

The Planning Process

Nautilus has been classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). That means that we will be following the Development Consent Order (DCO) process and the final decision-maker for the project will be the Secretary of State for BEIS.

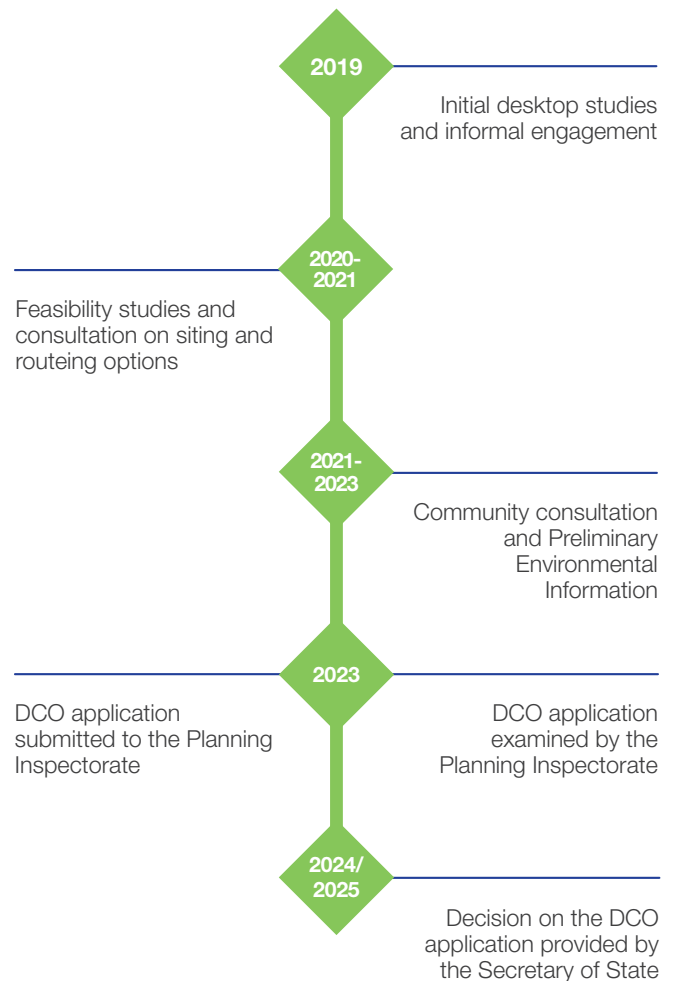
Our project must therefore apply for a DCO through the NSIP planning process. The DCO application will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. It will then, if accepted, be examined by an independent Examining Authority Panel, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Finally, the SoS will review and comment on this before making a decision on whether to grant a DCO.

We have been engaging with local authorities and are now asking for feedback as part of our non-statutory community consultation. This feedback will help to shape our proposals for Nautilus before we submit our DCO application.

As part of our DCO application we will submit a Consultation Report which records and reports all of the feedback received, and how our final application has regarded this. We will also publish an interim Consultation Summary following our consultation, summarising the feedback received.

We will continue to engage with the local community and key stakeholders moving forward, including a formal statutory consultation on refined proposals for Nautilus, ahead of a DCO application submission.

Indicative Timeline*



* More information and guidance on this process can be found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The purpose of EIA is to identify and reduce the potential for significant environmental effects arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of a development. This information is then presented in an Environmental Statement (ES), which will be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This will assist regulators in the decision-making process.

Following the refinement of both our onshore and offshore proposals, extensive environmental surveys and studies will then be undertaken as part of the EIA process and a range of statutory consultees, stakeholders and local community will be consulted. As part of this process, NGV will prepare a request for an EIA Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate to define the scope, extent and approach of specialist environmental surveys and assessment to inform a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and an Environmental (ES).

Scoping Report

A Scoping Report will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This will present the development proposals and will describe how we will assess any potential impacts to the existing environment. The feedback received on this document from the local planning authorities and statutory consultees will result in a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate, which will be made publicly available.

It is anticipated that that Scoping Opinion Request will be submitted in Q1/Q2 2022. Engagement and consultation feedback will be collated and considered in the refinement of the scheme through the EIA process, prior to submitting the DCO application.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR will build upon the findings from the earlier scoping documents, as well as the feedback received through consultation. It will incorporate the findings of the surveys and environmental assessments that have been carried out. This will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the potential impacts Nautilus may have on the local environment. Copies of these reports will be made available a later stage of statutory consultation.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and will incorporate the responses from the consultation and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures proposed to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO application for submission.



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EuroLink

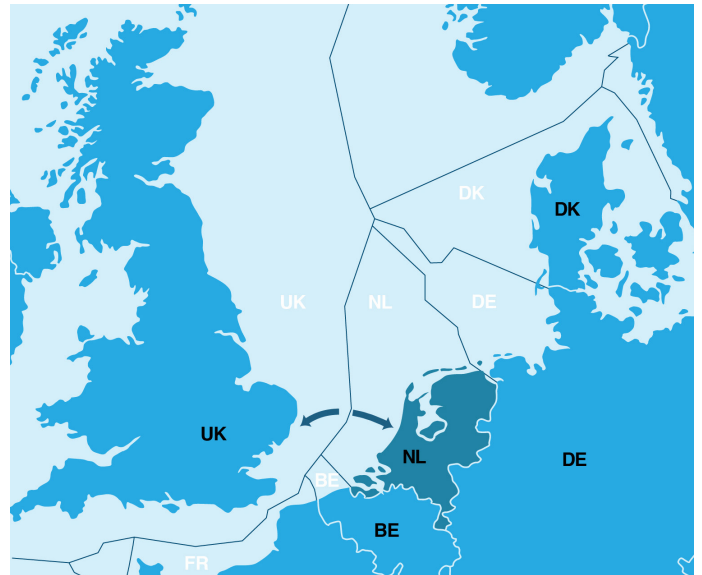
In addition to Nautilus, we are also bringing forward proposals for another multi-purpose interconnector, currently known as EuroLink, to provide a connection between Great Britain and the Netherlands that could provide enough electricity to supply around up to 1.8 million UK homes. If built, EuroLink could unlock up to 1.8 GW of offshore wind and connect this to the transmission systems of Great Britain and the Netherlands through a HVDC electricity link. EuroLink is a completely separate project to Nautilus and as such standalone consultation and engagement on it will follow.

Our grid connection agreement with the National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) for EuroLink is the same as our grid connection offer for Nautilus - to a new 400 kilovolts (kV) substation located close to the Sizewell 400kV network in Suffolk, provisionally referred to as 'Leiston 400kV'.

We are currently undertaking desk-based feasibility assessments for EuroLink. As our proposals for EuroLink develop, we will continue to engage with East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and other developers in the area, together with technical and non-technical stakeholders and the local community to inform our work. An important aspect of this will be seeking to reduce, minimise and mitigate any potential cumulative impacts which may arise.

National Grid Ventures has signed a Cooperation Agreement with TenneT, the Dutch Transmission System Operator (TSO) to bring forward proposals for EuroLink. The development would be the first of its kind for the UK and the Netherlands in the North Sea.

Harnessing the full potential of offshore wind will play a vital role in decarbonising European economies and societies by 2050. The UK and the Netherlands have both established ambitious targets to expand offshore wind capacity in the North Sea, with the UK government recently announcing it was targeting 40 GW by 2030, whilst the Dutch have targeted 11.5 GW by 2030 and another increase of 20-40 GW by 2050. Delivering such large-scale offshore wind growth efficiently will require significant amounts of new infrastructure and close cooperation between countries around the North Sea.



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