



Nautilus frequently asked questions

A National Grid Ventures project

July 2024

We are developing plans to deliver a new subsea cable that could supply enough green electricity to power around 1.7million UK homes.

In response to community concerns about the project connecting at Suffolk, we explored the possibility of moving Nautilus to the Isle of Grain. This has not been possible. The purpose of this document is to explain why this decision was made. We hope it answers your questions, but for any further questions please contact us at:

Freephone:08081 699 822

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For the latest news and information on our plans for Nautilus, please visit nationalgrid.com/nautilus

Why is Nautilus proposed to connect at Friston?

The connection agreement for the proposed Nautilus interconnector has always been at Friston. In response to community concerns about the number of energy projects taking place in Suffolk, we explored the possibility of moving Nautilus to the Isle of Grain. The regulator, Ofgem, did not approve this proposal. This is because the constraint costs i.e., the cost of upgrading the network around Grain to transmit power between Nautilus and the electricity system would be too high for consumers.

Consumer demand for energy is set to double in the next 25 years, and Nautilus will help ensure we have enough energy to meet this need both now and in 2050. Nautilus will have the capacity to power up to 1.7 million UK homes, supplying clean, secure, renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We understand that people have questions about the impact of energy projects on their local area. Local knowledge and experience are crucial to the development of projects like Nautilus, and we look forward to the public's feedback on our plans during the 2026 consultation.

Why did Ofgem not approve Nautilus at Grain?

Ofgem concluded that the cost benefit analysis of the project did not stack up for UK consumers as the constraint costs i.e., the cost of upgrading the

network around Grain to enable the transmission of power between Nautilus and the electricity system would be too high.

Interconnectors enable the fast and flexible sharing of energy between countries. Exporting energy is fundamental to the economic value of an interconnector. The high cost of connecting Nautilus at Grain was predominantly caused by the volume of upgrades needed to transfer power from the UK's electricity grid into Nautilus. Ofgem concluded that the increased costs to consumers of these works would be too high.

We also felt that Ofgem underestimated the strategic value of the project, both in terms of Nautilus' ability to strengthen the UK's energy security and meet our decarbonisation goals.

Why has NGV concluded that Friston is a better connection point than Grain?

The connection agreement for the proposed Nautilus interconnector has always been at Friston. In response to community concerns about the number of energy projects taking place in Suffolk, we explored the possibility of moving Nautilus to the Isle of Grain. Ofgem concluded that the cost of connecting the project at Grain would be too high and did not approve of this proposal.

Unlike at Grain, there is capacity in the electricity system at Friston. This means that the cost of connecting Nautilus at Friston is lower, as there are fewer reinforcements and upgrades needed to transmit the energy between Nautilus and the wider electricity grid.

How will Nautilus coordinate with other National Grid projects in the region?

We understand that people are concerned about the impact of energy projects on their local area and want to see us coordinate our projects as much as we can. Nautilus' connection agreement is for the proposed substation at Friston, and we propose to collocate its converter station with the LionLink and Sea Link converter stations already proposed for Saxmundham. Once we have approval from Ofgem, we can explore these coordination opportunities with more certainty.

How will Nautilus coordinate with Sea Link?

We understand that people are concerned about the impact of energy projects on their local area and want to see us coordinate with other developers as much as we can. Nautilus' connection agreement is for the proposed substation at Friston, and we propose to collocate its converter station with the Sea Link converter stations already proposed for Saxmundham.

Given that Nautilus will approach the Suffolk coast from the south, we hope to co-locate with Sea Link at its landfall site in Aldeburgh. We have been working with Sea Link to ensure that opportunities to coordinate with Nautilus are incorporated during its construction. Once we have approval from Ofgem, we can explore these opportunities with more certainty.

How will Nautilus coordinate with LionLink?

We understand that people are concerned about the impact of energy projects on their local area and want to see us coordinate our projects as much as we can. Once we have approval from Ofgem, the Nautilus and LionLink teams can start coordinating on development. Both projects are due to connect at the proposed substation at Friston, so we expect to be able to collocate on some cabling routes as well as the converter stations.

Why is Nautilus and LionLink needed?

The UK has a target of 18 gigawatts of interconnector capacity in the system by 2030. Both these projects are needed to meet this goal and introduce clean, secure renewable power into the UK's energy system.

As a result of these projects, the UK's grid will have additional connections to both the Dutch and Belgian energy systems. These connections reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, strengthen energy security, and reduce intermittency in the system. This will ensure we can meet consumer demand for energy both now and as it increases in the future.

Where will the power be used?

Like all other energy sources in the UK, the energy brought to the UK via Nautilus will be distributed across the UK by the national grid. The purpose of this project is to bolster the security of the UK's energy supply rather than specific areas of the country.

How will construction be managed?

We understand that people have concerns about the impact of energy projects on their local area. Local knowledge and experience are crucial to the development of projects like Nautilus, as it helps us deliver the best possible project for the community and local environment, with the least possible disruption. We look forward to hearing feedback on our plans during consultation in 2026 and we hope as many people as possible take part in the process.

What happens next?

The Ofgem consultation opens today – Monday 15 July – and will run until 15 August 2024. We anticipate Ofgem being able to give us clarity on the future of Nautilus in Autumn 2024.

Contact us

NGV will engage with the local community on the Nautilus proposals. You can get in touch with the Nautilus project team using the details below:

Freephone: 08081 699 822

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Email: info@nautilus.nationalgrid.com