



The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Ground investigation works update

national**grid**

As part of its work on Sea Link, National Grid is due to carry out ground investigation works in Suffolk from early 2026.

Summary of works

As part of our application for development consent, we published an Environment Statement (ES) that sets out the results of a range of detailed environmental surveys that we have undertaken in recent years. The ES also explains that there are some areas where we envisage further survey work would be required.

From early 2026, subject to approvals, we will be carrying out additional ground investigation works on the converter station site near Saxmundham. These surveys will be carried out under permitted development rights.

The works, which will include temporary boreholes and trial pits, are to support the detailed design of the Suffolk onshore scheme including the proposed converter station and access routes. By carrying out this survey activity now, we will be ready to begin construction promptly should our DCO application be approved.

Survey dates and working hours

We expect to be able to begin the works in early 2026 with an intended programme of 8 weeks, subject to weather conditions. Monitoring devices will be left in some locations for up to six months. We will be in touch again once we can provide further details on the works.

Once the works begin, survey activity will be carried out between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. We will keep local communities updated on progress via the surveys page of our website.

Survey locations and methods

Surveys will be taking place on land to the south of the B1119 outside Saxmundham in Suffolk, in and around the area where our proposed converter station would be located. Three types of survey activity are planned:

- **Boreholes:** Around 79 boreholes will be drilled into the ground so that we can test the subsoil. 58 boreholes would require drilling to a depth of 5 metres, 14 boreholes would require drilling to a depth of 30 metres, and 7 boreholes would require drilling to a depth of 50 metres. Up to 4 boreholes may require ground water monitoring.

The maximum amount of time that any borehole would remain in situ is six months, but most boreholes would be in place for a much shorter period. Once the borehole works are complete, each one will be backfilled and the land restored to its previous condition.

- **Trial pits:** Around 35 trial pits will need to be excavated to a maximum depth of around 2.5 metres. One member of the survey team would be required to create each trial pit, and we expect that each trial pit will be excavated, backfilled and the land restored to its original condition on the same day.
- **Soil structure and strength tests:** A mix of California bearing ratio, dynamic cone penetrometer and cone penetration tests will be used to measure soil strength and structure at around 115 locations. Each test, which would be carried out by one to two members of the survey team, is expected to take between 30 minutes and three hours. Any land involved in individual tests would therefore be restored to its original condition on the same day.

Following completion of the works, the ground will be reinstated to its condition that existed prior to the commencement of works.

These works will take place on private land, with each survey location around 10 metres by 10 metres in size. No Public Rights of Way will be affected. Where Public Rights of Way pass close to our worksites, we will conduct a risk assessment and implement additional safety measures, such as fencing and signage.

In addition to the above works, we will need a small number of temporary works areas to be used for staff welfare and machinery storage for around six weeks. No road closures or diversions will be required, but there will be some vehicle movements to/from the working area for works traffic and the delivery of equipment.

Contact us

Throughout these works we will aim to keep disruption to a minimum. If you have any further questions or queries about our upcoming surveys, you can contact our community engagement team in the following ways:

Email us – Send an email to contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com

Call us – You can contact the team on 0808 134 9569 (Mon - Fri, 9am-5:30pm)

Write to us - Letters can be posted free of charge to Freepost SEA LINK (no further postage required)

To find out more about Sea Link, please visit our project website at nationalgrid.com/sealink.