

## **September 2021 Update for JLAG on Energy Projects (excluding Sizewell C)**

### **Nautilus Multi-Purpose Interconnector**

**Informal consultation began on the 14 September and ends on the 26 October 2021.**

Nautilus is a Multi-Purpose Interconnector (MPI) being promoted by National Grid Ventures (NGV). The project involves the creation of a 1.4 gigawatt High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity link between the transmission systems of Great Britain and Belgium. At present offshore wind and interconnectors operate alongside each other, MPIs could enable offshore wind and interconnectors to work together as a combined asset.

A converter station is required to be constructed in each country in addition to the installation of offshore and onshore underground cables. The converter station site will occupy approximately a five-hectare area with structures up to 24 metres high.

The project has received a connection offer from National Grid for a connection at a new 400kV substation located close to the Sizewell 400kV network, provisionally referred to as 'Leiston 400kV'. NGV has stated that if the National Grid substation proposed under the East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two applications is consented at Friston, this could be the connection point utilised for this project too. An extension to the National Grid substation would be required to connect the project. Alternatively, a new substation would need to be constructed within the locality of the connection offer.

The consultation presents shortlisted onshore options for Nautilus including landfall options, underground cable corridor options and converter station search area options. The consultation materials also present some information regarding the infrastructure required in the marine environment. Offshore siting and routeing work is currently ongoing, the current consultation does not include offshore site or route options.

As part of this public consultation feedback is being sought by NGV in respect of:

- NGV's vision for MPIs
- Onshore Routeing and Siting Options (see map below)
- Opportunities for co-ordination

Map extracted from consultation briefing pack showing the siting and routing options.



NGV has stated that whilst Landfall E has not been discounted, it is heavily constrained from an onshore perspective. Landfall E is located within an Important Bird Area (IBA), RSPB reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is also located close to a Special Protection Area (SPA) and County Wildlife Site. These ecological features present substantial siting and routing challenges. As such, Landfall E is not NGV's preferred option from an onshore perspective. However, due to environmental features and technical constraints in the marine environment NGV need to consider landfall options from an offshore perspective in order to confirm that one or more of the landfall options that have been identified are achievable. NGV will also consider any engineering measures which could reduce potential effects onshore if it emerges that there is a need for Landfall E to be progressed.

## Consultation Materials

Consultation materials are available online via the project website, these include a Virtual Exhibition page and the following documents:

- Member briefing pack
- Consultation leaflet (this is the leaflet which has been posted to those in the core consultation zone)
- Exhibition boards

- Information sheets x 3:
  - The Planning Process
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - EuroLink
- Nautilus FAQs (September 2021) – this is an update from the previous May 2020 FAQs
- Supporting maps
- Feedback form – this is an online feedback form, hard copies will also be available at the public exhibition events

A link to the website is provided below:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/our-businesses/national-grid-ventures/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future/nautilus-interconnector>

### Consultation Events

As part of the consultation there are a series of public exhibition events and virtual exhibition events. Dates and times for these events are listed in the table below.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 28 September	4pm to 8pm	Leiston Community Centre
Wednesday 29 September	10am to 2pm	Friston Village Hall
Thursday 30 September	4pm to 8pm	Thorpeness Pavilion
Friday 1st October	10am to 2pm	Saxmundham Market Hall
Thursday 7 October	10am to 12pm	Community Q&A webinar 1
Thursday 12 October	6pm to 8pm	Community Q&A webinar 2

### Consultation Feedback

Feedback can be provided via our online feedback form, by post or email via the address details below. Email: [info@nautilusinterconnector.com](mailto:info@nautilusinterconnector.com)

### **Eurolink Multi-Purpose Interconnector**

NGV has signed a Cooperation Agreement with TenneT, the Dutch Transmission System Operator to bring forward the proposals for Eurolink, although the project is not as mature as Nautilus. NGV are currently undertaking desk-based feasibility assessments.

## **Five Estuaries (formerly Galloper Offshore Windfarm extension)**

Next Steps:

- EIA Scoping Report expect to be submitted this year.
- Grid connection location to be confirmed in 2022.
- DCO submission Q3 2023.

For further information:

[About – Five Estuaries](#)

[Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

## **North Falls (formerly Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind Farm extension)**

Indicative Programme:

- EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2021. Both East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council provided comments.
- Informal consultation Autumn 2021
- Pre-application consultation 1 – Spring/Summer 2022
- Pre-application consultation 2/statutory consultation – Autumn/Winter 2022
- DCO application submission Summer 2023
- DCO consent 2024
- Onshore construction 2026, offshore construction 2028
- Operational 2030

Further information:

[North Falls Offshore Wind Farm](#)

[North Falls Offshore Wind Farm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

## **SCD1/South East Anglia Link**

Indicative Programme as published on National Grid's website:

- Public consultation – Spring 2021
- Public Information Events – Early 2022
- Construction – 2023
- Operational – 2029

Although this programme has slipped as no consultation has taken place this year, it is anticipated that National Grid will seek to engage with the Councils shortly.

For further information:

[SEA Link | National Grid ET](#)

## **East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Wind Projects**

Indicative Programme:

- Decision from the Secretary of State expected January 2022
- Onshore pre-enabling works commence August 2022 (if consented)
- Construction begins 2023 (if consented)
- Operational 2026 (if consented)

The site and ground investigations (excluding archaeological works) which were being undertaken by ScottishPower Renewables are complete. Archaeological works at the substation are complete but continue between Aldringham and Sizewell.

For further information:

[East Anglia ONE North Offshore Windfarm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/east-anglia-one-north-offshore-windfarm/)

[East Anglia TWO Offshore Windfarm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/east-anglia-two-offshore-windfarm/)

## **East Anglia Three**

Indicative Programme:

- Construction anticipated to commence in June 2022
- Operational 2026

For further information:

[East Anglia THREE - ScottishPower Renewables](https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.co.uk/east-anglia-three/)

Naomi Goold  
Graham Gunby