

# Sea Link

## Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.4.3 Draft Statement of Common Ground Between National Grid Electricity Transmission and Historic England.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement produced as part of the application process for a Development Consent Order (DCO) and is prepared jointly between the applicant and another party. It sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement. It also details matters that are under discussion.
- 1.1.2 The aim of a SoCG is to help the Examining Authority manage the Examination Phase of a DCO application. Understanding the status of the matters at hand will allow the Examining Authority to focus their questioning and provide greater predictability for all participants in examination. A SoCG may be submitted prior to the start of or during Examination and then updated as necessary or as requested during the Examination Phase.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG is between National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd (National Grid) and Historic England (HE) relating to the DCO application for the Sea Link Project (the Proposed Project). It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024).

## 1.2 This Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared to identify matters agreed and matters currently outstanding between National Grid and HE. The SoCG will evolve as the DCO application progresses through examination.
- 1.2.2 This early draft SoCG has been prepared by National Grid to submit with the DCO application, based on engagement with HE throughout development of the Proposed Project. This document is draft and was sent to HE in advance of inclusion in the DCO application, but given it was shared shortly before submission, no comments have been received from HE as at the date of National Grid including this draft for application purposes. National Grid will continue to work with HE to resolve issues as the project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 1.2.3 For the purpose of this SoCG, National Grid and HE will jointly be referred to as the “Parties”. When referencing HE alone, they will be referred to as “the Consultee”.

## 1.3 Role of Historic England in the DCO Process

- 1.3.1 HE is an executive non-departmental public body and is sponsored by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. HE was originally established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and operated from 1983 to 2015 under the name English Heritage. Due to the changes of the structure of English Heritage, the body was renamed Historic England in 2015. HE is the government’s statutory advisor and a statutory consultee on all aspects of the historic environment and historic assets.
- 1.3.2 HE’s role in relation to the DCO process derives from the Planning Act 2008.

- 1.3.3 HE is a statutory body as prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) (duty to consult) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). Advice and consultation responses are typically provided as part of non-statutory consultation and engagement, in response to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report 2, as part of statutory consultation (including on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)) and participation in the Examination process.

## 1.4 Description of the Proposed Project

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Project is a proposal by National Grid to reinforce the transmission network in the Southeast and East Anglia. The Proposed Project is required to accommodate additional power flows generated from renewable and low carbon generation, as well as accommodating additional new interconnection with mainland Europe.
- 1.4.2 National Grid owns, builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Under the Electricity Act 1989, National Grid holds a transmission licence under which it is required to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economic electricity transmission system.
- 1.4.3 This would be achieved by reinforcing the network with a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link between the proposed Friston substation in the Sizewell area of Suffolk and the existing Richborough to Canterbury 400 kV overhead line close to Richborough in Kent.
- 1.4.4 National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 requires licence holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:
- 1.4.5 *Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and*
- 1.4.6 *Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.*
- 1.4.7 The Proposed Project would comprise the following elements:

### The Suffolk Onshore Scheme

- A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project.
- A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.9 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
- A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station (including permanent access from the B1121 and a new bridge over the River Fromus) up to 26 m high plus

external equipment (such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, similar small scale operational plant, or other roof treatment) near Saxmundham.

- A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a transition joint bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
- A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

## The Offshore Scheme

- Approximately 122 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

## The Kent Onshore Scheme

- A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
- A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 1.7 km to a new converter station (below).
- A 2 GW HVDC converter station (including a new permanent access off the A256), up to 28 m high plus external equipment such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, and similar small scale operational plant near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
- Removal of approximately 2.2 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of two sections of new HVAC overhead line, together totalling approximately 3.5 km, each connecting from the substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

1.4.8 The Proposed Project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk (only if Friston Substation is not built pursuant to another consent) and Kent, diversions of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation and compensation. The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including overhead line diversions, use of temporary towers or masts, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, parking spaces, storage, accesses, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way (PROWs) and other ancillary operations.

## 1.5 Format of Document and Terminology

1.5.1 Section 2 of this SoCG summarises the engagement the Parties have had with regard to the Proposed Project.

1.5.2 Section 3 of this SoCG summarises the issues that are ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or are ‘under discussion’. ‘Not agreed’ indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree, whilst ‘Agreed’ indicates where the issue has been resolved. The Parties have also indicated the likelihood that agreement will be reached on each item.

1.5.3 Abbreviations used within the SoCG are provided in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1 Abbreviations**

<b>Abbreviation/Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
DCO	Development Consent Order
DF	Design Freeze
dML	Deemed Marine Licence
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HE	Historic England
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
OOWSI	Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation
OWSI	Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PROW	Public Right of Way
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
TJB	Transition Joint Bay

## 2. Record of Engagement

### 2.1 Summary of pre-application discussions

- 2.1.1 Table 2.1 summarises the consultation and engagement that has taken place between the Parties prior to submission of the DCO application.



**Table 2.1 Pre-application discussions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion points</b>
5 May 2021	HE Introduction Meeting	Virtual introductory meeting to discuss the project. Overview of the project and the background, discussion of National Grid's approach to Developing Proposals and further details of the Sea Link project, including discussion of protected and chartered wrecks and Suffolk Heritage Coastline. Finished with AOB/questions.
3 January 2022	Sea Link HE Terrestrial Introduction Meeting	Virtual meeting to discuss project background and need case, introduction to Sea Link project, the approach to developing proposals, indicative timeline, work to date, Sea Link emerging preference and heritage assets, surveys, next steps and AOB/questions.
13 July 2022	Archaeology	Virtual meeting with HE to discuss the project. Overview provided by National Grid team, with some discussion regarding surveys HE would expect to see (i.e. geophysical survey, evaluation trenching, review of historic mapping, aerial photos, and LiDAR), as well as review of proposed Ground Investigation works.
4 October 2022	Marine Archaeology	Virtual meeting with HE to discuss the loss of vibrocores recommended for Stage 2 geoarchaeological analysis and agreement for duplicates of those cores to be obtained and assessed during further geotechnical surveys planned in 2024.
1 December 2022	Archaeology and Marine Archaeology	Scoping Opinion response from HE submitted as part of the Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion: Proposed Sea Link document.
20 January 2023	Archaeology and Built Heritage	Site meeting with HE and the Kent County Archaeologist to examine the Site/Scheme on the ground. Visit included the landfall, Ebbsfleet Lane, and Richborough Castle, and included discussions on potential physical impacts as well as impacts on setting.
21 - 23 February 2023	Archaeology and Built Heritage	Email correspondence with HE, as well as Kent County Council, to agree viewpoint photography for the Kent element of the Scheme.
4 May 2023	Sea Link Update – HE	Project update and timelines, outstanding actions, non-statutory consultation overview, scoping opinion response, design options, Kent site visit and AOB/questions where all discussed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion points</b>
12 June 2023	Archaeology and Built Heritage	Email correspondence with HE to provide information on the work undertaken to date linked to potential setting impacts in advance of virtual meetings.
13 June 2023	Marine Archaeology	Virtual meeting with HE to discuss updates relevant to the offshore element of the Project. Summary of the known and potential marine archaeological resource presented. The rationale for the additional marine geophysical and geotechnical surveys was discussed, including confirmation that discarded cores recommended for Stage 2 geoarchaeological analysis will be obtained again as part of this survey.
15 June 2023	HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist and English Heritage Archaeology	Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with, HE, English Heritage and the Suffolk County Archaeologist to discuss project updates. Main topic of conversation focused on the proposed geophysical survey, with some discussions around potential setting impacts. HE to undertake site visit in Suffolk to examine assets where they feel there may be impacts on setting.
14 August 2023	Archaeology/Built Heritage	Email correspondence with HE and English Heritage to agree access to Richborough Castle to undertake site photography for setting assessment.
6 October 2023	Built Heritage	Virtual meeting with HE and East Suffolk Council to discuss the Project and the possible impacts on built heritage. This included discussions relating to ongoing agreement of locations of photomontages required for the heritage assessment.
27 November 2023	Built Heritage	Virtual meeting with HE and East Suffolk Council to discuss the Project and the possible impacts on built heritage. Main focus around agreement of locations of photomontages required for the heritage assessment. Meeting was followed by email correspondence with a list of proposed viewpoints supplied. These were agreed in January 2024.
8 December 2023	Archaeology	Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with. HE , English Heritage and the Suffolk County Archaeologist to discuss project updates. Main topic of conversation focused on results of the geophysical survey and proposals around archaeological evaluation trenching.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion points</b>
19 December 2023	Archaeology and Marine Archaeology	HE returned comments relating to the PEIR and associated technical appendices relating to cultural heritage.
January to March 2024	Built Heritage	Email correspondence with HE and East Suffolk Council regarding built heritage and finalisation of viewpoint photography. Main discussions with East Suffolk Council, with HE agreeing approach and viewpoints by email on 15 March 2024.
13 March 2024	Archaeology	Virtual meeting between National Grid and HE teams covering both Kent and Suffolk. National Grid team provided an overview of project updates heading towards Design Freeze (DF) 3.  Some high-level discussions relating to ongoing fieldwork and upcoming evaluation trenching.
27 March 2024	Marine Archaeology	Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE to discuss project updates (including fieldwork surveys), timeline and discussion of comments relating to the PEIR deliverables. Initial discussion relating to the Statement of Common Ground – HE would prefer to review at the Environmental Statement (ES) stage but can provide comment prior to this if necessary. HE were also made aware of the Environmental Information Request regarding impact to Goodwin Sands.
28 March 2024	Archaeology	Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE and Suffolk County Archaeologist to discuss project updates. Discussion focused on works associated with finalising archaeological evaluation trench locations to enable land access team to start agreeing access.
25 April 2024	Archaeology	Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Discussion focused on works associated with finalising archaeological evaluation trench locations to enable land access team to start agreeing access, with some discussion regarding problems relating to access.  Stakeholders enquired as to whether the Sea Link Team had been able to engage with other projects such as Lion Link and Nautilus. Sea Link Team confirmed they were reaching out to other schemes.
9 May 2024	Sea link update meeting	Project update and timelines, statement of common ground – HE appreciates engagement and

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion points</b>
		<i>development of SoCG and happy to work with National Grid to bring approaches together.</i>
<i>30 May 2024</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>	<p><i>Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Discussion focused on works associated with finalising archaeological evaluation trench locations to enable land access team to start agreeing access, with some discussion regarding issues relating to access.</i></p> <p><i>The Sea Link Team were also asked if they had any update on Wood Farm Listed Building, and its condition.</i></p>
<i>27 June 2024</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>	<i>Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Discussion focused on works associated with finalising archaeological evaluation trench locations to enable land access team to start agreeing access, and confirming the Study Area for Suffolk was sufficient (with Suffolk County Council). It was also noted that the Sea Link team were working with Lion Link to approach trenching of the Converter Station Site in a holistic way.</i>
<i>25 July 2024</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>	<p><i>Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Updates included noting that evaluation trenching had started in both Suffolk and Kent. It was also noted that access for viewpoint photography had been agreed for Suffolk.</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholders also asked if Sea Link were still engaging with other projects such as Lion Link, and Sea Link team confirmed they were.</i></p>
<i>30 July 2024</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>	<i>Email with HE to introduce them to the team undertaking the evaluation trenching and invite them to attend site visits. HE confirmed they would like to attend site visits and will agree dates/times as works progress. Email also enquired as to the best person to talk to at HE regarding the scope of works to examine geo-archaeological remains in the Minster Marshes area.</i>
<i>5 September 2024</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>	<i>Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Updates included latest on the results of the evaluation trenching in both</i>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion points</b>
		<p><i>Suffolk and Kent. It was also noted that viewpoint photography had been undertaken in Suffolk.</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholders also asked for confirmation that Sea Link were still engaging with other projects such as Lion Link, and Sea Link team confirmed they were.</i></p> <p><i>HE provided an update on Woodfarm, a Grade II listed building.</i></p>
25 September 2024	Archaeology	<p><i>Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Updates included latest on the results of the evaluation trenching in both Suffolk and Kent. It was also noted that viewpoint photography had been undertaken in Suffolk.</i></p> <p><i>HE asked if they would be able to review the DCO before submission and AECOM confirmed they would ask if this would be possible due to the limited time in the programme.</i></p>
31 October 2024	Update	<p><i>Project update and timeline, Suffolk coordination and master planning, Kent coordination, AOB/questions.</i></p>
28 November 2024	Archaeology	<p><i>Virtual Thematic Group Meeting with HE, Suffolk County Archaeologist, and East Suffolk Council to discuss project updates. Updates included latest on the results of the evaluation trenching in Suffolk as well a brief overview of Kent.</i></p> <p><i>Gorse Hill was discussed, and it was noted that the results suggested the archaeological remains were of local/regional significance, and not national significance. It was also noted that no remains of national significance had been recorded in Suffolk to date, although some of the remains on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula in Kent were considered of national significance.</i></p> <p><i>HE asked if they would be able to review the DCO before submission and AECOM confirmed this would not be possible due to the limited time in the programme. HE also asked if it would be possible to review the 'DCO wording'. HE agreed to the scope of the geo-archaeological works in Kent.</i></p>
2 December 2024	Update (marine)	<p><i>Project update and timeline, marine survey updates (with confirmation of additional technical report to be submitted post DCO application), update on SoCG progress, AOB/questions.</i></p>



### 3. Areas of Discussion Between the Parties

#### 3.1 Assessment Methodologies

Table 3.1 Assessment Methodologies

Ref	Relevant Application Document	Summary of Description of Matter	HE Current Position	National Grid Current Position	Status
3.1.1	<b>Application Document 6.14 Environmental Scoping Report 2022</b> <b>Application Document 6.15 Scoping Opinion 2022</b>	EIA Scoping Report	The Consultee is in the process of discussing the methodology and scope within the EIA Scoping report.	The scope of the EIA that is set out in the Applicant’s scoping report (see <b>Application Document 6.14 Environmental Scoping Report 2022</b> ), taking account of the Consultee’s comments made in its response to the request for a scoping opinion (see <b>Application Document 6.15 Scoping Opinion 2022</b> ), is adequate.	Under discussion

3.2 Cultural Heritage and Marine Archaeology

Table 3.2 Cultural Heritage and Marine Archaeology

Ref	Relevant Application Document	Summary of Description of Matter	HE Current Position	National Grid Current Position	Status
3.2.1	Application Document 6.2.4.6 Part 4 Marine Chapter 6 Marine Archaeology	Offshore and coastal legislation, policy and guidance	Discussions are ongoing. The Consultee stated in November 2024 that all matters remain under discussion at this time.	The legislation, policy and guidance section presented in the PEIR was considered adequate for the assessment and has been added to the ES and associated technical appendices, with updated documents used where relevant.	Under discussion
3.2.2	Application Document 6.2.4.6 Part 4 Marine Chapter 6 Marine Archaeology	Offshore study area	Discussions are ongoing. The Consultee stated in November 2024 that all matters remain under discussion at this time.	The study area used within the PEIR has been updated for the ES to reflect the changes to the Order Limits, in particular at Pegwell Bay and the Sunk area, and is adequate to allow the baseline to be understood and potential impacts to be considered.	Under discussion
3.2.3	Application Document 6.2.4.6 Part 4 Marine Chapter 6 Marine Archaeology	Marine archaeology EIA methodology	The Consultee’s PEIR comments were discussed at the thematic meeting (27 March) for inclusion in the ES and updated versions of appendices. The Consultee is to confirm that the potential impacts identified are appropriate and accurate for the relevant marine archaeological receptors.	The EIA methodology presented within the PEIR is considered adequate and has now been included in the ES. The Consultee’s comments following review of the PEIR deliverables will be addressed and included in the updated ES appendices.	Under discussion
3.2.4	Application Document 6.3.4.2.B ES Appendix 4.2.B Geophysical Survey Interpretation (Additional Surveys)  Application Document 6.2.4.6 Part 4 Marine Chapter 6 Marine Archaeology  Application Document 7.5.5 Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)	Baseline characterisations of the marine historic environment and data sources	It was noted in response to the PEIR deliverables that gaps in the data and analysis will predominantly be addressed prior to DCO application - The Consultee will review the data and baseline characteristics once available prior to the submission of the DCO application and will provide comments.	The existing baseline environment was presented in the PEIR along with the data sources utilised, and both are considered adequate. The subsequent results of the walkover surveys of the landfalls, additional marine geophysical surveys and Stage 1 assessment of the vibrocores obtained during the geotechnical surveys will be integrated into the ES chapter, the technical report and Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI). The timeline for the additional geoarchaeological analysis (including the Stage 2 assessment of the duplicate cores that had been discarded) was not possible prior to DCO application and will therefore be submitted as an additional technical report post submission (prior to consent), this was discussed with HE in December 2024 and agreed acceptable, on conditional review of the ES.	Under discussion

Ref	Relevant Application Document	Summary of Description of Matter	HE Current Position	National Grid Current Position	Status
3.2.5	<b>Application Document 7.5.5 Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)</b>	Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation	<p>The Consultee has reviewed the OWSI, but discussions are still ongoing, so no agreement at this time.</p> <p>The Consultee will review the OWSI once finalised in due course.</p>	This document was appended to the PEIR chapter and has been reviewed by the Consultee. National Grid received comments from the Consultee that have been addressed and incorporated into the ES. The OWSI should be considered appropriate regarding mitigation and monitoring. This will be shared with the Consultee following submission of the DCO Application.	Under discussion
3.2.6	<b>Application Document 6.4.4.6.A Marine Archaeological Technical Report</b>	Marine Archaeological Technical Report	<p>The Consultee has reviewed the Marine Archaeological Technical Report, but discussions are still ongoing, so no agreement at this time.</p> <p>The Consultee will review the Marine Archaeological Technical Report and OWSI once finalised in due course.</p>	This document was appended to the PEIR chapter and has been reviewed by the Consultee. National Grid received comments from the Consultee which have been addressed and incorporated into the ES. These updates to the ES should make the WSI appropriate regarding mitigation and monitoring. However, this OWSI has not yet been finalised and will be once the DCO application is submitted. As such, this matter remains under discussion until the final version is shared with the Consultee.	Under discussion
3.2.7	<b>Application Document 7.5.5 Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)</b>	Marine archaeology mitigation	<p>The Consultee's PEIR comments recommended that all proposed mitigation is secured through an appropriate mechanism. For marine elements, this would be a deemed marine licence (dML) within the DCO supported by the OWSI (<b>Application Document 7.5.5 Outline Offshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)</b>)</p> <p>Additional comments relating to elements of the Outline Code of Construction Practice need to be incorporated for marine archaeology.</p> <p>The Consultee raises that it would be useful to see the DCO wording to ensure appropriate requirements.</p> <p>The Consultee will review the ES once finalised in due course.</p>	<p>The recommended mitigation presented in the PEIR is considered adequate and is intended to be used for the ES.</p> <p>National Grid received comments from the Consultee which have been addressed and incorporated into the ES. However, the ES has not yet been finalised and will be once the DCO application is submitted. As such, this matter remains under discussion until the final version is shared with the Consultee.</p> <p>The draft DCO was shared with the Consultee in December 2024 for comment, but no comments had been received at the time this document was finalised. The dML was not shared at this time but will be reviewed post DCO submission.</p>	Under discussion
3.2.8		Offshore cumulative, in-combination and transboundary impact	The Consultee to confirm that the cumulative and in-combination impacts included are considered adequate.	Impacts included within the PEIR have been refined for the ES and are considered adequate.	Under discussion
3.2.9	<b>Application Document 7.5.4.1 Outline Onshore Overarching</b>	Trial trenching	The Consultee commented that the draft trenching plans look well targeted and have confirmed that they are supportive if the County Archaeologists are. The Consultee will wait for any updates from the trial	National Grid presented draft trenching plans that have been discussed with both county archaeologists, who were broadly supportive of the plans. This was followed by agreement of trenching locations as part of the process of	Agreed

Ref	Relevant Application Document	Summary of Description of Matter	HE Current Position	National Grid Current Position	Status
	<p><b>Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) – Suffolk</b></p> <p><b>Application Document 7.5.4.2 Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) - Kent</b></p>		trenching before any final decisions are made. The Consultee has reviewed the trial trenching data and agree to the trenching that has been provided.	<p>approving the Outline Onshore Overarching Written Scheme of Investigations (OOWSI).</p> <p>Trenching included a mix of trenches targeted on possible archaeological features recorded through non-intrusive surveys (i.e. geophysical survey) as well as testing of blank areas.</p> <p>Geophysical surveys pointed to high archaeological potential areas adjacent to Richborough Way (Thanet) on the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, and trenching confirmed the presence of a complex multi-period site. The data was used to design the Kent Onshore Scheme so that some of the most sensitive areas were avoided, while construction methods have been adapted to avoid impacts in other areas.</p> <p>Mitigation where impacts cannot be avoided is being developed with Stakeholders with details provided in the OOWSI.</p>	
3.2.10	<b>Application Document 6.3.3.3.F - Appendix 3.3.F: Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report (Draft)</b>	Statutory Consultation	The Consultee is broadly supportive of National Grid’s approach to consultation. The main point the Consultee has raised is that it is recommended that National Grid conduct further archaeological investigations in the terrestrial environment. The Consultee has agreed to the scope of the geophysical survey and trial trenching as set out on <b>Application Document 6.3.3.3.F - Appendix 3.3.F: Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report (Draft)</b>	<p>Geophysical survey was agreed with Suffolk County Council and Kent County Council through the approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation.</p> <p>Evaluation trenching in Kent and Suffolk was agreed with Kent County Council and Suffolk County Council with both organisations agreeing trench locations, the percentage of trenching required, and approving the Written Scheme of Investigation.</p> <p>Trenching in Kent was undertaken in a single phase with reporting been submitted as part of the DCO Application (<b>Application Document 6.3.3.3.F ES Appendix 3.3.F Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching Report (Draft)</b>).</p> <p>Phase 1 and 2a of evaluation trenching in Suffolk completed, with the draft report for Phase 1a submitted as part of the DCO Application (<b>Application Document 6.3.2.3.F ES Appendix 2.3.F Phase 1 Archaeological Trial Trenching Report (Draft)</b>).</p> <p>Phase 2a reporting to be submitted as supplementary information, with Phase 2b trenching due to commence in March 2025.</p>	Agreed

Ref	Relevant Application Document	Summary of Description of Matter	HE Current Position	National Grid Current Position	Status
				<p>The results of the trenching have been used to inform design, as well as develop mitigation where physical impacts cannot be avoided.</p> <p>Engagement is ongoing and further updates and consultations with the Consultee will occur throughout the Proposed Project.</p>	
3.2.11	<p><b>Application Document 6.2.2.3 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage</b> and <b>Application Document 6.2.2.1 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 1 Landscape &amp; Visual</b></p> <p><b>Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage</b></p>	Timeline for submission - Terrestrial	<p>The Consultee will need to review the detailed design and scheme of archaeological works prior to any agreements being made.</p> <p>The Consultee has requested viewpoints to be turned into photomontages and heritage specific approach.</p> <p>The Consultee acknowledges that the trial trenching will be on-going and agree to review the supplementary report once available post the submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>The Consultee acknowledges the access issues and mentions that these issues are useful to capture in the SoCG to set out the intention and attempts that have been made. The Consultee acknowledges that not all areas will be surveyed due to these access issues.</p>	<p>Results of geophysical survey and evaluation trenching used to inform design with some areas of the DF3 Order Limits being excluded from the DF4 Order Limits to avoid physical impacts (i.e. areas of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula in Kent). The trial trenching is ongoing until summer 2025, at which point a supplementary report will be drafted to capture the results of the trenching within the EIA.</p> <p>Photomontages from agreed locations provided as part of the DCO Application (<b>Application Document 6.2.2.3 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage</b> and <b>Application Document 6.2.3.3 Part 3 Kent Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage</b>).</p> <p>National Grid originally raised that there have been issues with one landowner not allowing access for viewpoints. National Grid noted the inclusion of the access issues in the SoCG and appreciates the understanding of the Consultee that all areas may not be surveyed. National Grid now notes that access to all agreed heritage viewpoints has been granted, although the delay in access resulted in only summer photography being captured and included as visualisations in the DCO Application for Suffolk (<b>Application Document 6.2.2.3 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 3 Cultural Heritage</b> and <b>Application Document 6.2.2.1 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 1 Landscape &amp; Visual</b>). Winter visualisations for Suffolk will be submitted post-DCO Submission.</p>	Under discussion



# 4. Approvals

Signed	
On Behalf of	National Grid
Name	
Position	
Date	

Signed	
On Behalf of	Historic England
Name	
Position	
Date	

## 5. References

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2024). *Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-examination-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

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