



# Planning Inspectorate

## Planning Act 2008 – Section 91

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

#### Agenda for issue specific hearing 1 dealing with the scope of the development

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1:</b>  <b>The scope of the development</b>	<b>Tuesday 11 November 2025</b>  <b>Virtual Registration Process from:</b>  <b>09:00</b>  <b>Hearing starts:</b>  <b>10:00</b>	By virtual means only using <b>Microsoft Teams</b>  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

**Hearings guidance:** Please see annex A of this agenda

Notification of the date, time and attendance instructions for ISH1 was provided in the Examining Authority's (ExA's) Rule 6 letter [[PD-010](#), Annex F]. Interested parties who wish to speak at this event were required to provide notification by Wednesday 8 October 2025. If you haven't notified us that you wish to speak, you must contact the case team as soon as possible.

Each interested party is entitled to make oral representations at hearings. However, this is subject to the power of the Examining Authority (ExA) to control the conduct and management of hearings.

The event will be open one hour prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. The hearing will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all matters have been covered.

The agenda detailed below is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of written questions.

#### **Purpose of the hearing relating to the scope of the development:**

The purpose of the hearing is for the ExA to ask questions on topics related to the scope of the development to gain further understanding and clarification of the issues at the earliest stage in the examination.

A supplementary agenda has also been published in addition to the main agenda which contains a table of questions. As these are likely to require relatively straightforward responses, clarification and/ or the submission of additional information/ evidence, the ExA

has asked these questions in this format as it considers they can be sufficiently dealt with in writing rather than spending time within the hearing to obtain this information verbally. Most of the questions are directed to the applicant, however, written responses will be welcomed from any interested party who wishes to provide comments relating to any of the questions. Responses should be submitted at **Deadline 1A, Wednesday 26 November 2025**.

## **Agenda**

<b>Title of meeting</b>	Sea Link issue specific hearing 1 – the scope of the development
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 11 November 2025
<b>Time</b>	10.00
<b>Venue</b>	Virtual event
<b>Attendees</b>	Invitees

### **1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing**

### **2. Matters arising from the supplementary agenda**

- Parties will be asked if there are any matters arising from the supplementary agenda that they wish to raise.

### **3. Need**

- The applicant to summarise the need case for the scheme including reference to the National Energy System Operator (NESO) and the NESO Clean Power 2030 report.
- The need for the proposed development when considering other proposed and consented schemes.
- The need of the proposed development if an alternative, such as an offshore grid, was utilised.

### **4. Update on related projects**

- East Suffolk Council will be asked about the current status of any applications to discharge requirements in relation to the SPR National Grid substation.
- The need for Friston substation scenario 2 to be included in the DCO.
- The National Grid Ventures LionLink project, consultation and publication of the preliminary environment impact report (PEIR).

### **5. Cumulative Impacts**

- The approach to assessment and mitigation of intra-project cumulative effects.
- Shipping and navigation in the Sunk and the implications of cable burial depth for under-keel clearance.
- Cumulative traffic impacts, including construction traffic in combination with other projects and how this has been assessed by the applicant.

## **6. Trenchless landfalls**

- The National Grid Ventures (NGV) Nemo Link project including reasons for use of open cut and its implication for a trenchless solution for Sea Link.
- Noise assessment assumptions for ecological assessments and certainty of mitigation for habitats regulations assessment.
- Basis for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) compound plant and noise assumptions.
- Extent of further works within the footprint of designated sites (e.g. ground investigations) and whether their impact is fully addressed within the application.

## **7. Reporting of significance**

- Overlap of construction and operational effects in the reporting of biodiversity and ecology effects in the assessment summary tables and the potential for double counting of effects.

## **8. Work numbers and works plans**

- Detail provided in the description of work numbers and the visual representation of such works within the relevant works plans.

## **9. Any other business**

## **10. Close of Hearing**

### **Attendees:**

All interested parties (IPs) are welcome to attend the hearing. However, the ExA considers that representatives for the following parties should consider attending because the ExA believes that the material that they have submitted raises issues that may need to be explored at the hearing:

- The applicant
- Suffolk County Council
- East Suffolk Council
- Kent County Council
- Thanet District Council
- Dover District Council
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Port of London Authority
- London Gateway Port Ltd
- Harwich Haven Authority
- Any other public authority, body or organisation affected by the proposed development
- Any other IPs with an interest in the scope of the development

The applicant is requested to have people with the following expertise to assist the hearing:

- Need

- Traffic and transport
- Cumulative effects and Environmental Impact Assessment
- Shipping and navigation
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Noise and vibration
- Construction working methods

This list may also assist other interested parties in preparing for the hearing

### Conduct and Management of Hearings

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that the Examining Authority (ExA) will probe, test and assess the evidence at hearings through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning at this hearing will therefore be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of the person giving evidence by another person will **only** be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that a person has had a fair chance to put their case. Parties wishing to make a representation will be invited to do so at the ExA's discretion.

The ExA will begin the hearing with opening comments and introductions, then will run through housekeeping matters and explain how the hearing will be conducted. The duration will depend on the progress made on the day and will be subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the hearing.

The agenda may be amended by the ExA at the start of the hearing or throughout its course. Furthermore, the ExA may wish to raise matters arising from oral submissions and relevant representations, and pursue lines of inquiry that are not listed on the agenda in the course of the discussion.

The hearing is being held at the discretion of the ExA to consider matters that it considers to be important and relevant to the effective and robust examination of the application. Consequently, the business of the hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA.

Active participation is at the invitation and discretion of the ExA. Oral submissions must address the matters and questions identified on the hearing agenda or raised by the ExA at the hearing. Oral submissions on other subject matters or from persons who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance, efficiency or fairness.

A recording and transcript of the hearing will be published by the Planning Inspectorate on the project page of the national infrastructure website and any interested party may make a written submission on the specific matters either included in the agenda or arising at the hearing by **Deadline 1A, 26 November 2025**.