The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

nationalgrid

Community update

Kent

Autumn 2026

We are committed to protecting the local environment and to limiting the impact of our work on local communities and businesses.

During the recent Examination of our plans to build Sea Link, we heard your views on issues including the environment, traffic and local businesses. **We listened.** Our plans already included a wide range of measures to manage these issues, and through the Examination we've gone further, agreeing new binding commitments and strengthening the ones we already had.

Here's what that means on the ground.

Protecting Pegwell Bay and Kent's wildlife

by restricting noise during the breeding bird season at the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), avoiding the Pegwell Bay saltmarsh habitat by keeping vehicles and pedestrians off it, and protecting the River Stour channel and monitoring it for five years after we've installed our cables.

Keeping traffic under control

with Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements limited to no more than 10 a day on Marsh Farm Road. HGVs will travel in one direction at a time through Minster, and we'll fit GPS tracking to every vehicle so drivers stick to approved routes.

Keeping public rights of way open

wherever possible, minimising closures and signposting any changes in advance.

Keeping weekend disruption to a minimum

by limiting activity on Sundays and bank holidays, ensuring work does not take place every weekend at every location, and giving advance notice of any weekend working on our website.

Supporting local businesses

by letting them know in advance about noisy activities, busy traffic periods and key construction dates, and giving our workers vouchers to spend locally.

Examination complete; what's next?

The Planning Inspectorate has now issued a report with their recommendation on whether or not our plans should be approved. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero will review this report and we expect a decision on our application in late October 2026.

Your Community Fund

We believe that communities which host new electricity infrastructure should benefit from doing so. That is why we want Sea Link to deliver meaningful and long-lasting benefits for local communities and the wider area.

We recently sought your views on how around **£1.06 million** could be used to benefit your community in Kent.

The feedback we've received will help shape your Community Fund, whether it's:

- investing in skills
- enhancing green spaces
- supporting physical health and wellbeing
- improving community hubs
- creating partnerships with charities or service providers.

If planning approval is granted, the Community Fund will be available to support projects and programmes in Kent from the start of construction, from 2027.

Thank you to everyone who shared their views. We are now reviewing the responses we've received and we will publish a report in the coming months, setting out your feedback on how the fund should be delivered and the types of projects it could support.

Surveys

We're also continuing our survey work in Kent.

We recently applied to Thanet District Council for permission to carry out archaeological works at the proposed converter station site. Our application was approved in August 2026, and the survey works are now underway.

We're carrying out archaeological excavations to record remains identified during earlier work, including evidence of Iron Age and Roman Settlement. Archaeologists will carefully examine the ground by removing and recording topsoil, and any discoveries will be protected. The land will then be restored.

We will also deliver outreach activities with local schools, universities and archaeological groups, and share findings with the local community. The photos show finds from trial trenching in 2024.

We're also surveying Pegwell Bay shoreline and land near the proposed converter station to identify any potential unexploded ordnance and any archaeology in buried soils and sediments, known as geoarchaeology. The unexploded ordnance surveys involve pushing a probe into the ground to take metallic readings. The geoarchaeology work involves taking soil samples below the ground. These samples will be gathered using both standard borehole rigs and excavators digging trial pits.

You can find out more about the survey works on our website.

Contact us

You can find out more about Sea Link by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or visiting nationalgrid.com/sealink

- email us: **contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com**
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