



Mr Zac Richardson
Director of New Transmission Infrastructure
National Grid
Faraday House
Gallows Hill
Warwick
CV34 6DA

Enquiries to: Phil Watson – SCC Strategic
Energy Projects Manager/Naomi Goold –
ESC Principal Energy Projects Officer

Email: Phil.watson@suffolk.gov.uk
Naomi.Goold@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Date: 31 October 2021

Dear Mr Richardson,

Coordination of proposed Multi-Purpose and Bootstrap Interconnectors in Suffolk

Thank you for your response on the 7 of September regarding the timing of, and relationship between, the consultation for the Bramford to Twinstead project, and the projects identified in the Network Options Assessment (NOA), known as ATNC and AENC. The modified approach you have set out to the consultation timing, is very much appreciated.

Jointly with Cllr Craig Rivett, Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council, we would like to bring another matter to your attention that I hope you may be able to resolve.

As you are no doubt aware, your colleagues in an unregulated part of National Grid PLC, National Grid Ventures (NGV), are in the first stage of a public consultation for their project. This project, Nautilus, is an Multi Purpose Interconnector (MPI) between Belgium and the UK¹. In addition, based on the published information to date, we are also aware of a second MPI, Eurolink², proposed by NGV, and finally a bootstrap interconnector, SCD1, confirmed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) in the *Network Policy Decisions* in June 2021³.

It is currently anticipated that all these projects will, or may, connect at the proposed substation at Friston, subject to the decision of the Secretary of State regarding East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two offshore wind farms. Given the significant adverse local impacts that are expected from these two projects during their construction and operation, we ask that National Grid PLC take all reasonable and appropriate measures to minimise the collective impact of their three subsequent projects, should they too be connected at Friston, or in that locality. Specifically, we urge that:

Opportunities for co-location of the projects, and coordination of construction of converter stations and cable corridors, should be fully explored. Likewise, opportunities to share connection infrastructure, in particular exploration of the scope for a shared AC connection, between the converter stations and the Grid connection point at Friston.

¹ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/our-businesses/national-grid-ventures/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future/nautilus-interconnector>

² <https://www.nationalgrid.com/our-businesses/national-grid-ventures/interconnectors-connecting-cleaner-future#tab-2>

³ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/document/137041/download>

The Councils consider that such an approach would be more likely to minimise adverse impacts on the communities and environment of East Suffolk. This would be achieved by consolidating development, focusing, and sharing mitigation strategies between the projects, and focusing the Biodiversity and Environmental Net gains, that the projects are required to produce, under the terms of both the current drafts of National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-5⁴, and the emerging Environment Bill⁵ under schedule 15.

The most advanced of the three possible projects concerned is to be consented under the terms of the Planning Act 2008, following a decision by the Secretary of State⁶. It is requested that to assist in securing coordination and consolidation and also comprehensive consideration of the cumulative impacts, the subsequent projects should also follow this consenting framework.

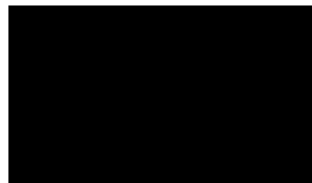
These requests are made entirely without prejudice to any views the Councils may have on the specific projects, as they continue to be developed and progress through the planning and consenting process.

The Councils recognise that the coordination and consolidation of these projects may be challenging, both technically, and because of the structure of the companies within National Grid PLC. However, it is considered that, in the absence of an alternative less harmful connection point, which would be strongly preferred, the approach we have suggested would not only achieve significant benefits but would also, be entirely consistent with the letter and spirit of emerging policies and programs. Therefore, we ask that this request is passed to the appropriate Executive Directors⁷, the President - National Grid Ventures and the President - UK Electricity Transmission, to do all they can to facilitate this outcome.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Rout
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council



Craig Rivett
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and
Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council

cc. Dr Thérèse Coffey MP

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-new-energy-infrastructure-review-of-energy-national-policy-statements>

⁵ <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/42717/documents/683>

⁶ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020023/EN020023-000001-Section%2035%20Direction%20notice%20-%20National%20Grid%20Ventures%20-%20Nautilus%20Interconnector.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/about-us/our-leadership-team/the-executive-committee>