



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Nautilus Interconnector
<b>File reference</b>	EN020023
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	05 May 2021
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Grid Ventures
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### **Summary of key points discussed and advice given**

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

### ***Project update***

The Applicant advised that virtual engagement including member briefings had taken place with East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) between the end of February and early March 2021. A webinar had also taken place with Parish and Town Councils. Following the engagement with ESC, SCC and Parish and Town councils the Applicant had published a project update document and made it available on the project website. The Inspectorate were informed that the Frequently Asked Questions document would be updated by the Applicant to cover any queries that were raised at the member briefings and the webinar.

The Applicant advised that bird surveys were ongoing and non-intrusive walkovers from publicly accessible locations had taken place. Walkovers had also taken place on land where land access had been agreed with landowners.

The Applicant stated it continues to actively engage with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) regarding the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) and forthcoming National Policy Statement (NPS) review. The Applicant also advised that they sit on several of the Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) with BEIS in respect of the OTNR.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it continues to actively engage with other promoters within the geography and contributes in the examinations currently taking place as necessary.

## ***Non Statutory Consultation***

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that no formal consultation had taken place to date on proposals but that engagement with multiple stakeholders continues.

Discussion of the fundamentals required for the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) was in progress with the Host Authorities. The Applicant informed that they had been considering different available methods for consultation including Hybrid consultation (combining virtual and in person events) and web-based consultation.

The Inspectorate suggested the Applicant discusses with the Local Authorities its experiences from other public events and feedback that may have been received from local residents. The Inspectorate explained that there are currently no examples of best practice regarding virtual consultation however suggested the Applicant look at the most recent projects that had been accepted into examination for examples of consultation that has taken place virtually. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should provide as many opportunities as possible for engagement within the consultation and as Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions are lifted consideration of how in person events could be hosted would be advisable.

## ***TEN-E Regulation***

The Applicant advised that in discussion with BEIS , the department has cited use of the Trade and Corporation Agreement (TCA) in place of the TEN-E Regulation (revoked as a result of Brexit). The Applicant sought clarification on the status therefore of the associated Manual of Procedures and role /status of the any National Competent Authority (NCA) in England, usually the Inspectorate in applications pursued under the Planning Act that had Project of Common Interest status.

The Applicant advised that the NCA in Belgium is vergunningsverlenenden- faciliterend comité (VCFC) of which the federal government is the secretary. The Applicant advised that once there is understanding of the status of the project within the United Kingdom (UK) the applicant project partner Elia would be able to facilitate a meeting with the NCA in Belgium if required.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that a new application had been made to update the Project of Common Interest (PCI) status for Nautilus to reflect its re-classification from a point to point (P2P) interconnector to a multi-purpose interconnector (MPI).

## ***Anticipated Submission Date***

The Applicant anticipates submission of the DCO application will be Q3 2023.

## ***Specific decisions/ follow-up required?***

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate to clarify its position regarding the revocation of the TEN-E Regulation and the NCA status
- The Applicant to send the Inspectorate the presentation slides used.

# Nautilus Update



May 2021

# Agenda

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- Update – Work since February 2021
- Public/ Non-stat consultation
- TEN-E /TCA
- Other promoters in the geography
- AOB

# Update - Work since February 2021

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## Engagement

End Feb/Early March:

East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council Member Briefings held  
Webinar provided to Parish and Town Councils

Project Update Document issued and available on project website in April with updated FAQs to follow.

## Surveys

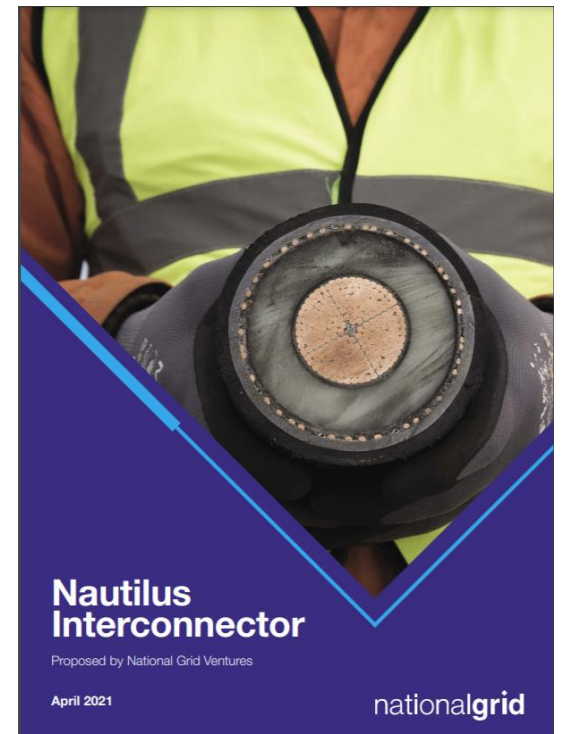
Bird Surveys continued

Non-Intrusive walkovers from publicly accessible locations and where land access has been agreed

## Policy and Consultation

Continued engagement with BEIS in respect of OTNR and upcoming NPS Review

Involvement in Expert Advisory Groups with BEIS and OTNR



# Public Information / Non-stat consultation

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Public Information / Non statutory consultation towards the end of the Summer 2021

Discussion on SoCC fundamentals with host LPAs in progress

Consideration to hybrid consultation (COVID restrictions permitting) OR web / telephone only?

## Anticipated Consultation Scope

- Update on work in the terrestrial environment, including emerging options for siting and routeing
- Initial detail on marine requirements for MPIs and areas of search and initial work on routeing
- Broader questions surrounding co-location of infrastructure, applicability of constraints in decision making.

### Hybrid consultation

Combining webinars/telephone surgeries/Face to face events

### Web based consultation

Web/telephone based with interactive online events

# TEN-E / TCA

February s51 Advice: ‘The Inspectorate to consider any impacts of the revocation of TEN-E Regulation’

BEIS citing Trade and Corporation Agreement (TCA) – PINs advice on how applied.[Query Expiry of TCA around 2026/2027?]

Manual of Procedures status?

Consenting timescales and consultations aligned

The National competent authority in Belgium is a committee: the VCFC (vergunningsverlenend en -faciliterend comité). The federal government is the secretary of this committee.

Nautilus recently reapplied to update PCI status from P2P to MPI  
Subject to confirmation, Implementation Plan to be prepared

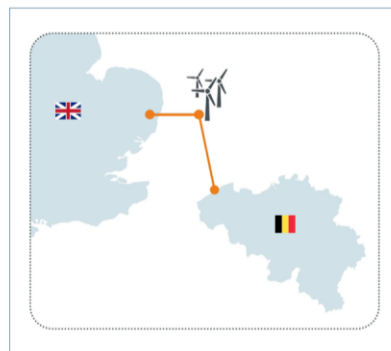
At the PCI Energy Days w/c 26<sup>th</sup> April

- The Belgian energy ministry openly expressed strong support
- The project is part of the Belgian National Development Plan

Nautilus: multi-purpose interconnector Belgium - UK

**Nautilus (elia.be)**

TEN-E Regional Group: NSOG - Electricity  
TYNDP number/group: 121  
PCI number [if on the 4<sup>th</sup> PCI list] : 1.15  
Expected date of commissioning: 12/2028  
Expected date of entry into operation: 12/2028  
CAPEX [MEUR]: 900 MEUR<sup>1</sup>  
OPEX [MEUR/year]: 8 MEUR/year<sup>1</sup>



**Project description [short description of the project] :**

This project has evolved from a point-to-point interconnector to a **multi-purpose HVDC interconnection between GB and Belgium**, that combines the benefits of **connecting electricity markets and offshore wind generation** in GB and Belgium. The capacity of the interconnection is still under review, but is likely to be in the **range of 1 GW – 2GW**. The project topology is also under review. The project promoters are Elia Transmission Belgium and National Grid Ventures.

**Finalised activities:**

- Economic and market modelling studies
- Evaluation of the existing regulatory and market design framework and potential changes required.
- Scope change

**Next steps:**

- Desktop studies to identify converter station location and cable routing options.
- Initiate HVDC System studies
- Continue discussions with authorities, regulators and wind farms developers.

TYNDP number	Investment name	Current status	Delayed/Rescheduled	Reason for delay/reschedule
121	Nautilus: multi-purpose interconnector Belgium - UK	Under consideration	Rescheduled	Scope has changed from a point-to-point interconnector to a multi-purpose interconnector.

<sup>1</sup>: These costs still reflect a point-to-point interconnector



# Other promoters in the geography

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## **SPR's EA1N and EA2 Examinations**

- Examinations close 6th July 2020 (extended from 6th April).
- Cumulative impact onshore is one of the outstanding issues - NGV continue to co-operate
- Decisions due Jan 2022 (may be extended 3 – 6 months) if extended this goes beyond our intended Q1 2022 scoping submission.

## **EDF - Sizewell C Examination**

- NGV registered as an interested party
- Progressing a SoCG
- Examination closes October, decision due April 2022

## **NGET - South East Anglia Link**

- Connection point to National Transmission System not yet confirmed

## **NGET - Bramford to Twinstead network reinforcement**

- Currently undertaking non-stat consultation.
- S42 consultation anticipated winter 2021



# AOB

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