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BY EMAIL ONLY

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

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (the applicant) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sea Link Project (Planning Inspectorate Reference EN020026)

Proposed Change to Development Consent Order

1.1.1 Thank you for your letter dated 25th September 2025 advising us as the Applicant on the procedural implications of our proposed changes on the development consent order (DCO) application reference EN020026. In response we wish to confirm how we have responded to your advice in our targeted consultation starting Tuesday 7th October 2025 and how we will respond to your advice in our change application.

2 Change 1 - Change to access at the former Hoverport, Pegwell Bay, Kent

2.1.1 The Applicant acknowledges that the revised Order limits do not exclude the current area of existing saltmarsh that the Applicant proposes to avoid. To operate the hoverport we require flexibility in the Order limits to ensure that we access and exit the intertidal area safely while still committing to not impacting the saltmarsh. The inclusion of a wider area does not indicate that the Applicant will utilise a wider area than proposed previously; but does provide the flexibility for the location of the access to move to the location where it will have the lowest environmental impact by ensuring the avoidance of saltmarsh.

- 2.1.2 We recognise that saltmarsh is a dynamic habitat and can change as a result of natural coastal events, therefore, the existing saltmarsh may be subject to change across the construction and operation. To inform the change application the Applicant is reviewing aerial imagery of the saltmarsh habitat to identify the historic extent of the saltmarsh and migration trends. This review will inform our prediction of the potential future extent of the habitat during the construction and operation of the project and if there is any change of impact on golden plover, a qualifying feature of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and Ramsar site using the saltmarsh and intertidal areas. The Applicant also recognises that relevant representations have highlighted the hoverport frontage as a locally important walking and recreational area. This will be considered in the Environmental Addendum that will support the change application.
- 2.1.3 We will complete a pre-construction saltmarsh survey to identify the extent of the saltmarsh habitat to confirm the entry and exit points to the intertidal area during construction so that no impact to saltmarsh occurs.
- 2.1.4 We note that the proposed new Order limits at change 1 includes Manston Airport outfall. While the approximate location of Manston Airport outfall is currently known, the specific location of the outfall will be confirmed through survey during engagement with the asset owner. In addition, during detailed design the asset owner will be engaged on the location, standoffs and measures of protection for the outfall during construction and operation. This is similar to the approach that the Applicant is undertaking for the other utilities present within the Order limits, as included in our DCO application. Riveroak Strategic Partners Ltd, the owners of Manston Airport outfall will be part of the targeted consultation starting on Tuesday 7th October 2025.
- 2.1.5 The Applicant is consulting with the relevant statutory bodies as part of the targeted consultation starting on Tuesday 7th October 2025, and the findings of the Environmental Addendum will also be consulted on prior to submission.

3 Change 2 - Change to works plans at Friston (Kiln Lane) substation, Suffolk

- 3.1.1 The Applicant can confirm that the Limits of Deviation (LoD) stated in our change of notification letters are those included in Scottish Power Renewables (SPR)'s DCO application and are correct.
- 3.1.2 SPR's Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy (OLEMS) (version 07) [reference [REP13-007] shows a substation within their LoD but not at the fullest extent (ie the most eastern point) of their LOD as shown on SPR's Works Plans (version 07) [REP11-004]. The SPR Works Plans are the definitive plans providing

consent for the works at the substation, whilst the plans in the outline LEMP are illustrative only. Sea Link has therefore proposed a change to make the LoDs consistent across the three sets of Works Plans rather than following the boundary of the LoDs shown in SPR's outline LEMP. As highlighted in our letter dated 30 September 2025, there are other aspects of the SPR outline LEMP that do not reflect SPR's latest design and will be updated as SPR discharge their requirements.

- 3.1.3 Please see our letter dated 30 September for information on the height of the proposed substation. As confirmed in that letter, we intend to amend our draft Development Consent Order to provide consistency in the height restriction for the substation across the three projects.
- 3.1.4 The Applicant notes the ExA's request to update the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-048], including the landscape and visual impact assessment [APP-097] and [APP-098], ES figures [APP-208], [APP-209], [APP-210], [APP-211], [APP-212], [APP-213] and [APP-214] and the landscape mitigation [AS-059]. The Applicant will prepare an Environmental Addendum to confirm any updates to the Environmental Statement or confirm that the changes result in no changes to the effects reported in the Environmental Statement. This will be submitted with the Change Request.
- 3.1.5 It is not anticipated that any assessment undertaken for the SPR project will inform our Environment Addendum.
- 3.1.6 The neighbouring residents to the proposed location of change 2 are being contacted as part of the targeted consultation starting on Tuesday 7th October 2025.
- 3.1.7 The Applicant has updated the relevant sheet of the Works Plans for Friston with the new LoD and included it within the consultation document to be published on Tuesday 7th October 2025.
- 3.1.8 The relevant Internal Drainage Board will be contacted as part of the targeted consultation starting on Tuesday 7th October 2025.

4 Change 3 – The Henge, Suffolk

- 4.1.1 Further geophysical archaeological investigative works are being carried out in September and October 2025 and a report of these findings will be submitted into the Examination. On the basis of these investigations, the team will develop and deliver a programme of trial trenching on the site but this will not be completed and fully documented to allow identification of a set route of the proposed cable either to the west or east of the henge to inform the change application. The Applicant

currently expects to include both east and west cable route options in the change application.

- 4.1.2 The Environmental Addendum will justify why the full extent of flexibility as shown on the change notification figure in appendix C is required and will explain the process for selecting a final cable route.
- 4.1.3 The Applicant notes that the proposed alternative cable routes around the henge would be closer to the neighbouring properties and these neighbouring properties included in the targeted consultation starting on Tuesday 7th October 2025.

5 Change 4 – Benhall Railway Bridge, Suffolk

- 5.1.1 All three options will be considered in the Environmental Addendum which will support the change application.
- 5.1.2 The operational phase effects from option 2 and any additional mitigation proposed will be identified in the change application.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant will consider any effects on the highway networks from the 3 options proposed in the change application.

6 Change 5: Increase in area for maintenance of a new hedge to south of B1119

- 6.1.1 The ExA has no comments on this change and therefore we will prepare our change application for this change based on our proposed approach in the change notification letter.

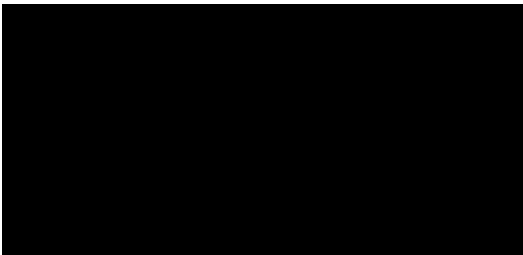
7 Programme

- 7.1.1 As part of the targeted consultation starting on Tuesday 7th October, the Applicant can confirm that the additional affected persons (APs) with an interest in land, and existing APs who may be more or differently affected by the proposed changes will be contacted, to seek their consent to the additional powers being included in the application.
- 7.1.2 The Applicant recognises the ExA's notes that if agreement on acquisition from all APs has not been obtained by the date of submission of the change application, the applicant will publish any required notices in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (CA Regulations) and provide the required documents as prescribed by regulation 5 of the CA Regulations.

- 7.1.3 The Applicant notes the ExA's timescale and that the submission of all proposed changes (and all supporting material) is no later than the currently proposed deadline 1A (Wednesday 26th November 2025).
- 7.1.4 We trust that the above information provides a clear explanation of how your requests have either already been responded to in our targeted consultation or will be responded to in the change application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Project Manager

For and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc