



# Nautilus Interconnector

National Grid Ventures  
Non-Statutory Consultation  
Feedback Summary

June 2022

nationalgrid

# Nautilus Interconnector

**At National Grid Ventures (NGV), we are bringing forward plans for Nautilus, a new Multi-Purpose Interconnector (MPI) that could supply enough electricity to power around 1.4 million UK homes.**

## Proposed Nautilus Interconnector

Nautilus is a proposed multi-purpose interconnector (MPI) between the UK and Belgium which could supply enough electricity to power around 1.4 million UK homes. The interconnector could connect up to 2.8 GW of offshore wind to the UK and Belgium (1.4 GW to each country).

The proposed development would include underground cabling works and onshore infrastructure, located in East Suffolk. Further details are available in our non-statutory consultation documents which are still available to view on our project website: [nationalgrid.com/nautilus-interconnector.com](https://nationalgrid.com/nautilus-interconnector.com).

By combining offshore wind generation with interconnector capacity between GB and Belgium, Nautilus will reduce the amount of infrastructure required both onshore and offshore. In doing so we will be able to reduce the impact on communities and the environment compared to the traditional approach of individual connections for every offshore windfarm. We held our non-statutory consultation, from 14

September to 26 October 2021 in order to understand the views of our communities and local stakeholders at an early stage. We would like to thank the hundreds of local residents who came to our events and provided feedback.

Your comments matter to us. The feedback we received has helped to improve our understanding of the local area including specific considerations or concerns.

This consultation feedback summary provides an overview of the wide range of feedback we received and explains how we will use this feedback to inform our proposals as we continue to refine them.

## Multi-Purpose Interconnectors and the role they can play in the bigger energy picture

Multi-Purpose Interconnectors (MPIs) will support the UK in its transition to net zero by 2050, while increasing the security of supply of energy in the Great Britain transmission network.

Interconnectors are subsea cables that allow electricity to move between two countries. In the past, these have been built independently from offshore wind, with the two systems operating alongside each other. MPIs allow offshore wind and interconnectors to be delivered as part of a single integrated system.

This will help to:

- support the UK to achieve its climate targets of 50 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and net zero by 2050
- reduce impacts on coastal communities and the environment by avoiding the need for every project to have its own separate connection infrastructure
- promote more affordable energy bills in the UK by providing access to the lowest priced energy between UK and Belgium
- increase the security of supply and stabilise energy in the Great Britain transmission network which has never been more important.

# National Grid Ventures

**Proposals for Nautilus are being developed by NGV and our partner in Belgium, Elia. Elia is the Belgian National Transmission System Operator (TSO).**

NGV and Elia have a track record of working together successfully during the development of Nemo Link. Operational since 2019, this interconnector connects the Belgium and UK electricity networks providing both countries with access to electricity generation, improved grid reliability and access to cheaper electricity for consumers.

NGV is the competitive division of National Grid. It operates outside of National Grid's core regulated businesses in the UK and US where it develops and operates commercial energy projects, technologies and partnerships to make energy cleaner, more secure and more affordable for consumers.

There are three distinct electricity business entities under the umbrella of National Grid plc in the UK, as detailed in the diagram below, all with different roles and responsibilities. The separation between NGV, National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and National GridESO stipulates that NGV is treated the same way as any other energy project promoter.



# Our non-statutory consultation

We held our non-statutory public consultation, from 14 September to 26 October 2021. We would like to thank the hundreds of local residents and community stakeholders who came to our events and provided feedback.

During this time:

# 262

feedback responses were received from community members and stakeholders, including town and parish councils, and Members of Parliament.

# 2,367

views of our website and virtual exhibition.

# 381

of you attended one of our in-person community events.

# 70

of you attended our community webinar events.



We publicised our consultation locally and online by:



Sending out over 10,000 consultation leaflets to properties and businesses in the area.



Publishing an advert in the East Anglian Daily Times.



Distributing information posters across the East Suffolk area.



Holding four in-person community events in Saxmundham, Friston, Leiston, and Thorpeness.



Hosting two community webinars and a virtual exhibition of our project proposals throughout the six-week consultation period.



Meeting with political representatives and local community groups throughout September and October.



Being available via our dedicated communication channels (phone line and email), which remain open for enquiries.

Members of the project team were available throughout the consultation to answer any questions about the project.

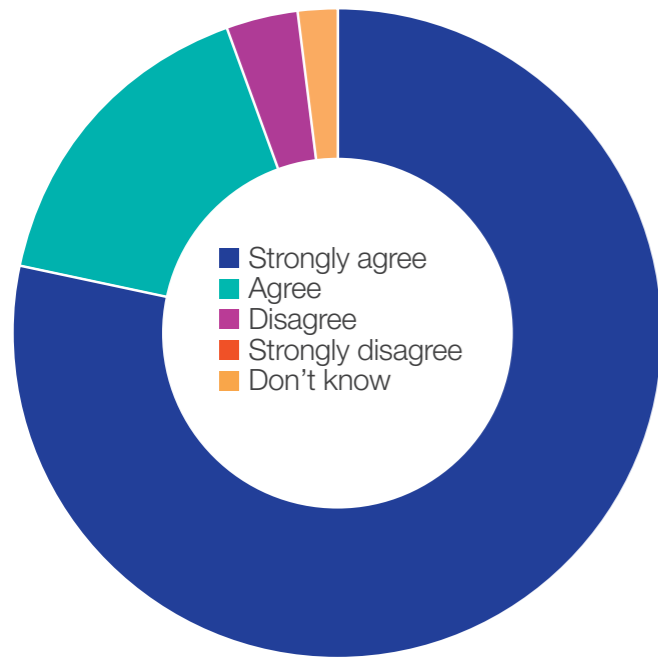
# Your feedback

## Our consultation provided an opportunity for people to view and comment on our early-stage proposals.

Hundreds of people provided feedback via our consultation feedback form, giving us valuable insights into the local area and residents' concerns. Their feedback has helped us identify some recurring themes about what the public want from this project.

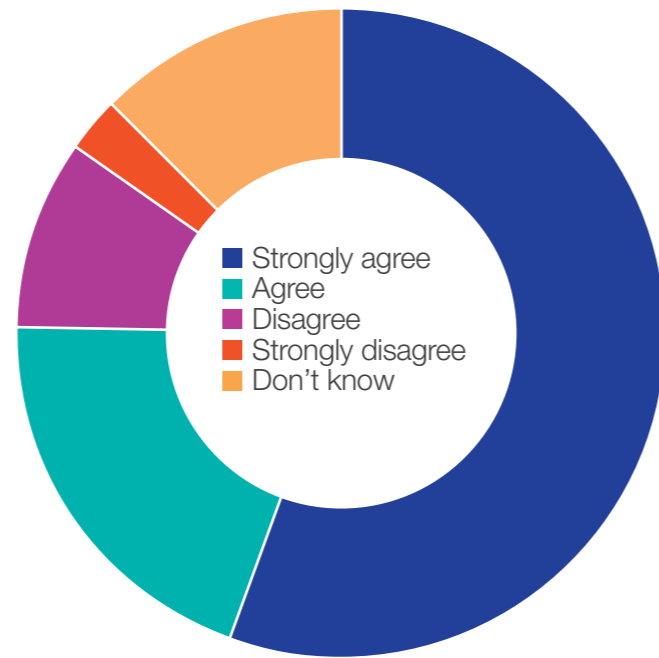
The overwhelming majority of respondents believe that more drastic action is needed to combat climate change and that more of our energy should come from renewable sources. A comparable number of respondents agreed that they want to see better cooperation between energy developers to limit the environmental impact of renewable energy generation.

The vast majority of respondents support the multi-purpose interconnector concept and believe this method could reduce negative impacts on the local environment. Feedback received also presented differing views regarding the potential to co-locate renewable energy developments within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).



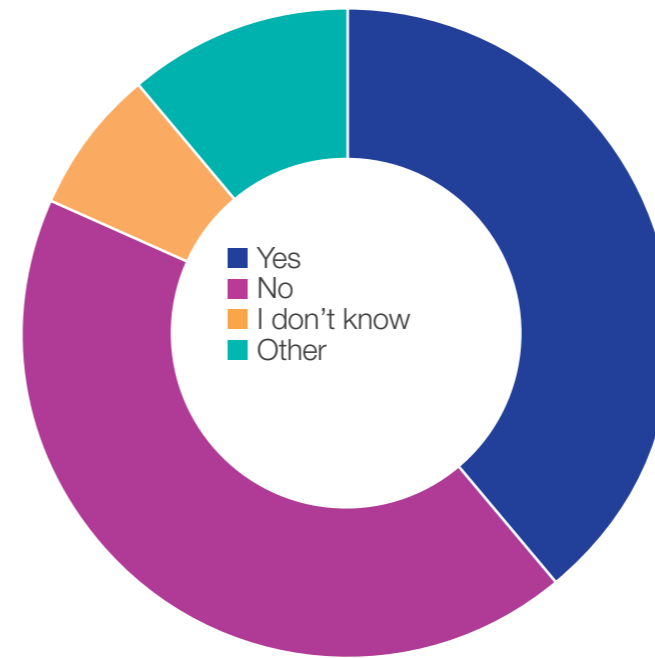
### Cooperation between developers

**94%** of respondents agree that greater cooperation between energy developers is important in limiting the impacts of renewable energy generation.



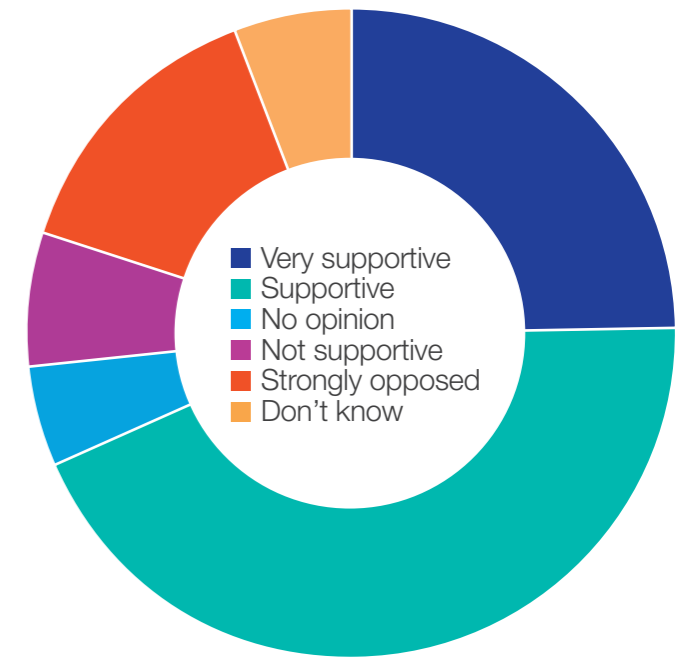
### Renewable energy targets

**76%** of respondents agree that greater coordination between energy developers is more important than achieving the UK's renewable energy targets.



### Infrastructure within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**39%** of respondents agree it would be beneficial to co-locate developments within the AONB, whilst **43%** disagree.

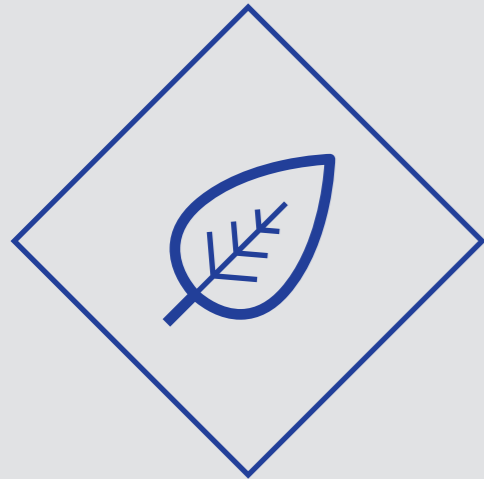


### Multi-purpose interconnectors

**69%** of respondents are supportive of the MPI concept. They believe that it has the ability to reduce impacts on the local environment and community but are aware that these benefits depend on coordination between developers.

**As Nautilus progresses, we are utilising the feedback received to help inform our next steps in developing our proposals, including the preparation of our Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping report and refining our siting and routing options.**

Across all of our feedback channels, there were a number of key themes which emerged from the feedback we received. Of these, the three most common topics were:



**Impact on the local environment and protected sites**

Numerous respondents listed a number of nature reserves, protected areas and sites of ecological importance they fear could be irreversibly harmed from an environmental and leisure perspective.

**Site selection and the industrialisation of the area**

Many respondents expressed concerns about the use of greenfield land in a rural area for the proposed development. Of these respondents, many also believe that the project must go on brownfield land. Respondents suggested a variety of alternative already industrialised, brownfield sites.



**Tourism and the local economy**

Respondents were concerned about impacts on the local economy which is primarily based on tourism and agriculture. These respondents believe that there will be more jobs lost than gained, with limited benefits to the area long-term.



There were also a number of other key themes raised by respondents. These were:



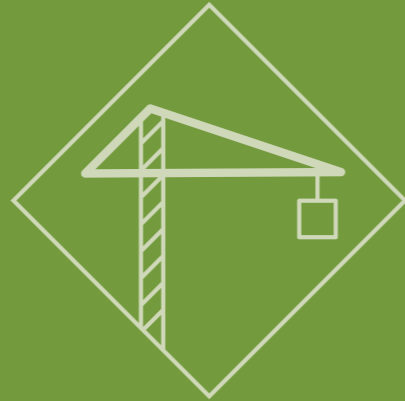
### Climate change and policy

Most respondents believe in climate change and the need for renewable energy.



### Coordination

Many respondents expressed their belief that more must be done on coordination, and that NGV should do more to drive policy and increase coordination between the major energy projects currently underway in East Suffolk.



### Cumulative impacts

Many respondents asked questions about several different projects and developers operating in the same area. They called for a comprehensive study to understand the potential for cumulative impacts.



### Landscape and views

Concerns were raised about the impact on the local landscape, and how an industrial development would change the nature and character of the local area. Some respondents also queried the height and distance of the proposed development in relation to local features and architecture.



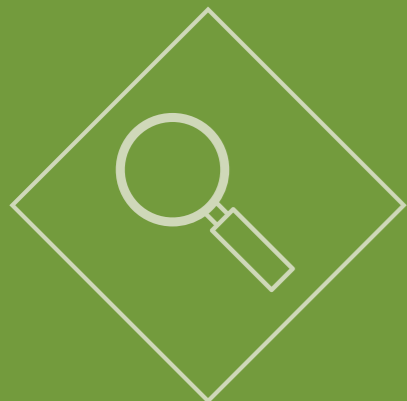
### Local ecology and biodiversity

Respondents asked about the impact of construction, operation and maintenance on local wildlife and biodiversity present in the area's many protected sites.



### Landfall options

Comments were made about the location of the landfall options and whether this would impact the coastal landscape.



### Archaeology and local heritage

Respondents emphasised the importance of protecting the area's archaeological and historical assets during construction.



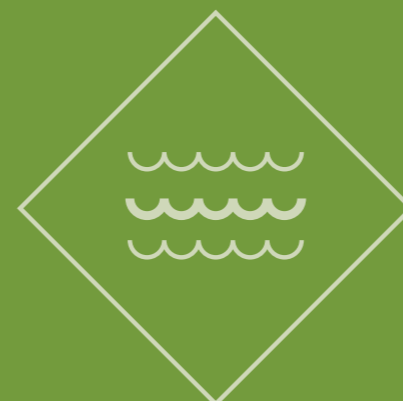
### Air, light and noise pollution

Respondents asked whether there would be an increase in air, light and noise pollution.



### Health and community impacts

Respondents made comments about Nautilus and other projects potentially having an impact on their mental health and overall quality of life.



### Flood risk and water quality

Questions were asked about whether there would be an increased flood risk in the area. Respondents also asked questions about the risk of pollution to the aquifer, which represents a major source of water supply for the region.



### Traffic and access

Many respondents raised concerns about the increase in traffic and increased possibility of accidents. Many mentioned that the roads are already saturated. Respondents are also concerned about the impact on footpaths.



### Consultation process and materials

Overall, most respondents thought the materials were informative and of good quality. Some respondents expressed an interest in more detailed visual representations of the proposed project infrastructure.

# Next steps

**We have reviewed all feedback received during the consultation period. Over the coming months we will be developing our proposals for Nautilus based on this feedback, alongside ongoing assessments, surveys, and engineering studies.**

We are also working with other developers and major energy projects in the area to consider different scenarios and opportunities for coordination between projects. This is something we are committed to exploring further before we progress any of the options presented during our non-statutory consultation.

**All of the key themes identified in this feedback summary document will be considered and assessed in more detail as our proposals develop. Once we have refined both our onshore and offshore proposals, extensive environmental surveys and studies will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and statutory consultees, stakeholders and local community will be consulted further.**

Our communication channels remain open should you wish to find out more information about Nautilus Interconnector or provide us with any further comments.



# Contact us

**Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Nautilus Interconnector.**

You can contact a member of our Community Relations Team to find out more by using the details below.



**Write to us at:**  
Freepost Nautilus Interconnector



**Email to us at:**  
[info@nautilusinterconnector.com](mailto:info@nautilusinterconnector.com)



**Call our Freephone information line:**  
08081 699 822



**Visit our website at:**  
[nationalgrid.com/nautilus-interconnector.com](http://nationalgrid.com/nautilus-interconnector.com)

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