



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 ('the ExA') undertook an unaccompanied site inspection to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Sea Link Project ('the application') on the morning of Wednesday 1 October 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 areas and proposed locations of substations and convertor stations, 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: Luke Regan and Simon Warder.

The visit was undertaken on foot and by car. Weather conditions were dry and partly sunny with a temperature circa 18 degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were suitable to appreciate long range views. The inspections commenced at approximately 9:30 and finished at approximately 12:30. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A.



Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on the morning of Wednesday 1 October 2025

The ExA commenced the inspection from Benhall Bridge, noting the proposed revised order limits included in the applicant's 16 September 2024 change notification. We then drove to Saxmundham and walked to representative view points (VPs) 20 and 2 taking in the relationship between the southern edge of the town, Hurts Hall and the sites of the proposed converter station and the bridge over the River Fromus.

We then drove through Saxmundham to Church Street and walked to VP1 and drove and walked to VPs 21 and 4 to see the converter station site in its landscape setting.

After that we drove to Sternfield, parking close to St Mary Magdalene Church. From there we walked east along Church Hill and The Street, noting the watercourses and viewed the converter station site from a point some 450m east of the Church Hill/The Street junction.

The route is shown below.

