star reviews on Just Eat, which customers can use to order their takeaway.

Future plans for German Street Food include celebrating birthdays and events that are big in Germany such as Oktoberfest, Christmas and Easter.

For Christmas, Kinderly plans to decorate the building like a town Christmas market and serve a selection of Christmas specialties such as Lebkuchen, traditional German cookies.

German Street Food is open from 12pm-9pm on Tuesday through to Friday, and 10am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

### Suffolk hotspots

Lifestyle guide Muddy Stiletto has revealed its 2024 list of the best places to live and Suffolk has topped 10 spots.

The list features 260 of the best places to live across 28 counties in England, using their insider knowledge of the localities, towns and cities.

The guide also compares the best schools, best on categories such as early years and housing, and weekend escapes.

The ten best places to live in Suffolk are East Bergholt, Framlingham, Bury St Edmunds, Woodbridge, Southwold, Long Melford, Beccles, Kersey, Halesworth, and Lavenham.

Muddy Stiletto describes Suffolk as "a county that is at its best".

The organisation added: "Look no further than this Eastern idyll that is home to everything from charming medieval market towns and characterful villages to miles of stunning coastline and pretty open countryside."

Bury St Edmunds is described as "the jewel in the crown of Suffolk" with its streets lined with town houses and a lively local scene.

The full list of all the best places to live in England can be found on the Muddy Stiletto website.

### 'Heroic' care home

Staff from a care home in Ipswich are being called heroic after battling waist-high water and high winds to reach stranded residents.

Barking Hall was cut off as flood waters rose as Storm Dora hit the county.

Manager Rebecca Watkins and other members of her team waded through waist-high water to reach the care home to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents.

Reverend James, a local emergency response organisation, arrived to rescue stranded staff and bring in additional cars who could not reach the home.

Ms Watkins said: "The team at Barking Hall has been amazing."

Many have worked a 16-hour shift to ensure our residents' safety. I am honestly so proud of the team and their commitment to their residents."

Staff at Fenwick Lodge, in Woodbridge, are also being praised for their "exceptional compassion" after a driver delivering emergency medication was left stranded after his van submerged in flood water.

Staff at the care home offered him refuge, dry clothes, and a bed for the night.

### Arrests and drugs seized in Suffolk county lines crackdown

Police engaged with more than 2,000 people as part of a national week of action which saw arrests and the seizing of drugs in a bid to tackle county lines dealing.

During County Lines Identification Week, which took place from October 9 to 15, a number of warrants and police interventions took place with 31 arrests being made.

County lines is a term used to describe the involvement of organised criminal networks and street gangs in moving illegal drugs.

In total 66 kg of crack, 159 kg of cocaine, 1kg of heroin, 1kg of cannabis, 1 kg of ketamine, £40,000 in cash, and phones believed to be involved in the dealing and supplying of drugs were seized. Several weapons were recovered, those included knives, batons, and suspected imitation firearms.

Following the week, detective chief inspector Matt Bradner said: "The results demonstrate that Suffolk Constabulary and its partners continue to disrupt those involved in county lines."

"I recognise that we cannot arrest ourselves out of county lines criminality, as the work carried out to visit those that live or work in our communities who are vulnerable to being exploited is a more considered approach."

Other work completed by Suffolk police included visiting schools to help children and young people spot the signs of exploitation and explain the different support available. In total police engaged with around 1,600 pupils at schools across the county.

Tim Passmore, joint police crime commissioner for Suffolk, said: "The threat from hardened criminals involved in this wicked crime cannot be overestimated which is why this vital policing work must continue."

"No stone will be left unturned to bring these drug barons to justice."

Other initiatives that took place during the week included stops at HMP Highpoint, weapons sweeps, and the use of drug testing at Newmarket Racecourse.

7 IPSWICH STAR TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

## NEWS

### Game shop marks two years' trading

A game and 'geek central' shop in Ipswich that has become a safe space in the town centre is marking two years of success.

Geek Retreat Ipswich first opened its doors on October 23, 2021, and has received great acclaim for its inclusivity and community feel.

The Upper Brook Street shop has run hundreds of events for all ages over the past two years, including Fekken, Crochet and Magic of the Gathering.

Owner Sharon Lockhart said: "This space has become more than we could have ever dreamed."

"Our community have become family and friends. We want to say thank you to our customers."

"This is their birthday celebration as much as it is ours."

Also over the past two years, the shop has held many events for charities in the area, including weekly meetups for adults and groups supporting Young Epilepsy and Autism Anglia.

Scarlett, shop manager, said: "We are so proud of the fundraising we have done and helped support."

"We know times are tough for many and we have helped raise funds for Ukraine, Ravensberger, featuring Disney characters. Despite the success of the shop, there have been some moments of challenge for the site located on Upper Brook Street."

The shop has had to deal with anti-social behaviour, damage and shoplifting.

### The Great Grid Upgrade

#### Sea Link

## Have your say

National Grid Electricity Transmission would like to hear your views on our detailed plans for Sea Link, a proposed reinforcement to the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent.

Our statutory consultation is running for eight weeks, between **Tuesday 24 October 2023 and Monday 16 December 2023**. During the consultation, there are several ways you can find out more about our proposals and speak to our project team, including:

**Public information exhibitions in Suffolk**

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 8 November	10.30am-5.00pm	Old Governor Station, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BY
Thursday 9 November	11am-4.00pm	Old Governor Station, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BY
Friday 10 November	1pm-6pm	Market Hall, High Street, Saffron Walden, IP17 1AP
Saturday 11 November	11am-4pm	Market Hall, High Street, Saffron Walden, IP17 1AP

**Webinars: our proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals**

Sign up to our webinars online, via email, or by calling us.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 25 October	6pm-7pm	Online
Tuesday 31 October	3pm-5pm	Online

**Ask the experts in Suffolk**

Book a one-to-one appointment with the project team by calling or emailing us. Additional telephone or video call appointments are also available upon request. You must have an appointment to attend the in-person 'ask the experts' event.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 23 November	1pm-7.00pm	Market Village Hall, Orford Road, Orford, IP19 1PU

**For opening hours, please contact the venue directly or contact the team using the details below.**

To find out more, visit our website at [nationalgrid.com/sea-link](https://nationalgrid.com/sea-link) or scan the QR code, email [contact@sea-link.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sea-link.nationalgrid.com) or call us on **0800 134 9569**.

\*Requests for printed materials may be subject to a printing charge.

- Ad published: 24<sup>th</sup> October, page 7
- Circulation: 3,145

# Eastern Daily Press - Advert

6

EASTERN DAILY PRESS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

NEWS

## Shock as company behind Norwich walk-in centre collapses

DAVID HANNANT  
david.hannant@edpnews.co.uk

Thousands of people could be left struggling for healthcare after the company behind the city's busiest GP surgery announced it is going bust.

One Norwich Practice, which runs the Rouen Road NHS walk-in centre, has confirmed it will be closing in "the coming months" due to financial trouble.

It has left NHS bosses scrambling to find alternative provision for the services it provides - which also includes the valuable adult services and the GP surgery in Rouen House, which has more than 10,000 registered patients.

The decision places uncertainty over how the thousands of people who rely on the company will be treated across healthcare should alternative provision not be found.

Tracey Binkley, trust, chief executive of NHS Norfolk and Wymsey, said: "We are naturally disappointed that this decision has had to be made.

"Our priority now is to minimise the level of disruption to patient services and ensure that patients are able to receive the care they need.

"We have been and will continue to work closely with colleagues across the Norwich primary care network and GPs to ensure the continuity of services and transfer over as many staff as possible to the new provider or providers once these are identified.

"We will not be making any statutory redundancies until we know the outcome of the service transfer plans."

It is hoped new providers will be found to replace the services offered by ONP - which also offer healthcare across for archery seekers and run an asthma service in schools.

But concerns over it would have disastrous effects.

Lucy Galvin, Green city councillor, said: "This shocking news is highly concerning.

"It's potentially a disaster for healthcare in the city as there will be a huge knock-on effect on all other local provision - many services will struggle to fill in the gaps, as well as A&E at the hospital.

Alex Stewart, Healthwatch Norfolk Image Healthwatch

Most inevitably, patients at staff at all the One Norwich services deserve clarity as to what this announcement means for them now and their access to vital healthcare, and for staff, their jobs."

Concern about the organisation's financial situation was expressed earlier this year when a study into the walk-in centre conducted by Healthwatch found it was running at a loss.

Alex Stewart, chief executive of Healthwatch Norfolk and Wymsey, said: "We are very concerned about the circumstances that led to this announcement."

"Just 12 months ago, One Norwich was forecasting a growth in turnover and income and an ambition to develop new services."

"A lot appears to have changed in that time."

"Communication is key in the weeks ahead and we would urge GPs and NHS Norfolk and Wymsey to work closely with colleagues across the Norwich primary care network and GPs to ensure the continuity of services and transfer over as many staff as possible to the new provider or providers once these are identified."

It is hoped new providers will be found to replace the services offered by ONP - which also offer healthcare across for archery seekers and run an asthma service in schools.

But concerns over it would have disastrous effects.

Lucy Galvin, Green city councillor, said: "This shocking news is highly concerning.

"It's potentially a disaster for healthcare in the city as there will be a huge knock-on effect on all other local provision - many services will struggle to fill in the gaps, as well as A&E at the hospital.

7

EASTERN DAILY PRESS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

NEWS

## Academy at 'School of Rock'

DAVID HANNANT  
david.hannant@edpnews.co.uk

An oversubscribed academy has been accused of trying to be a 'School of Rock' after it emerged it had been prioritising musically gifted applicants.

Officials have ruled Hethersett Academy over an admission policy which means pupils with musical talent are more likely to get into the school.

The Inspiration Trust school is among the most oversubscribed in Norfolk which has won it at the centre of a row over admissions.

It also has its own musical scholarship, which is available to 25 pupils each year, for which applicants have to take part in X Factor-style auditions.

After changes to its admissions policy this year sparked government officials to investigate, it is now facing accusations of trying to be Norfolk's own 'School of Rock'.

The investigation was sparked after the academy adopted Easton Primary School as a named feeder school this year.

The move led to fears that pupils from another of its feeder schools - Mulbarton Primary - would miss out on places in the outstanding-rated school.

Then, after almost 40 Mulbarton pupils missed out on their chosen secondary schools, the case was referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

Fears were expressed at the time that Easton pupils would be given an unfair advantage over Mulbarton - despite it having other schools closer.

Officials investigating the school found insufficient evidence to back this claim - but did express concerns about the musical scholarship.

It found that when the school is oversubscribed, children with musical abilities are being given higher priority than both feeder schools involved in the row.

This, the officials say, falls foul of admission rules and will have to be changed.

An Inspiration Trust spokeswoman said: "A full audit of the Hethersett Academy admission policy has been carried out.

"As a result, some of the wording and processes of our musical scholarship scheme will be amended for the 2024 admissions process."

The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Have your say

October 2023

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**Public information exhibitions in Suffolk**

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 8 November	12:00pm-5:00pm	Old Generator Station, Adebrough, IP15 5AR
Thursday 9 November	11am-4:30pm	Old Generator Station, Adebrough, IP15 5AR
Friday 10 November	1pm-6pm	Market Hall, High Street, Sarnumsham, IP17 5AF
Saturday 11 November	11am-4pm	Market Hall, High Street, Sarnumsham, IP17 5AF

**Webinars: our proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals**

Sign up to our webinars online, via email, or by calling us.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 23 October	4pm-7pm	Online
Thursday 24 October	2pm-5pm	Online

**Ask the experts in Suffolk**

Book a one-to-one appointment with the project team by calling or emailing us. Additional telephone or video call appointments are also available upon request. You must have an appointment to attend the in-person 'ask the experts' session.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 23 November	2pm-7:30pm	Freem Village Hall, Church Road, Freem, IP15 1PU

For opening hours, please contact the venue directly or contact the team using the details below.

To find out more, and our website at [nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink) or scan the QR code, email [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com) or call us on 0800 134 9500.

\*Requests for printed materials may be subject to a printing charge.

- Ad published: 24<sup>th</sup> October, page 7
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# Kent & Sussex Courier - Advert

6 COURIER FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

**News**

**Appeal after serious crash**

POLICE are appealing for information regarding a serious collision near Haslem.

At 5.20pm on Sunday, a white Yamaha 125 motorcycle and a second motorcycle were travelling along Carpenters Lane towards Haslem, when the Yamaha was involved in a collision with a silver Daihatsu car.

The bike rider and passenger suffered serious injuries. Both were taken to a London hospital - a 19-year-old boy is in a critical condition and a 35-year-old boy is in a serious but stable condition. The second motorcycle did not stop and the rider, an 18-year-old man, has since been arrested.

Anyone who saw what happened, or has relevant dashcam or CCTV footage, should call 0622 790534, or email scu.kent@police.uk, quoting reference SMJLMVIE/23.

**Girlguiding activity centre put up for sale**

**SADNESS AS POPULAR SITE GOES ON THE MARKET FOR £4 MILLION**

**Blackland Farm training and activity centre**

A sprawling activity centre which has provided fun, life lessons and treasured memories for thousands of children in the Girlguiding and scouting movements for decades has gone up for sale.

Girlguiding UK confirmed its controversial decision to sell all of its activity centres last month - including Blackland Farm, near East Grinstead.

The land, which includes fields, woodlands and streams, has now gone on the market with Souths, with a guide price of £4 million.

The brochure states prospective buyers have "the opportunity to acquire a significant 123-acre estate located in the unspoiled Sussex countryside, with a wide range of accommodation across the site offering a range of potential alternative uses, subject to obtaining the necessary planning permission".

The sale includes the site's 34 campsites, with toilet and shower blocks, which can accommodate 3,000 people. It also includes three well-equipped holiday houses, heated indoor swimming pool,

activity areas which include an abseil tower, abseil wall, indoor and outdoor archery, bouldering wall, bungee trampoline, tunnels, high ropes and zip wire, plus an array of support and storage buildings.

There is also a substantial private four-bedroom house with two-acre garden, and another private three-bedroom cottage on the site.

The sale of Blackland Farm, and the other sites being disposed of, has caused an outcry and tens of thousands of people have signed petitions calling for them to be saved.

Girlguiding UK says it cannot afford the investment the centres need, which resulted in its board of trustees recommending they be sold to May.

The news that the site, off Grinstead Lane, was on the market has sparked more sadness and more questions about if it could be saved.

Reacting on Facebook, Hana Watkins said: "As a local Girlguiding leader I was there on Sunday with

27 of our five to seven-year-old handovers for a full day's activities. "It's an amazing place - the staff are awesome. I'm truly gutted it's come to this. It's such a happy place with Guiding, DofE, schools, baby swim lessons, lake clubs."

Others said they were "heartbroken" and commented on the "terrible loss" to the young people of the area and beyond.

Girlguiding UK says there has been "historic underinvestment in the activity centres due to financial pressures and they have been running at a loss for some years".

"The centre would need significant funding of over £20 million in the coming years to be fit for future use and regrettably we cannot afford this level of investment."

"Furthermore, the activity centres have been used by less than 10% of our membership each year for the past decade."

It said funds from the sale of the activity centres will be put into a designated investment fund to support Girlguiding activities.

**Coming soon to Bluewater**

**flyin' tiger Copenhagen**

**Pizza**

**Shop worker struck with bottle**

**SUSPECTED shop thief** recently beat a supermarket security guard around the head with a glass bottle.

Kent Police have issued a CCTV image of someone they would like to speak to in relation to the assault in Tonbridge.

It happened on Thursday, September 28, at Sainsbury's in the Angel Centre.

It is reported that at around 11pm the victim challenged a man inside the store following suspicion he was trying to steal several bottles of spirits.

The suspect is alleged to have

used one of the bottles as a weapon and repeatedly beat the victim around the head, before he fled the scene. The victim was taken to hospital with laceration injuries.

DC Jo Smith of West Kent CSD said: "The violence used against the victim was appalling; he was struck with such force that the bottle shattered."

Anyone with information should call 01222 640404, quoting reference 66/17 652/23. You can also contact CrimeWatchers, anonymously, on 0800 555311, or by using the form on our website.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023 COURIER 7

**News**

**Row over council plan to close down recycling sites**

**By HOW OXBURGH**

A ROW has erupted over Wealden District Council plans to close its community recycling points.

The issue arose after the council's Conservative group issued a statement calling for a reversal of plans to close the sites, where residents can drop off glass, cardboard and some other forms of household waste for recycling.

The council has confirmed it is moving forward with plans to decommission these sites both as a way to tackle issues of fly-tipping and to save money, as the sort of waste collected can already be put out on the kerbside.

In the statement, leader Alan Newton added to the criticism saying the council's Green/Lib Dem administration should be "reconciling" its recycling as much as possible.

However, a council spokesman said the plans to close the sites began in 2020 - a time when Conservatives controlled the council.

The Conservative group have disputed this, saying the previous administration had never signed off on such a policy. Former cabinet members acknowledged that several sites have closed in recent years, but said these closures were on a "case-by-case" basis, typically where fly-tipping was present.

"They say the council can and should prevent further closures."

In handing notes, officers told councillors that the decision to close the sites had been made by the council's head of service in July 2019, shortly after the authority moved its waste contract to HGA.

Others said they were "heartbroken" and commented on the "terrible loss" to the young people of the area and beyond.

Girlguiding UK says there has been "historic underinvestment in the activity centres due to financial pressures and they have been running at a loss for some years".

"The centre would need significant funding of over £20 million in the coming years to be fit for future use and regrettably we cannot afford this level of investment."

"Furthermore, the activity centres have been used by less than 10% of our membership each year for the past decade."

It said funds from the sale of the activity centres will be put into a designated investment fund to support Girlguiding activities.

**£1,000 meat stolen during 3 burglaries**

**AROUND £1,000 worth of meat** was stolen during burglaries in Five Ashes and Mayfield.

Police have made an appeal following the three separate incidents, which took place in the early hours over one weekend, September 1 to 3.

Two quadrants, a mini-motorcycle and electrical tools were also stolen from an area near the A262.

Police have confirmed that these items were stolen from three properties near the busy A-road. An appeal for witnesses has now been launched to find those responsible.

A spokesman for Sussex Police said: "Police would like to speak to anyone who saw any suspicious behaviour in the area around this time, or who may have captured any relevant CCTV, doorbell or dash cam footage."

"Anyone with any information is asked to report it to police online or via 999 quoting 47230072362." No arrests have yet been made.

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

**Sea Link**

**Have your say**

October 2023

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Our statutory consultation is running for eight weeks, between **Tuesday 24 October 2023 and Monday 18 December 2023**. During the consultation, there are several ways you can find out from about our proposals and speak to our project team, including:

**Public information exhibitions in Kent**

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 15 November	2:00pm - 7:00pm	Clifford Village Hall, 161 Leeds Lane, Cliffe, CT12 5AJ
Thursday 16 November	12pm - 5:00pm	Messing Village Hall, 11 High Street, Messing, CT12 4BJ
Friday 17 November	10am - 3pm	Guldball, Castle Market, Sandwich, CT13 9AN
Wednesday 29 November	2pm - 5pm	Clifford Village Hall, 161 Leeds Lane, Cliffe, CT12 5AJ
Saturday 2 December	11am - 3pm	Royal Harbour Academy, Marine Way, Newington, CT12 6JA

**Webinars:** our proposals in Kent and marine proposals

Sign up to our webinars online, via email, or by calling us.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 26 October	6pm - 7pm	Online
Wednesday 1 November	2pm - 3pm	Online

**Ask the experts in Kent**

Book a one-to-one appointment with the project team by calling or emailing us. Additional telephone or video call appointments are also available upon request. You must have an appointment to attend the in-person 'ask the experts' session.

Date	Time	Location
Friday 1 December	2pm - 6pm	Radford House, 18-20 Bingham Street, Ramsgate, CT11 1BJ

**For opening hours, please contact the venue directly or contact the team using the details below.**

**to find out more, visit our website at [nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink) (or scan the QR code), email [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com), or call us on 0800 534 5696.**

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- Circulation: 4,276



- Ad published: 25<sup>th</sup> October, page 4
- Readership: 2,854





# Isle of Thanet News - Digital

The screenshot shows the website [theisleofthanetnews.com](http://theisleofthanetnews.com) in a web browser. The page layout includes a header with navigation links, a sidebar with advertisements, and a main content area with several news articles.

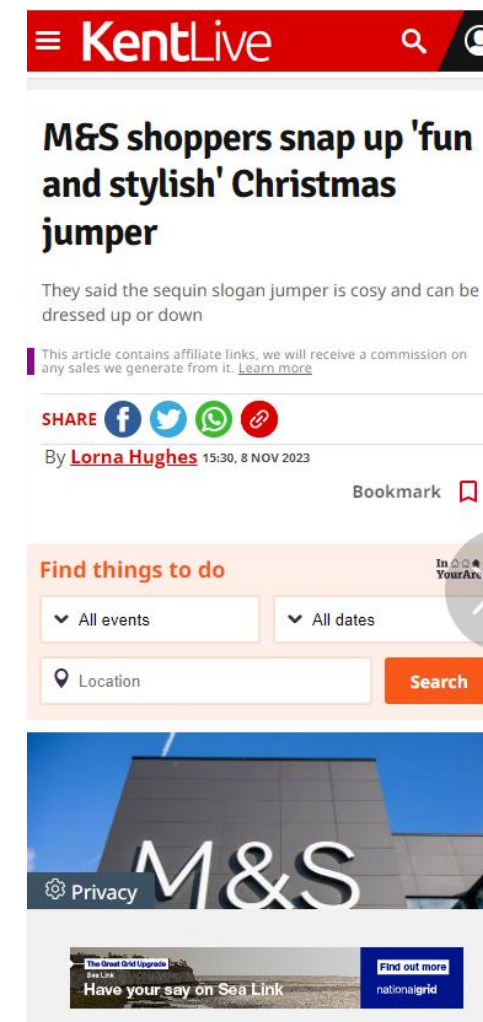
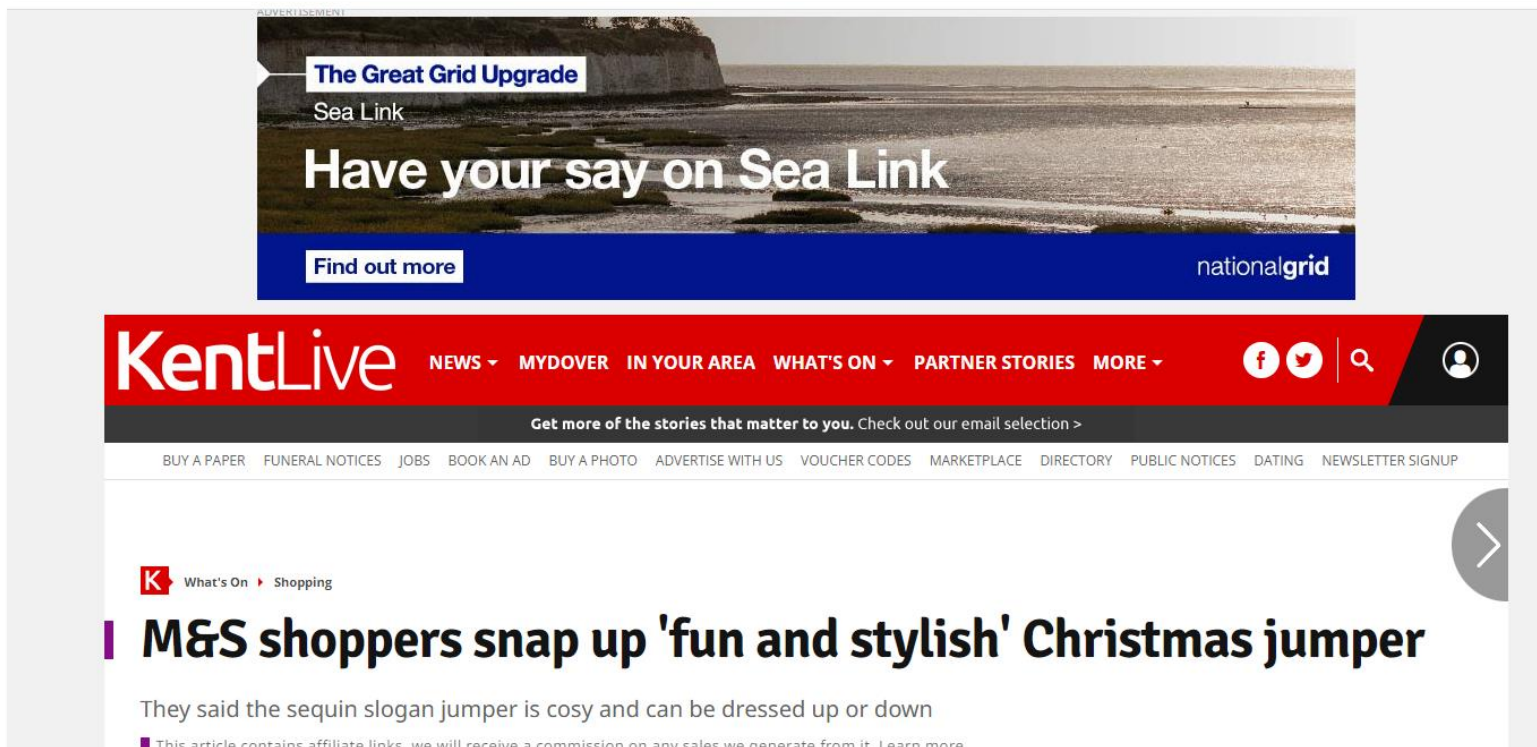
**Advertisements:**

- Hawley HEALTH CENTRE** on your doorstep. Services include: Osteopathy, Acupuncture, Physiotherapy, Spiritual Healing, ADHD Assessment, EMDR Therapy, Ear wax removal, Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapy, Reflexology, CBT Therapy, Counselling, Massage, Podiatry, Reiki. Address: 7-9 Hawley Square (entrance on pines street) Margate, Kent, CT9 1PF. Phone: 01843 292056.
- 6TH FORM** advertisement for Ursuline College Sixth Form.

**News Articles:**

- Beautiful images of 'Northern Lights' over Thanet**  
Fabulous photos of the aurora borealis – Northern Lights – over have been taken by Thanet photographer Rebecca Douglas at [...]
- Ellington children dig in for planting and gardening workshop**  
Children and teachers from Ellington Infant School joined Love Living Homes at its Pegwell Bay View development in Cliffsend for [...]
- Community news: Rotary and Inner Wheel; Heritage Trust; Town Shed; Broadstairs referendum; camera club and Breast Cancer Awareness**  
Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington and Westgate & Birchington Inner Wheel Members of Westgate & Birchington Rotary and Inner [...]
- Day Care & Activities – Medication Support – Dementia Friendly**  
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email: [support@avelocare.co.uk](mailto:support@avelocare.co.uk)
- The Great Grid Upgrade**  
Sea Link  
**Have your say on Sea Link**  
Find out more [nationalgrid](#)
- EVENTS**  
**Matthew Munson: Goodbye Halloween, hello Christmas**  
Halloween is over. Long live Christmas. The first of November has come and
- Pitchside: Club history as the mighty Rams FA cup run continues to 2nd round**  
By pitchside reporter Andy Mason Ramsgate 2
- Refunds to be made as devastated organisers unable to reschedule Quex fireworks event**  
The new organisers of the Quex Park fireworks event

# Kentlivenews.co.uk



# EADT, EDP & Ipswich Star

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Much-loved Suffolk pub to undergo refurbishment following application grant

TOP STORIES

Much-loved Suffolk pub to undergo refurbishment




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**Thanet** **Kent's EXTRA** [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#)

### Yacht rescued after crew member injured

Lifeboat volunteers have saved a yacht which had begun to take on water after one of its crew members had suffered an injury.





1





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Remembrance day in Kent – Heartbroken hairdresser Kent's long-lost 90s Lord of CCTV images released after

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## **8. SoCC Published on Website**





# Sea Link

## Document library

On this page you can find all of the materials we have produced for our current statutory consultation, along with an archive of information from our non-statutory consultation in 2022.

### Statutory consultation documents (October 2023)

#### Statutory consultation plans and drawings (October 2023)

#### Statutory consultation preliminary environmental information report (October 2023)

#### Non-statutory consultation documents (October 2022)

### Statutory consultation documents (October 2023)

- > Project overview document
- > Project overview document - 10 minute read
- > Community newsletter
- > Consultation banners
- > Consultation banners - audio version
- > Feedback form
- > Preliminary environmental information report - non-technical summary
- > Converter station design - background to potential architectural approaches
- > Option selection and design evolution report
- > Strategic options report
- > Non-statutory consultation report
- > Statement of community consultation
- > Section 47 notice
- > Section 48 notice

## Contact us

Please get in touch if you have any questions or comments about Sea Link by emailing [contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com) or calling us on 0808 134 9569.

You can also write to us at Freepost SEA LINK, please note no stamp or further address details are required.

[Contact us](#)





National Grid plc  
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Warwick Technology Park,  
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CV34 6DA United Kingdom

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