

Meeting note

Project name	EuroLink
File reference	
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	15 September 2022
Meeting with	NationalGrid Ventures (the Applicant)
Venue	Microsoft Teams meeting
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	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 provided a summary of the proposed multi-purpose interconnector (MPI) between Great Britain (GB) and the Netherlands. The Applicant advised the project comprises a high voltage direct current electricity link with capacity of up to 1.8GW between the national transmission systems (NTS) of GB and the Netherlands. In addition to providing an electricity link between the British and Dutch transmission systems the project will provide for transmission from Dutch offshore wind farms to the NTS in each country via the electricity link.

The project is located partly in the territory of Great Britain and partly in territory of the Netherlands, but NGIHL is promoting and seeking consent for that portion of the project within the territory of GB only. The GB side of the project would involve the construction of an onshore converter station and the installation of offshore and onshore HVDC cables. Underground high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables would also be required onshore from the converter station to the connection location. The project holds a grid connection offer to connect to a substation in the vicinity of Leiston, Suffolk.

The Applicant explained the project is currently considering options for the location of onshore and offshore infrastructure.

The Applicant explained that once the offshore cable crosses through to Dutch territorial waters, it will then connect to Dutch offshore wind and the interconnector cable will continue through to a Dutch landfall and then connect into their national transmission system.

The Applicant advised that a s35 Direction had been provided by the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 23 August 2022, bringing EuroLink into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project regime and that letters of support for the s35 Direction had been provided by East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council.

The Applicant explained the DCO will cover terrestrial and marine environment to Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The Applicant currently intends to submit the scoping report for EuroLink in Q1 2023.

Statutory Consultation

The Applicant explained they intended to hold non-statutory consultation, with shortlisted options for onshore infrastructure, in October to December 2022.

Co-ordination with the proposed SEA Link project

Note – an additional attendee (Louise Lewin) joined the meeting at this point to enable discussion regarding co-ordination between the EuroLink and SEA Link projects.

The Applicant summarised the co-ordination activities and potential co-location opportunities with the separate project known as SEA Link, which is proposed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). A public update on co-ordination and co-location opportunities will be provided as part of both the EuroLink and SEA Link non-statutory consultations and feedback will be sought on these options.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to think carefully regarding the project description they intend to scope on, to allow for more in-depth responses.

Scheme differentiation

The Applicant confirmed this project was separate from the others within National Grid Plc however, NGV and NGET have worked together to explore opportunities of possible co-ordination and in preparation for the planned EuroLink non-statutory consultation. It was noted both the EuroLink project and SEA Link project would be holding separate non-statutory consultations over a near parallel time period.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant of the importance for the projects to have a clear difference, with suggestions such as contrasting logos, clear project names, a summary at the top of documents and if in person events are held making sure it is clear which project the event refers to.

AOB

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate will request information regarding project page etc.