



Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
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The applicant

Your Ref:

By email only

Our Ref: EN020026

Date: 12 August 2025

Dear Sir / Madam,

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sea Link Project

The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) section 89(3) response

The Examining Authority (ExA) notified that it had made procedural decisions on 5 August 2025 [PD-006] and requested submissions of further information from the applicant. The applicant responded to this notification on 11 August 2025 [AS-070]. Following receipt of this, the ExA made a procedural decision to accept the applicant's response and additional submissions. As stated in [PD-006] the aim of such submissions is to enable the ExA to better utilise the pre-examination stage of this process to ensure that it has as much of the information it needs as early as possible.

Land rights and related matters

Land plans and works plans

The ExA notes that the applicant proposes to submit a fully populated Land Rights Tracker (LRT) following a meeting with the Planning Inspectorate in September 2025 once the format of the LRT has been confirmed.

Statement of Reasons Appendix A - Details of Purpose for Which Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession Powers are Sought [APP-013]

The ExA welcomes the submission of updates to appendix A of the Statement of Reasons (SoR).

The applicant's [AS-070] does not confirm when other matters raised in respect of land rights and the SoR will be provided and assumes that these remain to be submitted by 1 September 2025.

Representations identifying additional submissions

The ExA welcomes the applicant's proposal to review the highlighted relevant representations (RR) and identify a list of additional submissions, however this is not consistent with the ExA's request in [PD-006], which was to provide a response in full. In the absence of this, the ExA requests confirmation of the date by which the applicant will provide this information.

Navigation Installation Plan

The ExA welcomes the applicant's update regarding the navigation installation plan and engagement with relevant stakeholders and awaits the applicant's response on 1 September 2025.

Historic England

The ExA notes that intrusive surveys are complete and discussions are ongoing with Historic England. The ExA awaits the applicant's update on this matter (including a timetable for the publication of the survey information) on 1 September 2025.

Surveys

The applicant reconfirms that a seal survey is being scheduled for August and that the final report may not be available by 1 September 2025. The ExA requests confirmation of the programmed submission date.

The applicant's response appears to suggest that the only potential survey requirements identified in the RR relate to seals. For the avoidance of doubt, a number of other surveys are suggested that the ExA expects to be provided or robust justification and evidence of engagement with stakeholders as to why submission of this information is not necessary.

Additional submissions

The ExA has exercised its discretion and made a procedural decision to accept the following additional submission:

- Submission from applicant of a cover letter [AS-070], updated Statement of Reasons Appendix A (Clean) [AS-071] and Statement of Reasons Appendix A (Tracked) [AS-072]
- Submission from Kent County Council received on 7 August 2025 [AS-069]

Errata and related issues

The applicant's letter [AS-070] does not reference the errata raised in [PD-006]. The ExA expects that these will be addressed by the 1 September 2025 deadline.

If you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Hunt

pp Sarah Holmes
Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority