The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Feedback form

October 2023

Overview

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is proposing to upgrade the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent via a new, primarily offshore, 2 gigawatt (GW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) link.

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.

Your feedback

We are seeking your views on our detailed proposals and our work to date as part of our statutory consultation. As part of this consultation, we are seeking views about:

- the proposed Friston substation
- proposed offshore route of the 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.

Your feedback is important in helping us to develop our proposals before we submit an application for development consent. All feedback received will be recorded and reported in our final Consultation report, including how we have had regard to your comments. Please note that it is not our policy to provide individual responses to consultation feedback, and our responses will be captured in the Consultation report.

Please submit your response to this consultation by 11:59pm on **18 December 2023**. Postal responses will be accepted until 11:59pm on 2 January 2024.

You can provide feedback by completing this feedback form, or by completing the form online at **nationalgrid.com/sealink**. You can also email your comments to us at **contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com**.

To return this feedback form by post, free of charge, please write **Freepost SEA LINK** on an envelope (no stamp or further address details are required).

You are welcome to answer all or only some of the questions in this feedback form, depending on the issues that are most important to you. We encourage you to be as detailed and specific as possible in your response, as this will help us to interpret feedback.

We have published a set of consultation documents that will provide you with information on Sea Link.

These include:

- Community newsletter
- Project overview document
- Options selection and design evolution report
- Preliminary environmental information report.

These documents, along with others, are available on our website, **nationalgrid.com/sealink**, to help inform your feedback. If you wish to receive paper copies of these documents, or need them in another format, please get in touch by freephone on **0808 134 9569** or by email at **contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com**. Requests for printed materials may be subject to a printing charge If you are unable, for any reason, to provide feedback online, via email or by post, please get in touch with us using the contact details above and we will do our best to assist you.

About you

Your contact details

We will only use these details in accordance with our Data Privacy Statement, as set out later in this form, including to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section.

Title: _____

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Organisation/group (if responding on behalf of an organisation):

_____

Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

☐ **Please tick here if you would like us to keep you updated about our proposals**

How would you describe your interest in Sea Link?

- ☐ Local resident
- ☐ Local representative (e.g. parish councillor)
- ☐ Potentially affected landowner or occupier – please insert your landowner reference number if known _____
- ☐ Local business owner or supplier/contractor
- ☐ Regular visitor
- ☐ Local interest group member (please specify in the text box below)
- ☐ Statutory organisation (please specify in the text box below)
- ☐ Other (please specify in the text box below)

Principle of development

As part of Sea Link, we are proposing a new 2 gigawatt high voltage direct current link between Suffolk and Kent, along with the associated infrastructure needed to support this connection. This is an essential project as the network between Suffolk and Kent needs reinforcing so it can securely transmit renewable and low-carbon energy from where it is generated to homes and businesses.

1. Do you support the principle of reinforcing the network in this location?

Please select one option

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Do you have any comments to make about the principle of reinforcing the network between Suffolk and Kent?

Changes since our last consultation

Since our last consultation, we have made a number of refinements to our proposals. More information on what has changed and why can be found in Chapter 9 of the Project overview document. A more detailed account can also be found in our Options selection and design evaluation report.

2. What do you think about how our proposals have evolved? Do you think this is an improvement on what we presented previously?

Please select one option

- ☐ I think the changes are positive
- ☐ I think the changes are broadly positive but still need some refinement
- ☐ I think the changes are neither positive nor negative
- ☐ I think the changes are negative

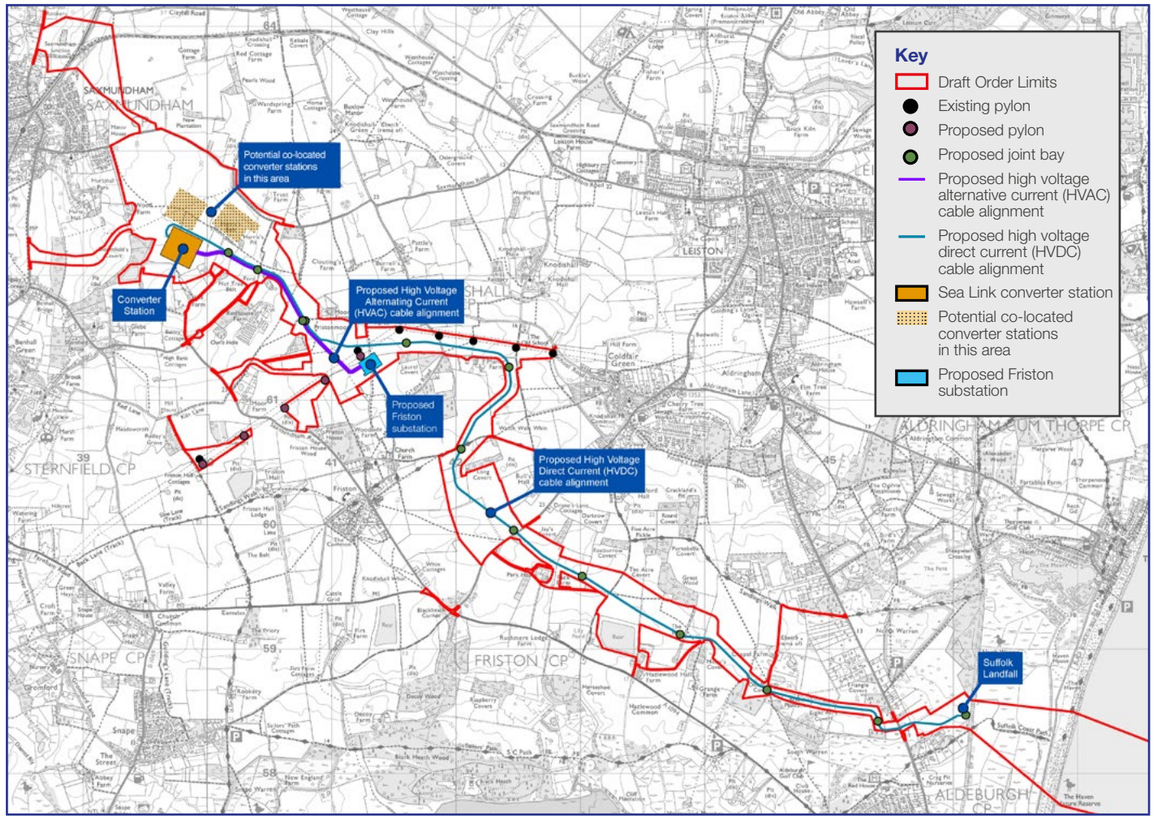
Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Our plans in Suffolk

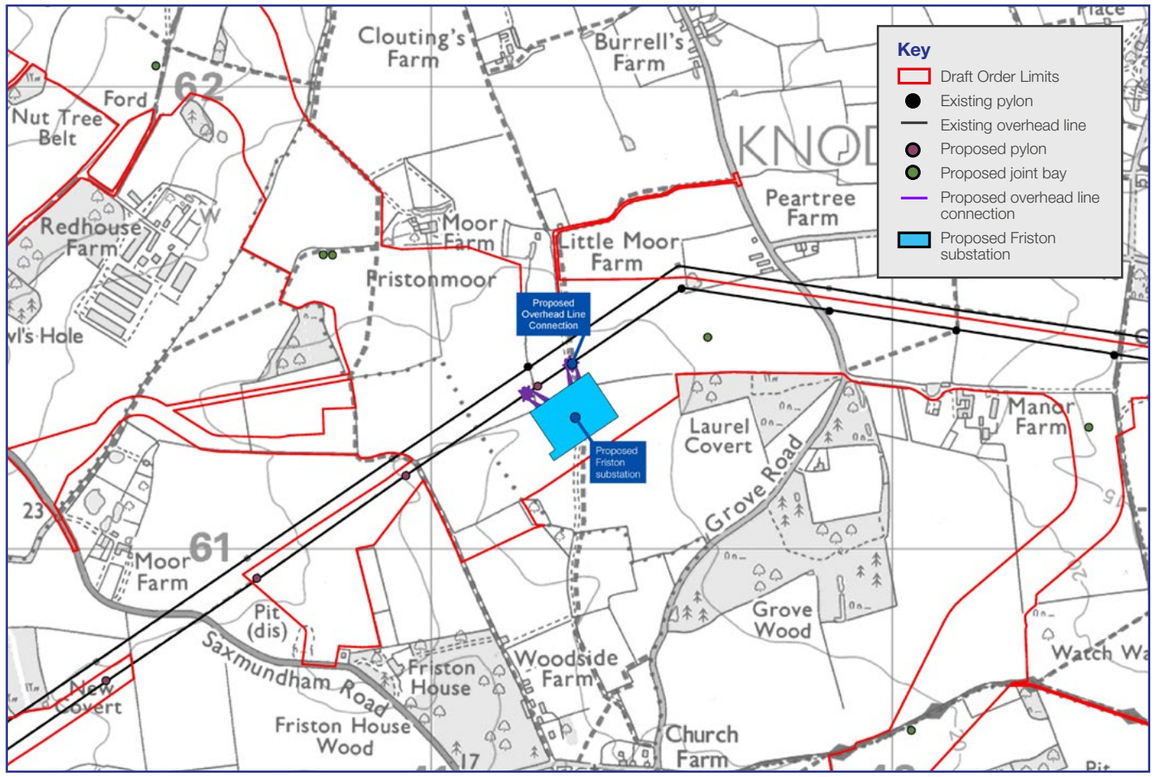
Our proposals in Suffolk are summarised below and outlined in detail in Chapter 11 of the Project overview document. They include:

- a connection from the existing transmission network via the proposed Friston substation, including 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
- a 2 gigawatt 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 where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology
- a landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

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 other projects at the converter station location, along the cable corridors and at the landfall location.



Proposed Friston substation

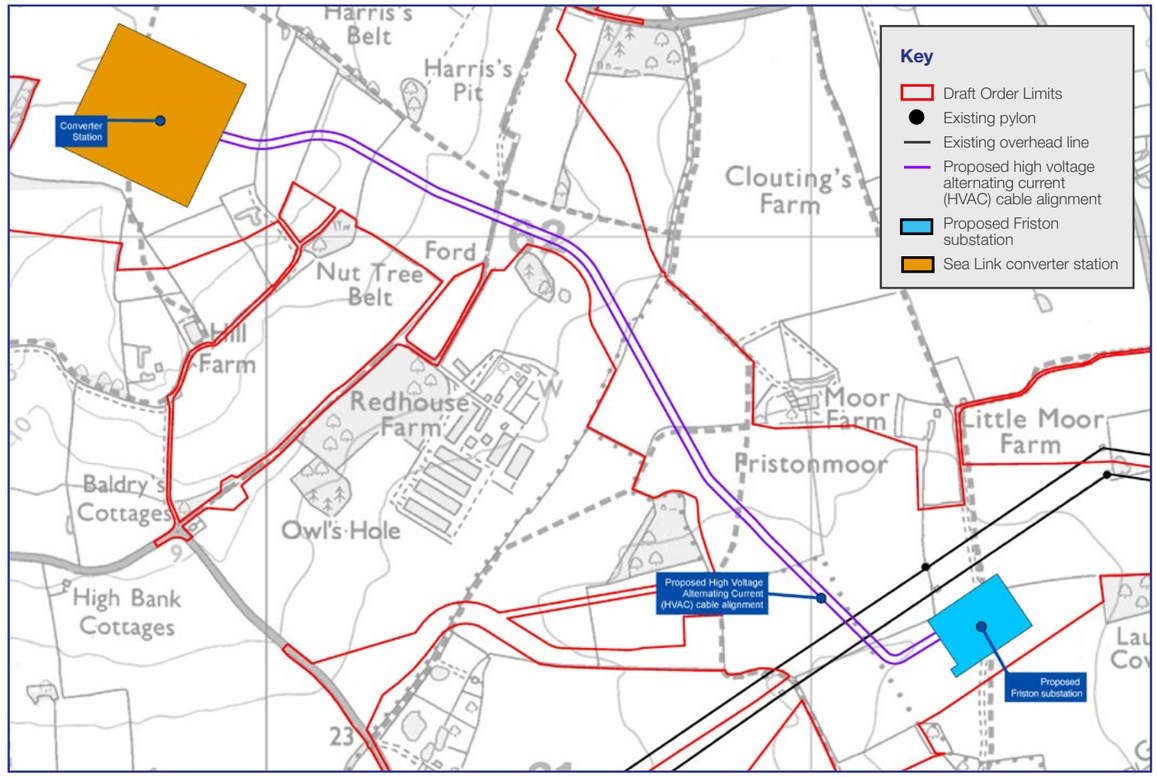


3. What do you think about our proposal to connect into the existing network via the proposed Friston substation?

- ☐ I think this is the best location for connecting into the existing network
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I do not think this is the best location for connecting into the existing network

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

High voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables

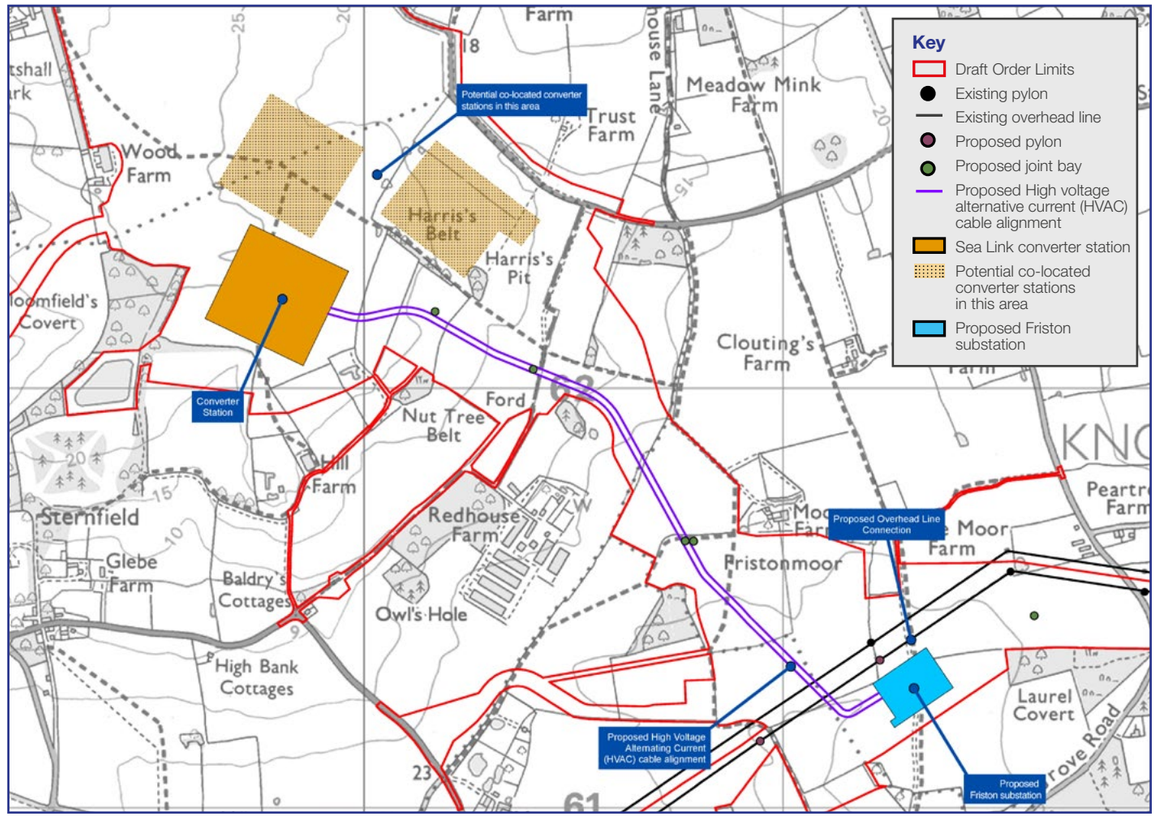


4. What do you think about our proposed HVAC cable route in Suffolk?

- ☐ I think this is the best cable route
- ☐ I agree with some elements of the proposed cable route, but disagree with others
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I disagree with the proposed cable route

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Converter station in Suffolk



5. What do you think about our proposed converter station, including its proposed location?

Please note that the location of the converter station within the wider site would also affect the route of the high voltage alternating current cable connecting into it.

- ☐ I think the converter station is in the right location
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I do not think the converter station is in the right location

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

6. We have identified several design approaches for the proposed converter station. Which approach(es) would you like to see explored at later design stages?

Please select all that apply

☐ **Enhanced elevations**

☐ **Colour**

☐ **Green roof**

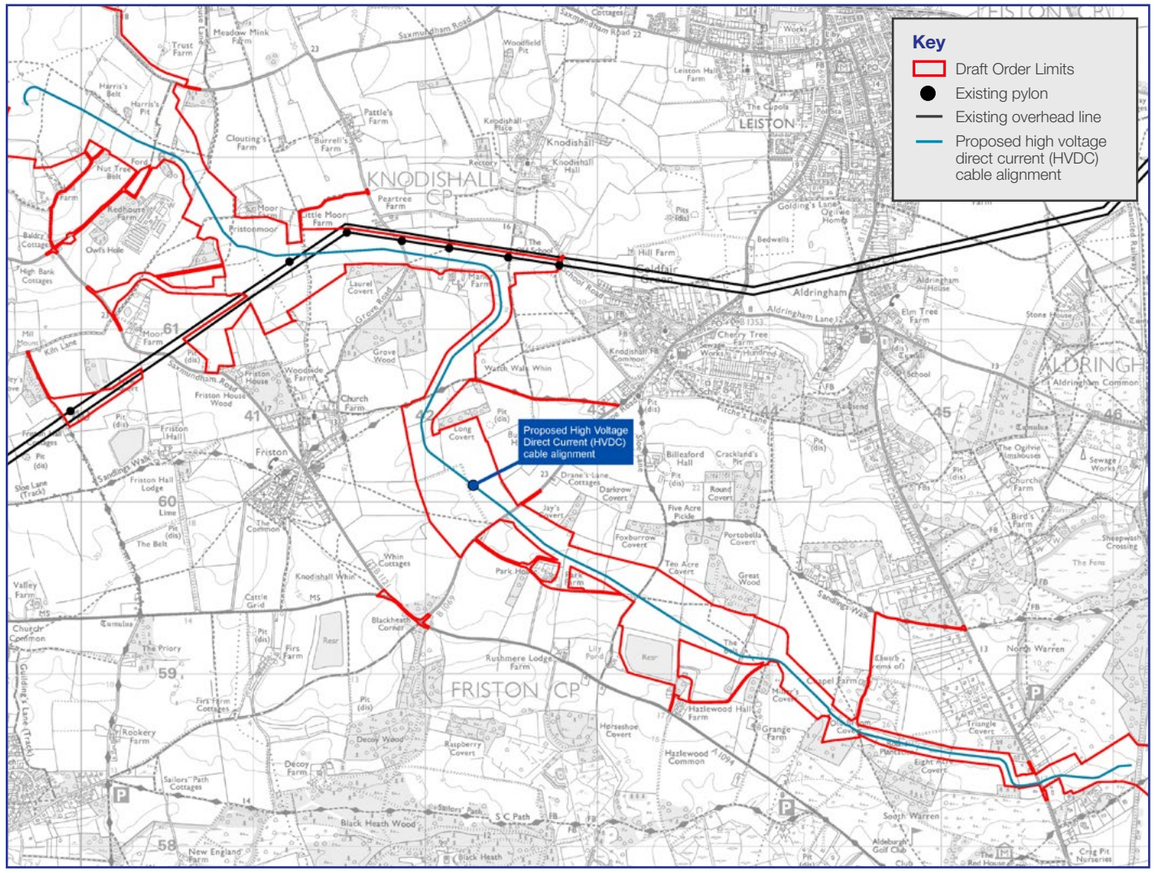
☐ **Agricultural barns**

☐ **Colour and curve**

☐ **Kinetic**

Tell us more about why you selected the above option(s) and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

High voltage direct current (HVDC) cable corridor

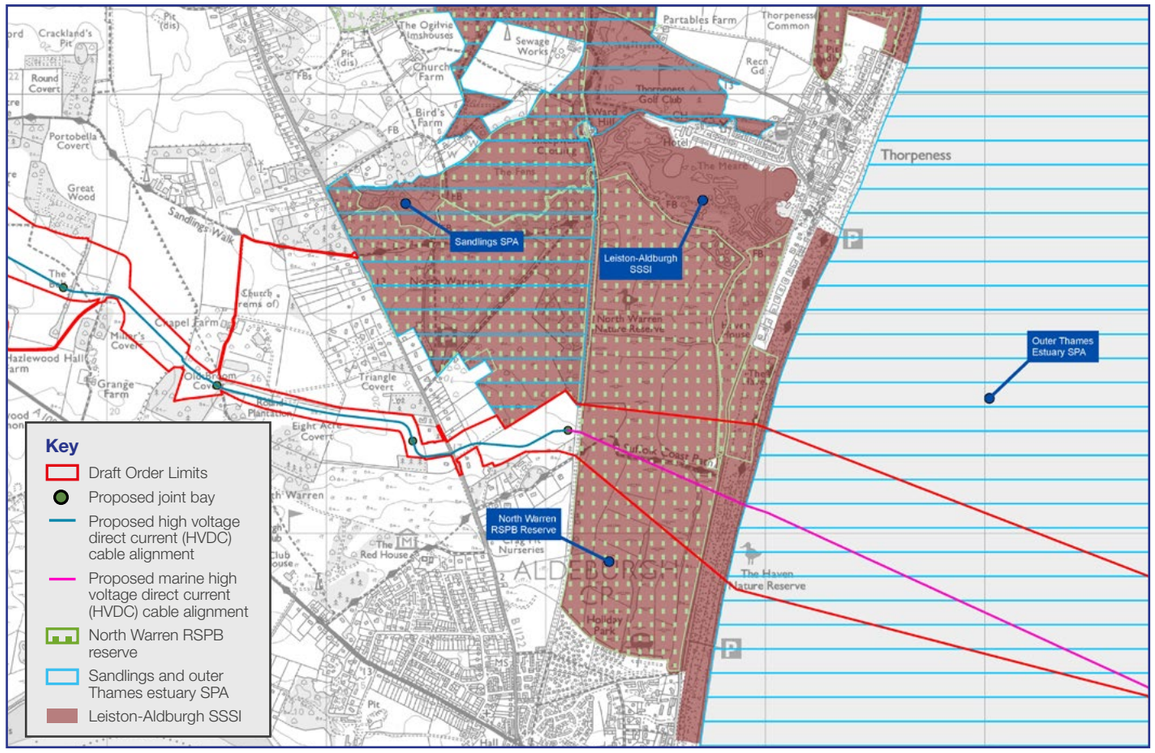


7. What do you think about our proposed HVDC cable route in Suffolk?

- ☐ I think this is the best cable route
- ☐ I agree with some elements of the proposed cable route, but disagree with others
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I disagree with the proposed cable route

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Landfall



8. What do you think about our proposed landfall between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness?

- ☐ I think this is the best location for the landfall
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I do not think this is the best location for the landfall

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Co-location of infrastructure

9. Our proposals include the option of co-locating infrastructure with that of up to two other projects, if they are required. Do you support this approach?

	I support co-location	I have no preference either way	I do not support co-location
Constructing additional ducts within the underground cable corridor to accommodate cables for up to two other projects	☐	☐	☐
Co-locating up to three converter stations at a single location near Saxmundham	☐	☐	☐
Co-locating the landfall point of up to three projects at a location between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness	☐	☐	☐

Are there other ways that you would like us to explore coordination with other projects?

Anything else?

10. Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in Suffolk?

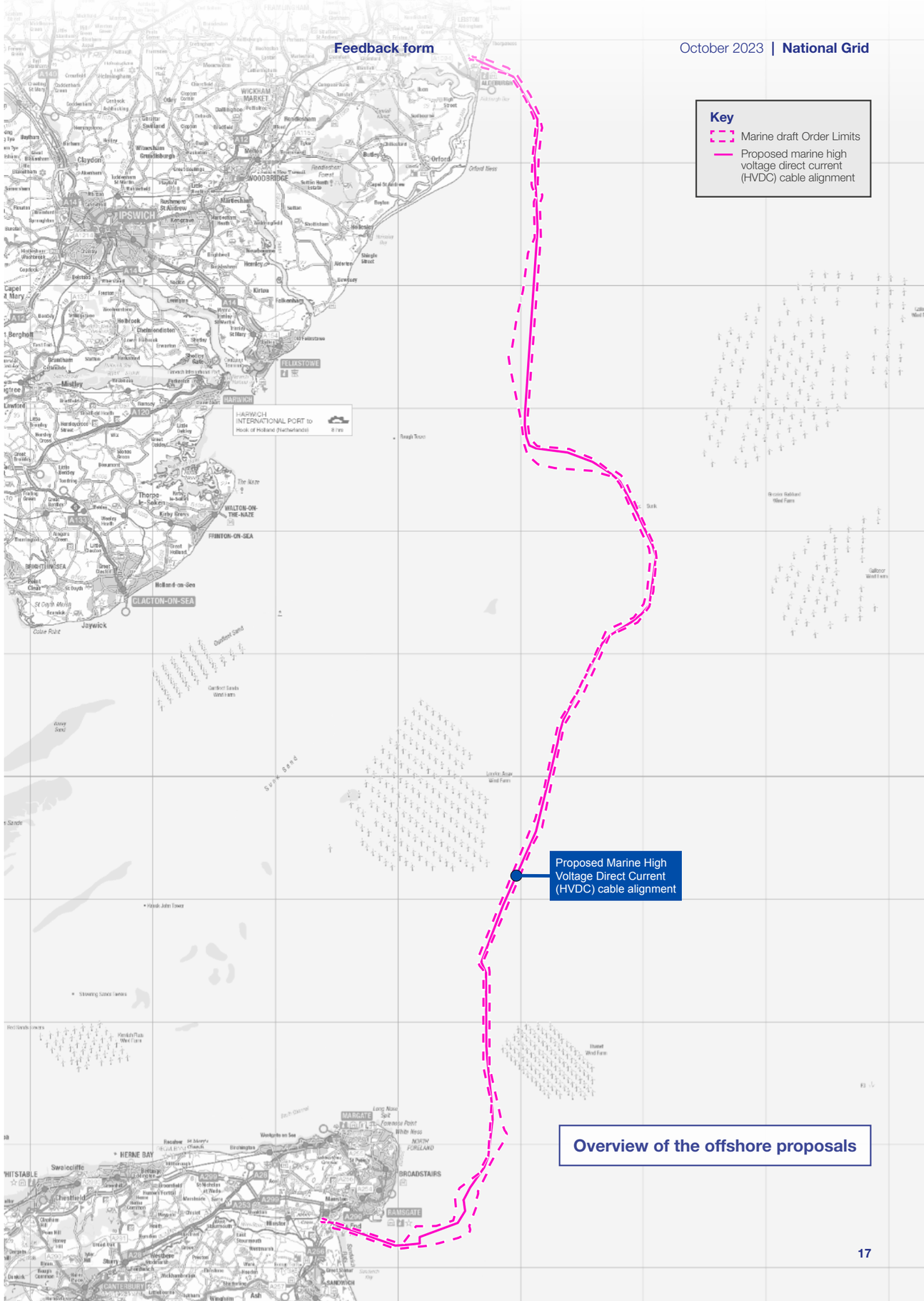
Our marine proposals

Our marine proposals are summarised below and outlined in detail in Chapter 12 of the Project overview document. They include:

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

11. Do you have any comments or issues you would like us to take into consideration regarding our marine proposals?

To supply your feedback on our proposed landfall locations please see question 8 (Suffolk) and question 12 (Kent).

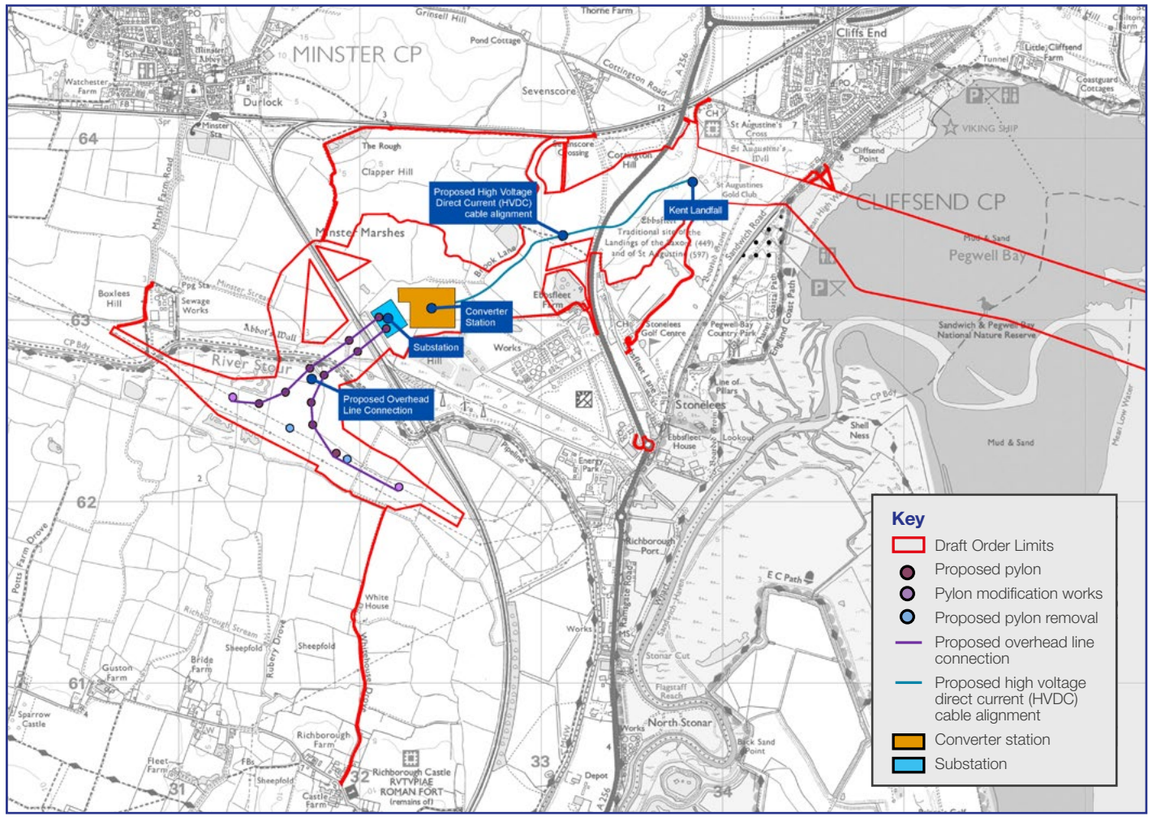


Overview of the offshore proposals

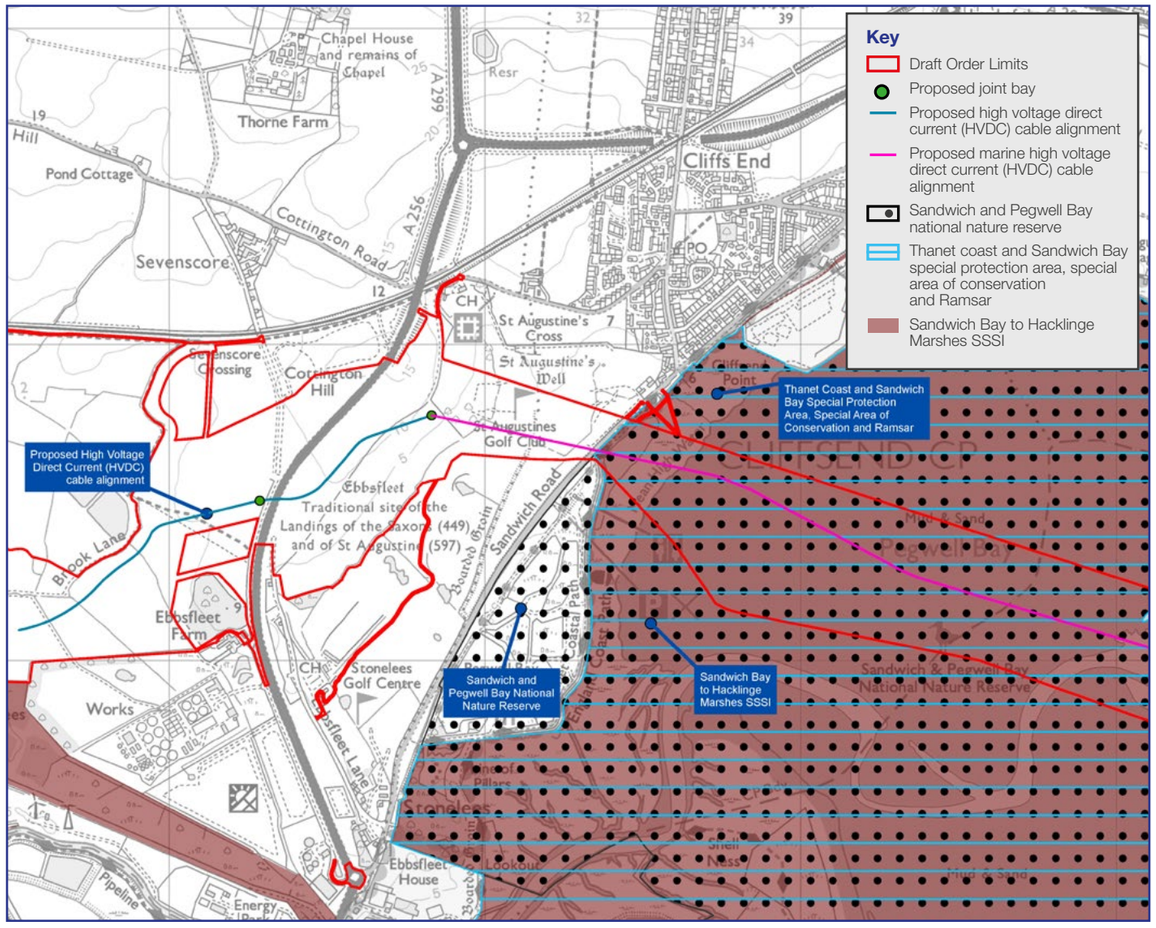
Our proposals in Kent

Our proposals in Kent are summarised below and outlined in detail in Chapter 13 of the Project overview document. They include:

- a landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay
- a transition joint bay approximately 800 metres inshore to transition from offshore high voltage direct current (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 & railings for walkways), 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.



Landfall

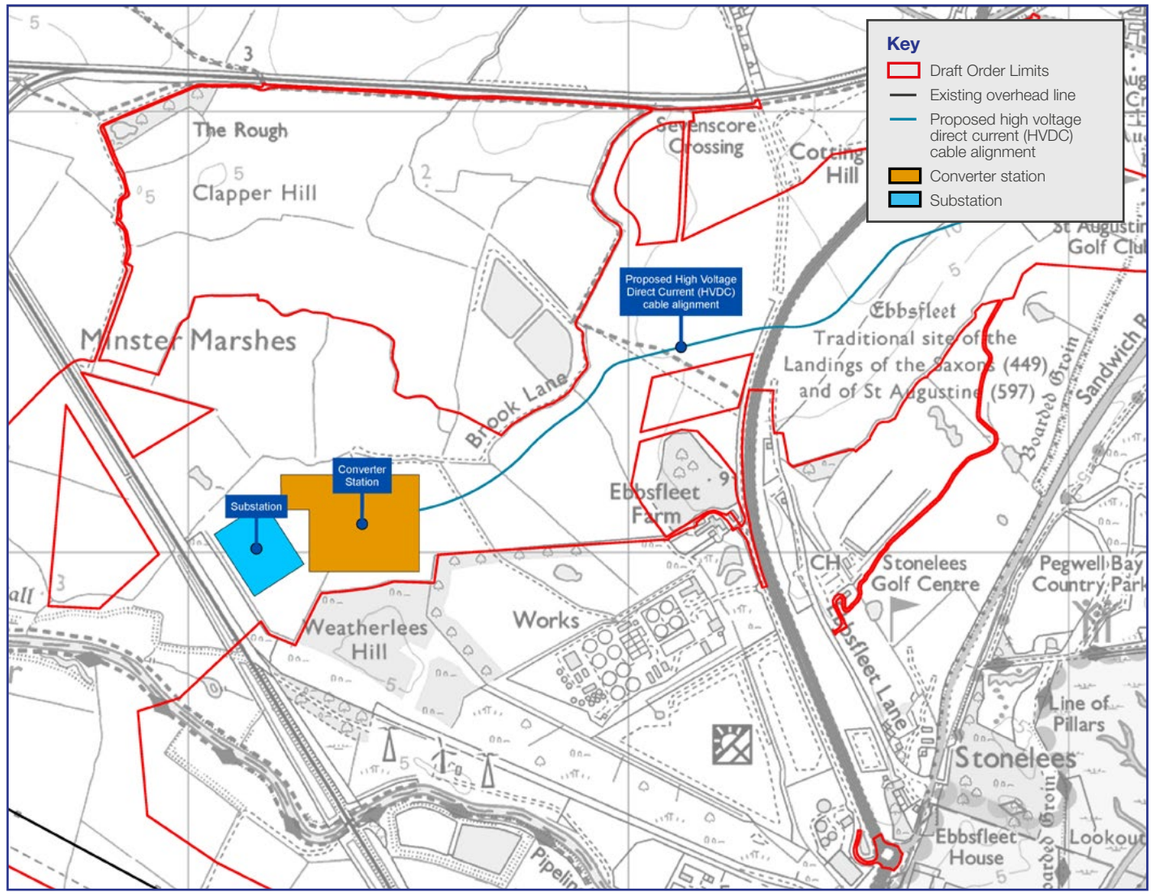


12. What do you think about our proposed landfall at Pegwell Bay?

- ☐ I think this is the best location for the landfall
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I do not think this is the best location for the landfall

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

High voltage direct current (HVDC) cable corridor

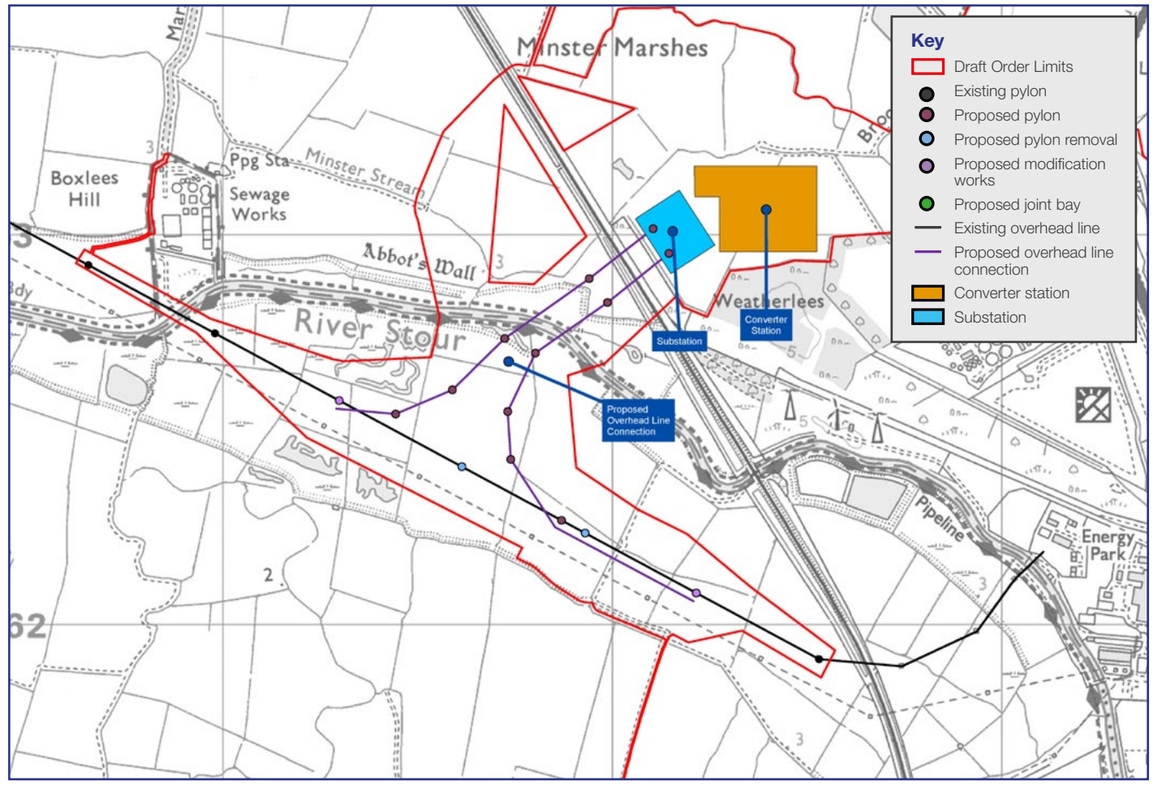


13. What do you think about our proposed HVDC cable route in Kent?

- ☐ I think this is the best cable route
- ☐ I agree with some elements of the proposed cable route, but disagree with others
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I disagree with the proposed cable route

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Minster substation and converter station



14. What do you think about our proposed converter station and adjacent substation near Minster?

- ☐ I think the substation and the converter station are in the right location
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I do not think the substation and the converter station are in the right location

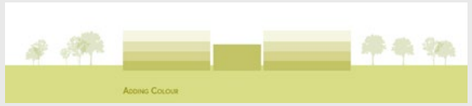
Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

15. We have identified several design approaches for the proposed converter station. Which approach(es) would you like to see explored at later design stages?

Please select all that apply

☐ **Enhanced elevations**

☐ **Colour**



☐ **Green roof**

☐ **Agricultural barns**

☐ **Colour & curve**

☐ **Kinetic**

Tell us more about why you selected the above option(s) and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Overhead line connection

16. What do you think about our plans to use overhead lines to connect the proposed substation into the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line?

- ☐ I agree with the plans to use an overhead line connection
- ☐ I have no preference either way
- ☐ I disagree with the plans to use an overhead line connection

Tell us more about why you selected this option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

Anything else?

17. Is there anything further you would like us to take into consideration when developing our proposals in Kent?

Construction

18. Do you have any key concerns regarding the construction stage of Sea Link?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Impact on people
- ☐ Landscape and visual impact
- ☐ Ecology and biodiversity
- ☐ Air quality
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Traffic and transportation
- ☐ Archaeology
- ☐ Public access to rights of way (such as bridleways)
- ☐ Disruption to land use
- ☐ Drainage
- ☐ Impact on tourism
- ☐ Impact on recreational activities
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Environmental areas

We are exploring opportunities for developing environmental areas as part of the project, which may include landscaping and planting for mitigation, compensation, and enhancement purposes. This would include biodiversity net gain, delivering an increase in habitat value for wildlife after the project is completed, compared with the pre-development baseline.

19. Do you have any comments about how we could deliver environmental mitigation and enhancement (such as hedgerow creation, native tree planting or funding local wildlife groups) as part of our proposals?

Anything else?

20. Do you have any other comments about Sea Link to give that you have not previously mentioned?

Our consultation

Please let us know your views on the quality of our printed and online consultation materials, our public consultation events and online webinars, how we have notified people about our proposals and anything else related to this consultation.

21. How did you hear about this consultation?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Received a letter or email from National Grid Electricity Transmission
- ☐ Received a letter or email from Dalcour Maclaren or TerraQuest
- ☐ Received information from a local authority
- ☐ Informed by a local councillor or parish/town council
- ☐ Saw an advert in a local newspaper/publication
- ☐ Saw coverage in local and/or national media
- ☐ Saw an advert on social media
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please state) _____

22. What did you think of the information we have published for this consultation in terms of how clearly it was presented and how easy it was to understand?

☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐ Unsure

Tell us more about why you selected the above option and anything else you would like us to take into consideration:

23. Did you attend any of the following events/meetings?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Public information exhibitions
- ☐ Online webinars
- ☐ Ask the experts session
- ☐ Meeting with Sea Link land team (Dalcour Maclaren)

24. If you attended one of our public information exhibitions, how did you find it?

☐ Very informative ☐ Quite informative ☐ Not informative ☐ No opinion

25. If you attended one of our online webinars, how did you find it?

☐ Very informative ☐ Quite informative ☐ Not informative ☐ No opinion

26. Do you have further comments about our materials, consultation process or any suggestions for how we can improve our consultation?

Equality and diversity

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) would be grateful if you could answer the following inclusion and diversity questions. We will use the information we receive to understand whether our consultation has been useful to people of different backgrounds and requirements.

We may publish a summary of the results, but no information about an individual would be revealed. The answers you provide to these questions may be defined as 'special category data'. If you agree to provide equality and diversity information, you can withdraw your permission at any time.

To withdraw your details, please contact us via email at **contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com**.

If you wish to receive consultation documents in paper copy, or in another format, please send us a request using the details provided within this feedback form and NGET will organise for relevant materials to be issued (please note print charges may apply).

27. What is your gender?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer not to say

28. Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

29. How would you describe your ethnic background?

☐ White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
☐ Irish
☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
☐ Any other White background
☐ Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
☐ White and Black Caribbean
☐ White and Black African
☐ White and Asian
☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background (please state)

_____

☐ Asian or Asian British
☐ Indian
☐ Pakistani
☐ Bangladeshi
☐ Chinese
☐ Any other Asian background
☐ Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
☐ African
☐ Caribbean
☐ Any other Black, African or Caribbean background (please state)

_____

☐ Arab
☐ Any other ethnic group (please state)

_____

☐ Prefer not to say

30. What is your age?

☐ Under the age of 13 ☐ 13-17 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐ Prefer not to say

Data privacy statement

National Grid is committed to protecting your personal information. Whenever you provide such information, we are legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

How will National Grid use the information we collect about you?

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for a number of purposes, including:

- to analyse your feedback to the consultation
- to produce a Consultation report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in the Report)
- to write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments, if you have provided consent for us to do so
- to keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.

Any personal information you include in this form will be handled and used by (or made available to) the following recipients to record, analyse and report on the feedback we receive:

- National Grid
- the Planning Inspectorate (which will consider our application for consent to build Sea Link - any details published as part of this process will be anonymised)
- the Secretary of State (who will take the decision on our application)
- our legal advisers
- consultants working on Sea Link.

What rights do I have over my personal data?

Under the terms of the UK GDPR you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by National Grid. For more information, see our full data privacy statement: **nationalgrid.com/privacy-policy**.

Contact us

Email: **contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com**

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

Website: **nationalgrid.com/sealink**

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

How to provide feedback

Post: send your completed feedback form to **Freepost SEA LINK** (no stamp or further address needed)

Website: **nationalgrid.com/sealink** (online version of feedback form)

Email: **contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com**