



Ms Liz Wells  
National Grid Ventures  
1-3 Strand  
London  
WC2N 5EH

**Our ref:** Eurolink Project  
**Date:** 24 June 2022  
**Please ask for:** [REDACTED]  
**Customer Services:** [REDACTED]  
**Direct dial:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Wells,

**Request for a Direction by Secretary of State under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 –  
Eurolink Multi-purpose Interconnector**

Thank you for advising East Suffolk Council (ESC) of your intention to submit a request for a direction from the Secretary of State under Section 35 of the 2008 Planning Act (the Act) that the Eurolink project is of national significance and is to be treated as an infrastructure proposal for which development consent is required.

ESC has been involved in early discussions relating to your proposals for this project, we also continue to engage with other developers/promoters regarding their planned and consented projects. These projects include, EDF Energy for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell, where a decision is awaited and ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) for two recently consented offshore wind farms off the east Suffolk coast with inland infrastructure at Friston, Suffolk. This is in addition to a grid reinforcement project being promoted by National Grid Electricity Transmission known as Sealink, and a second Multi-purpose Interconnector project proposed by National Grid Ventures; Nautilus. The Sea Link and Nautilus projects are both looking to connect to the grid in the Sizewell area which is highly likely to be the same location as the recently consented SPR offshore wind farms.

We have serious concerns regarding the scale of energy infrastructure proposed to be connected to the National Grid at Sizewell (we have calculated around 30% of the UK's energy coming through Sizewell (should all schemes be consented and constructed), this has significant implications for the UK Government and for us as local authority.

We are keen that your proposal is considered on a comparable basis to the previously identified projects which are either defined as nationally significant under the Act, or the Secretary of State has agreed the projects should be considered of national significance for which development consent under the Act is required. We therefore fully support your request for a direction for the

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LEGAL ADDRESS East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

POSTAL ADDRESS Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

Eurolink Multi-purpose Interconnector to be considered under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime.

The proposed project is considered of national significance, especially considering the likely proposed capacity of the development; 1.8GW. Although not a generating station, if the development was, it would qualify and be considered under the Act as nationally significant.

The large number of existing and planned energy projects, by virtue of their spatial and/or temporal nature, have the potential to result in significant cumulative impacts in east Suffolk. The consideration of this project under the development consent process, will ensure that there is one single, clear consenting process with fixed timescales. It will allow for the comprehensive assessment of project alone and cumulative impacts at the same time in a clear and robust manner.

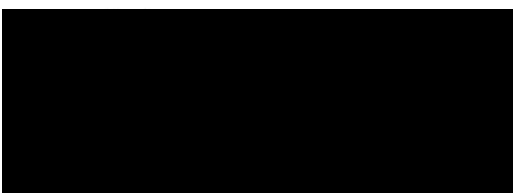
ESC has also requested that as part of the project all opportunities for coordination and collaboration with other projects, especially the Nautilus and Sealink projects are fully explored to minimise adverse impacts and maximise any potential benefits. ESC considers that the Development Consent Order process provides the best environment within which to consider and address these matters.

If the project is not considered under the NSIP regime, the development could be considered under multiple different consenting regimes which would make coordination and assessing the alone and in-combination impacts of the project comprehensively, extremely challenging at best, and at worst impossible.

In summary, ESC fully supports the request to the Secretary of State for the Eurolink project to be considered of national significance and require development consent under the Act. We consider this regime will offer a transparent and well-defined consenting process offering the best framework to comprehensively assess matters of coordination and cumulative impacts with other planned energy projects.

Please include this letter of support in your request to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Yours sincerely,



**Philip Ridley BSc (Hons) MRTPI**  
**Head of Planning and Coastal Management**  
East Suffolk Council