

Community newsletter

October 2023



National Grid Electricity Transmission is holding a statutory public consultation on its proposals for Sea Link, a new, primarily offshore, electricity network reinforcement between Suffolk and Kent.

Sea Link forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade, which will help us transition to more secure, cheaper and cleaner forms of energy, and meet the UK's net zero targets.

By reinforcing the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, we are facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, nuclear power, and interconnectors with other countries. This will allow more energy from renewable and low-carbon sources to be carried on the network to homes and businesses across the country.

What is Sea Link?

Sea Link is a new 2 gigawatt (GW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) link between Suffolk and Kent. It will be approximately 145 km long and primarily offshore, with onshore infrastructure in Suffolk and Kent.

The Suffolk onshore scheme

- a connection from the existing transmission network via the proposed Friston substation, including the National Grid part of the substation itself if required
- 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
- a 2 GW HVDC converter station up to 26 metres high plus external equipment 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 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 high voltage direct current (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 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
- a 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 26 metres high plus external equipment near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent
- removal of up to 1 km of existing high voltage alternating current (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.

Exploring opportunities for coordination in Suffolk

Alongside our proposals for Sea Link, there are two other projects being proposed in the Suffolk area - these are National Grid Ventures' LionLink and Nautilus projects.

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 site, along the cable corridors and at the landfall location. More information on co-location will be available in our Project overview document.

Statutory consultation

All feedback we receive as part of this consultation will be carefully considered as we finalise our proposals and prepare our application for development consent.

This consultation builds on the non-statutory consultation held in 2022, which outlined options we were considering. Since then, further engineering and environmental studies have helped us to refine and develop our proposals for Sea Link.

This statutory public consultation will give you the opportunity to see how the design of our proposals has progressed and have your say on our refined proposals. The consultation is open for eight-weeks, between **Tuesday 24 October 2023** and **Monday 18 December 2023**. All responses to the consultation must be received before 23:59 on the closing date. Postal responses will be accepted until 23:59 on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

All feedback received will be summarised and responded to in the Consultation report, which will form part of our application for development consent.

Have your say

Our consultation is running from **24 October 2023** until **18 December 2023**. You can take part in the consultation in the following ways:

- **attend a public information exhibition** – come along to our public information events in the local area to find out more about our proposals, speak to the project team and view and take away some consultation materials
- **book an in-person, video or telephone appointment to an 'ask the experts' session** – book an individual appointment with our project team online, over the phone or by email
- **visit our website - nationalgrid.com/sealink** where you will find detailed maps, information about our proposals and our online feedback form

- **attend a webinar** – join one of our online webinars by signing up on our project website
- **complete a feedback form** – complete and return a feedback form to us. You can do this online on our website, in person at our public information events, or by sending a paper copy feedback form back to us using our freepost address Freepost SEA LINK (no stamp or further address details are required). Please get in touch to request a paper copy of the feedback form.

The deadline for feedback is 23:59 on **Monday 18 December 2023**. Postal responses will be accepted until 23:59 on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Public information exhibitions

Suffolk

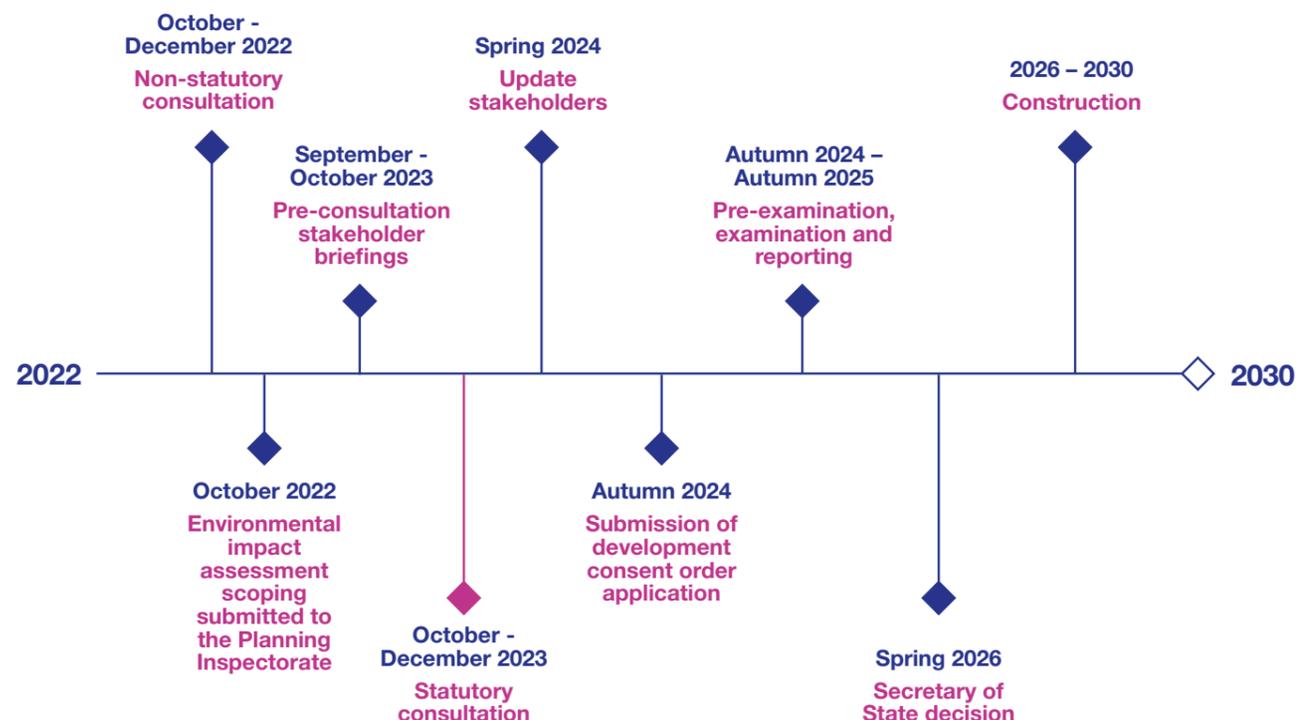
Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 8 November	12:30pm–5:30pm	Old Generator Station, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY
Thursday 9 November	11am–4:30pm	Old Generator Station, King's Field, Aldeburgh, IP15 5HY
Friday 24 November	1pm–6pm	Market Hall, High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF
Saturday 25 November	11am–4pm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

Kent

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

Webinars

Date	Time	Topic
Wednesday 25 October	6pm–7pm	Our proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals
Thursday 26 October	6pm–7pm	Our proposals in Kent and marine proposals
Tuesday 31 October	2pm–3pm	Our proposals in Suffolk and marine proposals
Wednesday 1 November	2pm–3pm	Our proposals in Kent and marine proposals



‘Ask the experts’ sessions

You can book an in-person appointment with the team during the times and dates below by visiting our website, or by telephoning or emailing us. You must have an appointment to attend the in-person ‘ask the experts’ sessions. Additional telephone and video call appointments are also available throughout the consultation period - please call or email us to book an appointment.

	Date	Time	Location
Suffolk	Thursday 23 November	3pm–7:30pm	Friston Village Hall, Church Road, Friston, IP17 1PU
Kent	Friday 1 December	2pm–6pm	Radford House, 18-20 Effingham St, Ramsgate CT11 9AT

Deposit points

Information about Sea Link is available to view and collect from the following locations from 24 October 2023:

Suffolk

Saxmundham Library, Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL

Leiston Library, Main St, Leiston, IP16 4ER

Aldeburgh Library, Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh, IP15 5EG

Snape Village Hall, 5 Garrett Cl, Snape, IP17 1RN

Friston Village Hall, Church Rd, Friston, IP17 1PU

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

Kent

Ash Library, 11 Queen's Rd, Ash, CT3 2BG

Minster Library, 4a Monkton Rd, Minster, CT12 4EA

Sandwich Library, 13 Market St, Sandwich, CT13 9DA

Ramsgate Library, Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate, CT11 9AY

Newington Library, Royal Harbour Academy, Stirling Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6FA

Thanet District Council, Cecil St, Margate, CT9 1AY

Margate Library, Cecil St, Margate, CT9 1RE

Consultation materials

The back page of this newsletter includes three maps that provide an overview of our proposals. Detailed maps, along with the full range of consultation documents, are available to view and download on our project website from 24 October 2023.

Paper copies of most of our consultation materials are also available from the deposit points listed above, and you can request paper copies of the consultation materials by contacting us using the details below. Requests for printed materials may be subject to a printing charge.



Contact us

Email:

Phone: **0808 134 9569** (open Monday to Friday 9am-5:30pm)

Website:

If you are a landowner and want to talk to our lands team, please email: sealink@dalcourmaclaren.com

Overview of our proposals in Suffolk, Kent and offshore

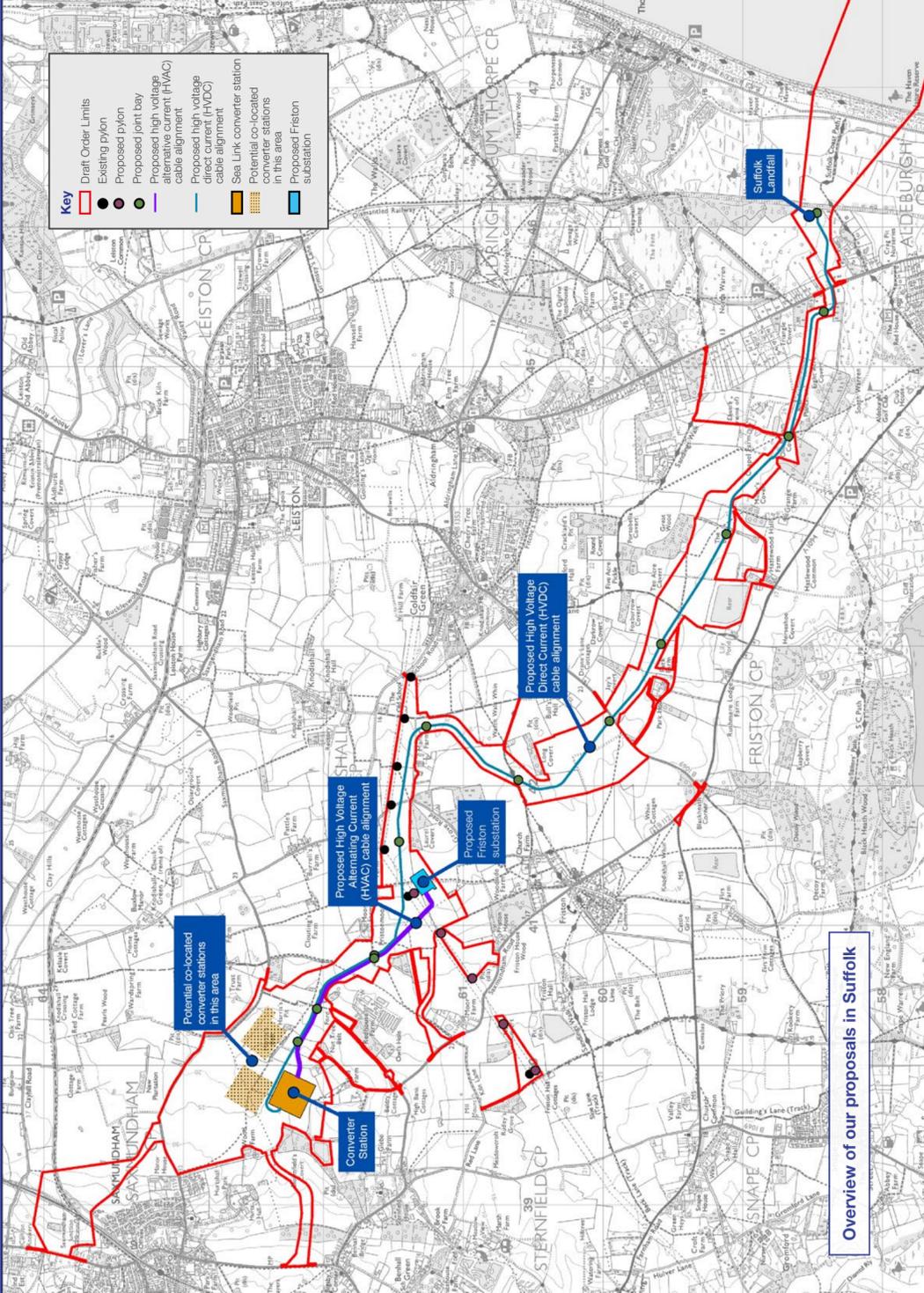


Key

- Draft Order Limits

Key

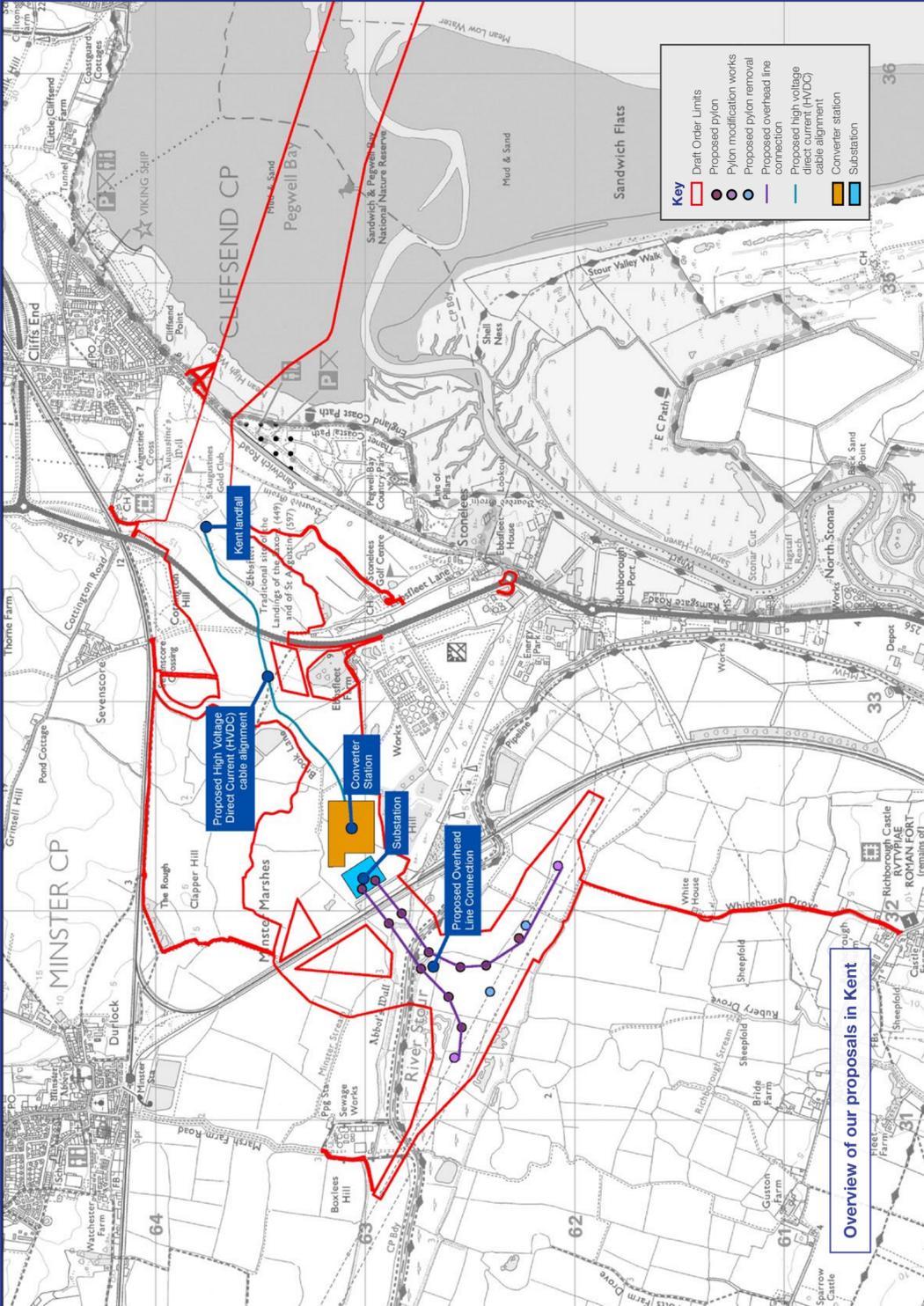
- Draft Order Limits
- Existing pylon
- Proposed joint bay
- Proposed high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cable alignment
- Proposed high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable alignment
- Sea Link converter station
- Potential co-located converter stations in this area
- Proposed Friston Substation



Overview of our proposals in Suffolk

Key

- Draft Order Limits
- Proposed pylon
- Pylon modification works
- Proposed pylon removal
- Proposed overhead line connection
- Proposed high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable alignment
- Converter station
- Substation



Overview of our proposals in Kent