



**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Sea Link

**Volume 9: Examination Submissions**

Document 9.11.1 Additional visualisation request from the AONB

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020026

Version: A  
September 2025

**nationalgrid**

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# 1. Additional visualisation request from the AONB

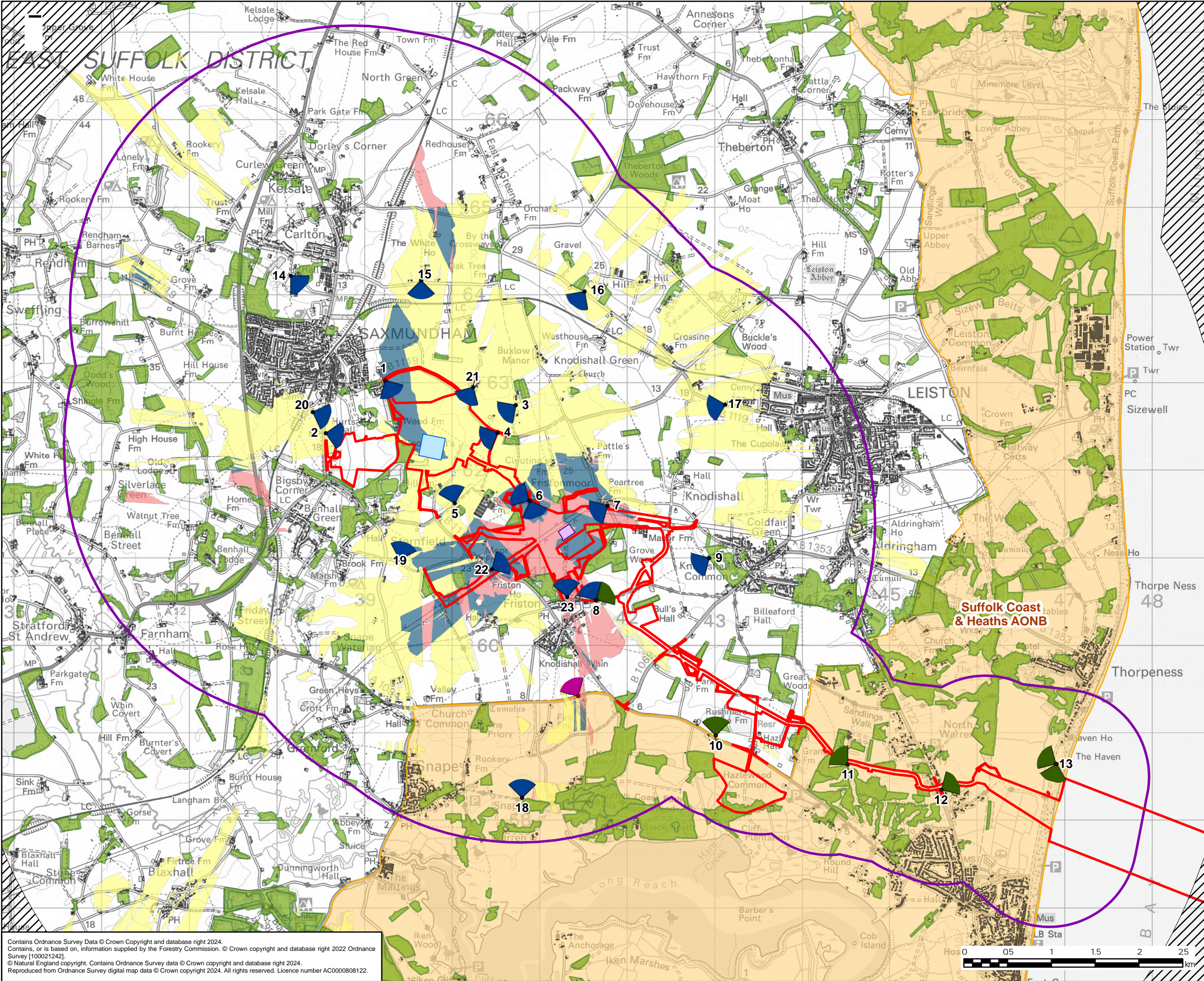
## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Examining Authority (ExA) issued a section 89 letter dated 8th July 2025 [PD-005] which requested an additional photomontage visualisation from a suitable location in Suffolk. This location was requested to be within or very close to the northern boundary of the AONB where the Friston Substation (Friston Scenario 2) and Saxmundham Converter Station would both be visible (but not the Fromus bridge).
- 1.1.2 Several locations were visited by the Applicant's landscape architect specialists during a site visit on 11th August 2025 to further review potential intervisibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, specifically the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (Friston Scenario 2). This included the A1094 and the surrounding public rights of way network. The clearest view towards the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (Friston Scenario 2) was determined to be from a layby on the A1094 on the edge of the AONB and to the south of the settlement of Friston.
- 1.1.3 A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan with the additional visualisation location has also been provided. This shows a new combination of layers not shown in the Environmental Statement submission to show specifically the theoretical visibility of the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station, the Friston Substation (Friston Scenario 2) and their combined theoretical visibility. This excludes the Fromus Bridge from the total theoretical visibility. This demonstrates the highly limited combined theoretical visibility within or near to the northern boundary of the AONB.
- 1.1.4 As shown by the ZTV, there are pockets of theoretical visibility (shown in blue) from the public rights of way network to the south of the settlement of Friston (also within the AONB) and on the approach to Friston along Aldeburgh Road (B1121) (outwith the AONB). Site appraisal revealed that from these locations, views towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are heavily screened by intervening built form on the edge of Friston and mature vegetation which assists in forming a physical and perceptual edge to the AONB.
- 1.1.5 There is a short section along public bridleway E-260/003/A with the potential for recreational users to experience a view to the upper extent of the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (Friston Scenario 2). This is where a break in the mature vegetation along the northern edge of the bridleway and the landform of the adjacent reservoir does not entirely screen views. However, this would be for a very short section of the bridleway in which the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (Friston Scenario 2) would be barely perceptible in the view due to the intervening vegetation present in the fore and mid-ground, peripheral landform of the reservoir and the layered vegetation network in the background. The selected location from the layby on the A1094 therefore, provides the least obstructed location along the northern boundary of the AONB.



- 1.1.6 As requested in the ExA letter, the winter photography will be captured and submitted to the ExA ahead of the 1st December 2025 deadline. This package will include the summer and winter baseline photography, year 1 winter and year 15 summer to be consistent with the visualisation packages issued for the representative viewpoints within the Environmental Statement submission.





**Legend**

- Order Limits
- Landscape and Visual Study Area
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Proposed Project Friston Substation - 18m Height
- Converter Station - 26m Height
- No 5m Digital Terrain Model Coverage
- Existing Building - 7.5m Height
- National Forest Inventory - Woodland - 10m Height
- Additional Visualisation Request from the AONB (ExA Letter 8th July 25)

**Representative Viewpoint (Environmental Statement)**

- Type 1
- Type 1 and Type 3

**Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- Converter Station only
- Proposed Project Friston Substation only
- Converter Station & Proposed Project Friston Substation

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been generated using Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 Digital Terrain Model which does not take into account the screening effects of vegetation, buildings or other structures. Existing Buildings have been incorporated into the Digital Terrain Model from OS OpenMap Local with an assumed height of 7.5m. Woodland from National Forest Inventory has also been incorporated into the Digital Terrain Model with an assumed height of 10m. The ZTV is based about a set of Fishnet points produced at 20m intervals, as well as 20m interval points around the edges of the Converter Station and Friston Substation footprints, at a height of 26m (above a platform of 3.5m AOD) for the Converter Station, and 18m for Friston Substation, with an observer eye height of 1.6m. All heights mentioned above are above ground level (AGL) unless otherwise specified. 1 - See Part 2, Chapter 1, Landscape and Visual for further information.

|     |            |  |     |     |     |
|-----|------------|--|-----|-----|-----|
| 0   | 28/08/2025 | EXAMINING AUTHORITY REQUEST (5TH AUGUST) | EB  | DF  | CW  |
| Rev | Date       | Description                              | GIS | Chk | App |

Scheme: SEA LINK

Document Title: REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS (INCLUDING ADDITIONAL AONB VIEWPOINT) AND SCREENED ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY - CONVERTER STATION & PROPOSED PROJECT FRISTON SUBSTATION

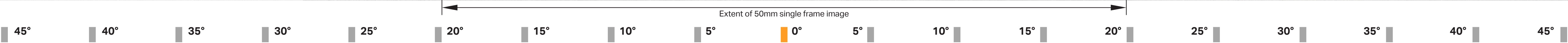
|                      |                  |             |                  |              |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Creator: EB          | Date: 28/08/2025 | Checker: DF | Date: 28/08/2025 | Approver: CW | Date: 28/08/2025 |
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BASELINE (SUMMER)



**AECOM**  
Delivering a better world

Visualisation Type: 3  
Projection: Cylindrical  
Enlargement Factor: 96%  
Paper Size: A1  
Date / Time: 26/08/2025, 14:06

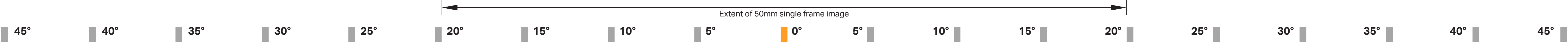
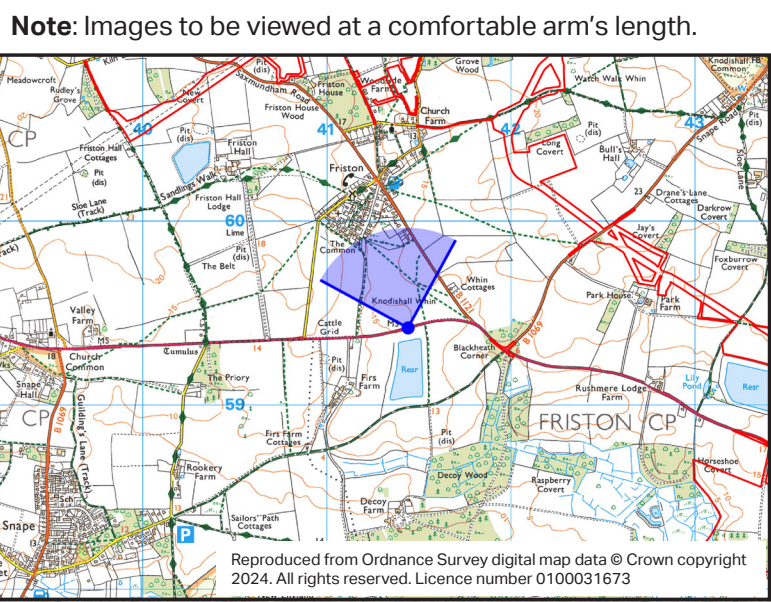
Camera: Canon EOS 5D MkIV  
Lens: Sigma 50mm f/1.4 DG HSM  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Direction of View: North  
Location: E641446 N259419

Eye level: 16.4m  
Height of Camera: 1.6m

**Sea Link Suffolk Onshore Scheme**  
**Additional Viewpoint**

Application Document 9.11.1 Additional visualisation request from the AONB (sheet 1 of 3)



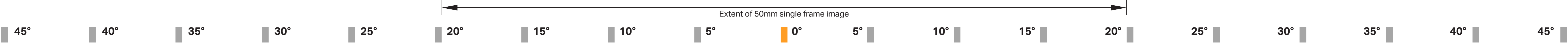


|   |                     |                   |                           |                         |                   |       |  |   |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|--|---|
| <b>AECOM</b><br>Delivering a better world | Visualisation Type: | 3                 | Camera:                   | Canon EOS 5D MkIV       | Eye level:        | 16.4m | <b>Note:</b><br>The block photomontage shows the maximum parameters for the Proposed Development. The block photomontage assumes under Friston Scenario 1 that Friston Substation has been constructed under the SPR consent, so is not shown in the photomontage. | <b>Sea Link Suffolk Onshore Scheme<br/>Additional Viewpoint</b> |
|   | Projection:         | Cylindrical       | Lens:                     | Sigma 50mm f/1.4 DG HSM | Height of Camera: | 1.6m  |  |   |
|   | Enlargement Factor: | 96%               | Horizontal Field of View: | 90°                     |                   |       |  |   |
|   | Paper Size:         | A1                | Direction of View:        | North                   |                   |       |  |   |
|   | Date / Time:        | 26/08/2025, 14:06 | Location:                 | E641446 N259419         |                   |       |  |   |





OPERATION WITH FRISTON SCENARIO 2 (SUMMER YEAR 15)



|   |                     |                   |                           |                         |                   |       |   |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|---|
| <b>AECOM</b><br>Delivering a better world   | Visualisation Type: | 3                 | Camera:                   | Canon EOS 5D MkIV       | Eye level:        | 16.4m | <b>Note:</b><br>The block photomontage shows the maximum parameters for the Proposed Development. The block photomontage assumes under Friston Scenario 2 the construction of the NGET Friston Substation and two new pylons, and the removal of one pylon. |
|   | Projection:         | Cylindrical       | Lens:                     | Sigma 50mm f/1.4 DG HSM | Height of Camera: | 1.6m  |   |
|   | Enlargement Factor: | 96%               | Horizontal Field of View: | 90°                     |                   |       |   |
|   | Paper Size:         | A1                | Direction of View:        | North                   |                   |       |   |
|   | Date / Time:        | 26/08/2025, 14:06 | Location:                 | E641446 N259419         |                   |       |   |
| <b>Sea Link Suffolk Onshore Scheme</b>  |                     |                   |                           |                         |                   |       |   |
| <b>Additional Viewpoint</b>   |                     |                   |                           |                         |                   |       |   |
| Application Document 9.11.1 Additional visualisation request from the AONB (sheet 3 of 3) |                     |                   |                           |                         |                   |       |   |



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