

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Suffolk Essex Anglia Link](#)  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Sea Link update  
Date: 02 May 2025 17:46:09

Hi Louise,

Thank you for the Section 51 Advice received on 23 April 2025 following issue of the decision to accept the application for Examination. As discussed, National Grid are working through these observations and will provide further updates before the commencement of Examination. However, there are some observations we are keen to address prior to the start of our Relevant Representations period on 8 May 2025 to ensure consultees have the most up to date and complete information on which to base their representations.

The table below provides responses to comments that we would like to address now.

In addition, during our preparation for consultation under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008, we noted that there were some **pages missing from the uploaded Book of Reference**, meaning that certain **Category 3 PILs (who had been identified through diligent inquiry and consulted) were not listed in the submitted version of the Book of Reference**. As discussed, this has been addressed via an addendum which lists the PILs omitted in the submitted version. Note that all PILs are correctly listed elsewhere in the submission (Consultation Report Appendix F.1).

The following documents have now been updated to the PINS Sharepoint to address the points below and provide the addendum to the Book of Reference.

- 4.3 Book of Reference Addendum May 2025
- 6.3.2.2.A (B) ES Appendix 2.2.A Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report (Redacted)
- 6.3.3.2.A (B) ES Appendix 3.2.A Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report (Redacted)
- 6.2.3.11 (B) Part 3 Kent Chapter 11 Health & Wellbeing
- 6.3.4.2.D (B) ES Appendix 4.2.D Interim Subtidal Survey Report (Additional Surveys)
- 6.6 (B) Habitats Regulations Assessment Report
- 7.5.1.1 (B) Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan – Suffolk

Table 1: Applicant Responses to Section 51 Advice Issued on 23 April 2025

DCO Application Document	Comment or Query	Response to s51 Advice
N/A	<p><b>Consultees identified on a precautionary basis</b></p> <p>Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the examination of the application. On this basis, the applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary</p>	<p>The applicant has reviewed the s51 advice and the guidance in box 5 of the s55 Checklist. The applicant can provide the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment</b> <i>CABE was merged into the Design Council in 2011 and no longer exists so unclear why this is included – they are not included in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regs.</i></li><li>• <b>The relevant Regional Development Agency</b> <i>These were abolished in 2010.</i></li><li>• <b>The Scottish Human Rights Commission</b> <i>This body is not included in the Regs and are not a required consultee given the project is not in or close to Scotland.</i> <b>The Commission for Sustainable Development</b> <i>It's not clear what this body is, we are unable to find record online of it.</i></li><li>• <b>The Commission for Rural Communities</b> <i>This body was abolished in 2013.</i></li><li>• <b>The Water Industry Commission of Scotland</b> <i>This body is not included in the Regs and are not a required consultee given the project is not in or close to Scotland.</i></li><li>• <b>The British Waterways Board</b> <i>This body is included in Schedule 1 but only for "All proposed applications likely to have an impact on inland waterways or land adjacent to inland waterways in Scotland". In England, the BWB is now the Canal and River Trust who were consulted.</i></li></ul> <p>Given the conclusions above we have not consulted any of the above bodies and do not think it necessary to notify them under S56.</p>
6.3.2.2.A ES Appendix 2.2.A Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report	These survey reports are watermarked as confidential. Whilst the report contains some confidential information (for example in relation to badger setts) most of the information does not appear to be confidential, as its release would not adversely affect protections of the environment to which the information relates. The applicant is requested to provide 2 versions of these survey reports, to enable the information that is not confidential to be published in line with duties under the Environmental Information Regulations. The survey reports should be provided as soon as possible before commencement of the examination	The applicant has updated 6.3.2.2.A ES Appendix 2.2.A Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report in response to the s51 advice to remove the confidential watermark and instead redact confidential information.
6.3.3.2.A ES Appendix 3.2.A Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report	These survey reports are watermarked as confidential. Whilst the report contains some confidential information (for example in relation to badger setts) most of the information does not appear to be confidential, as its release would not adversely affect protections of the environment to which the information relates. The applicant is requested to provide 2 versions of these survey reports, to enable the information that is not confidential to be published in line with duties under the Environmental Information Regulations. The survey reports should be provided as soon as possible before commencement of the examination	The applicant has updated 6.3.3.2.A ES Appendix 3.2.A Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report in response to the s51 advice, to remove the confidential watermark and instead redact confidential information.
4.1 Funding Statement	Paragraph 3.2.17 of the Funding Statement states that "The estimated cost of implementing the Proposed Project is approximately £1.1bn (18/19 price)." This cost estimate is based on prices from circa six years ago. Please can this be updated or otherwise explain why this estimated cost is still relevant to the proposed development	The applicant can confirm that the reason that the price base used in the document is in 2018/19 prices is that this the price base of the current RIIO regulatory period. The RIIO-T2 regulatory period runs from April 2021 until March 2026 and so 2018/19 is the cost base we use for all project cost estimates for consistency. The applicant also can provide a link to the document (page 10) which provides further information ( <a href="https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/2023-24_RIIO-T2_Electricity_Transmission_RIGs_%20version%201.8%20clean.pdf">https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/2023-24_RIIO-T2_Electricity_Transmission_RIGs_%20version%201.8%20clean.pdf</a> )
6.2.3.11 Part 3 Kent Chapter 11 Health & Wellbeing	<p><b>Heading of Social cohesion and community identity after paragraph 11.9.70 -</b></p> <p>The text description of the effects to health and wellbeing from impacts to social cohesion and community identity during operation of the proposed development is missing and should be inserted.</p>	The applicant has updated 6.2.3.11 Part 3 Kent Chapter 11 Health & Wellbeing in response to the s51 advice, which is submitted alongside this response
6.3.4.2.D ES Appendix 4.2.D Interim Subtidal Survey Report (Additional Surveys)	Appendices I to M - The appendices are not included, an icon of a link to a pdf document or excel spreadsheets is shown. A copy of these documents should be submitted.	The applicant has updated 6.3.4.2.D ES Appendix 4.2.D Interim Subtidal Survey Report (Additional Surveys) in response to the s51 advice, which is submitted alongside this response
6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report	Section 7.3 - At section 7.3 the paragraph numbering reaches 7.3.42 and starts again at 7.3.1 in the next paragraph. This should be corrected. Appendix B - Appendix B is missing and should be inserted.	The applicant has updated 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report in response to the s51 advice, which is submitted alongside this response
7.5.1.1 Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan - Suffolk	Sea Link Ref: 7.5.1.1 Outline Construction Traffic and Travel Plan Suffolk PINS Ref: APP-337: Page 21 refers to document 6.4.1.4.20. Sea Link Ref 6.4.1.4 ES Figures Introduction Description of the Proposed Project.	The applicant has updated 7.5.1.1 Outline Construction Traffic Management and Travel Plan - Suffolk in response to the s51 advice, which is submitted alongside this response.

	<p>Figures from 1 to 9 only included. Figures from 10 to at least 20 appear to be missing.</p> <p>6.4.1.4 ES Figures Introduction lists figures 1-9 as 6.4.1.4.1, 6.4.1.4.2, etc up to 6.4.1.4.9; APP-337 Outline Construction Traffic and Travel Plan Suffolk refers to doc 6.4.1.4.20, however this does not appear to be a standalone doc – are you able to please clarify the error and direct us to figures 6.4.1.4.10 – 6.4.1.4.20, if they are included within a different document please?</p>	<p>For clarity, 'document 6.4.1.4.20' was a typographical error; the correct reference was '6.4.1.4.7' and no figures were missing from the referenced ES Chapter.</p>
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Thank you for your help and have a good bank holiday weekend.

Many thanks,

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Kind Regards

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