



The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Act 2008

Application for Development Consent for the Sea Link Project

Case Ref: EN020026

The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection

Background

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an unaccompanied site inspection (USI) to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Sea Link Project (the application) on the afternoon of Wednesday 25 June 2025.

The ExA carried out its unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways).

The site inspection was undertaken to view the location of the proposed development including the proposed landfall area, horizontal directional drilling construction compound and underground cable route, and to observe the existing character, appearance and environment of the surrounding area and adjoining land uses.

Particulars of the Site Visit

The visit was undertaken by: Sarah Holmes, Richard Hunt, Steven Rennie, Nancy Thomas and Simon Warder. The ExA was accompanied by Claire Megginson, Louise Harraway from the case team and Richard King from the environmental services team.

The visit was undertaken on foot and by car. Weather conditions were dry and sunny with a temperature circa 24 degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were suitable to appreciate long range views. The inspections commenced at approximately 15:10 and finished at approximately 17:30. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A.



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Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on the afternoon of Wednesday 25 June 2025

The ExA commenced the inspection from Thorpeness Road (some 1km north of Church Farm Road, Aldeburgh). From there the ExA walked onto the beach to observe representative viewpoint VP13 and the location of the proposed HVDC line landfall.

From there, the ExA walked west on part of the Suffolk Coastal Path (E-103/006/0), through the Haven Aldeburgh Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Leiston and Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The ExA then walked north on the B1122 Leiston Road to viewpoint VP12 and the proposed location that work no. 5 would cross Leiston Road.

The ExA continued north on Leiston Road to RSBP North Warren and the Sandlings Special Protection Area (SPA). We followed footpath E-103/004/0 north-east and then headed south along line of the former railway through Aldringham to Aldeburgh Disused Railway Line County Wildlife Site (CWS) to rejoin footpath E-103/006/0. The ExA viewed the location of proposed construction compound (S10) and the proposed jointing bay. We noted the proximity of the compound (part of work no. 4) to the adjacent designated sites.

The ExA drove to the Hazlewood Marshes car park on Saxmundham Road close to viewpoint VP10 and walked west on part of the Suffolk Coastal Path (E-103/019/0) to view the proposed area for environmental mitigations at Hazlewood Common (figure 4 of [APP-346] outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan – Suffolk).

The route is shown below.



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