

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.

88%

of the Sea Link cables would be offshore with cables coming onshore underground.

No new pylons

would be built in Suffolk as part of Sea Link.

No digging on Aldeburgh beach

or North Warren RSPB reserve would be required to build Sea Link.

100%

of the cable is underground in Suffolk.



expected to lower energy bills



boosting energy security



supplying power to 2 million homes



Cross-section of underground cable

1 How would Aldeburgh Beach be affected by Sea Link?

Sea Link would not impact Aldeburgh beach or RSPB North Warren. 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:

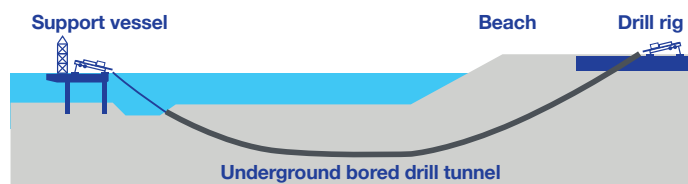


Diagram showing trenchless crossing

2 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.

3 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 Kiln 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 2028, that project could connect into Kiln 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.

4 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 energy 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.

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



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