



Nautilus frequently asked questions

A National Grid Ventures project

November 2024

National Grid Ventures is developing plans to deliver a new subsea cable that could supply enough green electricity to power around 1.7million UK homes.

We explored the possibility of connecting Nautilus to the Isle of Grain, Kent, as well as Friston, Suffolk. Following its Initial Project Assessment (IPA), the energy regulator, Ofgem, approved Nautilus.

We have now taken the decision to pursue Nautilus at the Isle of Grain. This document aims to answer any questions you may have about this process and decision.

For any questions please contact us at:

Freephone: 08081 699 822

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Email: info@nautilus.nationalgrid.com

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

Why has Ofgem now approved Nautilus?

Ofgem considers a range of technical, environmental, consumer, and economic factors as part its Initial Project Assessment (IPA). In its latest consultation, Ofgem has reassessed the strategic value and wider benefits of Nautilus and has now approved the project.

Why has Ofgem now decided that the constraint cost at Grain is not a limiting factor?

There is always a cost to connecting a new source of energy like an interconnector or windfarm into the existing electricity system. Initially, Ofgem felt that the cost of connecting Nautilus into the electricity system at Grain would be too high. In its latest consultation, Ofgem has reassessed the strategic value and wider benefits of Nautilus and has now approved the project.

We felt that this original assessment underestimated the strategic value and wider benefits of the project, both in terms of Nautilus' ability to strengthen the UK's energy security and meet our decarbonisation goals. As a result of our feedback, as well as that of other interested parties, Ofgem has reviewed and now approved the project, and we have taken the decision to connect the project at Grain.

Is there capacity in the network to connect the project at Grain?

As confirmed by the National Energy System Operator (NESO), there will be capacity in the network to connect the project at Grain.

Will it cost more to connect Nautilus at Grain?

There is always a cost to connecting a new source of energy like an interconnector or windfarm into the existing electricity system. While it is likely that more reinforcements will be needed to connect the interconnector at Grain, the strategic value of Nautilus to the UK's energy security as well as meeting decarbonisation goals, significantly outweighs its connection costs.

Will Nautilus work as effectively, and trade as effectively connecting at Grain?

We continually work with NESO and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to ensure all our interconnectors, including those in development, can deliver maximum benefits for the UK consumer in terms of transmission capacity, reduction in emissions, and strengthening security of supply.

Why did Ofgem initially not approve Nautilus at Grain?

Ofgem initially concluded that the cost benefit analysis of the project did not stack up for UK consumers at Grain. This was because Ofgem assessed that 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.

We felt that this assessment underestimated the strategic value and wider benefits of the project, both in terms of Nautilus' ability to strengthen the UK's energy security and meet our decarbonisation goals. As a result of our feedback, as well as that of other interested parties, Ofgem has now approved the project, and we have taken the decision to connect the project at Grain.

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:

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