

Your recent Novmber Community Update for Sealink.

To the Sealink Team,

### Formal Complaint

Your recent so-called update has not included your hugely complicated required alterations to Benhall Bridge to upgrade the weight bearing capability from 46 tons to 360 tonnes. There is no mention either of the proposed highly destructive 26 metre converter station above Saxmundham. No mention at all of the proposed Haul Road.

Your suggestion that energy bills will be lowered is fanciful as there is no evidence to back this claim up.

I dispute your claim that you need to come onshore somewhere as we are aware that Scottish Power are using a convertor station off shore built by Iberdrola which is converting electricity from AC to DC.

We living near Saxmundham deserve transparency and real facts not propaganda. You should send out a fresh truthful update not greenwash.

As you can see I am copying this letter to the Planning Inspectorate.

Sincerely

Sarah Courage

**From:** sarah courage <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 24 November 2025 15:38

**To:** South East Anglia Link <[SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Misleading November Update

Dear S E Anglia Link Team

Yes please I confirm that I would like the attached document submitted into the examination.

Sincerely

Sarah Courage

**The Great Grid Upgrade**  
Sea Link

# Community update

November 2025

**National Grid is upgrading the electricity transmission network between Kent and Suffolk via Sea Link, a new underground cable link which is primarily offshore.**

Earlier this year, we submitted an application for a development consent order (DCO) to build Sea Link. The application is very detailed, so in this update we are providing a clear summary of what our proposals do (and do not) include.

<b>88%</b> of the Sea Link cables would be offshore with cables coming onshore underground.	<b>No new pylons</b> would be built in Suffolk as part of Sea Link.	<b>No digging on Aldeburgh beach</b> or North Warren RSPB reserve would be required to build Sea Link.	<b>100%</b> of the cable is underground in Suffolk.
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- expected to lower energy bills**
- boosting energy security**
- supplying power to 2 million homes**

Cross-section of underground cable

#### 2 How would Aldeburgh Beach be affected by Sea Link?

Sea Link would not impact Aldeburgh beach or RSPB North Warden. Cable would be installed approximately 20 metres (equivalent in height to around four and a half double decker buses) beneath the beach and the reserve using trenchless technology. No disturbance would occur to the beach or the reserve, which would both remain open for public use during construction and operation.

You can watch a video about how we use trenchless technology to install cables beneath environmentally sensitive sites and the coast by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera.



#### 3 Why can't Sea Link connect somewhere else, like Bradwell?

We need to reinforce the network in the Sizewell area, due to the amount of new generation that will be connected here.

Bradwell in Essex is too far south from where Sea Link must connect. Connecting Sea Link at Bradwell would mean building more new infrastructure between Bradwell and the Sizewell area.

#### 4 How is National Grid coordinating with other developers in Suffolk?

We meet with Sizewell C, Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) and National Grid Ventures every month to discuss coordination between our projects.

Our proposed converter station site is shared with LionLink, allowing the landscaping and design to be cohesive and reducing the construction impact of building on two separate sites.

We will build Kin Lane substation near Friston under SPR's DCO at the same time as they build their two substations. This will reduce overall construction time and disruption. If LionLink receives consent before late 2026, that project could connect into Kin Lane in the same set of works.

With Sizewell C, we are exploring the possibility of sharing their Park and Ride and accommodation facilities to reduce local impacts.

#### 5 Why can't you build Sea Link offshore?

Sea Link is almost entirely offshore, but to connect to the electricity transmission network we still need to come onshore somewhere. Whilst that involves building some new infrastructure onshore in Suffolk, we are proposing to bury as much of this as possible beneath the ground.

There is no such thing as a fully offshore grid. In Europe, as in Britain, some new onshore infrastructure like cables and pylons are still needed to bring power ashore. This is needed even when infrastructure like onshore islands exist, or are being proposed, out at sea. No matter how far out to sea you go, electricity still needs to reach homes and businesses on land.

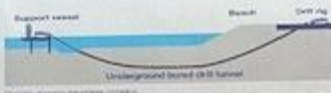


Diagram showing the cable route.

#### What's happening now?

The detailed Examination of our application began on 5 November 2025, and will run until 5 May 2026. This process is being run by the Planning Inspectorate.

During the Examination, there will be hearings where those who have registered in advance can attend and give their views about our application. The first round of hearings in Suffolk took place between 5 and 6 November 2025, with further hearings to be held in early 2026.

For more information, please visit the Planning Inspectorate's website by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or search online for 'Sea Link Planning Inspectorate'.



Example of subsea cable drum

#### Contact us

You can find out more about our proposals by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or visiting [nationalgrid.com/sealink](https://nationalgrid.com/sealink)



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**nationalgrid**