

Our Ref: SeaLink  
Date: 18 August 2025



BY EMAIL

For the attention of the Case Team

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Dear Case Team,

**SEA LINK DCO APPLICATION (EN020026)**

**SCC ADDITIONAL RELEVANT REPRESENTATION**

Thank you for the notification that interested parties have until 18 August 2025 to submit Relevant Representations and that these should only include from those who have not previously made such representations. However, notwithstanding the aforementioned qualification, Suffolk County Council ("the Council") wishes to draw attention to an additional matter which has only come to light since the close of the previous Relevant Representations period.

The Council notes the recent changes to the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015, which mean that Relevant Representations are now required to be "where practicable, the full particulars of the case". Because SCC expects to be invited to submit a Local Impact Report ("LIR") in due course, it should be noted that full technical details of the Council's case will necessarily follow in the LIR.

Notwithstanding the above caveat the additional Relevant Representation sets out, as fully as is practicable, the Council's case in the following paragraphs:

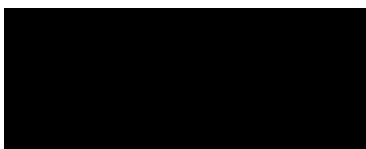
Since the submission of application documents to PINS by the SeaLink project and the initial Representation made by Suffolk County Council, additional information regarding the potential archaeological impacts of the scheme have come to light. During phase 2b of the archaeological trial trench evaluation work (Oxford Archaeology report 2864), a Neolithic hengiform monument has been identified in the Parish of Friston, and which is a previously unknown site of high archaeological significance. Due to the timing of this discovery, details of this site were not available within any of the submitted archaeological assessment reports and as such, impacts upon this site were not assessed within the submitted Environmental statement Chapter 3: Cultural Heritage (Document 6.2.2.3). Suffolk County Council are therefore providing this additional Representation on this matter.

The Neolithic Henge consists of a c.90m wide ring ditch, with ditches 4-5m wide and up to 2.5m deep (as confirmed by hand excavation and augering), with associated internal and external features and containing finds of Neolithic date. These types of monuments are extremely rare in the county, with very few having previously been subject to any archaeological investigation, and as such are considered of be of high significance. Historic England have been informed of the discovery of this site and have advised that it is of schedulable quality and therefore should be considered to be of national significance. As such, it is expected that it will be treated in line with designated heritage assets as per the National Planning Policy Framework and relevant sections in the National Policy Statements (EN-1 5.9.5-6 and EN-5 2.2.10).

Due to its significance, preservation in situ is considered by Historic England and Suffolk County Council as the only appropriate way to manage this site. Within submitted plans, the proposed cable corridor runs through the centre of this monument and therefore Suffolk County Council and Historic England advise that the applicant should be required to consider alternatives to the current route in this part of the scheme, in order to appropriately mitigate against impacts to this significant heritage asset. Historic England and Suffolk County Council would not, however, consider directionally drilling beneath the monument as acceptable mitigation given the potential risk for negative impacts to occur.

The immediate areas surrounding this monument have not, however, been subject to archaeological evaluation and will therefore need including in the scope of ongoing archaeological geophysical survey and trial trenched assessment work. Appropriate provision will need to be made to mitigate any additional areas of archaeological significance which are defined during archaeological evaluation. Should additional remains relating to the henge monument be recorded during these works, the area requiring Preservation in Situ has the potential to be increased. As such, undertaking archaeological evaluation to find a suitable alternative route should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity within the examination process and prior to the end of the examination period, so that the results of this work can be factored into the design and decision-making process in order to appropriately safeguard important heritage assets.

Yours faithfully,



**National Infrastructure Planning Manager**  
Growth, Highways & Infrastructure  
Suffolk County Council